



# Shipston Forum



July 2024

## On the trail

Around 200 children of all ages enjoyed the Great Big Green Week's town trail in June. With six bases covering topics from river testing and flooding, to animals, insects, veg growing, energy-saving and shopping wisely, they collected lots of information along with stickers and a goody bag full of special environmental gifts and information. It was all organised by SAFE (Stourvale Action For the Environment), who are grateful to the Shipston Scout Troop for putting up the gazebos and flags at each base and to the people and businesses who sponsored and supported the event.



## Get involved!

If you love our town and want to get more involved with some of the many activities that go on around Shipston, then two of our community groups are currently looking for extra help.

The Youth Club has been booming lately. With over 50 young people attending, it's a real success story. Now it needs more people to keep up with demand and is recruiting a paid Assistant Youth Worker. It's a great role for someone interested in working with young people. There are also spaces on the enthusiastic volunteer team.

Meanwhile, the Townsend Hall has openings for further trustees and volunteers to support the smooth running of this important community facility. You can learn more at the AGM on Tuesday 9th July at 7pm.

Find out more about both initiatives on pages 4 and 5.



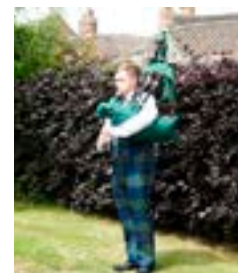
## The poet and the empty chair

A talk by Ukrainian poet Iryna Starovovt brought tears to the eyes of many in the audience at a Literary Society event in June as she talked about life in Ukraine before the conflict, the situation now, and read her poetry. But why was there an empty chair? Read more on page 13.



## D-Day triumph 80 years on

A memorial service, a fundraising coffee morning, a special peal of bells, and to top it all a huge beacon – Shipston and the surrounding villages truly paid tribute to all those involved in the Second World War's crucial turning point 80 years ago.



The lunchtime service in the Gyratory Memorial Garden was led by Sarah Bourne, chaplain to the Shipston Branch of the Royal British Legion. Branch President David Kernohan laid a wreath (see picture). Proceedings both here and at the beacon-lighting were accompanied by Alex Bloomfield on the cornet, Tom Lear playing the bagpipes and Connor Begley parading the standard, while Town Crier Marion Lowe and Mayor John Dinnie made addresses on both occasions.

Alex Black, chairman of the Shipston RBL, said: "We are grateful to everyone who came out on a glorious summer's day for their kind donations and purchases to help the Poppy Appeal and the First Responders, and to Clare Cuthbert who raised £100 through the Low Furlong coffee morning. Thanks also go to the beacon builders led by beacon master Ron Scobie Edmunds, the Town Clerk for top organisation, to the Withers family for their generous hosting and to Keith Lane for providing the 1940s music and PA system."

He added his thanks to other organisations involved such as the Shipston firefighters, the community First Responders, the Safer Neighbourhood team and the St Edmund's bellringers.

See more about the beacon lighting and the special guest of honour, Tom Clifton, on page 5.



## In this issue:

Thanks at the Riverside – page 2

First Responders' second vehicle – page 3

Beacon of Hope - page 5

Lucky ducks - page 8

Sew and sews - page 13

## Mayor's column

Dear Shipston,

What a month! I attended Mayor-making in Banbury and Whitnash and a Civic Dinner for Jason Fojtik, the New Mayor of Stratford. But better than all of these were the Shipston events.



The Fete at Shipston Lodge was well attended as was the Duck Race. Both events were superbly run by the Lions and there were many appreciative comments from the Duck Race spectators about the newly-regenerated Riverside. They had a good view over the coppiced bank of the anglers retrieving the ducks from the river. I was later able to congratulate the HALP team and their contractors Simon Healey on a job well done.

The Patient Participation Group meeting certainly revealed the efforts that the Medical Centre team are putting in to manage their growing patient list with limited resources.

The street market was a super mix of arts, crafts and foodstuffs of all kinds. It was great to meet the maintenance working party at the sensory garden in Mayo Road and to see the immense difference made in a few short hours. Anyone interested in helping, please get in touch.

The time Bryony and I spent with Ukrainian poet, Iryna Starovovt, was amazing. I admire the way Iryna linked democratic values with the resilience of her community, and her strong emotive words in defence of Ukrainian culture. I am so glad that the Literary Society was able to raise over £300 to buy Ukrainian language schoolbooks to replace some of those burnt by the Russian invasion force.

The 80th Anniversary of D-Day was another high point. The act of commemoration at the Gyratory Memorial Garden was very moving. The atmosphere on Whaddon Hill in anticipation of the beacon lighting was different again but no less moving. Thank you to the Beacon Master and his team for a magnificent beacon. Thank you also to our Town Clerk and her team, and the Royal British Legion for the excellent organisation of both events.

I really enjoyed meeting the youngsters at Shipston Primary School and seeing the work they had been doing on sustainability. It was even better when they brought some of that work out onto the High Street for the Great Big Green Week Town Trail. Over 80 families completed the visits to all six bases, many with tales to tell of planting or river water testing. Advice on energy conservation, recycling, bee-keeping and hedgehogs. It was good to hear of two further volunteers to assist with SAFAG as well.

I have visited some of our town's care sector and talked with some of the care workers and the people they care for. In many cases their life is made easier by volunteer support. This reinforces my belief in Shipston as a caring community where people safely feel that someone, locally, is looking out for them. The one key element that feels missing from that network of care is the fully integrated Ellen Badger Hospital that was planned to be operational on the Stratford Road with primary (GPs), secondary (inpatient beds) and community healthcare all on one site, working and learning together. The Integrated Care Board need to be reminded that they are responsible for bringing this about.

**Your town Mayor,**

**John**

**John Dinnie, Mayor, Shipston Town Council**

## Thanks at the Riverside

The Riverside Project has turned a neglected area into an attractive, open and accessible space. Members of the Town Council's Heritage, Amenities and Leisure Projects Committee, who planned the project, recently thanked the contractors who undertook the work.

Simon Healey (left, seated) was responsible for the groundwork, fencing, hedge planting and installation of the two new accessible picnic tables. Jacob Harvey of Ash Tree Care (next to Simon) carried out the crown lifting, thinning, coppicing and removal of about 20 dead trees, leaving the roots in place to help maintain stability of the bank.



The teams consulted with the Environment Agency to take flood risk into account throughout the planning and execution of the project, and had expert advice at all stages on creating a better environment for wildlife.

Simon and Jacob have made a welcoming and relaxing space with plenty of light, comfortable seating, and good views of the river and the bridge. Wildflower seeds and daffodil bulbs will be planted in the autumn, and the main hedge will be properly laid when it is big enough.

The scheme has attracted many favourable comments from residents and visitors. Simon says he had a vision of what they hoped to achieve from the start. 'The final result will last a long time, so it had to be right for the town's benefit. I'm very happy to have been involved in this project'.

## News from Shipston Town Council's June meeting

### Events

Council recorded its thanks to all those involved in the D-Day commemorations and beacon, which had been well-attended (see Mayor's column). Council also noted that the Great Big Green Week had gone well, and that the Town Trail had been very popular with children. Cllr Dinnie also attended the regenerative agriculture walk at Blackdown Farm as part of the week.

### Residential

Councillors are talking to Taylor Wimpey about water run-off which has caused flooding problems in Clifford Place. It was suggested that residents at Rainbow Fields be offered advice on energy reduction in the face of high energy bills.

