



Shipston Forum



May 2025

Let's celebrate VE Day at 80

A party, music, beacon-lighting and a declaration by Winston Churchill! Shipston will be celebrating the 80th anniversary of VE (Victory in Europe) Day in style on 8th May with a whole day of activities. It's all been arranged by the local branch of the Royal British Legion, supporting the town council.

8am - Proclamation in the town square

9am - Flag raising and small ceremony at the Gyratory

12 noon-2pm - Lunch at the Warm Hub (fully booked)

3pm - Declaration by Sir Winston Churchill

3.30pm - Shop window decoration competition

6pm - Party at Low Furlong (food, bar, music)

8.30pm - Music at the Beacon

9.30pm - Lighting of the Beacon

'This will be a great occasion for the town to come together and celebrate in the spirit of 1940s Britain,' says Alistair Watkins, Secretary of the RBL's Shipston branch. 'We look forward to seeing everyone on the day.'

Shipston's Museum will also be open that day. Pop in to see its VE special display, 12 noon-4pm.

Rotarians keep it clean

One of the many causes supported by Shipston Rotary is the Aqua Box. The clever device purifies water in minutes and is particularly useful in places affected by war or natural disaster where the water supply may be contaminated. One Aqua Box can provide 500,000 litres of drinking water from a dirty open supply. Rotarian Brian Simpkins holds the 'before' sample while Mayor John Dinnie (in picture below) drinks the purified water.



Christakes on Stour Concert Brass



Chris Brown, head of music at Chipping Norton School, has been appointed musical director of Stour Concert Brass, based in Shipston. He promises to bring a new and varied repertoire to the band, ranging from film scores and pop music to traditional marches.

Stour Concert Brass is part of Shipston Town Band and involves brass players of all abilities. Unlike the town band, it doesn't take part in competitive events, instead concentrating on concerts. Stour Concert Brass was founded by previous conductor David Birch, and has most recently been conducted by Nigel Hall.

Chris said: 'I feel honoured. There is a clear strong history to the band, so I don't want to let things slip. The band is a fun, mixed ability group, who clearly enjoy playing.'



Easter fun-ny

The Scout Hut was a hive of activity on Easter Saturday as children decorated special biscuits, showed off their Easter bonnets, and searched for the cuckoo in the nest. As usual it was the Rotary Club who made the magic happen, and the organisation has extended its heartfelt thanks to Shipston Mid-Counties Co-op and Margaret Gill for their kind sponsorship, as well as to Mayor John Dinnie for judging the Easter bonnet competition.



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Mayor’s column



Dear Shipston,

Bryony and I have been very busy, as civic activities have become more frequent as the Mayoral year moves to its conclusion. The civic dinner hosted by Judith Clarke, Mayor of Royal Leamington Spa, was held in the luxuriant setting of the Jephson Gardens Glasshouse; Dave Skinner’s civic dinner at the Court House, Warwick and Angela John’s civic dinner at the Bowling Green in Southam were equally enjoyable occasions. The County Chairman’s civic dinner at the Gaydon Motor Museum is an interesting finale.

We are looking forward to the celebrations on the 80th anniversary of VE day marking the end of World War II in Europe, with a packed schedule on 8th of May. You can find details posted elsewhere in this edition. I would like to thank Mr and Mrs Withers of Whaddon Farm for allowing us all once again to enjoy the lighting of the beacon on Whaddon Hill at 9.30pm.

I have still to hear from the Integrated Care Board regarding the next steps and stakeholder engagement in the study forum on the health needs of our rural community. While waiting for this I feel it is important for all of us to consider the increasing number of elderly people in our local population. According to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA), falls are the number one priority. They have lots of useful information about fall prevention on their website: <https://www.rosipa.com/campaigns-and-fundraising/fall-prevention>. Older people typically experience more falls and worse consequences because of adverse health conditions associated with biological ageing. However, we can all benefit from advice to reduce the occurrence of slips, trips and falls. For example, it has been drawn to my attention that gravel from driveways can find its way onto the pavement and be an unintentional hazard to pedestrians. A little bit of astute observation and thoughtful clearing up could prevent a nasty accident.

The Town Council had a very useful discussion about the devolution white paper and local government reorganisation into unitary and combined authorities with Cllr Isobel Seccombe, leader of Warwickshire County Council, just before the April town council meeting. Both County and District Councillors are actively engaged in crafting the new structures of local government. Clearly, many questions have still to be answered about the role of town and parish councils in the eventual arrangements. Everyone agreed it was important to keep the dialogue going as this activity proceeds.

Bryony and I are looking forward to attending the Stour Singers’ 50th anniversary concert on the 10th May as our last official engagement. We have enjoyed our year in your service as Mayor and Mayoress, and all the other engagements we have been able to take part in.

