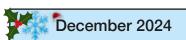


Shipston Forum



Opening the Dovecote

A new space for children with communication and interaction difficulties at the Primary School was officially opened in October. The Dovecote is the school's Specialist Resource Provision and it has already benefited children across the school this past term. You can read more about it on page 11



Shipston remembers

Many Shipstonians turned out to remember the fallen on Remembrance Sunday. The Town Band led the parade through town to St Edmund's church and the following day an Armistice Day ceremony was held at the Gyratory Garden, which had been beautifully restored by the Stour Valley Lions. Susan Snoxell played the Last Post on both occasions.





It's an Enigma!

Year 11 computer science students from the High School learned all about codebreaking and encryption when they visited Bletchley Park on a recent school trip which made for a fascinating day for staff and students.



Letters to Heaven

Shipston Home Nursing has installed a Letters to Heaven post box in the Gyratory Garden to help people remember their loved ones in a uniquely personal way. Feedback has shown that the act of writing a letter or posting a letter or card to a lost loved one brings comfort to many people. Find out more on page 8.



Christmas comes to Shipston!

The Victorian evening, the Tree of Life, Christmas fairs and concerts, Santa's collections, and the Christmas church and carol services: all part of what makes a Shipston



Christmas special! There's plenty going on as the town gears up for a season of festive cheer. Wishing everyone a very merry Christmas!

In this issue:

Could you enter the Lions' den? - page 5

Santa collections - page 8

Daffodil planting - page 9

Proms looking for two volunteers - page 12

Cricket Club success - page 13

Mayor's column

Dear Shipston,

It feels like a very short time since I wrote the November column. The pace of events and activities has certainly picked up.

I was very pleased to be able to accompany Hilary Kelly to the Stratford Herald Business and Tourism Awards Dinner. She and her team of volunteers at Cornmill Meadows deserved the recognition for their hard work, achieving a finalist place in the 'Green Attraction' category.

I am sorry we missed the Celtic River Blessing. By all accounts a memorable experience, bringing to mind the role of the River Stour in the past, present and future of the Town. The Museum's Guided Walk was another success with over 130 people turning out for a tour of the town's historic hauntings and ghostly goings on in preparation for Halloween. The Historical Society is certainly making the most of the town's heritage of all sorts and their developing home at the Clark House Museum.

The fireworks and bonfire at the Sports Club was a magnificent display of both pyrotechnics and the bonfire builders' art. Well done to the Sports Club and all those assisting on the night.

On the civic side, Bryony and I attended Warwick District Remembers at the Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa. This had all the elements of the Royal Albert Hall Act of Remembrance, just at a reduced scale. It was a great introduction to Remembrance Sunday. Thank you all for turning out to support our Royal British Legion, Town Band and our local uniformed services in their parade and service on Sunday. Thank you also to those who managed to join us on the Monday to mark Armistice Day and celebrate the newly remodelled Gyratory Remembrance Garden. The gardening team at the Lions has excelled and I look forward to seeing how the garden develops next spring and summer.

I am looking forward to the remainder of November and the Victorian Evening as we all prepare for the festive season. Wherever you are, home with family or visiting further afield, do have a safe and enjoyable Yuletide holiday.

Your town mayor,

John

John Dinnie, Mayor, Shipston Town Council

News from Shipston Town Council's November meeting

Events in town

Councillors agreed that the Remembrance Day and Armistice Day services were very well attended and expressed thanks to the Royal British Legion, the Lions, the police, the town clerk, and the Town Band. The fireworks and bonfire at the Sports Club were also praised. Some councillors attended the river blessing and the Dark Tales Walk organised by the Museum, which was very popular.

Cllr Walters has nearly completed the register of assets and is looking into mapping software to record and monitor the repair status of council-managed assets. Alternative quotes are awaited for the repair of the twin chapel roofs. Council agreed to support the project for a multi-use games area (MUGA), which would be at no cost to the

Councillors felt that the disruption to the town caused by traffic lights. especially those left in situ after the work has been completed, still requires better planning and understanding by Warwickshire County Council (WCC) Highways. Cllr Barker described the communications gap between the scheduled work undertaken by Highways and emergency work by service contractors, and she will attempt to address this with help of the new liaison person at WCC.

The town's Business Group noted that the lack of road markings means more cars are trying to enter Sheep Street the wrong way and requested this also be addressed – another matter for Highways.

Environmental

Cllr Howarth has created a draft biodiversity policy which will now go to the finance working group. Cllr Passingham is discussing verge management with WCC and is also working with walking groups to identify broken stiles on footpaths and have them replaced with kissing gates. Cllr Cooper highlighted that so far there have been no applications from the south of the county for WCC's climate change funding. The town's tubs are being planted and the sensory garden restored - the volunteer team have requested a green bin. Council agreed to pay for stakes and ties for trees that have been donated for Cornmill Meadows. Wildflowers will be planted on 9th January at Riverside, with advice from Warwickshire Wildlife Trust.

Blue light update

PC Sid Hammond reported that there had been a rise in burglaries related to car theft, with car keys being stolen from properties, mainly in the surrounding villages. He is working with surrounding police forces on this. There has been a rise in fly tipping. Drugs raids have recovered drugs worth around £200,000 in the area in the last few months, including one of £20,000 in Shipston. First Responders are responding to an average of 40 calls per month and reported 19 activations of public access defibrillators in this year so far, with one use of the public access bleed kit. Three more defibrillators will be installed this month. The team continues to give training to community and workplace groups. Two more volunteers have qualified and will be ioining the team.

