



Shipston Forum



November 2024

Shipston's first Bookfest a success

Shipston's first-ever Bookfest saw a celebration of books and reading that featured over 20 local and internationally recognised authors speaking at events throughout the town in September. With many selling out and over 400 tickets sold, the week-long festival was a testament to Shipston's vibrant community spirit.

Covering topics such as cookery with author and chef Prue Leith (pictured here with the committee), history with Sue Law, psychological thrillers with Adele Parks and much more, the festival was a showcase of creative talent in the town and further afield. A variety of partner events added to the excitement: the Stour Valley Lion's second-hand book sale, the Shipston and District Literary Society's event with actor Anton Lesser, and Thirst Edition's Sherlock Holmes mystery night. More on centre pages.



Prize growers

Emily Booth (from Shipston Town Council) and Anne Wagenhauser, allotment rep from New Street, were delighted with Second Prize at Moreton Show. They will use the £75 prize money to buy a wooden log store for extra produce at the allotment entrance, which will be available to plot holders and the public.



Anton in the spotlight

A rapt Shipston audience heard how seeing a film about the RSC made Anton Lesser want to be an actor and about the roles that bring him joy. Read more about the Shipston Literary Society event on page 8.



Tribute to Cecil Sandford

There was a strong turnout from Shipstonians, the motorcycling community and the media to see the installation of a commemorative plaque for twice-world champion Cecil Sandford in September.



Cecil was winner of two World Championships and two Isle of Man TT races between 1952 and 1957. The plaque was unveiled by Mayor John Dinnie next to Harry's Barbers, the site of the garage where Cecil worked as a car salesman after retiring from racing at 30.

Cecil's wife and sons were among the 50 people who gathered for the ceremony. Family and friends appreciated the efforts of Councillor Chris Howarth and the Town Council's Heritage and Leisure working group to create this commemoration to Cecil.



Home-grown national champions

Two of Shipston's home grown talents, Luke Barker and Alec Banner, have become National Champions at the National Brass Band Championships.



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The Remembrance Sunday parade and service will be on the 10th November. The Armistice Day ceremony is on 11th November. See page 5 for details.



Mayor’s column



Dear Shipston,

Well, the Shipston Bookfest certainly lived up to expectations. Bryony and I managed to attend five of the 16 exciting events that had been arranged by the hardworking organisers and we thoroughly enjoyed each one. The attendance at the events and the reports afterwards indicates that a lot of you were able to join in as well. It would be good if Shipston Bookfest were able to repeat in future years.

The same week brought two record rainfall events, and all eyes were on the river on both Monday and Thursday nights. The efforts of Shipston Area Flood Action Group (SAFAG) contributed to the river being held to a level that just avoided serious flooding. Surface water runoff, however, was a different matter. The Monday night pre-loaded the fields and Thursday night’s rain just cascaded off them and overwhelmed the drainage system in some areas of the town. An investigation by Severn Trent has been initiated. The follow-up will depend on the potential for a capital plan.

On the civic side, I have attended services in Warwick, Leamington Spa and Whitnash, and had an interesting tour of Royal Leamington Spa in the company of their Mayor, Judith Clarke.

Bryony and I also attended the Rotary Presentation Evening, which was an enjoyable insight into the various groups and charities that Rotary has been able to assist during the year. My thanks to Fay Ivens and her committee for all their work and for organising the evening.

I was very pleased to hear of the turn out of volunteers to assist Warwickshire Wildlife Trust with the raking and wildflower seed planting in Cornmill Meadows. Well done, and thank you all for your support.

By the time you read this I expect to have been at the Gyratory Garden to promote Shipston Home Nursing and the Letters to Heaven post-box. Thank you to The Royal British Legion and The Lions for supporting that. I will also have attended the Primary School to open their Dovecote initiative. We will then be headfirst into Halloween, our fireworks and bonfire night, the Remembrance Sunday Parade and Service, Remembrance Day at the Gyratory Garden and all the events of November.

Your town mayor,

John

John Dinnie,
Mayor, Shipston Town Council

News from Shipston Town Council’s October meeting

Town matters

The ongoing roadworks at the junction of London Road and Callaways Road, with the traffic lights on the London Road, were discussed as another issue for Cllr Barker to take to Warwickshire County Council (WCC) and be advised appropriately.

The lights on the alleyway between Tilemans Lane and Darlingscote Road are not working and this was noted for action, along with lack of waste and dog waste bins on Campden Road – with the issue of who to pay for these to be decided.

Buses for sixth-formers are felt to be under-resourced, and requires the support of WCC to help those students who rely on public transport. Cllr Barker is following this up.

A survey of residents has been carried out for the new residents’ associations and has been circulated to council members. Overall, people are very positive about living in Shipston.

Urgent work on the twin chapels’ roof to be done as soon as possible. Costs to be agreed for wider work to the roof.

Fallen branches at the sports club and at the river and hub to be dealt with by Treotech. Some volunteers and businesses have come forward to support Shipston in Bloom.

Flooding

Councillors appreciated the work of flood action group SAFAG, without which the impact of recent heavy rains at the end of September would have been much worse.

A resident of Oldbutts Road attending the meeting reported that residents had been very concerned by encroaching floodwater in the recent rains and that this was a long-standing problem. Council said this was an issue for WCC and Severn Trent, but that SAFAG and flood wardens would also be asked to reappraise the culvert and area. Residents were urged to sign up to the flood alerts.

Blue Light report

Residential burglaries increased in September with cars being the main focus. Offenders are using systems to access both car keys and keyless cars. Calls regarding homeless people have been directed to SDC’s Homeless Team. In a 5x5x5 initiative over the coming months, the team will be patrolling five villages over five days and completing a minimum of 5km of foot patrols.