It now remains for me to wish you all a safe and secure future in our amazing town as I prepare to hand on the role of Chair and Town Mayor to a new incumbent at the town council meeting on 12th May.

Your Town Mayor,
John
John Dinnie,
Mayor, Shipston Town Council

SHIPSTON ON STOUR TOWN COUNCIL



Administrative Officer

NJC LC1 Scale 6 £25,183 (pro-rata) (£13.05 per hour)
12 hours per week. Monday, Wednesdays
and Fridays 9.00-13.00pm (extra hours may be required
during school holidays)

We are looking for a bright, enthusiastic person who is well organised, efficient, and able to work quickly, accurately and with initiative to work alongside the Deputy Town Clerk, Deputy RFO, Councillors and Service Providers. Excellent communication and IT skills are essential along with commitment and flexibility as the post may require assistance at occasional evening meetings.

For further information, job description and application form, apply to:

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

Telephone: 01608 662180

E-mail: enquiries@shipstontowncouncil.org

News from Shipston Town Council’s April meeting

Civic Service

Councillors praised the Mayor’s Civic Service and especially the performances from the shanty singers and the young people who took part. The event raised £277 for the First Responders.

Banking

Cllr Williams has discussed banking for the town with Link. The organisation has turned down the request to have a banking hub for the town. He will challenge their process and inaccurate information and will make a formal complaint. Cllr Barker is to email the County Council’s economic development function to seek any help. The Warwickshire Rural Council is also supportive.

Environment and Flood Action

Cllr H Kelly attended a meeting with our MP and Severn Trent to discuss flooding and said Shipston Flood Action Group (SAFAG) made a very good case for its approach and methods. Izzy Seccombe has also praised SAFAG’s work as an exemplar at national level. SAFAG will be leafleting areas of town affected by flooding to offer useful advice and information. Repair work to dams on Pig Brook will be carried out in May.

Funds have been awarded from Stratford District Council for hedge-laying, putting up bird boxes and a noticeboard in Cornmill Meadows. The organisers of Great Big Green Week have requested a food truck be allowed on Little Rec on 7th June, which was approved subject to licenses and insurance.

General purposes and assets

Work is now going ahead to repair the twin chapel roofs. Quotes to repair the damaged church wall have been received and work will go ahead. A holly tree that is spreading across graves including that of Ellen Badger will also be managed. Councillors are working hard to help get a facility in place for the Youth Club by September. The skatepark has been identified as needing repair and quotations for the work have been received.

District Council

Cllr Passingham is checking whether the application for the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) at the school is still live. Town councillors showed preference for any MUGA to be located at the Hub. Cllr Passingham has asked Atkins for a costing for the Shaping Travel in Shipston to be included in the Local Plan.

Blue light report

Shipston First Responders have received 101 callouts this year so far, 34 in category 1 (life-threatening). There were eight defibrillator activations and there have been new installations in the villages.

Forum

Council is still seeking more volunteers to help deliver the Forum.

Ellen Badger

The new building is due to be finished in June. Nothing has been heard back from the Integrated Care Board about rural health needs.

High School

Work on the next phase of the new sports hall is now due to start in September.

Open Forum

Following a request from resident Liz Cameron about concern over an over-large lime tree near Station Road, the town council is to confirm the tree is on its list of assets.

Planning

Council proposed no representations to permissions sought for properties in Furze Hill Road, Bosley Close and Hanson Avenue.

Sainsburys is appealing the decision of Stratford District Council, which rejected the supermarket’s application on the basis of:

- unacceptable impact on the character of the area
- unattractiveness of proposed elevation
- parking layout
- proximity of service yard to residences.

Town Council will restate its original objections concerning:

- HGV routing
- necessary improvements to the Darlingscote/Fosseway junction given further fatalities here
- speed limit on Darlingscote Road
- no cycle lane provision
- proximity of service yard to Brickfield Close
- timing of deliveries given proximity of the school

while adding that businesses in town have since closed, citing the threat posed by Sainsburys.

Staff

Helen Morgan has left as Town Clerk. Council offered her their best wishes.



Become a Dementia Friend

Join us for this free interactive Information Session to learn how dementia affects a person and what you can do to make a difference. Become a Dementia Friend and join more than 3 million others taking action. From being more patient in a shop queue to campaigning for change, every action counts. Anyone of any age can become a Dementia Friend.

DATE **Mon 19th May 2025**

START TIME **10:00**

DURATION **1 hour**

VENUE
**The George Townhouse
8 High Street
Shipston on Stour
CV36 4AJ**

NAME **Fay Ivens**

CONTACT DETAILS
**For more information please contact Fay on
fivens13@gmail.com**

OTHER INFORMATION
**This event is sponsored by the Rotary Club of
Shipston on Stour.**
With kind thanks to everyone involved.