### Blue light update

Cllr Booth reported that the First Responders' second vehicle will be on the road by the end of June, thanks to the fundraising efforts of the Lions, Rotary, League of Friends and others. Their first vehicle will be replaced with an electric vehicle from Jaguar Land Rover before the end of the year. First Responders now look after 40 defibrillators in the town and surrounding villages to ensure they are in working order. Having started with four people, there are now 12 First Responders and a great deal of training has been carried out.

### Green areas

The Rotary has donated £350 for more trees at Cornmill Meadow. Council members are researching options for making the entrance to the Meadows more accessible after the heavy winter rains. Volunteers have cleared excess growth from around trees in Cornmill Meadow orchard. A working party has also tidied up the sensory garden. Grass cutting in town has resumed after No Mow May.

The riverside project has now been completed. There has been a request for further litter and dog waste bins.

Lawns2Mow are to be asked to ensure that the corner of the cemetery, which has seen some fly tipping, is kept clear.

### Town and venues

A location has been found for the Cecil Sandford plaque, which now requires clearance from the planning officer. Cllr Dinnie is looking into how to improve facilities at The Hub as a possible youth club venue.

The Love Shipston website is being updated by the town council's admin team.

### River

Geoff Smith reported that the Shipston Area Flood Action Group (SAFAG) had attended a national conference and attracted a lot of interest in their pasture-based solution. They are currently working with both the County Council and the Environment Agency to ascertain who has responsibility for funding routes. More people expressed an interest in joining SAFAG during Great Big Green Week.

### Finance

Following approval of the annual finance statement by the internal auditor, the council voted unanimously to approve it.

### Stratford District councillor

Susan Juned, leader of Stratford District Council, attended the meeting to update the council on initiatives within the council as part of an outreach tour she is doing to as many town and village councils as possible, in order to collect views on issues and where it is felt the council could do things differently. One result is that the council is improving its website and other communications. The council is also working through recommendations from the Local Government Association's planning advisory service as a result of a review of its planning process.

Shipston councillors asked whether the current short timeline for decision-making could be extended, and whether planning could be more rigorously enforced. Susan promised to take the concerns back to council and said that the district council planning team is being strengthened. Councillors asking for an update on the South Warwickshire Local Plan were told that the 'issues and options' stage will be in early autumn.

## Medical Centre update

### Annual patient meeting

Thank you to all those that attended our annual meeting in May at the Townsend Hall. We found it valuable and appreciated the feedback. The notes of the meeting can be found on our website at <https://shipstonmc.warwickshire.nhs.uk/>

### Cervical screening

Over recent years we have seen the rates of women coming for their cervical screening (or smear test) drop a little. Cervical screening is NOT a test to find cancer. It is a screening test to detect changes to the cells of the cervix, which are called cervical abnormalities or pre-cancer. Cervical screening helps to save 5,000 lives each year. Women across the UK are invited for cervical screening between the ages of 25 and 64. Women aged 25-49 are invited every three years and women aged 50-64 are invited every five years. Patients eligible for screening are often anxious about the procedure. Our nurses have a lot of experience in administering the test. They are happy to talk about it and will help make the experience as easy as possible. If you are invited for screening, please be aware we often have evening and weekend appointments available – please ring reception to access these. To ensure eligible individuals are called for this and other screening, please make sure we have your correct address details. Unfortunately, we are unable to undertake tests for women who do not meet the eligibility criteria.



Shipston Medical Centre



## Youth Club is booming

Shipston has something else to shout about – the town's Youth Club! Some weeks it has had 50 young people attending. The Club is now back to strength and anticipates even more new members at the start of the new school year in September. This is so encouraging after the battle it faced to find a new place to meet and the challenge to build back numbers after covid.



It speaks of the great Shipston spirit, writes Rev Daniel Pulham. Back in 2012 when the County Council was forced to end its funding of local youth clubs in places like Shipston, Kineton, Southam and Henley, each hoped in some way to continue. Not all survived. But Shipston's Youth Club has weathered every storm. Thank you to all who have supported it over the years.

Tim Guest, the Club's Worker in Charge, deserves great credit for overseeing the club every Tuesday evening at The Hub. Sessions run from 7- 9pm for school years 7-11. We have greatly benefited from the involvement of a wide variety of people in the community. The local police have helped us explore the dangers of 'county lines', while Shipston Spokes have helped lead a session on bike maintenance. The Health and Wellbeing partnership have been hugely supportive and Stour Valley Lions have kindly bought us indoor curling equipment. In addition, Tim, who is part of an amateur dramatics group, has laid on mini-pantos and brought in volunteers to demonstrate gory stage makeup – which was wildly popular!

Tim has not worked alone. Until recently, Donna Harper was our Assistant Youth Worker. Each week a band of faithful volunteers, not least Alie Dibbens, Nikki Kulak, Sheila Castle, Tadge Sabatowski and Madi Davies do a cracking job of supervising activities, running the popular tuck shop and taking time to listen to young people who just want a chat. Thanks are due to all of them – running a club with 50 young people attending is not everyone's idea of a night out!

While the club now has a lot going on, it is a unique space for young people in Shipston in that they can simply come along and 'chill' with their friends. The club continues to offer somewhere safe to go, something to do and someone to talk to.

This doesn't just happen! A keen and active management committee oversees the Club's development and it is well served by several members of the Rotary Club (which has also generously supported it across the years), Jo Barker as Town and County Councillor and several of our actual volunteers. Chairing the group is Rev Daniel Pulham of Stour Valley Baptist Church.



## Paid staff and volunteers wanted

To keep going and keep developing, the Club needs to recruit more paid staff and more volunteers. Ideally, the Club is looking to expand our 'offer' to two nights a week. But that requires more people to help. In addition, the Club is looking to partner with the Health and Wellbeing Partnership's new 'Boxercise' sessions at the Townsend Hall on a Thursday evening.

So, if working with young people is something that interests you, why not get in touch about applying to become a paid Assistant Youth Worker? Or if you can't commit every week but want to help out, why not apply to join the volunteer team? Or maybe you have a skill or hobby that you could share with some of the young people one evening? The Club would love for you to get in touch! Please email the Chair, Daniel Pulham, at [svbc99@gmail.com](mailto:svbc99@gmail.com).

Youth Clubs make a real difference to Youth People's lives. Why not be a part of it?

## Private Henry Wilfred Carter

Continuing our series commemorating the lives of the Shipston fallen on the anniversaries of their deaths.

Wilf was born on Boxing Day 1925 and was the son of Henry and Charlotte Carter of Sunrise Cottage, Stretton-on-Fosse, Gloucestershire. Having been previously schooled in Stretton, Wilf joined the Shipston Boys School on 1st February 1937, leaving for full time employment on 22nd December 1939 at the age of fourteen. The 1939 Register finds the family still in Sunrise Cottage and Henry is noted as being an ARP Reservist. Wilf worked at Mayo's Timber Yard on Stratford Road, Shipston.



As soon as he was able, Wilf joined up and following basic training was posted to the 1st/7th Royal Warwickshire regiment part of the 59th (South Staffs) Division. The Division started landing in France on 26th June on Juno beach and by 1st July were assembled in the Bayeux-Creully area.

On 8th July the 59th Division took part in Operation Charnwood, an attempt to take Caen. Crossing their start line on time, they started a long day of confused, hard fighting during which they suffered very heavy casualties. By nightfall they were firmly established on their objective and their part in the Battle of Caen was over. They had 143 officers and men either killed or wounded.