Ellen Badger Hospital

Councillors attended a visit to the new facility in September (see report from Cllr Howarth, opposite). The Clinical Senate is currently reviewing the evidence from the Integrated Care Board. The council does not have a copy of this report.

Sainsbury’s planning application

Sainsbury’s has submitted updated plans in response to the Council’s objections, including ensuring HGVs would be routed via the A429/ Darlingscote Road only; that it will ask Highways to do any necessary improvements to the A429 junction and to agree a 20pmh speed limit on Darlingscote Road, and will avoid deliveries during school hours. It will enhance the proposed site frontage for cyclists and pedestrians and install an acoustic fence between the service yard and Brickhill Close. A note on noise and lights has been sent to the environmental health officer. Council will seek to verify the independence of a Retail Impact Assessment report, and will maintain its objection.

Town Council News

High School

Cllr Cooper met with the Head who reported that the recent open day had been promising for the school to reach its target intake of 750 in five years’ time.

A visit to Shipston’s new medical facility

Chris Howarth reports on the town councillors’ preview of the new medical facility on Stratford Road.

Before going into the facility, we donned our hi-viz jackets and helmets, as it is still a building site. Walking across into the building you can see the glass entrance hall where the main desk and lifts to the upper floors would be. Many of the internal walls and ventilation systems are in place and work is progressing at pace on the internal structure and facilities to ensure that the opening of May 2025 can be achieved.

On the ground floor, there is a wide-open corridor to the glass back of the building, with spaces on either side for use by the Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership, offering many facilities that the organisation currently offers at the Warm Hub and elsewhere. At the back of the building is space for a café, which it is hoped could also be used for gatherings.

Once up the stairs to the first floor there is a large area of rooms for the clinics being provided by South Warwickshire University NHS Foundation Trust (SWUFT) cited as – audiology, antenatal, postnatal, ear nose and throat (ENT), health visiting, heart failure nurses, gynaecology, obstetrics, ophthalmology, Parkinson’s nurses, physiotherapy and urology. This list is being continually updated.

At the end of the corridor there is currently a large open space where it is hoped that the Medical Centre will be accommodated, pending a lease being signed. This area could accommodate larger patient rooms than those at the Medical Centre to enable the staff to provide extra facilities and the joined-up healthcare with SWUFT that we require and deserve.



Shipston Town Councillors on the visit. Photo supplied by SWUFT

The second floor is where our local Shipston Home Nursing and District Nurses will be located, together with the administrative offices. There is a large balcony overlooking the river and fields beyond which many thought would be an ideal space for a staff rest area.

All in all, it is a nice facility for the people of Shipston and the surrounding area. However, questions asked about beds were not answered due to the ongoing consultation process, along with the lack of diagnostics such as X-Ray. We were told it is NHS policy to provide diagnostic centres regionally to enable all tests to be done in one place, so all these types of procedures will be done at Stratford or Warwick.

We all look forward to further developments on the site over the next six months, and to this facility being used and appreciated by the people of Shipston and the Stour valley.

Sowing wildflowers



Jerry Corless and his wife Judith joined around 15 other people for the wildflower seeding at Cornmill Meadows on Saturday 5th October. Jerry writes: The first hour-and-a-half involved raking the mown grass from the area to be planted, a labour intensive but essential part of the process as wildflowers need relatively poor soil in order to thrive. Any grass cuttings remaining would enrich the soil and make conditions less than ideal for the seed and flower growth. Raking the grass proved to be quite a medieval experience, with a large wooden grass rake issued for each participant. The scenario lacked only rough smocks and copious supplies of cider!

Olivia from Warwickshire Wildlife Trust provided the wildflower and annual seeds which were mixed with sharp sand to be broadcast-sown over the mown area. This part of the process lasted about 45 minutes and was far more pleasurable.

The whole experience left me with blisters where I didn’t know I could get them, and muscle aches in muscles I didn’t know I had. However, I met some amazingly friendly people, had an enjoyable time overall and an excuse to visit a local inn. I am also left with a feeling of having done something worthwhile for the community.

We look forward to visiting the site over the next year to view the results of our labours and enjoy the display of wildflowers.

Judging the Meadows

Three judges (one not shown) came to assess Cornmill Meadows for the Stratford Herald Green Award. “The judges said our passion for the environment shone through. We were up against The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, and the Shakespeare Distillery which won, so I never expected to win, but being nominated is a credit to everyone who is involved,” said Cllr Hilary Kelly, right, with Mayor John Dinnie and judges Debbie Girdlestone and Hayley Lambert.



I'm worried about how I will manage without the Winter Fuel Payment. What can I do?

On July 29th the Government announced that the Winter Fuel Payment - of £200 for those aged 65-79, and £300 for those aged 80 or over - will be restricted to those people in receipt of Pension Credit – so what is Pension Credit and who can claim it? **It is estimated that up to 880,000 households are entitled to Pension Credit but not currently receiving it.**

Pension Credit
Is a means tested benefit which is paid to help with the cost of living, it can also bring entitlement to additional financial support, including housing benefit, Council tax support, and winter fuel payment. Pension Credit can be backdated by up to 3 months (subject to meeting qualifying criteria).

The deadline to claim to be entitled to this year's winter fuel payment is 21st December 2024

To get help making a claim
You can get further information and make a claim by calling the Pension Credit Hotline: 0800 99 1234

You can check if you are eligible for Pension Credit using the Pension Credit calculator here <https://www.gov.uk/pension-credit-calculator>

If you believe you are entitled to Pension Credit you can claim online here <https://www.gov.uk/pension-credit/how-to-claim>

If you require further advice or help to make a claim you can call Citizens Advice on 0808 250 5715 or visit one of our drop-in sessions. For further details of our opening hours visit www.casouthwarwickshire.org.uk



South
Warwickshire

Every Tuesday 2-4pm

Shipston on Stour Methodist Church Side Room.