Planning

The Sainbury's planning application has been turned down due to the layout and location of the service yard. It is expected the company will re-apply. The plans for the Old Power house have been passed

Town Council News/Health News

by the District Council, regardless of Town Council's concerns about parking, after WCC Highways raised no objections. The planning committee is making preparations for the next Neighbourhood Plan, due to be presented at the February meeting.

Ellen Badger

Page 2

Public consultation likely to start in mid-January. Council is requesting clarification on bed provision and will ask to see the Independent Care Board's business case document in time for the December meeting. Cllr H Kelly met with the SWUFT sustainability manager and learned there will be funds for a sustainable project to benefit the community within the development.

Medical Centre update

Christmas Information

The team at Shipston Medical Centre wish you

a happy and healthy Christmas period. If you do find yourself needing help when we are shut on the bank holidays, consider speaking to a local pharmacist who will be able to offer advice on healthy lifestyles and common ailments. Details of the pharmacies open over the Christmas period will be on display in local pharmacies.

Information and advice about managing common ailments can be found on the NHS Health A-Z website at https://www. nhs.uk/conditions/?_id=111Website or you can contact 111 for health advice and services.

Minor Injuries Units are open daily at North Cotswold Hospital in Moreton in Marsh between 8am and 8pm. If you have urgent medical symptoms, such as crushing chest pain or symptoms of stroke, then call 999 for an ambulance or attend A&E.

Our Christmas opening hours are:

Monday 23rd December: 8am until 6.30pm

Tuesday 24th December 8am until 12.30pm and 1.30pm until 6.30pm

Wednesday 25th December and Thursday 26th December:

Friday 27th December 8am until 6.30pm

Monday 30th December 8am until 6.30pm

Tuesday 31st December 8am until 6.30pm

Wednesday 1st January 2025: Closed

Usual opening hours thereafter.

In the period leading up to Christmas please make sure you have enough regular medication to see you through when the surgery is closed. Do order your medications a few days earlier than normal if you need to. We often receive requests for two or three months' worth of medications over the Christmas period. Unless there is a particular reason why you need to have more than one month's medication at a time, and do tell us if there is, we will routinely issue just one month's worth, in line with NHS policy.

It is also worth making sure your first aid box is stocked with things you might need over the period, such as plasters, paracetamol, indigestion tablets, antiseptic cream and a thermometer.

Changes to medication monitoring

When we prescribe a medication there is a requirement on the prescriber to ensure any risks involved in taking the medication are considered and mitigated where possible. Patients can develop side effects to many medications that are routinely prescribed for common conditions and we therefore will ask patients to provide us with information or attend for medication monitoring on a regular basis, with the frequency depending on the medication. Most monitoring will involve us asking for one or more of the following: pulse rate, blood tests; height and weight; blood pressure readings. It is important that this monitoring occurs so we can be confident that medicines are not causing harm and we are safe to continue to prescribe.

Following patient feedback, we are changing the way we check for monitoring requirements. We will no longer be checking at the point you request your medication, and instead will be proactively inviting you to attend for any monitoring due, thereby ensuring no delays in you for receiving your regular medications. Please do work with us, to help us provide optimum treatment for you. Where we have invited you to attend for monitoring, we will wait a month to provide an opportunity for the monitoring to occur before contacting you

Beds for Badger Campaign

Thank you all for your considerable support for this campaign. Please continue to visit the website, www.bedsforbadger.org for the latest news. Your kind donations on the GoFundMe page and more directly have helped with printing costs and other expenditure.

A big thank you to businesses that hosted the petition in their premises, those who took it round the doors to collect signatures and everyone for signing it. By the time you read this, the petition will have been handed over to our MP, Manuela Perteghella, ready for her to present in parliament.

We are also getting help from Chris Humphris from the Community Hospital Association. He has been able to follow up on our communication with The Integrated Care Board and secure meetings for us with the team preparing the preconsultation business case (PCBC). We are still faced with only two options: either no inpatient beds in Shipston or the possibility of 12 beds in the retained building. We are hopeful that we can work on this to achieve improvements to this offer and better clinical provision in the new building.

The ICB are presenting their PCBC to NHS England in early December and will publish it in early January. Following this will be a six-week period of consultation where everyone will have a chance to comment on the options proposed.

Thank you all for the support we are getting from across Rural South Warwickshire.

B4B Campaign Organisers

Warm Hub

The Warm Hub is not running between Christmas and New Year, so the last session there is 19th December. It will restart on 2nd January. All the other activities run by Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership will also go on a Christmas break, stopping from the week of the 23rd, resuming on the week of 6th January.





SHIPSTON ON STOUR AREA

u3a

Registered Charity no 1170969

Tuesday January 28 2025

2.00 pm at the Townsend Hall

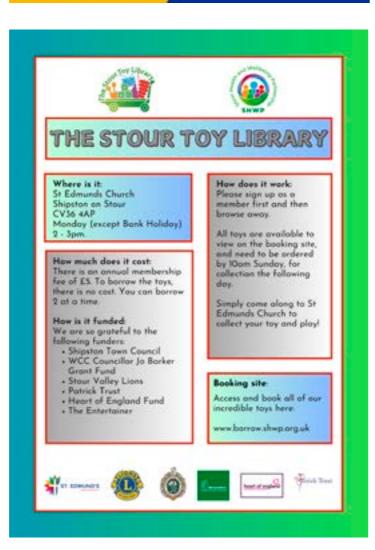


JUDGE ...JURY...JUDGEMENT..... JUSTICE

Involvement is the key to audience appreciation, and everyone loves a meaty murder mystery! Hence Alan Cutler, retired writer, trainer and professional speaker, has designed a series of presentations, in which he plays the part of the judge and prosecution, and defence councils in a real life Victorian murder trial, and where the audience are the jury...deciding the fate of the accused. Will you free a guilty murderer, or send an innocent person to the gallows? Did your verdict accord with the actual jury 100 years ago? Was justice served?