On 29th July the 1st/7th Warwickshires attacked Butte du Chene, a lane and set of farmhouse buildings to the south-west of Caen, at 18.00. The attack went in on time and objectives were taken. The following morning at 05.00, heavy mortaring and small arms fire was directed at the forward companies. 'A' Company was forced to withdraw but 'C' Company, who were on the left, held their ground. In the afternoon 'B' Company was pushed right up to the Butte du Chene and the objective was held.

Wilf was killed on 30th July, aged just 18. It is unclear whether he was killed in the German attacks in the morning, or in the taking of Butte Du Chene.

Wilf's body was not recovered. He is remembered on the Bayeux Memorial, Bayeux, France. In Shipston he is remembered on the Town Memorial as well as on the Stretton-on-Fosse Memorial.

## Townsend Hall AGM

Come along to our Annual General Meeting Tuesday 9th July at 7pm to help support this important community facility. The hall operates as a charity and your input on how it is run would be very welcome. It is managed by a small number of trustees, with openings for further trustees and volunteers to get involved and help support the smooth running of the hall.

In other news, our jazz events will be returning in September after a summer break – check out our website for details: [www.townsendhall.co.uk](http://www.townsendhall.co.uk).

Jenny Glover, Townsend Hall Chair



## Shipston Proms

The Proms are still going as we go to press, so we hope you had/are having a fantastic time at this year's festival! There will be a full report next month. For now it's time to say some thanks, for example to all our sponsors who enabled us to put on yet another year of memorable music, and for the invaluable support of the Friends of the Proms. We had a great attendance at the Blue Bean Café on sponsors night, with thanks to Karl and Sharon for their catering and hospitality. Much appreciation also to the traders in the High Street on the Final Night and their patience when we put up the Herris fencing and closed the High Street a few hours earlier than usual. During this time, we do feel we have a very positive community spirit where everyone gets together for the good of the town.

In the run-up we had only to change one venue, that of Betsy Harmony from the Scout Hut to the Methodist Hall, to leave it free for election voting. Astwood Bank Operatic Society had to pull their show due to illness, but fortunately the Cotswold Choir were able to join us instead.

While the Proms is still fresh in your mind, if there is anyone you'd like to see next year, or if you'd like to get involved yourself, please get in touch with the committee through our website, or better still, in person!



Contact details as always are [www.shipstonproms.org](http://www.shipstonproms.org) or on our Facebook page.

## Lit in memory

The D-Day 80 memorial beacon was lit by a special guest of honour. Tom Clifton was a child evacuee during the war. He is pictured (centre) with the beacon lighting team led by beacon master Ron Scobie Edmunds.

Beacon team member and their official photographer Darren Clarke said, "Everyone came together to make Shipston's 80th D-Day commemorative beacon lighting very special. We shall endeavour to preserve this long-standing tradition for generations to come and never forget our brave heroes."





## Regular Events

### Monday

#### **Seated Exercise Class:**

10am Rainbow Fields and 11am Townsend Hall

#### **IT Help!:**

10am-12pm Shipston Library (appointment only)

#### **Shipston Duplicate Bridge Club:**

6:50pm for a 7pm start.

The Church Room, Darlingscote Road,  
Contact Matthew Hunter: 01608 684499

#### **Shipston Knitting and Crochet Group:**

7-9pm, Low Furlong

### Tuesday

**Rhyme Time:** 10.30am, Shipston Library

**Dementia Café:** Shipston Lodge, 10.30am-12:30pm

**Community Hub:** Shipston Methodist Church, 10-12pm

**Lego Club:** Shipston Library, 3.30pm

**Strictly Fitsteps Fab:** 10am, Townsend Hall

**Age Concern Lunch Club:** Stour Court 12pm. Contact Jill Case  
01608 662226

**Stour Valley Stitchers:** 6.30pm-8.30pm, 2nd & 4th Tues, The Hall,  
Stourton, CV36 5HG

### Wednesday

#### **Seated Tai Chi:**

9.30am, Townsend Hall. Free Admission

#### **Standing Tai Chi:**

10.30am, Townsend Hall. Free Admission

**Indoor Kurling:** 2pm, Townsend Hall

**U3A weekly scrabble:** 2-4pm at the George Townhouse. Free for all  
U3A members

**Stour Valley Stitchers:** 10am-1pm, 1st & 3rd Wed, The Hall,  
Stourton, CV36 5HG

### Thursday

#### **Shipston Community Warm Hub:**

Every Thursday 10am-12pm, The Scout Hut, New Street.

**Story stomp:** 10am, Shipston Library

**Scrabble Club:** 2pm-4pm, Shipston Library

**Age Concern Lunch Club:** Rainbow Fields 12pm. Contact Christine  
Grant 07939 595600

**Community Social Prescriber drop in:** 10am-12pm, Scout Hut,  
New Street

### Friday

#### **Pilates for Complete Beginners:**

9.30am Townsend Hall

#### **Walks with a friendly group:**

10am Mill car park. Call Marleen 01608 663616

#### **Shipston Stitchers:**

Every fortnight at The Church Room, Darlingscote Road. Contact  
Anita Spencer on 01993 832665

**Age Concern Lunch Club:** Fortnightly, Rainbow Fields, 12pm.  
Contact Amanda Holden 01608 686268

**Shipston Knitting and Crochet Group -** Friday afternoons in Mrs.  
Browns from 2-4.30pm

**Club Night at Shipston Sports Club:** 6pm-9pm, London Road

### Saturday

**Lego Club:** Shipston Library. From 10am.

#### **Shipston Food Bank:**

10:30am-12pm, St Edmund's Church, Shipston.  
No referral or voucher needed

## What's On Calendar: July 2024

**2nd Shipston Library Reading Group:** 2pm-3pm first Tuesday of each month.

**2nd 'Dance for Joy' Monthly Circle Dance Group in Stretton on Fosse**

**2.30 – 4pm.** Please contact Geri Hunting geraldinehunting@icloud.com or  
07968 338848

**3rd Shipston Widows:** the first Weds each month at the George. Coffee from 11  
and stay for lunch. Contact: Barbara Bean 6632304

**3rd Singing Down Memory Lane:** the first Weds of each month, 2.30pm-  
3.30pm, Shipston Lodge. See ad on page 10.

**5-6th Evening Swift Walks.** See ad on page 7.

**6th Shipston Town Council Monthly Litter Pick:** All welcome. Meet at New  
Clarke House, West Street at 10am. Equipment and refreshments provided.  
Children's equipment available

**7th Cream Tea and Gentle Jazz:** Limited tickets available, booking required. See  
ad on page 7.

**8th Town Council Meeting:** 7pm, New Clark House

**9th Townsend Hall AGM:** 7pm, Townsend Hall. See article on page 5.

**11th The Royal British Legion – Shipston branch:** Committee Meeting of  
the Shipston Branch of the RBL, St Edmund's Church. If you would like to  
know more, become a Committee member or a member of the Branch call  
or message the Branch Secretary Alex Black on 07789 968733 or email  
alblack32@hotmail.com

**13th Beer Festival.** Run by Stour Valley Lions in partnership with Shipston Rugby  
Club, 2pm til late

**18th Drop In Clinic:** For the over 65s. 10am-12pm, Scout Hut. Every third  
Thursday

**19th Royal British Legion Social Evening:** The Shipston on Stour Branch  
of the Royal British Legion meet on the third Friday of each month for a social  
gathering. We meet in the White Bear Inn from 7.30 pm onwards. Do please  
come and join us and share your stories with like-minded people. For further  
information contact Alex Black 07789 968733 or alblack32@hotmail.com.