Take a trip down Memory Lane as Holiday at Home explores West End Musicals!



on
May 19th 10am

in the
Townsend Hall

Cost **£12**

**Bookings to Rosemary
01608 662584**



**Quizzes, crafts and puzzles,
A 2 course lunch, entertainment
and all refreshments.**



An activity organised by Christians Together in Shipston



DO YOU LIVE IN SHIPSTON (IF SO YOU COULD APPLY FOR A GRANT)

**SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR EDUCATION CHARITY GRANTS FOR 2025/26
ARE YOU A SHIPSTON RESIDENT UNDER 25 YEARS OLD?**


You can now apply for an **Educational Grant** to support you if you are due to undertake an Apprenticeship, Professional or Trade qualification or follow a Further or Higher Education course. If so, you can apply for a **Grant** for the 2025/26 year.

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

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

COMPLETED FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED BY SUN 24 AUGUST 2025





SHIPSTON MEDICAL CENTRE

**SHIPSTON MEDICAL CENTRE
PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP**

Meeting for Shipston Medical Centre patients

Tuesday 3rd June 2025 at 7.15pm
Townsend Hall, Sheep Street, Shipston



Working for the Future of our Community

To include information from..
Shipston Medical Centre Partners and PPG
The Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership
Shipston Home Nursing

Any prior questions? Please contact:
Carole Nossiter, PPG CHAIR shipstonppg@gmail.com

No need to book - just turn up on the night!

Update from Beds for Badger campaign



We have received further clarification of the ICB's Neighbourhood Integrated Health Approach and six core components:

1. Population health management. Developing linked datasets for comprehensive health analysis to inform care delivery.
2. Modern general practice. Improving access and continuity by streamlining patient journeys and integrating services like community pharmacy and digital self-service options.
3. Standardising community health services. Integrating community health services into neighbourhood health plans to ensure seamless, coordinated care.
4. Neighbourhood multi-disciplinary teams (MDTs). Forming proactive teams to provide a comprehensive holistic approach and coordinated care for complex cases.
5. Integrated intermediate care with a 'home first' approach. Offering short-term rehabilitation and recovery services at home to maintain independence.
6. Urgent neighbourhood services. Aligning community response and virtual ward services to local demand, ensuring timely interventions and reducing unnecessary hospital admissions.

The ICB confirmed that 'the impact of living in rural areas was heard very strongly in the feedback from the consultation and the need for locally based services.' Also, that 'the ICB are committed to using Shipston and the surrounding areas as a pilot for how this approach could be tailored to rural needs and to working with the local community to ensure that local voices shape future service development, and that Shipston remains connected to the wider health and care system.'

You may wonder if this will get beyond a talking shop. Especially as ICBs are in major reorganisation at present. This may free up resources that can be redeployed to the above activity. Or it may not. For this reason, we are progressing with seeking potential engagement with suitable stakeholders from Primary, Secondary and Community care organisations in support of an Integrated Local Healthcare Model aligned to the above.

Lastly, in case the above fail, and they might, we must seriously consider taking the amply demonstrated will of the people through our democratic representatives to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Services in a process known as a 'call in'.

Keep following on bedsforbadger.org and the Facebook Page. Thanks for all the likes and shares.

Beds for Badger Organising Committee

Plant sale keeps growing



Shipston Home Nursing's 2025 Plant and Produce Sale will be taking place over the weekend of 10th and 11th May. This is one of the charity's most highly-anticipated fundraisers and NFU Mutual Central-South Warwickshire is proud to sponsor the event.

The event has enjoyed incredible success and growth since its inception, raising more than £11,000 last year. This year, the event will see dedicated volunteers hosting table-top stalls

from their driveways across 14 locations in the region, including the picturesque villages of Great Wolford, Brailes, Ettington, Ilmington and Whichford.

Medical Centre News

Covid jabs

Our 2025 spring covid vaccination clinics are now underway. If you have received an invitation and would like to book an appointment please phone 01608 661845 and select option 7 after 2pm. Appointments are available during our normal opening hours and some Saturday mornings.

If you are eligible and do not wish to have the vaccination this time, or have received it elsewhere, please let our reception team know to avoid receiving further reminders. Information on eligibility can be found at <https://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/covid-19-vaccine/>

People on our housebound register will be contacted individually to arrange a vaccination. Please note only those who are unable to leave their house at all are on the housebound register.

Do you look after someone?

NHS England describes a carer as 'anyone, including children and adults, who looks after a family member, partner or friend who needs help because of their illness, frailty, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction and cannot cope without their support. The care they give is unpaid.'