Members free

Visitors £2



Church services:

Page 4

Festive Services

Christmas brings with it many wonderful opportunities to come together and celebrate. Here are some of the services being held in the beautiful churches in and around Shipston. Everyone is warmly welcomed.

St. Edmund's Church

8th December 3-5pm Messy Christmas: songs, stories and tea with Churches Together in Shipston

15th December, 6pm. In the bleak midwinter: a quiet service for those struggling to celebrate Christmas this year

22nd December, 6pm. Shipston Town Carols. All your favourite carols and readings with the Town Band

Christmas Eve, 4pm. Crib Service. Get ready for Christmas with the whole family

Christmas Eve, 11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day, 10.30am Celebrate Christmas together

Catholic church services

Christmas Eve

7pm. St Francis of Assisi, Southam St., Kineton.

11.30 pm. Midnight massSt Peter & St Paul, Friars Lane, Lower Brailes.

Christmas Day

9.15am. Our Lady & St Michael, Darlingscote Rd, Shipston.

11.00am. St Francis of Assisi, Southam St., Kineton

Methodist Church

Sunday 8th December 10:30am carol service.

Sunday 22nd December 6pm United Civic carol service at St Edmund's.

Christmas Day Wednesday 25th December 10:30am family service

Church of England services beyond Shipston

Tidmington

1st December at 6pm. Advent Soul Space

20th December, 6pm Carol Service. Carols and readings by candlelight

Christmas Eve by candlelight 9pm. Communion, music and readings

St James the Great, Idlicote

Friday 13th December 6pm Carol Service

Tuesday 24th December 6.30pm, Holy Communion

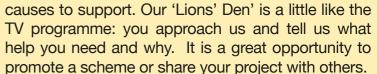
Tennis Club tribute to Angela

It is with enormous sadness that Shipston Tennis Club reports the passing of Angela Holmes, a dedicated and invaluable member of the local tennis community coaching hundreds of young players at our club and many other local clubs. Angela was Chairman and Ladies' Captain and held numerous other roles on the committee over several decades. She was a key part in making the club so successful, dedicating so much of her time and effort to us.



Enter the Lions' Den

After a successful year of fundraising campaigns, Stour Valley Lions are once again looking for more



We are looking to provide funds – and other support – for local good causes as well as people most in need. It is open to local charities, groups and individuals. There are no specific application criteria. All we ask is that bids have a strong civic, youth or welfare element. Once we receive your application, we will give you details of the next steps, and once checks have been made, your request will be considered by our Welfare Committee.

Successful applicants will be invited to attend the Lions' Den at the end of March to receive their support grants. Please make an application before 28th February 2025. You can download a form from https://www.stourvalleylionsevents.club/lionsdenapplication or via QR code on ad opposite.

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Regular Events

<u>Monday</u>

Seated Exercise Class: 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

Pickleball:

1:30pm - 3:30pm, Townsend Hall. Free to attend. Dec dates 9 & 16 only

<u>Tuesday</u>

Rhyme Time: 10.30am, Shipston Library

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

Community Hub: Shipston Methodist Church, 2pm-4pm

Lego Club: Shipston Library, 3.30pm

Strictly Fitsteps Fab: 10am, Townsend Hall

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

Wednesday

Seated Tai Chi: 9.30am, Townsend Hall. Free Admission

Standing Tai Chi: 10.30am, Townsend Hall. Free Admission

GLOSS Coffee Morning: 11am, The Garden Room, The George Townhouse

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

Community Social Prescriber drop in:_10am-12pm, Scout Hut, New Street

Boxercise:

5-6pm Townsend Hall, Yr 9-11 & ages 16-18. Every other week from 5th Sept

Stour Singers:

We rehearse on Thursdays from 7.30-9.30pm at Shipston Primary School. Contact Gayle Burch on 07791 769102

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. 10am -3pm. New members welcome. Contact Anita Spencer on 01993 832665

Age Concern Lunch Club: Fortnightly, Rainbow Fields, 12pm. Contact: Maryann Dobbin 07779 730774

 $\begin{array}{c} \textbf{Shipston Knitting and Crochet Group -} \ \text{Friday afternoons in Mrs. Browns from} \\ 2\text{-}4.30\text{pm} \end{array}$

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

Alcoholics Anonymous: 7.30-9pm, Blackwell Village Hall, CV36 4PQ, 01865 242373, 0800 9177 650