Entrance to church from New Street, CV36 4EN, has steps or rear entrance on Old Road on the flat.

Free hot drinks and biscuits.

Games, jigsaw, toys, magazines or just come for a chat.



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 £..... (minimum £5.00) Cheques payable to Rotary Club of Shipston on Stour Or by bank transfer to Rotary bank account – Lloyds Bank 30-98-26 /53350268 - Ref TOL2024

In Memory of.....

From (name).....

Your Address.....

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

Beds for Badger campaign

The website bedsforbadger.org is operational. Please sign up there to get emails about our progress. There is a GoFundMe page which can be accessed from the website and a link to the Facebook page. The petition is gathering momentum. There are petitions to sign in many of the shops in town and more going onto local Facebook pages out in the villages. SWUFT assures us that the large building on Stratford Road has been built to modern hospital proportions. We therefore think that it would be the most suitable location for inpatient beds rather than the retained building. We have requested that this be considered among the options and are waiting to hear from the Integrated Care Board about this. Thank you all for the support we are getting from across rural South Warwickshire.

John Dinnie Remembrance Parade

The Royal British Legion (RBL) has been working closely with the Town Council, police, the Lions, St Edmund's, the Town Band and the bellringers on plans for the Remembrance Sunday parade and service on 10th November, this year's Remembrance Sunday.

Parade participants and spectators are invited to assemble in the High Street from 10am. The parade, led by the Town Band, will move off promptly at 10.45am. We will again be laying the wreaths, reading the names of the Fallen and undertaking the two-minute silence in Church Street in front of the War Memorial.

The remainder of the service will take place at St Edmund's and this will not be streamed this year due to costs. The parade will then return to Church Street. Following fall out, all are welcome to join the RBL in The George.

Look out for more details on social media from RBL, St Edmund's and the Town Council and also on the RBL noticeboard in The Bury. Please share this information with friends who are not on social media. There will be temporary road closures as the parade happens, so please plan ahead and respect the Lions and police to whom we are grateful for marshalling for us.

Armistice Day on Monday 11th November will be combined with an opening ceremony for the newly-refurbished Memorial Garden and will include a two-minute silence at 11am.

For more details, contact Alex Black, ShipstonOnStour.Chairman@RBL.Community

Poppy Appeal 2024

Since 1921, collectors have been at the crux of the Poppy Appeal and this year they will again be in our community to collect donations that help RBL continue its vital work. In Shipston we enjoy great support from our volunteers, from shops and businesses hosting static collections, from local community groups and from those who contribute. The Shipston Branch of the RBL appreciate our loyal collectors and certainly don't take their support for granted. Shipston is one of very few towns where a house-to-house collection takes place. Do look out for your collector and give them a warm welcome. If you have already purchased your poppy, thank you for your support.

Rebecca Walters, Poppy Appeal Organiser, Shipston.
Secretary@RBL.Community

Letters

I would like to thank the organisers of the recent Bookfest and the Food Festival for their valuable contribution towards enhancing the life of our town, and indeed all of you who help run community or charity organisations or events. These types of events and activities are what turns a town from a group of buildings into a vibrant community, and we need to support them. I know, from my experience with Shipston u3a, the amount of work required to organise these events. I also know how difficult many organisations are finding it to recruit people to help with their running, either in an official capacity or as helpers.

Please consider whether you are able to help any struggling organisation. This can be highly rewarding, providing sufficient people volunteer such that any individual's contribution is not too burdensome. Perhaps any organisation requiring help could contact the editor of the Forum who could publish the relevant information to achieve a wide distribution.

Geoff Olsson

In answer to Verity Richardson's "To weed or not to weed"

Weeds are only flowers in the wrong place. Growing in pavements and roads presents two problems: an unsuitable surface to relay new tarmac, and an uneven pavement causing a hazard for pedestrians. Pavements are for people to walk on safely, and now in Shipston because of weeds breaking up the tarmac they are not fit for this purpose. Surely it is safety before weeds and a resurfacing that lasts!

Are the members of SAFE suggesting the pavements are not sprayed before resurfacing? Surely this is a false economy. Brighton tried it and had to admit they were wrong. Ratepayers deserve value for money. I recently spoke to the operator from Balfour Beatty who was spraying in Shipston. He informed me Shipston got the minimal treatment, with only kerbs sprayed, whereas in most of England, both pavements and kerbs are treated. He also informed me he had sprayed for over 40 years, he and his 85-year-old colleague who had sprayed all his life had suffered no ill effect!

Today's pesticides are I suspect less dangerous to health and the environment than the emissions caused by the number of cars trying to park in the High Street just to pick up a takeaway coffee!

It is already dangerous walking the streets of Shipston, with neglected gardens with shrubs and weeds growing onto the pavements, and overhanging trees hitting your head. It is very difficult even for able-bodied walkers, and not advisable for the elderly or disabled! I, and on behalf of all those who use their legs and go for a walk, want the pavements sprayed, and repaired as soon as possible please!

Jill Licence

Bookfest thanks

The Bookfest committee would like to extend its heartfelt thanks to all our sponsors and the local businesses that supported us and made Bookfest possible. Special thanks go to the Rotary Club of Shipston, the Cotswolds Baking Workshop, Lee Chadwick, Shipston Vets, Shipston Town Council, Hunts Engineering, Ryse 3D, Warwickshire County Council, the friends of Shipston Primary, and many more. And, of course, we are grateful to everyone who attended an event or bought a book, supporting Shipston’s first ever Book Festival. The Bookfest committee have been immensely heartened by the positive response from the people of Shipston and the valuable feedback we have collected will inform discussions for next year’s Bookfest – discussions are already underway. If you would like to be on the committee or volunteer at an event, please email info@shipstonbookfest.org.