**20th Cotswold Choir & Local Musicians:** Summer Concert. See ad on page 7.

**23rd GLOSS (Great Ladies of Shipston and Surroundings).** A social group  
for women to have fun and make friends. 7.30pm- 9.30pm at the Catholic  
Church Hall, Darlingscote Road, CV36 4DR. Meeting on the 4th Tuesday of  
every month. All ladies welcome. Entry £2.00

**23rd U3A Film Afternoon.** See ad on page 7.

**25th Local Quaker Meeting for Worship:** St Edmund's Church, last Thursday  
in the month at 2.30pm, followed by tea/coffee, biscuits & chat

**27th Stour Valley Stitchers:** Saturday Sewing Day. See article on page 13.

**27th Fish 'n' Frolics.** Shipston Sports Club. 2pm. See article on page 8.

**COTSWOLD CHOIR  
AND LOCAL MUSICIANS**

# SUMMER Concert

**SAT 20 2024  
JULY**

TOWNSEND HALL, SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR, CV36 4AE

Join us for a fabulous evening of music  
from The Cotswold Choir, their family,  
friends and local musicians!

**DOORS 6.30pm, START 7pm**

**Adults £10, Under 18s £8**

**RAFFLE RAISING FUNDS FOR  
STOUR VALLEY LIONS  
LICENSED BAR**

**Enjoy a Cream Tea with some  
Gentle Jazz in the Garden**

Please join us in our garden from 2pm - 4pm on Sunday 7th July at  
Windmill View, Walnut Paddocks, Upper Tysoe CV35 0TN



**JAZZ**  
GARDEN

Please bring a chair!

Fundraising for:  
**talkdementia.uk**  
Advice and support for carers of loved ones  
living with dementia in South Warwickshire

**A VERY LIMITED NUMBER OF TICKETS  
ARE AVAILABLE - JUST £12**  
Contact Paul and Heather Dowler  
Phone 01295 688376  
Email [talkdementia.uk@gmail.com](mailto:talkdementia.uk@gmail.com)

*Shipston Action for Swifts  
Evening Swift Walks*

**Friday 5th & Saturday 6th July 2024  
7:30 - 9:30pm**



A gentle, guided walk around Shipston  
to watch and learn more about swifts ~  
our amazing Summer visitors

*Also ... New This Year!*

**7th July 3:30 - 4:30 pm**  
*House Martin Hunt*  
*A Swift Awareness Week event for children*

These migratory birds are in serious decline and need  
our understanding and help if they are to continue to  
bring joy to our Summer evening skies



The events are **Free of Charge** but numbers are limited  
Book early to avoid disappointment  
For more details **Phone : 01608 661288** or  
**Email : [swifts@2jays.co.uk](mailto:swifts@2jays.co.uk)**

**SHIPSTON ON STOUR AREA**

**u3a**  
Registered Charity No 1170969

**TUESDAY 23 JULY 2024  
2 pm TOWNSEND HALL  
FILM AFTERNOON**



**Clifford  
The Big Red Dog**

**Children and members free  
Visitors welcome £2 inc. refreshments**



## Bringing past school days to life

A historic photograph is on display at Shipston Museum this summer – and you may find some familiar faces among the young pupils who gathered to be photographed in July 1954 outside what is now the Old School building on the Stratford Road.

This is all thanks to retired local commercial photographer Richard Sampson who recently discovered the picture among his files. 'My ten-year-old son attended the school before it closed around 1980,' he said. 'I thought it might generate interest in the town, asking people to identify family or friends, sparking memories 70 years on.'

It seemed fitting to share this find in its anniversary year so Richard has donated the 4ft-long photo to the Museum where you can check it out for yourself. Maybe you will see some faces you recognise?

The discovery inspired the idea for a future exhibition about Shipston school – so start digging out those old photos to revive memories of past school days.

Of course, schooling in Shipston has a much longer history. Before the opening of this school in 1876, our town had two national schools: the girls and infants in New Street and boys in Sheep Street as well as smaller private establishments.

Those just about to start their summer holidays now may be thankful they are longer than in those early days when the Harvest Holiday was flexible depending on the weather and whether the crops were ready for reaping. There were additional leaves of absence for other rural reasons like acorn gathering, bark picking and hurdle making. This history is recorded in the 1986 Shipston-on-Stour from Old Photographs by Vivienne Griffin, librarian at Shipston for many years.

You can see the 1970 school photo at our Museum, weekends 12-4pm, Old Clark House, West Street, near the Council offices.



*Outside the Old School – now private homes - Richard Sampson with the 4ft length photo of pupils from 70 years ago.*

## Winning ducks

The Stour Valley Lions were proud to present cheques for £755 both to the Shipston First Responders and Fish 'n' Frolics after the recent very successful Annual Shipston Great Duck Race. Families turned out in their hundreds to buy ducks and watch them bobbing down the River Stour in bright sunshine, winning prizes, playing games and raising much needed money for the two local organisations.

Local businesses were very generous in their sponsorship of the event, with 12 taking part in the Great Shipston Duck Derby. It was won by Seccombe Estate Agents, with Creature Comforts coming a close second and Cotek Papers Ltd in third place. Individual races were sponsored, and we were proud to present The Coop Plunge, The Tesco Express Whirl, The Old Mill Race, The Fuzzy Duck Splatter and the Stour Valley Lions Roaring Rapids. Other sponsors who contributed to raising money for our community, included Shipston Spokes, Richard Harvey Interiors, Cooke Watts & Co Ltd, Number One, Thomas Algar Bespoke Projects and The George Townhouse.

The event, organised in partnership with Shipston Angling Club, was attended by our new Mayor John Dinnie and Town Crier Marion Lowe. The Stour Valley Lions are continuing throughout the summer to raise money for a new car for the Shipston First Responders. Look out for details about a Beer Festival on 13th July in partnership with Shipston Rugby Club.

Details about all Stour Valley Lion's events and a calendar of events are available at <https://www.stourvalleylionsevents.club>



*Duck Race 2024 race winner*

## Fish 'n' Frolics

Look out for Fish 'n' Frolics down by the riverside! The annual festival organised by the Shipston Angling Club will take place on Saturday 27th July.

Regular attendees will be pleased that festival favourites J.E.E.P. have got back together to headline. Country singer Guy Surtees who is touring Canada at the moment will also play, plus many more. Youngsters interested in finding out about angling can come along and try it out.

The fun starts at 2pm at Shipston Sports Club.

The Club will also be offering junior angling tuition on 26th, 27th and 28th July where youngsters interested in finding out about angling can come along and try it out.

Find out more from: [shipstonangling.com](http://shipstonangling.com) and look out for posters around town.





## Literary Society: Ukraine evening

An emotion-packed evening at the Townsend Hall saw tears in the eyes of many in the large audience as folk songs were sung and poetry recited – and as Ukrainian Iryna Starovoyt spoke of her childhood in Lviv, of the Russian invasion and of the empty chair on the stage with her.



A tradition has been building whereby when Ukrainians address meetings they include an empty chair alongside them, to symbolise an artist or writer who died in a conflict, or in prison following torture. This chair was for her student, colleague and friend Ivan, killed in recent fighting. His body has not been recovered.