There are many unpaid carers in our local area. Many people don't think of themselves as carers; they just look after someone close to them. Caring often just happens to you, as you find that someone close to you gradually needs more help.

Becoming a carer can feel isolating and it's often a struggle to get the information you need.

When you are looking after someone, it's important to have some help and support for yourself, such as a break from caring. As a carer, it is important that you look after your own health; it is easy not to look after yourself when you are looking after someone else.

Here at Shipston Medical Centre we want to be able to do all we can to try to help you to stay as fit and healthy as possible. We will do our best to help you look after yourself as well as the person you care for. For example, we are keen to offer flu vaccinations to carers each Autumn, help you develop a plan for care if something happens to you and can support you in ensuring you get any benefits you are entitled to. If you consider yourself to be a carer, please let us know and we can arrange an initial telephone appointment with one of our carer champions to see what we can do to help you.

A welcome lunch

Where can you get a tasty two-course lunch for £5? If you are over 65, Shipston Age Concern serves wonderful lunches on Tuesday at Stour Court and Thursdays and alternate Fridays at Rainbow Fields. Spread the word to all your friends and family members. Our cheerful amazing volunteers will make you very welcome. See listing in the Shipston Forum regular events column or see our website www.ageconcernshipston.org.uk Look out for the pink banner to find us. Gill Roache 07778 848431



Regular Events

Monday

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.

Shipston Toddler and Baby Stay and Play: 10-11am, Scout Hut

Tuesday

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

Standing Tai Chi: 10.30am, Townsend Hall.

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

Shipston Training Band: 6pm-7pm at the Band Hall, New Street CV36 4QR

Shipston Town Band: 7.30pm – 9.30pm at the Band Hall, New Street CV36 4Q

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

Little Fishes: 10-11am Townsend Hall.

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

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

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

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

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

Stour Concert Brass: 7.45pm – 9.15pm at the Band Hall, New Street CV36 4QR

Saturday

Lego Club: Shipston Library. From 10am.

Shipston Food Bank:

10:30am-12pm, St Edmund’s Church, Shipston.

No referral or voucher needed

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What’s On Calendar: May 2025

1st Royal British Legion – Shipston Branch:

Committee Meeting. 18:30 hrs, St Edmund’s Church. Branch Secretary Alex Black on 07789 968733 or email alblack32@hotmail.com

3rd. Shipston Town Council Monthly Litter Pick:

All welcome. Meet at New Clarke House, West Street at 10am. Equipment and refreshments provided. Children’s equipment available

3rd. History Day at St George’s Church Brailles:

see ad on page 7

4th. Lego Church:

10:30am, First Sunday of the month during morning service at St Edmund’s. For school age children. Please bring an adult. Contact rector@shipstonchurch.org.

6th. Shipston Library Reading Group:

2pm-3pm first Tuesday of each month.

6th & 20th. ‘Dance for Joy’ Monthly Circle Dance Group

in Stretton on Fosse 2.30 – 4pm. First and third Tuesday of each month. Dances from around the world – all taught from scratch. Please contact Geri Hunting geraldinehunting@icloud.com or 07968 338848

7th. Shipston Widows:

The first Wednesday of each month at the Horseshoe. Coffee from 11am and stay for lunch. Contact: Barbara Bean 6632304

7th. Shipston on Stour WI:

Cymbre Baseley – My Life as a Smallholder. Meetings held every first Wednesday of the month in The Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road Shipston on Stour CV36 4DR at 7pm. For more information contact: Gill Smith, telephone 07759 232899

7th & 21st. Stour Valley Stitchers:

10am-1pm, The Hall, Stourton, CV36 5HG. 1st & 3rd Wednesdays

8th. VE Day celebrations.

See page one for events. Shipston Museum is also open 12-4pm.

9th. Stour Valley Lions Cinema:

Conclave: see ad on page 10

10th. Stour Singers 50th Anniversary Concert:

see ad on page 16

10th-11th. Shipston Home Nursing: Plant and Produce Sales:

see ad on page 16

12th. Town Council Meeting:

7pm, New Clark House

13th. Stour Community Awareness Network (SCAN):

see ad on page 7

13th. Stour Valley Lions Meeting:

6:30pm – 9:30pm; The George Townhouse. 2nd Tuesday of every month

15th. Drop In Clinic:

For the over 65s. 10am-12pm, Scout Hut. Every third Thursday

16th. Shipston Music Society:

Methodist Church, 7.30pm. See ad on page 10

18th. The Great Duck Race:

see ad on page 16

19th. Holiday at Home:

see ad on page 4

19th. Become a Dementia Friend:

see ad on page 4

22nd-24th. Shipston Amateur Dramatics:

A Bunch of Amateurs: see ad on page 16

25th. Greg Brice:

Brailles Village Hall. Door 7pm, music 7.30pm: see ad on page 10

25th. Sports Club 50th Anniversary

Open Day. From 2pm at the Sports Club. See ad on p 11.