Anton Lesser, page to screen

A great opening for the Shipston & District Literary Society’s new season was the Page to Screen event with acclaimed actor Anton Lesser. Held on 24th September at St Edmund’s Church, the audience heard how his life on stage and screen began when working with volunteer services overseas, he saw a film about the RSC and suddenly realised this was the career for him.

Since then, Anton has brought many book characters alive including Sir Thomas More from Wolf Hall. His daughter Lily is in Hilary Mantel’s forthcoming The Mirror and the Light and he confessed that he would have loved to be in this next TV series but, as he explained: “As I was executed in Wolf Hall, not possible – but I did ask if I could come back as flashback or ghost!”

Interviewer TV journalist Carole Foster says of their conversation: “It was such an utter delight to hear Anton share his time and talent and also the questions from the

audience when we could hear their passion for books and theatre.”

Anton has also brought book characters alive with audio readings, including most of Dickens, his favourite being A Tale of Two Cities. More recently he is appearing with the Orchestra of the Swan in Red Sky at Sunrise and the Shipston audience was captivated when Anton quoted some moving words by Laurie Lee which brought spontaneous applause. This was a part close to his heart, and he told us that he only took roles which brought him joy. He has certainly shared that joy with his audiences over the years.

Thanks to Shipston Home Nursing for running the event bar in aid of SHN charity.

The Shipston Literary Society welcomes new members: information from shiplitsoc@outlook.com. Its next event on 27th November is It’s Never Too Late – how Angela Dandy became an author in later years.

Proms’ Christmas fundraisers

We are currently planning another Christmas fundraiser, in which Shipston’s own marvellous opera singers Benedict Nelson and Anna Patalong will be performing. We have not yet got a confirmed date, but please keep an eye on our website www.shipstonproms.org for more details.

The Proms Committee is planning next year’s Shipston Proms Music Festival, with favourites like the pub and cafe trail, Ibiza-on-Stour, classical events, blues music, and of course finishing off with the Last Night of The Proms with the RPJ Band. We are also looking to include some kind of country and western evening during the Proms and will let you know next time how we are getting on.

For all updates, please see our webpage www.shipstonproms.org or our Facebook page. Proms dates: 14th June to 28th June 2025.

The celestial dandelion

The dandelion is the only flower that represents the three celestial bodies of the sun, moon, and stars. The yellow flower resembles the sun, the puffball resembles the moon, and the dispersing seeds resemble the stars. This month, Stourvale Action for the Environment: (SAFE) gives us some interesting facts about the dandelion.

• The flower is a collection of over 100 florets. Each morning the florets open up, layer by layer, ending with the centre ones and in the evenings the reverse occurs as the flower



closes up to protect itself from night dew.

- The roots can grow over 4.5 metres and can be boiled and served with butter.
- One dandelion produces up to 5,000 seeds that can travel up to eight kilometres.
- They are believed to have originated in Eurasia 30 million years ago.
- The name comes from the French ‘dent de lion’ meaning lion’s tooth, referring to dandelion’s coarse-toothed leaves.
- Dandelions were used by the ancient Egyptians, Romans, Greeks and Chinese, and during the Victorian period, for medicinal purposes.

Why should we protect dandelions? Well, they are an important source of nectar for pollinating insects, particularly in early spring when there are fewer flowers around. Rabbits, deer and birds will eat the foliage and seeds. They provide food for the larvae of some species of butterflies and moths.

The long roots of the dandelion can bring nutrients into the soil for more shallow rooting plants and they produce ethylene which helps fruit to ripen.

If you really can’t learn to love the dandelion, there are ways to control them without the use of chemicals that cause damage to the environment. Deadhead them to reduce seed dispersal, dig them up, making sure you get the whole root and cover areas with cardboard and bark or wood chips, or a thick layer of mulch.

Shipston Sports Bowls

Shipston Sports Bowls rounded off the outdoor season in style with a hard-earned victory at the Pickering Open Gala at the national Greens in Royal Leamington Spa. The triples team of Pete Betteridge, Ullly Beauchamp and John Brain beat off 23 other teams to take the win. This went a little way to compensate missing out on promotion in the league by just a single point. The Gala win was the pinnacle of a successful year, with not only good progress in the league but also an enjoyable programme of friendly matches and social sessions.

The Bowls Club plays short mat bowls indoors until the 2025 season starts in April. Anyone wishing to explore joining this growing club can contact the Club Captain Pete Betteridge at 12themaldens@gmail.com or 07917 510895.



The winning triples team with event sponsor Russell Pickering (centre). L-R John Brain, Ullly Beauchamp and Pete Betteridge.

Dates for December

There’s a wealth of wonderful events in store for Shipston during December. Apologies to those organisations who submitted posters for December – there was simply no room from them in the Forum this month. They will be there in the December issue in advance of the events. In the meantime, here’s a round-up of dates for your diaries, including where to buy tickets.

Friday 6th December. Shipston Tennis Club Christmas Bingo. At the Townsend Hall. Eyes down 7.30pm, www.shipstontennis.co.uk

Saturday 7th December. Carols at Holy Trinity. In aid of Shipston Home Nursing. Holy Trinity Church, Stratford, 7pm. With reading from Anton Lesser. Tickets from www.shipstohomenursing.co.uk

Saturday 14th December. Stour Singers concert at St Edmund’s Church, 7.30pm. Vivaldi Beatus Vir and Magnificat; Handel Messiah excerpts. With soloists Caroline Taylor, Cathy Bell and Matthew Minter. Tickets £16 from ticketsource.co.uk/stour-singers.