<u>Saturday</u>

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: December 2024

- 3rd. Shipston Library Reading Group: 2pm-3pm first Tuesday of each month.
- 4th. Shipston on Stour WI: Christmas Party. Meetings held every first Wednesday of the month in The Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road Shipston on Stour CV36 4DR at 7.00 pm. For more information contact: Gill Smith Telephone 07759 232899
- **4th & 18th. Stour Valley Stitchers:** 10am-1pm, The Hall, Stourton, CV36 5HG. 1st & 3rd Wednesday
- 5th. 'Dance for Joy' Monthly Circle Dance Group in Stretton on Fosse 2.30 4pm. First Thursday of each month. Dances from around the world all taught from scratch. Please contact Geri Hunting geraldinehunting@icloud.com or 07968 338848
- 6th. Shipston Rotary Victorian Evening: see ad on page 16
- 6th. Shipston Tennis Club Christmas Bingo: see ad on page 10
- 7th. Shipston Town Council Monthly Litter Pick: All welcome. Meet at New Clark House, West Street at 10am. Equipment and refreshments provided. Children's equipment available
- 7th. Shipston Home Nursing Carols at Holy Trinity: see ad on page 7
- 7th. Shipston Proms Christmas Fundraiser: Featuring fabulous opera singer
 Anna Patalong with special guests. St. Edmund's Church. Tickets available from
 Eventbrite and Richard Harvey, £20 in advance or £25 on the door. See Proms
 article on page 12
- 8th. Shipston Town Band Christmas Concert: see ad on page 10
- 9th. Town Council Meeting: 7pm, New Clark House
- **10th. Stour Valley Lions Meeting:** 6:30pm 9:30pm; The George Townhouse. 2nd Tuesday of every month
- 10th. Shipston Flower Club presents An Upcycled Christmas Table Decoration workshop. Cost for Club members is £12 and for non-members £15 (plus guest entry fee of £6). Fee includes base mechanics (either foam ring or foam rectangle on tray), foliage, glass of wine and nibbles. Please bring your own decorations, flowers, ribbon, scissors/secateurs, apron, gloves. There will be a Bring and Buy table available with decorations and sundry items to purchase as well as a raffle. Doors open at 7pm for a 7pm start at Shipston Primary School, Station Road, CV36 4BT. To book your place and for further information please contact Julie on 07974 339830. See ad on page 4
- **11th. Shipston Widows:** the first Weds each month at the Horseshoe. Coffee from 11am and stay for lunch. Contact: Barbara Bean 663230
- **13th. Shipston Home Nursing Craft Fair:** 10.30am-5pm Brailes Village Hall. OX15 5AS. Tombola and Raffle. Tea, coffee and cake served throughout the day
- **14th. Stour Singers:** see ad on page 7
- 15th. Cotswold Choir Christmas Concert: see ad on page 7
- **19th. Drop In Clinic:** For the over 65s. 10am-12pm, Scout Hut. Every third Thursday
- 20th. 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.
- **25th. Shipston Community Christmas Party**: see ad on page 7







STOUR SINGERS

conducted by Richard Emms

VIVALDI - Beatus Vir & Magnificat HANDEL - Messiah excerpts

plus carols for all

Soprano: Caroline Taylor Alto: Cathy Bell Tenor: Matthew Minter

Musicians from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

Saturday, 14 December 2024 at 7.30pm St. Edmund's Church, Shipston on Stour

Tickets £16 (accompanied children free)
available from ticketsource.co.uk/stour-singers
or on the door





Ann Ferrier Artists - Concert Directory Internations





Events

Page 8

News

Look out for Santa!

A festive update from Shipston Rotary.

Listen out for the music and you will know that Santa is on his way. Santa will be walking alongside his sleigh, chatting to children and their families along the route, but we won't be knocking on doors again this year. All donations collected along the way will be distributed to local Shipston Rotary Charities and good causes. If you miss Santa when he is touring the town, he will be in the High Street on Saturday 21st December, from 9am-1pm.



Lomas Lane

Angela's Meadow

Holly Road

Hawthorn Way

Elm Road

Ashgrove

Furzehill Road

Bosley Close

Sunday 8th December 4.30pm-7.30pm

Tilemans Lane

Brickfield Lane

Beecham Road

The Sidings

Railway Crescent

Signal Road

Mayo Road

Donnington Road

Badgers Crecent

Hornsby Close

Caudlewell Drive

Riverway

Watery Lane

Monday 9th December 5.30-7.30pm

Station Road

The Driftway

Manor Lane

Greenway Road

Darlingscote Road

Brickhill Close



Callaways Road

Greenfields Close

Parsons Close

Simpson Road

Hanson Ave

Costard Ave

Marshall Ave

Clark Close



Berry Ave

Queens Ave

Pittway Ave

Sadlers Ave

Oldbutt Road **Bailey Road**

Burnell Close

Rowett Drive

Webb Road

Clifford Place

Tuesday 17th December 5.30-7-30pm

Norgren Crescent

Carr Close

Walkley Close

Symons Way

Bradley Drive

Barrett Place

Nichols Court

Nason Way

Felton Close

Coe Ave

Hands Place



A grieving nine-year-old girl's wish to send a letter to her grandparents who had passed away has led to the installation of 'post boxes to heaven' around the country.

Inspired by this idea, the team at Shipston

Home Nursing has installed a 'Letters to Heaven' post box in the Gyratory Garden to help people remember their loved ones in a uniquely personal way. Feedback has shown that the act of writing a letter or posting a letter or card to a lost loved one has brought comfort to many people.

John Dinnie, Mayor of Shipston on Stour, said: 'I am pleased that Shipston Town Council were able to support Shipston Home Nursing with the Letters to Heaven post box. We all handle grief in our own way and for some, the act of writing and posting a letter to a departed loved one will bring comfort. Anything that has the potential to reduce individual distress is a benefit to the community.'

'We're most grateful to Shipston Town Council, The Royal British Legion and the Stour Valley Lions for enabling us to locate the post box in the Shipston Gyratory Garden,' said Kate Bamford, Head of Fundraising and Communications at Shipston Home Nursing. 'Every letter or card put into the post box will be treated with the utmost respect and confidentiality. They will never be opened or read but will be composted, with guidance from Stourvale Action for the Environment (SAFE) and the compost used in the garden.'

As part of its commitment to ensuring that every adult in our community has access to free, high-quality end-of-life care at home, Shipston Home Nursing also offers bereavement counselling.