27th. Shipston U3A:

see ad on page 7

29th. Local Quaker Meeting for Worship:

St Edmund’s Church, last Thursday in the month at 2.30pm, followed by tea/coffee, biscuits & chat

Adverts

STOUR VALLEY LIONS CINEMA

SHIPTON
PIENNES

STANLEY
TOCCI

JOHN
LITWOW

CHARLTON
ROSELLINI

"ONE OF THE MOST ENTERTAINING
AND GRIPPING FILMS OF THE YEAR"

CONCLAVE

12

FROM ACADEMY AWARD WINNER
EDWARD NEELEY

12

Cardinal Lawrence is tasked with leading one of the world's most secretive and ancient events, selecting a new Pope, he finds himself at the centre of a web of conspiracies and intrigue that could shake the very foundation of the Catholic Church

TOWNSEND HALL

FRIDAY 9th May, 2025 at 7.30pm

Tickets on sale from The Flower House,
Shipston for cash £5.00, or pay on the door,
Drinks, Chocolate and raffle.

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History Day

3rd May

10.00-5.00

at St George’s Church

Exhibits, historical records, memorabilia,
maps, ‘Brailles Now and Then’ photos,
Shipston Museum – ‘Glimpses of Brailles’
Craft stalls, craft demonstrations.
Plants & Local Produce for sale
Refreshments in the Free School.
Have-a-go-at-archery
Best Dressed knight Competition
Judged at 2pm

SHIPSTON ON STOUR AREA

u3a


Registered Charity no 1170969

Tuesday May 27 2025

2.00 pm at the Townsend Hall

A talk by
Jenny Mallin

My British Raj Ancestors
seen through the eyes of
their granddaughter, we
discover ancestors who
were involved in the
positive changes to the
infrastructure of India
during the 19th century,
with the introduction of
English spoken throughout
India.



Members free

Visitors £2

Around town

Great Big Green Week

Get ready for Shipston's Great Big Green Week 7-15th June

Saturday 7th June

• Teddy Bears' Picnic, 12 noon-2pm, at the Scout Hut and Little Recreation Ground CV36 4AW.

After the usual monthly litter-pick, Great Big Green Week will begin with a community Teddy Bears Picnic. It's free to attend – just bring your own picnic and a teddy. We are encouraging plant-based picnics, free of single-use plastics. If you're stuck for ideas, contact us at SAFE (see below) for some tasty picnic suggestions and recipes.

Music will be provided by our very own ukulele group! There will also be a plant/seed swap, so if you have any leftover seeds or have grown too many tomatoes, feel free to bring them along. We want to make this a fun lunchtime gathering with hopefully blue skies! Dress up your teddies in their finest homemade outfits – there will be a prize for the best dressed bear. If wet, the picnic will be in the Scout Hut.

• Free film. The Age of Stupid. 7pm for 7.30pm, at the Scout Hut CV36 4AW

This film from 2009 starring Pete Postlethwaite is part drama, part documentary and part animation. It is set in the year 2055, in a world devastated by rising sea levels and various natural disasters; an archivist examines videos from 2008 to understand why humans didn't stop climate change before it was too late. Sixteen years later, are we any wiser?

Refreshments will be available, and the film starts at 7.30 pm.

• Fashion show and competition, 2- 4pm, at St Edmund's Church, Shipston.

Using clothes that are second-hand, home-made or from charity shops. We want to keep clothes out of the landfill. Children will be signed up either through the primary school, the youth club or the High School. Two age groups: Under 10 and 10-15, plus a couple of surprises! Two categories: Smart and Casual, pictured, right, are examples from a quick look round Shipston's charity shops.

Sunday 15th June

• River Day 10am-12 noon Bridge Car Park, Shipston CV36 4AW

There will be a Blessing of the River Stour by Shipston's Druid,



Martin Russell to help us celebrate our river, now and in future. There will also be music and an opportunity to try some citizen science. You can learn how to test the river water, and how to check for invertebrates using the kick sampling method.

• Free 'Wild Forage Walk' by Katie Beswick, starting at 1.30pm outside her shop, Little Bird Soaps in the alleyway next to Telegraph Street car park. CV36 4AF

We hope to see you all at the events!

For more information or for help in taking part, please contact Verity on 07929 889091 who will put you in touch with the leaders of each event.

Our summer visitors are coming!