Sunday 15th December. Cotswold Choir Christmas Concert. The Methodist Church, Shipston, 4.30pm. £5. Tickets on the door. Hot drinks and cakes too.

Friday 20th December. Dance party for Shipston Proms, Townsend Hall. Details on Proms’ Facebook or on the website.

Townsend Hall



It’s all happening!

The servery has undergone a major transformation and is now also a very attractive option for a get-together.

There has been a major upgrade to the lighting throughout the main hall, including the stage, along with an upgrade to the screen. A stage lift, to provide access to the stage for all, is now with us, too. We’ve even spruced up the outside with a paint work refresh.

The hall is very busy through the remainder of this year. To highlight just one event, Arts in the Cotswolds is being held over three days in late November. Check our website and get ahead of the game if you’d like to book an event in next year.

The proceeds of the Hall’s jazz events, organised and staffed by unpaid trustees and volunteers, go towards the maintenance of the hall (a charity). A big thanks to all that have attended and we hope to see you at the next one, the ever-popular Tom ‘Spats’ Langham on Friday, 15th November. Tickets are going fast, and he sold out last time, so get in quick! For details of this event and others, check out our website: www.townsendhall.co.uk.

Jenny Glover, Townsend Hall Chair



ARTS
IN THE
COTSWOLDS

Christmas Fair

TOWNSEND HALL
SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR
CV36 4AE

29TH NOV 4PM-8PM
30TH NOV 10AM-4PM
1ST DEC 10AM-4PM

COME AND ENJOY
FABULOUS AND UNIQUE
IDEAS FOR CHRISTMAS
FROM OVER 20
ARTISTS AND ARTISANS

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE
SATURDAY & SUNDAY



Fosseway
Chamber Orchestra



Do you play a musical instrument?

Would you love to play
and gain from learning with others,
as well as improving your mental
and physical well being?

We are a U3A group and play mostly
well known light classics in a friendly
unpressurised environment.
Every Tuesday morning, during school
term time, in Stretton on Fosse.

For more information,
please contact Christine on:
07967 423550



Jazz 59 in Concert

Jazz 59 are a local jazz group playing classics
from the golden years of jazz, raising money
to support dementia carers.
Website: jazz59.com

Friday 15th November, 7.30pm
Methodist Church, 52 New Street,
Shipston-on-Stour

Tickets £10 on the door
or in advance from E.H. Spencer
Free entry to Shipston Music Society members
New members always welcome
Information: ph 01608 662514



Registered Charity No: 1146459 (England)
www.shipstonmusic.org.uk

STOUR VALLEY LIONS CINEMA



The Fall Guy: Certificate 12 – Action/Romance
Following an accident a stuntman has to track down a missing movie
star, solve a conspiracy, win back the love of his life and still work
hard.

Shipston Primary School



The children have been taking part in a range of after-school sports clubs such as fencing, gymnastics, football and multi-sports.

Our Year 6 footballers came a highly creditable third in their competition against other local schools. With a score total of 17 points, they were just beaten by Kineton and Ettington who finished their games with 18 points. Our Year 4 footballers won all four of their games to be the tournament champions.



Every Monday at 6.30pm, children from Shipston and Brailes come to the hall to enjoy learning how to fence with Chris from Stratford Swords, which is run by staff from KES School in Stratford.

Music

We have been enjoying listening to, singing, celebrating and creating music across the school in lots of different ways. Our new whole school song has been Try Everything by Shakira, which celebrates never giving up, being ready to have a go at anything and remembering that it is OK to make mistakes as that is how we learn. Our choir is enjoying learning songs with Jules from Longborough Opera. Young Voices Choir is preparing for its schools’ concert in January, led by Mrs Proud and Mrs Collins, and we have a wide variety of instruments being taught, from recorders to drums. Year 2 children have been studying the orchestra and were looking forward to our Harvest Assembly at St Edmund’s when we sang well-known and favourite harvest songs.

Shipston Bookfest

We were very excited to be a part of Shipston’s inaugural BookFest. Thanks to Mr Mogg who has been part of the organising committee. Children across the whole school welcomed authors who gave their tips for becoming writers, shared some of their work with them and created new writing together. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 enjoyed reading with Helen Mortimer, who has been writing children’s books for over 25 years. On Wednesday, Years 3 and 4 worked with the poet Daniel Thompson to create poems with a natural theme and on Thursday, Years 5 and 6 enjoyed sharing stories with Laura Noakes, a poet and writer who has authored the Cosima series of books.

Our children read 102,243,342 words last year with 28 pupils becoming word millionaires. These are both school reading records. We hope to smash them this year!



The Dovecote

We were greatly looking forward to Mayor Dinnie officially opening our new Specialist Resource Provision, which has been a great success in our first half term, and we will see more children joining the class during the year.

Shipston High School

What a fantastic start to the academic year we have had, and we could not believe how quickly half term came along.

We welcomed several visitors into school to provide our students with fantastic enrichment opportunities. Our Food Technology students were treated to the most fabulous cookery workshop delivered by The Royal Navy. They spoke about careers within the Navy and cooked a delicious homemade chicken kiev and sticky toffee pudding and sauce with the students. The results were truly restaurant standard. The students were really inspired.



We welcomed in Crossteach who ran some workshops for our GCSE RE students on The Trinity. These were thought-provoking and engaging workshops that really opened up debates amongst the students.

The Duke of Edinburgh Scheme will start next month for a new cohort of students wishing to start their Bronze award, and those wanting to continue with the Silver award. Parents were invited in for an information session, and we hope to have many of our Bronze students collecting their completion certificates at next month’s awards evening.