Shipston Home Nursing cares for patients with illnesses that do not respond to curative treatment and who wish to be nursed at home. The service covers Shipston, Wellesbourne, Kineton and the surrounding villages and is completely free of charge. It costs around £650,000 to fund the charity each year and 93% of this income is self-generated.

Rotary presentation evening

At the annual presentation evening, host President Fay Ivens welcomed guests including the Town Mayor John Dinnie and Mayoress Bryony Dinnie, Deputy Mayor Tony Booth and his wife



Jane, District Governor Denzil Williams and Assistant District Governor Gabrielle Back.

Following a delicious hot supper, cheque donations were presented to the following organisations, who told us about the amazing contribution they give to support and enhance the lives of people, young and old, living in our community.

GLOSS - Paula Burke

Talk Dementia - Heather and Paul Dowler

Shipston Youth Club - Ali Dibbins & Daniel Pulham

Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership - Vanessa Compton

Shipston Food Bank - Jo Barker

Shipston Parkinsons Support Group - Janet Connor

1st Shipston Brownies - Diane Wildish

Shipston and District Age Concern - Gill Roach and Penny Varley

There followed a presentation by President Fay and Rtn Georgina Beaumont, highlighting what Shipston Rotary have done in and for the community during the

past 12 months. Donations are also being given to Shipston Community Christmas, Shipston Pan Disability Football, MIND and

the Samaritans, who were unfortunately

unable to attend on the evening. Donations have recently been given to Shipston Community First Responders, Shipston Home Nursing, Cyclists Fighting Cancer.

The Mayor thanked Rotary and the organisations for everything they do for the community, with a final surprise thank-you to Nigel Willis for his outstanding contribution for the past ten years on the Shipston Town Council HALP committee.

The daffodils have been planted!

This year, the town council has purchased UK-grown daffodil bulbs that are already being planted and will now be left in place to self-seed and multiply rather than being pulled up each year.



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Business owners have also agreed to take over the upkeep of the many tubs in Shipston. So we might also see a wider variety of colourful plants around Shipston in the future. We are encouraging the use of native plants and perennials to discourage waste and to benefit wildlife as well as provide an attractive environment for all to enjoy.

If there are empty containers near you, or if you know of spaces that would benefit from planting, please do get involved or let the town council know.

Stourvale Action for the Environment (SAFE)

When pickleball came to Shipston

The fastest-growing sport in the USA has well and truly hit Shipston. The Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership, along with the Stour Lions, secured a slot for pickleball at the Townsend Hall and it has been a tremendous success. Over 40 people came to the first session to see what this exciting sport was all about, and to try their hand.

The sessions are free to attend and are on each week from 1:30-3:30pm on a Monday. There are two courts available, so up to eight players can have a game at any one time. We are not running on 2nd December due to a previous commitment at the Townsend Hall and will have a break for the Christmas period, but if you are curious, come along in the new year. Sessions are on a drop-in basis and all the equipment is there



















Warwick Place

Green Lane

Gerrards Road

West Street

Haddon Fields

Thursday 12th December 5.30-7.30pm

Sutton End Carter Close

















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Panto 2025

'Peter Pan'

Tickets will be available to purchase in January/February.

Please note that tickets will now ONLY be available from John Lyne Home Hardware or online at ticketsource.co.uk/shipston-drama-group and NOT on the door.

Due to the town's increasing population, and therefore demand, we need to monitor seating capacity prior to curtain up.

Thank you.

Schools news

Shipston Primary School

Harvest Festival

In October, we held our Harvest celebrations at St Edmund's with many of our parents joining us to give thanks and join in singing some harvest classics. The children of Flamingos class led our service wonderfully and our Reception children in Chicks and Ducklings



performed their 'Leaves are Falling' poem beautifully.

All the kind donations of food went straight to the Shipston Food Bank where they will help families across our town. Thanks to Revd. Sarah and everyone at St. Edmund's for hosting us and making us feel so welcome.

The Dovecote

On Friday 18th October we officially opened The Dovecote, our Specialist Provision Resource This is a class within our whole school children with communication and difficulties interaction can work in a way which best suits their needs to



progress and to become as successful as possible. The Dovecote has been open since September and is already having great success with the children working in there. The provision benefits not just the children in Doves class, but children right across our school. Katy Lamb, the class teacher, plus Sarah Turner and Sammie Aubrey, the Doves Teaching Assistants, have quickly established a warm, caring environment for the children who have been enjoying learning in many different ways.

Warwickshire Education's vision is for a provision such as this to be established in one in every three primary schools across the county to support the best education for children with special needs. Whilst the Dovecote is not the first SRP in the county, it is the first in our part of it, and we hope that it will not be too long before there are others opening up (either in Shipston or nearby) to give our children the best possible school experience.

The Dovecote was opened by John Dinnie, our town mayor with Dale Bromfield and Ross Caws from WCC in attendance alongside staff and school leaders from our local area. Many thanks to Charlotte Haines our wonderful local photographer for taking photos of the event.

Sustainability

Our 'Be Responsible' value includes how we care for our planet and how we can be sustainable. Led by Ms Young and Mrs. Chadwick, our school eco-team meet regularly and support

our whole community in making not just our school but Shipston a lovely place to live. They led a Wednesday assembly and taught us all about the importance of helping to pick up litter and to keep our school clean, discussing how anybody can volunteer to take part in Shipston's monthly litter picks.



Shipston High School

After a restful half term break, we have returned to a busy lead-up to Christmas. Our first couple of weeks were certainly full for the students.