With the turning of the year and the warming sunshine, we're expecting the arrival of our regular summer visitors. Some by car, coach or train, others under their own steam.

Swallows have already started to arrive, and we can hear the chiff-chaffs and maybe a cuckoo. All the birds are limbering up their vocal cords, ready for the dawn chorus. House martins will be entertaining us with their nest building under the eaves as a prelude to the swifts returning in mid-May.



The migration journeys of vast numbers of the world's creatures are an amazing thing to contemplate. For centuries they have travelled the earth, air, land or seas to find the optimum conditions for successful breeding and the continuation of their species. How wonderful that so many of them choose our British Isles as the best location for that success. Let's all do our bit to help maintain the habitats and ecosystems which will ensure their breeding success and survival into the future.

The end of June and into July sees the height of the aerial activity of swifts, so watch out for Swift Awareness Week, 28th June to 6th July this year, when I will once again be leading the annual Evening Swift Walks in Shipston. Details in next month's Forum.

Jacey Jackson

Museum honours VE Day

The 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day is marked on 8th May. As it is such a momentous moment in our history, our museum is opening its doors for this special occasion and invites you to see our Shipston Remembers display.

Our collection recognises local people, from the Women's Land Army to the Royal Flying Corps and the Home Guard. The cabinets include memorial plaques, medals, and civil defence leaflets. One highlight is the rare example of a Royal Flying Corps tunic, the uniform prior to the RAF. Not surprisingly this is fragile since it was last worn over 100 years ago.

Items such as this are too delicate and precious to touch, but we also have some 'handling' items like the VE Day and D-Day newspapers to look at and some ration books, war food recipes and cards. All are reproductions and touchable!

Trustee Stephen Hartley says: 'Eighty years ago the United

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Around town

Kingdom and its allies from around the globe celebrated VE Day – the end of the war in Europe. People from Shipston and the local district contributed to that existential effort. On Thursday, 8th May 2025 we come together to commemorate what came to be known as VE Day, and our thoughts turn to thanksgiving and remembrance of those millions that gave so much to achieve the freedom that we all enjoy today."

Shipston & District Museum is usually open weekends from 12 noon-4pm at Old Clark House, West Street, set back from the Council offices. **You are especially welcome to call in on our VE special open day on 8th May when we are open from 12 noon-4pm.**



Audience gets dug in

The last talk of the Museum winter/spring season talks programme saw more than 50 audience members at the Townsend Hall taken virtually underground by the speaker, Bekky Hillman, archaeobotanist and Museum chair. Archaeobotanical studies are a special branch of the study of plant remains from archaeological sites to examine how people used plants in the distant past, to understand their lives and to build up a picture of previous environments.

Bekky gave a fascinating talk, What Lies Beneath, about local developments and how their archaeology discovered finds including at the Ellen Badger Hospital, Pettifer's Garage, Campden Road development, Haddon Fields and the 5,000-year-old Newbold Henge.

Shipston Proms

We are now just over a month away from the launch of the 2025 Shipston Proms Music Festival, with over 40 events to enjoy over the fortnight. Amongst all the acts, we are delighted that the Youth Chorus of Longborough Opera will be giving us an exclusive rehearsal at an afternoon picnic at the Scout Hut on 15th June. They will be preparing for their performance for Dido and Aeneas as part of the Longborough Festival Opera Season 2025.

For the launch night on 13th June at the Townsend Hall, we have been spurred on (sorry) by Beyonce, so cowboy hats and rhinestones at the ready for an exciting evening of country and western music with Country Bound, an incredible line-up of fantastic country musicians.

As a finale to the festival, back by popular demand, we have the tribute rock royalty of The Rick Parfitt Junior Band who made a lasting impression on Shipston when they played three years ago. They are a band with a huge amount of energy and



Page 9

showmanship so are ideal headliners for the Shipston Final Night on 28th June.

A week before the Proms start in earnest, Shipston Introducing will be opening its doors at the Scout Hut to competitors on 8th June. Usually, it clashes with Father's Day so we hope that this change of date will encourage more performers to take part. For entry details please go to our website www.shipston.org. As usual, there will be two categories, one for bands and duets and the other for soloists, with the winner to play on the main stage supporting the headliners. It is really a great way to introduce your music to a wider audience. Plus, there is a small cash prize to collect.

We are delighted that we now have Rachel Oxton-King on board who is kindly and expertly redoing our website, so keep your eyes peeled for that. We still have a vacancy when longstanding chair Charlotte leaves her post, so please get in touch if you think you can help.

As we look forward to the Proms, we are also mindful of the feedback from some of the recent decisions we have made and have therefore decided to offer Friends' tickets at £50 with entrance to all Proms ticketed events as indicated in our booklet. We are very grateful for the generosity and constancy of the Friends through all the changes since the festival's inception in 1999.