We welcomed in two authors as part of Shipston BookFest, Jonathan Hollins and Tim Hall. They presented to Year 9 and Year 10 students and spoke about their books. We ran our Scholastic Book Fair alongside this, and are almost ready to unveil our brand new library! Not long until this will be open to students to visit and use.



Our students have been out and about on sports fixtures in netball, hockey and rugby, with some also competing in the Warwickshire cross country in the hope they may gain a place in the County team. We wish them the best of luck as they represent the school in that competition!

We are also launching our very own Shipston Football Super League. This is a fabulous opportunity for students to play games in a competitive league and students who would like to undertake roles such as referee and linesman. With over 100 students joining, we have created 10 teams with names such as Shipston Wanderers, Shipston United and Shipston Hotspur. Who will be crowned champions at the end of the season?

Finally, students have started heading out on school trips on a wide range of curriculum enhancing opportunities. Year 10 Textiles students have visited the Sealife Centre in Birmingham to gain inspiration behind underwater photography, colours and textures. Year 11 Geography students have spent the day in Bristol gathering data and enjoying a boat trip along the river as part of their research for their GCSE exam.

Stour Valley Lions at work

As summer draws into autumn, Stour Valley Lions seem to have spent a lot of time in the garden.

You may well have read and seen our social media posts about the Gyratory garden, the upkeep of which was provided for by a legacy. The entire area has been redesigned, returfed and replanted, with new more accessible paths put in and the project should be completely finished by mid-November. We owe a debt of gratitude to Louise Hart of Hart Garden for her design, and for giving her time and services completely free, and also to KA Perkins for the landscaping and paving. People like this make it possible for us to serve our community better.

We have been assisting with the upkeep of the garden at Stour Court for the past four years and as part of the ongoing improvements, our hardy volunteers have dismantled and disposed of a rickety pergola, cleared and restocked two large planters with fruit trees, herbs and bulbs and a new bench will follow soon. A new bench will also appear at Badger Crescent to replace the one dismantled recently.

Following the success of the last two book sales, the next one will be on 2nd November in the Scout Hut – we have received a huge number of donations, so rest assured that there will be something new to suit every taste.



Shipston-on-Stour Women’s Institute

Witchcraft

Kathryn Jackson entertained and enlightened the meeting with a talk on witchcraft and how attitudes have changed over the centuries from benign tolerance to persecution.

Until the 1300s, magic was part of everyday life. It helped explain natural mysteries and the unfathomable. In 1327, Pope John II began the persecution of witchcraft.

Thus began the period of persecution in England which peaked in the 17th century. From being benign, witches became malignant. Deterrents were carved on access points in buildings – witch marks.

The Reformation led to a huge upheaval in society when witchcraft was more formally prosecuted. It became part of



common law.

The Civil War in the 17th century with the accompanying breakdown of societal values led to the infamous Witchfinder Generals. In the absence of a stable state, scores could be settled and revenge enacted. The Age of Enlightenment in the 18th century brought some common sense to bear.

Prejudice and suspicion remained in outlying districts such as the Cotswolds, which in the 19th century and into the 20th was a place of deprivation. Poverty and bad harvests, sick cattle and children – a scapegoat could always be found to explain bad luck. In Ilmington, Catherine Huxley was hanged for causing illness to a child. In Long Compton, 15 witches were reputed to dwell. Here a man called Hayward attacked Anne Tennant with a pitchfork claiming she had bewitched him. She died and he stood trial in The Red Lion where he was declared insane and thus escaped the death penalty. A famous and unsolved murder at Lower Quinton in the mid-20th century also involved a pitchfork, when Charles Walton was violently murdered and pinned to the ground. A witch is reputedly buried at a crossroads in Shipston with a stake through her heart.

Shipston WI will be providing refreshments at the Arts in the Cotswolds event on 30th November and 1st December in the Townsend Hall, and will have a stall at the Victorian Evening on 6th December.

Shipston SCAN

SCAN's September talk was given by Emma Daniell, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire. A serving police officer for 17 years until she decided that she would like a greater input into policy. The Police Commissioner (PCC) is an elected role for a four-year term, and the deputy is appointed by the PCC. Elections were last held in May 2024. They have a support staff of 14.

The PCC has no control over operational policing but is responsible for setting policies, and works closely with and appoints the Chief Constable. The PCC investigates complaints and makes recommendations based on his findings. Setting budgets is another key role as is setting the annual police precept in your annual council tax bill.

During his eight years in office, the current PCC has introduced initiatives, last year spending £300,000 on:

- The issue of iPhones to all frontline officers to enable greater efficiency
- Creation of the Rural Crime Team which covers the whole of the county
- Video calls for domestic abuse victims
- Reducing the response times for non-urgent 101 calls with a call back option in busy periods
- The introduction of volunteers to act as appropriate adults for vulnerable people who have been arrested.

The PCC also offers grants of up to £15,000 to smaller organisations to improve safety and crime prevention. The Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership was a beneficiary, with funding for boxercise classes for year 9 students.



Emma explained that the greater incidence of domestic abuse, rape and cyber crime is one reason behind the lack of visibility of foot patrols. Shipston’s Safer Neighbourhood Team covers 55 villages as well as Shipston itself. There are now 1,146 full time equivalent police officers in the Warwickshire police force compared with 802 ten years ago.