It was particularly interesting to hear from someone who had also lived through the Cold War on the other side of the Iron Curtain. Iryna well remembered the regular nuclear attack drills and lectures at school. The children were told what to do and how to evacuate to shelters. Once, Iryna asked: 'What about my parents?' There was no answer.

There were moves to marginalise the Ukrainian language, promote Russian and adopt the Russian Cyrillic script. Then came the collapse of the Soviet Union and the breakup to the various states. There was a period of uncertainty before Ukraine became the confident country it is now. And then came the Russian invasion of 2022.

During the interval, the a cappella group The Old Guard sang Ukrainian folk and love songs to enthusiastic applause, even from those who could not understand the words.

Iryna then talked about her poetry. Since the invasion it has changed and become harder, more observant of the world around us. War is not the answer, she says, peaceful coexistence is. She read from her work, both in Ukrainian and in English, getting appreciative applause in both.

Her final comments on how Ukrainian people see the future received prolonged applause. Iryna said that the conflict meant that they had met a lot of friends in other countries and felt a lot of love and support. 'After the drones have cleared from the skies, come and visit us. We want to welcome you to our home as our friends.'

A luxury raffle, made possible by the generosity of local businesses, raised money towards buying books in Ukrainian for children living in the UK after being displaced by the fighting. Part will also go towards replacing books in Ukrainian schools, following the destruction of a major publishing house. Separate donations were given for this cause and the Literary Society will also be adding to the fund, which will raise in excess of £450.



*Iryna Starovoyt*

*The old guard*



## May concert



A very lively and uplifting trumpet welcome greeted the audience in Shipston on Stour with the Stour Singers' concert on Saturday 18th May in St. Edmund's Church under the baton of long-term musical director and founder, Richard Emms. This single Spring evening hailed a trio of the greats: the 17th century English baroque composer Henry Purcell with the 18th century Austrian classical composers Haydn and Mozart, the former a mentor and friend of the latter. The choir and soloists were accompanied by members of the youthful and engaged Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Orchestra with the choir's own hugely experienced and faithful accompanist Rachel Bird on keyboard.

On the menu at this feast was one of Purcell's last works, the 'Te Deum' with orchestral accompaniment, bristling with brass and velvet soft with strings in a spirit of full and jubilant praise for God. This was followed by a Mozartian favourite the 'Laudate Dominum' and his 'Dixit' setting for vespers, both wonderful short pieces. After the interval came Haydn's late sacred masterwork the Missa Angustiis or 'Lord Nelson Mass', as it is now commonly named, which skillfully highlights soloists and chorus with an orchestral background of trumpet, strings, timpani and organ.

With only one 'on the day' afternoon rehearsal of choir with soloists and orchestra, this concert reflected the commitment needed to publicly perform this inspirational music. The soloists were leading soprano Louise Wayman, alto Judith Le Breuilly, warm tenor Matthew Pochin and the bass-baritone James Birchall. The combined soloist voices blended well, echoing to the rafters to raise the emotional tension.

These choral works are testing for any choir. This committed amateur group of choristers made an outstanding and lively contribution with full command of the music in tempo and dynamics, ensuring expressive success to the concert. The audience evidently enjoyed what they heard. Next year will be the 50th anniversary of the choir and we look forward to another sterling performance in December.

## Circle Dance Group

Do you hear music playing and feel the urge to get up and dance? Then circle dancing may be for you. This is a traditional form of dance from many different cultures. Its origins are in community dances which are still a way of celebrating events in countries such as Greece, Bulgaria, Macedonia – and even, sometimes, in the UK.

The dances range from lively and upbeat to slower and more meditative. They are accessible to anyone of any age. You don't need any previous dance experience, because all the dances are taught. And you don't need a partner as we all dance together in a circle. What you do need is a comfortable pair of shoes and a desire to have fun! Contact Geri on 07968 338848 or [geraldinehunting@icloud.com](mailto:geraldinehunting@icloud.com)

We usually meet on the first Thursday of the month 2.30pm-4pm. Due to the election, the July session will be on Tuesday 2nd afternoon instead. All at the Village Hall, Stretton-on-Fosse.





## LET'S TALK BOXERCISE

Open to all 16–18 year olds

**FREE TO ATTEND**

Every other week

Beginning 13th June. 5pm-6pm  
with a monthly workshop 6-7pm.



To book a place for both the boxercise and workshop, please visit:  
[www.bookwhen.com/shwp88](http://www.bookwhen.com/shwp88)  
or scan the QR code opposite

Places are limited to 20 so don't delay to avoid disappointment.

Townsend Hall, Shipston On Stour, CV36 4AE

A SHWP initiative, funded by the Police and Crime Commission.

### MONTHLY WORKSHOPS - 6pm to 7pm

27th June - 1800: Navigating the Modern World

17th July - Road Safety Awareness

18th September - LifeSpace: Anxiety

17th October - Campus: Drug Awareness

21st November - EqualHealth: 'It's Not Bander'

1st December - Police VR Session on County Levels

30th January - Police VR Session on Missing

20th February - LifeSpace: Team Anxiety

March - EqualHealth - Critical Thinking



## Singing Down Memory Lane

Come along and join in with the singing for people with memory issues and their carers.



First Wednesday of the month.

2:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Shipston Lodge, Tileman's Lane  
Shipston on Stour, CV36 4QG

Accompanied by Nick Nickerson on guitar

Refreshments provided

Contact Fay Ivens 01608 662133

Alternative Contact Pat Hutton 01608 664648



Shipston on Stour - A Dementia Friendly Community.

[www.shwp.org.uk](http://www.shwp.org.uk)



## LET'S TALK BOXERCISE

Open to all Year 9 - 11s

**FREE TO ATTEND**

Every other week

Beginning 6th June. 5pm-6pm  
with a monthly workshop 6-7pm.



To book a place for both the boxercise and workshop, please visit:  
[www.bookwhen.com/shwp88](http://www.bookwhen.com/shwp88)  
or scan the QR code opposite

Places are limited to 20 so don't delay to avoid disappointment.

Townsend Hall, Shipston On Stour, CV36 4AE

A SHWP initiative, funded by the Police and Crime Commission.

### MONTHLY WORKSHOPS - 6pm to 7pm

27th June - 1800: Navigating the Modern World

17th July - Road Safety Awareness

12th September - LifeSpace: Peer Listening

13th October - Campus: Drug Awareness

1st October - Police VR Session on County Levels

14th November - EqualHealth - 'It's Not Bander'

30th January - Police VR Session on Missing

27th February - LifeSpace: Team Anxiety



If you are someone with HR experience and would be willing to give us some of your time to put together a Data Protection Policy, Volunteer Management Policy and a Whistleblowing Policy.

If you feel that this is something which you are able to help with then please contact

Drina Heighton

Shipston Food Bank Administrator

On 01295 680201



## Shipston High School

As we enter the last half term of the academic year, it is always a time of mixed emotions. We are excited to meet and greet our new Year 7 students, and sad as we say goodbye to our Year 11 students. It is an emotional day as we bid them farewell but we are proud of them in their approach to their exams and know they will continue successfully on their next journey. It was lovely to see them enjoying their last morning, signing shirts and bringing in gifts and flowers for staff – and they still have the Prom and a trip to Drayton Manor to look forward to!

### Sports update

The rest of the year groups remain busy with trips and sporting activities. Some of our students were selected to represent South Warwickshire in the English Schools Athletics tournament and all three did extremely well, achieving personal best results for their events. We have also attended the Super 6 athletics and on 27th June, 55 students will be spending the day at the district athletics competition at Stratford School. Students have also been at rounders and cricket fixtures, and taking part in tennis slams.