In sport we have had fixtures across rugby, netball and hockey and our Shipston Football Super League is now in game week 4. The students are loving the internal competition and results are varied. Mr Shaw's match reports are something to be admired, full of detail and game spirit! As it stands we have Shipston City top of the table for KS3 and Shipston Rangers for KS4. Still all to play for with many games left of the season.

Our U16 girls hockey team did amazingly well and qualified for the Midlands Hockey Finals in Nottingham. The Finals were held on Wednesday 13th November and it was a great experience for the students and fabulous to have the school represented at such a high level event.

Students have been out and about on trips and our Y11 Computer Science students visited Bletchley Park, learning all about codebreaking during the war and completing a workshop on encryption including symmetric, asymmetric and end-to-end encryption. It was a fascinating day for staff and students.

In school we have held several events for our older students working towards their exams and thinking about their next steps. Y11 spent the day in a revision conference, learning how to revise for their core



subjects and being provided with exam tips and revision techniques. We have also held a Next Steps careers event and invited in speakers and representatives to present and talk to the students about possible next steps. It was an insightful afternoon for both students, and parents and we thank all representatives that came in to school.

We will be holding our GCSE Awards Evening on Thursday 28th November and look forward to welcoming back former students to celebrate their achievements.

We have continued with our community links, working with local businesses and contacts, and have welcomed in Matt who has delivered some fantastic Boxercise classes to our Year 9 students. The students have really enjoyed these weekly sessions and the opportunity to try a new sport.

Our Food Tech students enjoyed a Chinese cookery workshop learning the skills required to cook dishes of a different cuisine.

Staff and students supported the Poppy Appeal in school as we spent time reflecting and remembering those who died during the war. Prefects and staff attended both the Remembrance Service on Sunday 10th November and also the Armistice Day service at the Gyratory Garden on 11th November. Silences were held in school during assemblies with Mr Richard Adams of the Royal British Legion.

Finally, the works continue in school and we are excited to have most of our new spaces open and being enjoyed by students. Our food technology kitchen, textiles room, two new ICT suites are now being used with the library, design and technology lab and science labs to follow shortly.

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Shipston Proms Music Festival December 2024

We are delighted to announce that our fabulous opera singer Anna Patalong will be taking with the same operation of the same operation of the same operation of the same operation oper part in our Christmas fundraiser. Anna will be



accompanied by her own special quests which will make this another memorable night in the Proms calendar. The concert is on Saturday 7th December in St Edmund's Church with tickets available from Eventbrite and Richard Harvey, £20 in advance or £25 on the door. Judging by last year's attendance it's going to be a popular night, so make sure you get your tickets early to ensure a seat.

We are sorry again to our dance party crowd that, due to circumstances out of our control, there will be no DJ fundraiser at Townsend Hall in December. All we can say at the moment is that we are planning something exciting for next year and we'll keep you posted. As mentioned in last month's edition, we also hope to put on a country and western night as well as host a gospel choir. All will be revealed over the course of the next few months.

Though June may seem a long way away, now is the time for budding musicians to think about entering the Shipston Introducing competition so that you can be one of the supports to the epic Rick Parfitt Junior Band on the Final Night. Details of the contest can be found on our website: www.shipstonproms.org.

At our last meeting we appointed the officers for the Shipston Proms Music Festival 2025 and these are:

Chair - Charlotte Haines

Treasurer - Haydn Ward Secretary - Michelle Clark

- Jill Davies Friends Secretary

Publicity and PR - Chris Roberts and Susan Perry

Social Media - Charlotte Haines

- George Kelly Logistics Manager

We are looking for two volunteers to join us, one to help with our social media and another to take on the role as assistant chair. Please get in touch if you think you can help - we need

Our contact details as always are www.shipstonproms.org and Facebook.

Proms dates for 2025 are 13th to 28th June.



Photo credit to Chris Roberts of Widerview Visual Media

60 years of local history

Next year marks the 60th anniversary of the birth of the Shipston-on-Stour and District Local History Society. Formed in 1965, it was supported by like-minded residents sharing an interest in local history and our communities' heritage. The group met regularly for discussion and talks for some years. Now that our museum is firmly established and the two organised walks have shown that there is such a great interest in our community past, the plan is to restart a programme of talks and discussions. Watch this space for news of future

Who Do You Think You Are?

Our Museum tells us much about local people, places and events. But what about you and your family? You are invited to find out more at our family research workshop at the Townsend Hall at 2.30pm on Saturday 14th December. In the first part we'll be looking at sources. How do we trace our ancestors? Where do you start the journey? What information is available for free as well as paid-for sites?

Much family research just remains in names and dates. Once you have the facts, how do you tell your family story? This is the essential second step to producing an engaging account which can be shared with family and friends. In this workshop, amateur genealogist Susan Walker covers the basic first steps on your journey and then shows how this can be brought alive in a story which connects you with past generations.

Some of you may have already made a start, while for others this will be a first step on a voyage of discovery to create a family chronicle to share with family and future generations. Who do you think you are? Come to our workshop to find out! Tickets £5 from Richard Harvey in Church Street or from shipstonmuseum@outlook.com

Shipston Bellringers

Congratulations to the Shipston band who won third place recently at the local guild call changes competition held at St David's in Moreton. Some of the ringers then teamed up with others to ring in the method competition and came a very close third (only half a point behind second place) in that too!

We are looking forward to ringing over the Christmas period which is always a special time for bellringing.

And if your new year's resolution is to take up a new hobby. then why not give bellringing a try? We'd be happy to show you the ropes! Please do get in touch on 07972 705539.

Probus says That's the Way to Do it!