SCAN's AGM is at 10am on Tuesday 12th November at Townsend Hall. With musical entertainment by the u3a Recorder Ensemble

Shipston Music Society

Catriona Bourne Jazz Quartet

An exciting new album was previewed at the opening event of the Music Society’s 2024-2025 programme in September. Multi-instrumentalist Catriona Bourne, who recently completed her masters in music performance, has played here many times in the past in a classical vein. This time she was unveiling her upcoming compilation, Triquetra, a new venture into what she calls ‘an impulsive dive into experimental folk-jazz’ and presented pieces that she describes as nostalgic and evocative of Scottish nature and landscape. The second half of the evening included songs that had influenced the music of Triquetra. The Society was delighted to be part of Catriona’s venture, and the audience applauded loudly at the end of an enjoyable evening.



Fosseway Chamber Orchestra

Having started as a small group of friends practising in each other’s homes ten years ago, we have now grown into a Shipston u3a supported orchestra of 20+ players rehearsing every week in Stretton on Fosse. Our next free lunchtime concert open to all will be at Stratford Holy Trinity Church on 27th November at 1pm. Interested joining us? See ad on page 10.



Stour Valley Lions’ Den

Lions Den is a great opportunity for people to promote their schemes or share their project with others. Providing funds – and other support – for local good causes as well as people most in need, it is open to local charities, groups and individuals. All we ask is that bids have a strong civic, youth or welfare element. Just make an application on our website before 31st January 2025.



Probus

Supporting Ukraine

Probus members listened intently to James Clarke describing the work of NOXAIDUK (North Oxfordshire Aid to Ukraine), established in March 2022. Following the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, a small group met in Banbury to organise the collection of food and clothes. Not only supplies, but 4x4 vehicles and ambulances were desperately needed. An appeal for a van was initially responded to by Hook Norton Brewery. In May 2022, a 4x4 vehicle was delivered followed by two more in the July and since then around 20 trips have been made. In January 2023, 12 volunteers drove 1,300 miles across Europe and delivered six vehicles to Lviv. Subsequently the group acquired old fire engines and ex NHS ambulances. A refrigerated delivery van was put to use as a hearse for picking up killed soldiers and transporting them to where they would be honoured with a military funeral.

Based in Hook Norton, NOXAIDUK has to date delivered over 70 4x4 vehicles, three ambulances and over 50 tonnes of aid including medical supplies, food, warm clothing, PPE for firefighters, vehicle spares and tools. A 4x4 costs around £2,500, plus the journey costs around £1,000. Eurotunnel for two years generously transported vehicles for free but now there is a charge of £180. Hence donations are always welcome and can be made to NOXAIDUK, Barclays Bank, Sort Code 20-03-84; Acc. No 03595552.

Museum

Shipston Museum volunteer Stephen Hartley illustrated the long process, involving many dedicated local folk, which eventually achieved the fortunate position of the town now having a well-stocked museum in its own building.

The beginning can be traced to the initiative of Leonard Bradley and Harry Parry who founded the History Society in 1965. Fifty people turned up at an exhibition in the Townsend Hall with a wide range of local artefacts, including a hoard of gold coins! The society grew to over 100 members and the need for a permanent home became apparent. In 1974 the growing collection was housed in the Old Schoolroom on Old Road. After ten years, a new home again had to be found and remarkably Mike Ashley made available part of his own home, which housed the collection until his death in 2019. Following a search for new premises and with much effort by local enthusiasts, the new building in Old Clark House was opened in August 2023, with over 100 visitors on the first day.

Please contact Tony Joint on 01608 663407 or tonyjoint73@hotmail.com for further details of Probus, which meets fortnightly at Shipston Sports and Social Club. Guests and new members are most welcome.



County Council

This month the only word I have to share is infrastructure. Since last writing we have had floods, leaks, roadworks, more roadworks and a new pristine surface (after about 10 years I think) on New Street.

I’ve had a lot of correspondence, not least from STC colleagues. I am sure Ian won’t mind me quoting his self-description as a stuck record! I agreed that I had joined him in the same groove. As a result, I’ve done a Highways surgery where I asked the questions, and I have a few answers. The way that work is organised by Balfour Beatty as WCC’s contractors, is on a rolling schedule. If you want to look for roadworks in Warwickshire then please have a look at <https://one.network/tm> or roadclosures@warwickshire.gov.uk

However, we all know that there are “emergency” works to the roads - by eg Gigaclear, Cadent or Severn Trent (other firms are available). In the case of an emergency, work can commence and the licence to do the works is put in retrospectively. I am having conversations with Highways as to what constitutes an emergency. Clearly the leak of sewage and water on Station Road last week was one, particularly with the amount of splash the traffic was producing! Thanks to Severn Trent for coming quickly. I was in London when I got the message, texted my contact during the interval and they were here on Saturday, two days earlier than originally suggested. I don’t like situations where local residents can’t flush the loo or shower! As ever please don’t flush wipes. This blockage was wipes and a fatberg.

Because we have had flooding, Sarah and I are going to have a wander round the gullies and I will request extra gully busting where needed. WCC has three full time gully cleaning vehicles, and we spend nearly £3m a year of your money on this! Again, there is a routine in place plus extras. I can pay for extra from my Councillors’ highways budget as well.

As your county councillor, I do also serve the villages around us. So in times of flood I have learnt where many of the likely spots are. In Shipston we are so lucky to have SAFAG. Without their interventions we would have been even wetter this year. Rest assured I big them up at every opportunity and regard it as a selling job to the rest of the county! Thank you also to Lawns2Mow for all they do for our town, in good and bad weather.

I have become obsessive about what is going on underground. A lot of planning goes on with no real consideration and I have campaigned at national level for us to take this more seriously - I continue!

Another part of our infrastructure which worries me is our electricity supply. We cope, but I do wonder if relying on renewables when the sun is not shining, and the wind is not blowing is a recipe for blackouts. I have candles and matches to hand (and a supply of wood) just in case. In the 70s (yes, I really am old enough) I remember doing my homework by candlelight and thinking it perfectly normal. My Nan never did take to electricity, so she was OK with her oil lamps!