### Duke of Edinburgh

We wish all our students taking part in their final expedition for their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award the best of luck! Fingers crossed for a dry, warm day.

### Paying respects

We were delighted to attend the commemorative service held at the Shipston gyratory gardens to mark the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day landings. Representative students, along with our Head of History, went along to pay their respects.



### Sustainability conference

On Friday 7th June, some of our Year 9 students visited Greigs Hall in Alcester, along with students from our four alliance schools, to take part in a sustainability conference. Students were tasked to share ideas on how to make schools fully sustainable and the methods we could adopt to ensure we are being as environmentally friendly as possible. It was a fabulous day with lots of ideas.

### School trips

Continuing with our calendar of school trips, we have students in year 7 completing their local area visit for their Geography coursework, and year 8 students spending the day at Kew Gardens. We are also excited to be hosting our very own fundraising Colour Run, which is open to all students. School parents, please do log onto Parentpay and sign up your child for a colourful afternoon of fun!

## Shipston Primary School



### Great Big Green Week and the town trail

On Tuesday 4th June, we welcomed Jacey from the Safe Climate Community Action Group into our school assembly along with Marion, our Town Crier, Dave, our local councillor and John, our new Town Mayor.

They came to invite the children to join in the exciting Great Big Green Week town trail, on Saturday 8th June. There were six bases around the town where the children took part in fun activities and found out interesting information about how to help the planet. At each base the children collected a sticker, and the first 100 children received a reward once all six stickers had been collected. Ms Young, Miss Lamb and Mrs Chadwick were all stationed at the first base outside the Co-op with some of our school councillors.



### Ambition assemblies

We are hugely grateful to the parents who have been brave and volunteered to talk to our children about their jobs in assembly. Our latest two have been Olivia's mum, who works for the construction firm Balfour Beatty and Fern's dad, who works for Virgin Media and told us all about telecommunications.

They told the children about the wide range of jobs available in their line of work, the parts they love about what they do; the parts that are less fun but important such as attendance (getting up each morning, even when it's dark and wet!) and the importance of determination, teamwork, resilience and believing in yourself. They both talked about how often the projects they are working

on don't go as they originally planned, that there are often lots of things that go wrong before a project is finished but that, as long as we keep learning from the things that don't work first time, we will be successful in the end. They also talked to the children about how important it is to be practising these skills and habits now at school. The children gained a lot from spending time with them.

If any other parents or members of the community would like to share what they do and why with the children, please do get in touch. We'd love to hear from you!

### Hospital site safety boards

The site safety boards the children created at the start of the year are now in place outside of the new hospital building. They show off how talented our children are. Keep an eye out for them when you walk past. When the building work is finished, the boards will be returned to us and displayed around school.



## Shipston Rotary



Assistant district governor Gabrielle Back and district governor elect Denzil Williams visited recently. Gabrielle is responsible for six Rotary Clubs in the area and Denzil will soon be responsible for all 47 Rotary Clubs in the Midlands. They listened keenly to members explaining the different aspects of what Shipston Rotary does and what it is trying to achieve, including the most recent efforts, in conjunction with others in the town, to help purchase two new cars for the First Responders. Rotarian Georgina Beaumont talked about Rotary's extensive work with young people in the area.

Gabrielle was extremely complimentary about what she had heard, reports Nigel Willis.



*Shipston Rotary President Fay Ivens with Gabrielle Back and Denzil Williams*



## Shipston Music Society



The Blockley Blokes Choir are a cheerful lot. They arrive for the concert in ones and twos, smiling and greeting each other like long-lost friends. This May was their second visit. How many are actually in this choir is still a mystery for this writer, but for this concert 22 Blokes fitted themselves into the small but perfect acoustic space that is the Methodist Church in Shipston.

Their musical director, Martin, is a talented man with a droll sense of humour. The first half began with 'Send down a song for me' which perfectly reflected the evening's intention to show the range of a 'blokes' choir'. 'Tebe poem,' sung in its original Slav language came next. This was followed by a Welsh hymn sung in Welsh in honour of one of their founding members who had sadly died recently. 'Flow gently, sweet Afton' and 'My Love is like a red, red, rose' both with words by Burns were sung beautifully with some good harmonies on show. The song 'Linden Lea' which originated in Dorset came next and the half ended with 'He ain't heavy, he's my brother' made famous in the 1960s by the Hollies, with words that bring tears to the eyes.

After a jolly interval, the second part of the evening took us to the US, beginning with a wonderful medley of songs made famous by Al Jolson which were a joy to hear. A barber shop song from 1926 'Peggy O'Neill' came next and then we went to the classic musical era with 'Almost Like Being in Love', and 'Some enchanted evening' which once again showed off some lovely part singing and harmonies.

## Shipston Bellringers

Congratulations to Ruth who has completed her Fifty Ringing Things award. Ruth took up bellringing five-and-a-half years ago and has been working towards this for 15 months, finishing well within the permitted two-year time frame. Challenges vary greatly over three core themes: your own personal progress, ringing as part of a team and contributing to the local community.

Ringing at different venues with different bells is one of the joys of bellringing and several of us had a great morning when we joined the practice at Holy Trinity in Stratford recently with tower bands from across the diocese. The bell chamber is roughly four times the size of what we are used to in our own parish towers and there are ten bells so it was quite a new experience for us. In turn, our fellow ringers at Tredington hosted other local colleagues at St Gregory's recently. We were also delighted to welcome a band of current and former nurses who rang a Quarter Peal at St Edmund's at 2pm on May 12th for International Nurses Day. They rang for about 50 minutes, the method being plain Bob Minor which involves all six bells participating in the method, so it is quite a feat to accomplish!

We were proud to ring to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day. The bells were silenced over the entire country for much of the war except to raise the alarm in case of invasion. However, it is apparently a misconception that the ban was only lifted on VE day. There is a very interesting 30 minutes podcast that explains what actually did happen to bellringing during the war. <https://funwithbells.com/episode/lifting-the-wwii-ban-on-ringing> Churchill allowed the bells to ring out in 1942 to celebrate the victory at El Alamein and ringing was thereafter permitted for special occasions, the ban finally being lifted in June 1943. My 86-year-old father-in-law recently shared an early but very clear childhood memory. As a five-year-old he heard the bells ring out on that special occasion in 1942 and had to ask his mother what was happening as he had never heard them before. If anyone has any other memories from family members who were bellringers locally at this time it would be fascinating to hear from you.

Equally, if you are interested in learning the unique way that church bells are rung or maybe joining our team please do get in touch on 07972 705539.

## Bridge for Food Bank

The Shipston U3A bridge club held a charity 'do' on 13th May which raised £700 for our local Food Bank – almost enough, according to its Treasurer, to cover the cost of providing daily lunch bags for the children over the summer holidays.

Thanks to Alan Lamb of Bourton on the Hill for directing the bridge, to Caroline Perkins, Debbie Taylor and Elizabeth Foster of St Edmund's Church who gave up their afternoon to serve tea and cake, and to the membership of the Shipston U3A Bridge club who provided the refreshments and many lovely raffle prizes.

Particular appreciation to El Café, A Touch of Dust, Mad Mollie, Dice and the Richard Harvey Collection for supporting us with generous raffle prizes.