Memories of childhood delight at beachside Punch and Judy shows were plentiful at a recent Probus talk, ignited by Phil Collins, otherwise known as Professor Colleywobbles. Perhaps few realised the long history of the Punch and Judy tradition. The first 'Pulcinella' puppet show probably originated from Italy and came to England as early as 1662 at the invitation of Charles II. Shortened to 'Punch', puppet shows became very popular throughout the country and included familiar characters - Punch's wife: originally 'Joan' now 'Judy'; Punch's stick to beat his wife, giving rise to the modern phrase 'slapstick'. This latter aspect is of course somewhat sensitive to modern audiences but reflects times when a husband was allowed to hit his wife with a stick provided its width did not exceed the width of his thumb, hence the phrase 'by rule of thumb'!

The Victorians loved such entertainment and by now there was a whole range of supporting characters – the policeman; Toby the dog; a clown; the devil; a crocodile; a baby – whose fate was to be made into sausages, then stolen and eaten by the crocodile!

Punch is instantly recognisable for his very distinctive high pitched raucous voice. Prof. Colleywobbles demonstrated how this effect was originally achieved by placing two pieces of metal separated by cotton cloth, known as a 'swazzle,' in the roof of his mouth, producing a sound similar to that of blowing through a reed.

As well as the historical background, members were greatly entertained by a short demonstration of this traditional fun by Prof. Colleywobbles.

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 for further details.

Shipston Town Band

The West Midlands Brass Bands Association held their annual solo duet quartet and ensemble competition at Alcester Academy on Sunday. The event was highly successful, drawing competitors from throughout the

Midlands. Shipston Town Band supported the event as they have done since its inception and had a very successful day. They were represented by a trio of young trombone players who won a total of five awards both as individuals and duets. Adjudicator Warren Belshaw, a trombonist and composer himself was very complimentary about their playing. Their repertoire included Smoke Gets In Your Eyes arranged by John Iveson, The Minstrel Boy arranged by Harry Round and Rob Wiffen's exciting Shout originally written for the virtuoso trombonist Brett Baker. Alex Jeffrey aged 17, Rawdon Donovan aged 16 and Rufus Gallagher 15 are at school locally, with Alex and Rufus educated at KES Stratford and Rawdon at Bloxham. They are all actively engaged in music-making at their schools as well as playing with Shipston's bands.

Shipston Stitchers

Shipston Stitchers meet at the Catholic Church rooms on alternate Fridays from 10am-3pm. New members are welcome, including beginners and experienced. Telephone Anita 01993 832665 Our upcoming Friday meeting dates are: January 3rd, 17th, 31st; February 14th, 28th; March 14th and 28th.

Shipston Cricket Club



The cricket club has enjoyed a fantastic and hugely successful year. The season started with a very competitive showing in the winter indoor league, followed by an enjoyable pre-season tour to Malta. Our Youth teams, including All-Stars and Dynamos, attracted 100+ children every Friday at the start of summer

before we hosted the inaugural Cotswold Hills League T20 Finals day in July, finishing a creditable second. We continued our excellent run of performances with our 1st team winning the Premier League and our 2nd team finishing the final day of the season as 3rd Division Champions. Our U-17s showed that the future is bright by also winning their league with the U-15s finishing 2nd in their league. Many thanks to everyone who came along to cheer the teams on during the season.

We are delighted that local business Immediate Mortgage Solutions has agreed to sponsor the club for the next three years and are sure that the support from Dan Quinn, who supports so many events in Shipston, will help us to keep bringing trophies to our town in years to come

Stour Valley Lions at work

As the days have grown shorter, we have completed most of the landscape maintenance with the addition of a new bench at Stour Court and the final tidy-up of the revamped Gyratory memorial gardens. We were delighted that Shipston Home Nursing chose this site for the white Letters to Heaven post box and also that the Royal British Legion held an emotional re-opening ceremony of the gardens as a memorial to all who have served in war on Armistice Day at 11am, just after the Bugler played the 'Last Post'.



The book fair on 2nd November was another great success. with hundreds of visitors, all of whom seemed to find something to interest them. It is the money raised at events like this that go towards funding local groups and causes. Did you notice the Lions' logo on the Pickleball posters? We have been able to bring this to Shipston by helping to fund the hire of the Townsend Hall. We also provided funds to kit out the Shipston Excelsior Pan Disability Football team.

We are always on the lookout to provide funds to support local good causes and people most in need and once again, we have launched our 'Lions' Den'. See page 4.

Forthcoming dates for your diary include:

30th November - Winter Fair at Shipston Lodge

6th December - Tickets for our Grand Christmas Food Raffle will be sold at the Victorian Evening, Town Centre.

14th December - Grand Christmas Food Raffle draw at the 'big' Coop

12th January - free film, tea and cake afternoon for Senior residents of Shipston

18th January - Lions Bingo, Townsend Hall

PLEASE NOTE: there will be no Community Film evening in either December or January.

County Council

It's been busy! An American election, a bit of a nightmare budget and for me the highlight - Kemi Badenoch becoming Conservative leader.

Why do I mention these things? Well to me there appears to be a shift taking place in the global north. Here it is our rural community being chipped away at with the undermining of generations of family farms. We don't live in a playground, but a working, vibrant, food-producing community. I am always heartened when full trailers are pulled through Shipston at harvest time, and glad to feel connected with this place.

I am often called a bit old fashioned. I'll agree things on a handshake, I like to know the people I share a community with (and talk to them when I'm out and about) and I still have things I believe in.

Having the privilege of laying a wreath on behalf of WCC each year for Remembrance certainly reminds me that God, Country and Freedom are worth fighting for and there I find my motivation. Sometimes it is a fight to get action for our community.