I am waiting for more details on infrastructure management locally and will share as soon as I have it.

Finally, I am so sorry that the school transport has not been good enough this term. Let me know if you are still having problems as I have an open line to school transport!

Roving surgeries and meetings always available

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

Medical Centre update

Whilst the practice has a lower than average number of patients per GP, the demand for our services is significant, and we need to ensure our resources are used to best effect to effectively help all those who need our services. This is why the practice introduced the triage process – when you contact us, whether it is via our website or the NHS app, or if you speak with a receptionist, we ask you a series of questions which helps us to know what your needs might be. We can then offer you a way to help that best suits your need. We really appreciate our patients embracing the triage process and ask for your ongoing help in utilising our service effectively so we may help the whole community according to need.

As we come into the winter months infections, such as colds, coughs and sore throats become very common. We therefore get a lot of calls about these symptoms. Unfortunately, coughs, colds and sore throats are generally not something we can treat as the vast majority are caused by viruses, for which there is no cure. Fortunately, all of these illnesses are what we would call ‘self-limiting’ in that they only affect us for a relatively short period. It therefore becomes about managing the symptoms. We would advise paracetamol and over the counter remedies to help manage symptoms alongside simple measures such as drinking plenty of fluids. Usually sore throats last up to one week, colds for 1½ weeks, and sinusitis and coughs up to 3-4 weeks. If infections last longer than this, or symptoms rapidly get worse, then do contact us.

Further self-help advice is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/cough/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/common-cold/>

District Council

Hopefully, by the time you’re reading this, many of you will have signed the petition that is being circulated calling for the reinstatement of community beds in Shipston. It may feel like this has been going on for years (it has) and calling for beds is like banging your head against a brick wall, but there is now a chink of hope. We have four months before SWUFT make the final decision. In that time a petition will be presented to parliament by our MP, Manuela Perteghella, and separately there will be the ICB public consultation in January and February. If you want to support the Beds for Badger campaign, please email; secretary@bedsforbadger.org

The last week in September saw yet more sewage in gardens along Queens Avenue. Shipston has been sewage free for several months, and the optimist in me thought that the relining of the pipes may have worked. Severn Trent’s response was ‘This is a known issue for this area due to the lay out of the network unfortunately. I have added to this risk profile already in the area to look for investment and a capital scheme’. So they know what needs to be done, we’ve just got to get them to do it.

As a smallholder and customer of Long Compton Abattoir for 21 years, I was sad to hear the negotiations for the farmer purchase of Long Compton Abattoir have fallen through – the seller has relinquished their abattoir licence making the whole project non-viable. The steering group remain upbeat and positive - they believe with all the support they have received that it will be possible to build a new abattoir in the area. A step towards a more resilient food system, as it is well documented, is eating less, more sustainable meat. The local farmers that produce this are reliant on local small abattoirs. So the government must retain the discounts that small abattoirs get, without which a new local abattoir will unlikely come to fruition.

Since June, the District Council have been sending out monthly newsletters to keep us informed of their activities. Please sign up using the links below and you can find all the past ones on the SDC website. The October one has useful info on how to check if you’re eligible for Pension credits and therefore Winter fuel payments, and a link to the application form of the 2nd round of the Climate Change Fund. Pension credit hotline – 0800 991234.

Olivia Hatch, District Councillor, Shipston North
07752652114 | olivia.hatch@stratford-dc.gov.uk



Shipston Medical Centre

Your town councillors



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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
Local police (non emergency)	101
Shipston Police Safer Neighbourhood Team:	01789 444670
shipston.snt@warwickshire.police.uk	
Churches of Shipston:	
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
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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 email access).

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.





CHRISTMAS GIFT FAIR

Tuesday 19th November 3.30pm - 7.30pm
Wednesday 20th November 10am- 3pm

Ettington Community Centre, CV37 7SX

Our annual festive fair is the perfect opportunity to start your Christmas shopping. We have a variety of stalls selling everything from clothing, accessories and homeware to food & drink, Christmas decorations and stationery.





CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

Friday 13th December 10.30am - 5pm

Brailes Village Hall, OX15 5AS

We are delighted to be welcoming creative stall holders selling a wonderful range of gift ideas for Christmas. We will also have a tombola and raffle, and will be serving tea, coffee and cake throughout the day.



Proceeds to Shipston Home Nursing

FREE HOME NURSING AND EMOTIONAL SUPPORT FOR TERMINALLY ILL PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES in Shipston, Wellesbourne, Kineton and surrounding villages

Registered Charity no 1162586



TILEMANS LANE
SHIPSTON ON STOUR
SATNAV: CV36 4QG





OOMPAH BAND, FESTIVE FOOD AND DRINK IN BAR-VARIA, CRAFT STALLS AND CHRISTMAS CAROLS

PLUS... PROFESSOR COLLYWOBBLES AND A VISIT FROM SANTA!



EVENT SUPPORTED BY STOUR VALLEY LIONS



52 Sheep Street, Shipston-on-Stour, Warwickshire. CV36 4AE

Charity No. 522997

Townsend Hall, Shipston, presents...

Tom "Spats" Langham's Hot Fingers



Friday 15th November 2024

Doors Open 19:00 for 20:00

Fully Licensed Bar

Tickets £12.50 from:

- o The Flower Shop, 3 Market Place, Shipston-on-Stour, 01608-544336, or
- o For online booking, visit ticketsource.co.uk/townsend-hall or townsendhall.co.uk

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Charity CHRISTMAS TRACTOR RUN

2024

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EVENT CONTACT: CHRISTMASTRACTOR9@GMAIL.COM

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