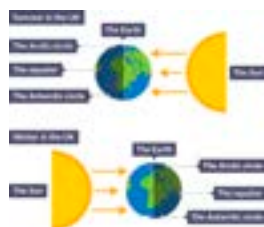
## Astronomical Society News

The Stratford upon Avon Astronomical Society meets every 1st and 3rd Tuesday at 8pm at Alderminster Village Hall. Everyone is welcome, especially beginners and those wanting to learn more. The first Tuesday is a club night which in July will be on 2nd July. The speaker on the third Tuesday, which is at 8pm on 16th July, is Dr Steve Barrett from the University of Liverpool, with a talk about astrophotography. Find out more at [www.astro.org.uk](http://www.astro.org.uk) or contact the Chairman John Waller [john.waller@astro.org.uk](mailto:john.waller@astro.org.uk) or on 07703 192188.

Adrian Wakeham takes the first part of a look at summer stars and explains why astronomers are grumpy creatures (unless they are solar observers) at this time of year. The long evenings mean there is less time to do observing and astronomers are struggling to see many stars. Due to the tilt of Earth (which also causes the day length to alter) we don't always get to full darkness, so we have what is called twilight.

The various types of twilight, civil, nautical and astronomical, are based on how far below the horizon the sun is. Nautical, 6° below, and only the brightest stars are visible. Astronomical, 12° below, most stars are visible, but true darkness is achieved at 18° below. At our latitude, about 52°N, at the height of summer, we fail to get true darkness and struggle to get to astronomical twilight.

The summer affects the height the Moon and planets get to at night. This does mean the Sun is higher in the daytime. What to look for in the summer sky, including the summer triangle, will be covered next time.



## Stour Valley Stitchers

Do you wish you had more time to sew without interruptions? Saturday Sewing could be the answer. Stour Valley Stitchers meet on the fourth Saturday of the month in the Hall at Cherington from 10am-3pm to sew. Bring your machine, your project, and a bite for lunch, and we supply the rest. The cost for the day is £6, parking is free.

Saturdays are also our Community Sewing Days where we make use of donated and leftover fabric from projects and turn it into something useful. This year we are focusing on making tote bags that can be donated to the local Food Bank or used for taking personal items home from a stay in hospital. We have a variety of fabrics, all we need are willing hands to help us make as many as we can and save these fabrics from landfill.

You do not need to sew to come to a Community Sewing Day. We need help with cutting out, pinning, and ironing too. If you're able to help with any of the tasks, and even sewing, we'd love to see you. Community Sewing participation is free. We hope to see you on 27th July for our next Saturday Sewing Day.

## Probus: Nelson, Trafalgar and Lady Hamilton

Sally Ferrers reflected on the career of a national hero, Admiral Lord Nelson.



Born in 1798 in Norfolk, one of eleven children, at the age of eleven Nelson went to sea with an uncle who was a naval officer. By the age of 20 he had his own command and went on to fight numerous battles in the Mediterranean, the Baltic and the West Indies, suffering the loss of sight in one eye and the use of an arm. He married Fanny Nisbet, the daughter of a West Indian merchant. She nursed him through his loss of an arm, but the marriage was not successful, and they drifted apart.

Famously Nelson met Emma Hamilton, a beautiful and intelligent woman, who despite being born into poverty, found success through relationships with wealthy men including Sir William Hamilton, a British envoy to Naples. Nelson and Emma started a passionate eight-year relationship, but it was viewed back home as an adulterous affair and publicly attacked by a series of vicious cartoons.

Nelson's career flourished, with famous naval victories against the French. He was appointed Commander-in chief of the Mediterranean fleet in 1803 and given the HMS *Victory* as his flagship. The task now was to blockade the French and Spanish fleet based in Toulon under Admiral Villeneuve. The British fleet stood 12 miles off the coast when news came of an attempted break-out. Nelson wrote a last letter to Emma.

At dawn on 21st October, off the coast of Trafalgar, 50,000 men prepared for one of the greatest sea battles in history. Nelson gave the famous message 'England expects every man will do his duty'. His plan of attack was revolutionary, and broke strict Admiralty orders. Nelson insisted his fleet break the French line into two sections and engage individual ships in close bombardment and hand-to-hand fighting.

Setting an example to his men, Nelson calmly strode the poop deck and was hit by a sniper. He survived for about three hours before dying, but he knew the battle had been won. Nelson famously called, 'kiss me Hardy', and also made a last plea, 'I am a dead man Hardy – see that Lady Hamilton has all she needs.'

His body was returned to England pickled in brandy, lashed to the mainmast of *Victory*, for a funeral at St Paul's Cathedral. Nelson became one of the greatest war heroes, but his private life offended the morality of the times. His legitimate wife, Fanny, was awarded all his money, estate and titles. Emma was ignored and not allowed to attend the funeral; she fell into serious financial debt, spent time in prison and died from alcoholism.

Probus is celebrating 40 years of fellowship for retired and semi-retired men in Shipston this year. Look out for our Open Day at the George Hotel on Saturday 7th September 10-2.00pm. Probus meets fortnightly at Shipston Sports and Social Club. Guests and new members are most welcome. Please contact Tony Joint on 01608 663407 or email [tonyjoint73@hotmail.com](mailto:tonyjoint73@hotmail.com) for further details.

## County Council

I'm late, I'm late - it was ever thus during an election campaign! I have just done my surgery before sitting down to do this and then I shall bustle out to appear later on a doorstep somewhere near you! Frenetic and surviving on coffee just about sums it up. So I will have to apologise if casework is slow – but I will catch up!

This month I am going to concentrate on education. Exams are nearly over – what a relief for all of those involved and good luck for the results later in the summer. If you are concerned about next steps in education or training, then please get in touch so I can try and help you navigate WCC. Don't panic about results. I failed my first set of A levels and was gutted. I thought the world had ended –but it hadn't. I went to university to study geography, met great people and got on with life. It's not our successes which make us, it is our failures and how we deal with them.

I spent a few hours on a SEND training course with Parent Care Voice – totally eye opening. I thought I was quite clued up – haha! Two things really struck me, hard. Being a parent is not easy for any of us, but feeling judged as so many do is doubly hard. My best contribution will now be to get all over the legislation, so I can help challenge perceptions and decisions based in law. Some years ago, I worked as volunteer citizen advocate for a non-verbal young person. No-one thought that she could communicate so we muddled through. Yesterday I saw a video of a young man who had learnt to communicate using letters. He was essentially locked in and waiting to be let out. He expressed that he knew he looked different and made jerky movements –but when he spelled out the word unequivocally in his note, I was totally humbled that we need to raise our expectations for everyone. Yes we can!

Yours ever, Jo

**Councillor Jo Barker (she/her) Shipston Division**

Chairman of Adult Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny  
07748968712 | jobarker@warwickshire.gov.uk | @jmvbarker

## District Council



It was good to be in the Townsend Hall when Josh Dickin came to tell us the story of how his small Shropshire town of Bishop's Castle managed to reopen their 16-bed Community Hospital. He spearheaded a successful campaign, using imaginative fundraising events, email campaigns, and mobilising the whole community, so that after two years of being closed, beds were reinstated. Most people in the Townsend Hall signed up to help Shipston mirror Bishop's Castles success. There was a particular call for anyone with any legal or medical expertise. We still have time to mobilise the town to persuade the Integrated Care Board (ICB) and the NHS Trust to change their minds and reinstate the beds during the public consultation which is due to happen this winter.