Another privilege I have is the amazing people I work with. My passion for health and wellbeing means I am lucky to work as part of SHWP. This month sees the opening of the Toy Library (I helped sponsor it), more boxercise, pickleball, youth activities to support better mental health, young carers – and the endless round of applying for grants to support so much activity! The SHWP team is amazing. I sat in a meeting with so many different interests represented, all working together for the benefit of our whole community. The Warm Hub started it, and continues to grow!

Thank you Shipston volunteers for all you do! In the New Year I am going to convene a group from any organisations in town who want, to work out what we can do to be stronger together (and make sure we don't duplicate effort!) Please get in touch with me if this is you – I don't want to miss anyone!

You may never have used Ubus, but you probably recognise the name. It is no more, but has been replaced with a service called Indigo plus. Blue and white liveried, accessible buses which can be booked by app! I'd like to hear what users think after some initial teething problems.

In other good news, the sports hall at the High School will be available for community use - once permission is granted. The Dovecote at Shipston Primary is open. £1.5m of funding leveraged by me into Shipston has been used to help fund the fit-out of the Ellen Badger. WCC is being encouraged by me and others to have an alternative provision in Shipston. The Dovecote took nine years of lobbying, but I think this might be a bit faster! The Men's Shed - which I really want to see housed at the Recycling Centre - is still on my to do list, despite needing maximum resilience to keep going for it!

So, we continue to do things the Shipston way and I am immensely proud to be part of it! Do ring me if you need help or a chat. There will always be traffic jams, leaks and general annoyances to sort out - let me know.

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

I have been unaware until recently that Shipston has had CCTV for over 15 years. A District Council report we received last month highlighted the many ways it has helped to keep us safe. It has a vital role preventing and detecting crime and anti-social behaviour. It also supports all emergency services such as ambulance, fire and local authorities in medical incidents,

welfare concerns, missing persons amongst others.

There are eight CCTV cameras covering the town centre and the leisure centre. They are controlled at the CCTV central control in Stratford. They work with other agencies to help protect the community including the Emergency Planning and Warwickshire Resilience Forum that monitor river levels following flood warnings on high river levels in the area.

They keep a keen eye out for any suspected vehicles after a burglary and assisted police in coordinating a search attended the area. They work with the local police Safer Neighbourhood Team to locate and identify offenders and people acting suspiciously. They recently worked with the CID to provided further CCTV footage of a burglary at a Bank. This evidence was crucial for the investigation allowing officers to piece together exactly what happened. After the theft of a motor vehicle, the CCTV team will help police track down and recover the vehicle.

CCTV cameras monitor key areas where there is welfare concern. Using images the CCTV team can direct police to areas where vulnerable people are to ensure they are safe and well.

We expect CCTV will always be working to help keep us safe. However, the CCTV service is expensive. It costs Shipston Town Council nearly £10,000 per year. It is hoping to reduce the bill and is investigating whether other agencies will help share the cost.

Power House

The planning permission for change of use of part of the Power House next to the carwash on Campden Road into a café was given by Stratford District Council last month. I, along with Shipston Town Council and many residents, objected to this going ahead at the Planning Committee.

The main reason for objecting was that residents already find these crossroads difficult to navigate because visibility is restricted by cars parked waiting to enter the carwash. The crossroads are on the route to school for children and families. The increased traffic and parking near to the junction would make their journeys more dangerous. However, Warwickshire Highways who were consulted as the experts in road safety did not object to the application. The Planning Committee accepted their opinion.

The approval given was only for a café. If the owner wants to turn this into a takeaway, further planning consent is needed.

I will be exploring ways of making the junction safer in the future. Crossings would obviously help, and other remedies have also been suggested.

Dave Passingham

District Councillor, Shipston South 07752 562114 | dave.passingham@stratford-dc-gov.uk

Your town councillors



Useful contacts

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Jerry Corless

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Mitchell Barnes

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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 Local police (non emergency)

Shipston Police Safer Neighbourhood 01789 444670 Team: shipston.snt@warwickshire.police.uk

Churches of Shipston:

Stour Valley Baptist 01608 664876 Our Lady & St Michael 01608 685259 01608 661210 St Edmund's Methodist Church 01295 257193

Shipston-on-Stour Town Council

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Something exciting to share?

If you have a story that's relevant to Shipston residents, please contact the editor, Laura Parker, by email: forum@ shipstononline.org or call 07989 530069 (if you don't have

To request posts on the council's Facebook page, contact enquiries@shipstontowncouncil.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.



What's On Page 16



Rotary Tree of Life



Each December the Tree of Life stands proudly in the centre of Shipston. Its white lights a glowing symbol of love and hope in memory of loved ones who will not be with us to celebrate this special time of year.

If you have a friend or relative to be remembered in this way you are invited to sponsor a light by returning the Form below and making a donation knowing that every name will be entered into the Book of Remembrance.

Every contribution will be donated to Rotary Charities and good causes.

The illumination of the Rotary Tree of Life will take place at the opening of the Rotary Victorian Evening

on Friday December 6th

Rotary Club of Shipston on Stour Tree of Life

Please find enclosed my donation of £ (mini	imum £5.00) Cheques payable to R	otary Club of Shipston on Stou
Or by bank transfer to Rotary bank acco	ount – Lloyds Bank 30-98-26 /533502	268 - Ref TOL2024

In Memory of	
From (name)	
Vour Address	

<u>Please return to :-</u> Rotarian Avryl Thompson Willow Bank Pillerton Priors, CV35 6PS – Tel 01789740047