The booklet will be coming through your doors soon. Look out for the venues taking part, not all in Shipston. These include the Cherington Village Hall, The George in Brailes, Talton Lodge near Newbold and the Lion at Tredington. For music – what DON'T we have? We've got all the above, plus an Oasis night, a Gilbert & Sullivan performance, an open mic night, folk evening, reggae and for the children, a musical picnic. And much, much more of course. See you there!



Shipston Proms Music Festival comes to a venue near you from 13-28th June.



Shipston Introducing 2024 winners Solo: Grace Rushbrooke
Credit Chris Roberts/Wider View




Shipston Introducing 2024 winners Band: Mad-thingz
Credit Chris Roberts/Wider View



Feldons Wildlife Group invite you to an illustrated talk on how
‘Swifts are Making a Comeback’


Jacey Jackson, lifelong enthusiast and founder of Shipston Action for Swifts will be sharing her passion for these birds



Wednesday 11th June @Cherington Village Hall
Doors open at 7:30pm with talk beginning at 8pm

Refreshments will be available and donations towards the cost of the talk would be much appreciated

For further information please contact Sue Williams 01608 686414



3 UK BLUES AWARD 2025 NOMINEE
BEST ACOUSTIC ACT, BEST CONTEMPORARY ACT AND
EMERGING ACT OF THE YEAR

GREG BRICE

BLUES IN BRITAIN
‘Incredible talent as a guitarist and songwriter’

SPRING DUO TOUR
featuring Jack Thomas on Bass

BLUES MATTERS
‘A brilliant set, mellow, musical, and thoughtprovoking, a treat for the senses, a great musician.’

FATEA
‘the most exquisite finger-picked acoustic blues that you could wish to hear.’

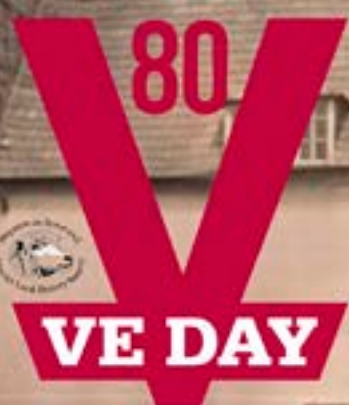
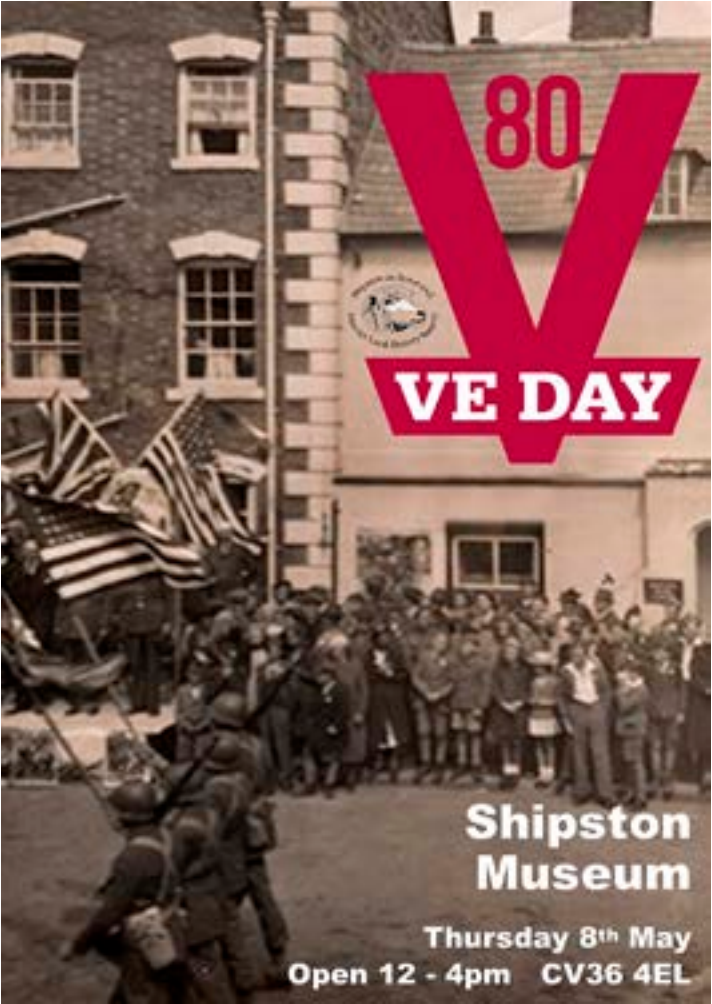
BRAILES VILLAGE HALL
Sunday 25th May
Doors 7pm | Music 7:30pm
TICKETS £10

available on the door
or online at
gregbricemusic.co.uk/shows

LICENSED BAR







Shipston Museum
Thursday 8th May
Open 12 - 4pm CV36 4EL

Shipston Primary School

Thrive Ambassador Award

Thrive is a national programme that the Primary School has been part of for several years. It gives children the skills and vocabulary to identify and manage their feelings and behaviours to enable them to develop healthy relationships. We were thrilled to recently be awarded Thrive Ambassador status, recognising the work that we do to empower children. This has been a big school effort, superbly led by Mrs Faulkner, our Pastoral Manager and Family Liaison Officer led.