The District Council has accepted a report from the Housing Association Task & Finish Group, with 17 standards they expect all Housing Associations (including Orbit) to sign up to. These include:

- Strengthening how repairs are monitored, reported, and tracked
- All houses must meet the Decent Homes Standard
- All tenants to be actively encouraged to take positions on customer panels, and be compensated for their time and participation through training and non-financial awards
- There must be a neighbourhood officer who can be easily reached by tenants and councillors. This has already been put in place by Platform Housing Association, who manage some of the houses on the new estates along the Campden Road.

The District Council is to fund an additional Active Communities Instructor to be employed by Everyone Active based at the leisure centres. The instructor will focus on key groups within the community who suffer from health inequalities. We hope this initiative will be able to give additional support to the fantastic work already being done by Stour Health & Wellbeing Partnership.

Following meetings with tenants who are struggling with energy bills, a reminder that there are two organisations waiting to help – the Citizens Advice Bureau (0808 250 5715) and Act on Energy (0800 988 2881).

The Climate Assembly that was going to be held in the Council Chamber on 5th July is being postponed to September because of the election.

**Olivia Hatch, District Councillor, Shipston North**

07752652114 | olivia.hatch@stratford-dc.gov.uk

## Shipston SCAN: Ellen Badger Hospital Update

SCAN's May meeting was a very well-attended update on the Ellen Badger Hospital development. Sophie Gilkes from South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust (SWFT) said she was unable to add much to what she had told us last year as the development was progressing according to plan. She said that the planned opening date was Spring 2025. The expected layout of the new hospital will be:

Ground floor - wellbeing space for community partners to deliver services and activities aligned to supporting the prevention agenda. SWFT are working closely with the Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership and this space will grow and evolve according to local need.

First floor - outpatients suite and treatment rooms for specialist nurses and other health professionals. Specialties that were previously run from the site will return, including: Heart Failure Nurses, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Audiology, ENT, Ophthalmology and Specialist Parkinson's Disease Nurse. SWFT continues to work with Shipston Medical Centre, with a shared ambition of bringing it on site with potential consulting rooms in this space.

Top floor – shared spaces for community nursing teams. SWFT continue to work with Shipston Home Nursing to discuss space for their services.

The development will also include the infrastructure to bring on-site mobile diagnostics and SWFT are working with partners who run services such as the breast scanner to understand what their plans are.

The final part of her talk dealt with future service provision, based on a meeting held in March with Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership, SWFT, Stratford District Council, Shipston Medical Centre, Warwickshire County Council, Coventry & Warwickshire Partnership Trust, GP Federation, and Warwickshire CAVA.

Sophie was unable to talk about the bed question as this is now being dealt with by the Integrated Care Board, which was unable to send a representative but did provide a statement indicating that the bed review would not be finalised until early 2025 and that this date could be later depending on the general election.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 9th July at 10 am in the Townsend Hall. The topic will be Shipston Home Nursing. Meetings are completely free and open to all those over 50 living in Shipston and local villages. If you would like to know more about SCAN, please contact me on 01608 662998.

Laurie Grove Chairman



## Your town councillors


**John Dinnie, Mayor**

*Environmental Working Group, Co-Chair*  
t: 01608 664590  
e: john.dinnie@shipstontowncouncil.org


**Tony Booth, Deputy Mayor**

*General Purposes and Communications Working Group Chair*  
e: tony.booth@shipstontowncouncil.org


**Gerry Kelly**

*Planning Committee Vice Chair*  
t: 07471 687720  
e: gerry.kelly@shipstontowncouncil.org


**Ian Cooper**

*Finance Working Group Chair*  
t: 01608 663785  
e: ian.cooper@shipstontowncouncil.org


**Paul Tesh**

*Planning Committee Chair*  
t: 07711 433566  
e: paul.tesh@shipstontowncouncil.org


**Jo Barker**

t: 07748 968712  
e: jobarker@warwickshire.gov.uk (for town and county matters)


**Hilary Kelly**

*Environmental Working Group, Co-Chair*  
e: hilary.kelly@shipstontowncouncil.org


**Chris Howarth**

*Heritage, Amenities and Leisure Projects Working Group Chair*  
e: chris.howarth@shipstontowncouncil.org


**Michelle Kelly**

e: michelle.kelly@shipstontowncouncil.org


**Richard Walters**

e: richard.walters@shipstontowncouncil.org


**Ethan Liddell**

e: ethan.liddell@shipstontowncouncil.org


**John Williams**

e: john.williams@shipstontowncouncil.org


**Vacancy**

## Useful contacts

Community Links Transport	01789 264491
Shipston Library:	0300 5558171
- 24/7 renewal line	01926 499273
Highways customer services	01926 412515
Severn Trent Emergency Line:	0800 7834444
Shipston Volunteer Transport Scheme	01608 663122
Shipston Leisure Centre	01608 662354
Shipston Medical Centre	01608 661845
- Out of hours	111
Shipston Link (local transport)	01386 593446
Shipston Recycling Centre	01926 412593
Stratford District Council	01789 267575
Townsend Hall	07514 704057
Warwickshire County Council	01926 410410
UCHW Hospital	024 7696 4000
Warwick Hospital	01926 495321
<b>Local police (non emergency)</b>	<b>101</b>
Shipston Police Safer Neighbourhood Team:	01789 444670
Team: shipston.snt@warwickshire.police.uk	
<b>Churches of Shipston:</b>	
Stour Valley Baptist	01608 664876
Our Lady & St Michael	01608 685259
St Edmund's	01608 661210
Methodist Church	01295 257193

**Shipston-on-Stour Town Council**

New Clark House, West Street, Shipston-on-Stour, CV36 4HD

**General Enquiries**

t: 01608 662180 e: enquiries@shipstontowncouncil.org

**Town Clerk**

t: 01608 662180 e: clerk@shipstontowncouncil.org

**County Council Contact:**
**Councillor Jo Barker**

t: 07748 968712 e: jobarker@warwickshire.gov.uk

**District Council Contacts:**
**Dave Passingham (Shipston South)**

e: dave.passingham@stratford-dc.gov.uk

**Olivia Hatch (Shipston North)**

e: olivia.hatch@stratford-dc.gov.uk

t: 077525 62114

## Something exciting to share?

If you have a story that's relevant to Shipston residents, please contact the editor, Laura Parker, on 07989 530069 or email: forum@shipstononline.org

To request posts on the council's Facebook page, contact admin@shipstononline.org

**Forum copy deadline:**
**Second Monday of the month**

- but the sooner you can notify the editor of a potential story the better.

The Shipston Forum is produced monthly by the Town Council.

While every effort is made to ensure information is accurate, the Town Council and its contractors do not accept responsibility for material submitted by readers or third parties and does not endorse any organisation or event publicised. Contributions may be edited to fit available space.

# DO YOU LIVE IN SHIPSTON

## (IF SO YOU COULD APPLY FOR A GRANT)



### SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR EDUCATION CHARITY GRANTS FOR 2024/25 ARE YOU A SHIPSTON RESIDENT UNDER 25 YEARS OLD?

You can now apply for an **Educational Grant** to support you if you are due to undertake an Apprenticeship, Professional or Trade qualification or follow a Further or Higher Education course. If so, you can apply for a **Grant** for the 2024/25 year.

Application forms are now available from the **Shipston Library**.

Or write to **The Clerk to the Trustees, Mr D Squires, Pinnegar House, 49 Telegraph Street, Shipston CV36 4DA** enclosing a stamped addressed envelope or email **ds@pinnegards.com** for an Application form.

**COMPLETED FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRI 23 AUGUST 2024**