The Shipston Spirit Awards

We were very proud to be invited by our Town Mayor, John Dinnie, to speak at his Town Service at St. Edmund’s Church in March about the Shipston Spirit Awards. Mayor Dinnie’s theme during his term of office has been community and service - how we all can help do our bit to keep Shipston as a lovely place to live in, where we care for and help each other.



John awarded our first ever Shipston Spirit badges at the start of January. Darcy, Megan, Beatrix, Albert and Mae spoke wonderfully about how they are enjoying taking part in the challenges, how they can see that taking part in the awards is helping them to develop and also how much fun they have with some of the tasks - designing and flying planes with his dad was Albert’s favourite task so far! All of the children reported that their favourite part of the awards was being able to spend quality time playing games with their adults.

Also at the service were children from Brownies and Cubs who are showing the commitment to being part of making our school and town communities happy places to be. Congratulations to all of our children for representing themselves and us so well.

Introducing our new Assistant Headteachers

I was very pleased to announce when we returned from our Easter holiday that Mrs Phillips and Mrs Molson will be starting new positions in school as our Assistant Headteachers. Both have worked at Shipston Primary for many years, showing great dedication and skill in helping our school to become the best that it can be. I know that the passion they have for our children, school and community will help us to continue to develop and be the very best school that we can be.






Music in Shakespeare,
Shakespeare in Music: from
Greensleeves to Verdi.



Simon Smith
Associate Professor of
Shakespeare and Early Modern Drama,
The Shakespeare Institute,
University of Birmingham.



Friday 16th May, 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

OXFORDSHIRE

art

WEEKS

17th to 26th May 2025

www.artweeks.org



Shipston Sports Club

ANNIVERSARY
1975 **50th** 2025
YEARS

Sunday 25th May

JUNIOR FOOTBALL & CRICKET GAMES,
ADULT FUN WALKING FOOTBALL,
HOCKEY SKILLS
OPEN TENNIS & BOWLS

Pimm’s/Prosecco Bar & Normal Bar
Ice Cream, Food, Teas & Cakes
Music 5-8pm

At The Sports Club - Starts 2pm

Calling ALL past SEFC players to join us to celebrate 50 years!
Pop on a shirt and trainers again for a friendly
10 minutes walking football.
Please contact Dave Murphy 07973 468334 or Paul Cartwright 07747 464089

Probus

Cornwall’s communication heritage

Probus member John Moyle has had an unusual career; having started with Mullards radio valve company he changed to medicine, subsequently working in the hospice movement and palliative care. In retirement, John researched the history of Cornish communications for a PhD.

The invention of the Morse code, and using copper wires to transmit messages, introduced the ‘copper era’ in the 19th century. This was a great advance but restricted to land only, until the development of submarine cables. A cable station was built in 1870 at Porthcurno in west Cornwall, but messages were limited by the technology of the cables: the early transmission managed about four words every minute.

Copper cables were superseded by wireless communication. Marconi is attributed with the first wireless transmission across the Atlantic. During World War II, three to four hundred words per minute could be sent from West Cornwall to America.

With the onset of the space age, Goonhilly Downs Satellite Earth Station on the Lizard Peninsular has over 60 satellite dishes; a location chosen despite the advice of Marconi who claimed: ‘it is a bog, do not use’. On the north coast of Cornwall, near Bude, GCHQ has a satellite receiving station on high isolated cliffs, all very top secret!

Probus members thanked John for a fascinating, well-illustrated presentation and pressed him with many questions until the bar opened followed by our usual most satisfying lunch.

If you feel Probus could appeal to you, then why not give us a try as our guest? Enjoy a free lunch and no initial commitment to join, entirely your choice! Please contact Tony Joint on 01608 663407 or email tonyjoint73@hotmail.com for further details.

Shipston Music Society

On 11th April we met in the Methodist Church to hear Japheth Law, a young Malaysian flautist, accompanied by Charles Matthews.

Japheth began with a short introduction about himself before playing Elgar’s well-known Salut d’amour. Immediately one was impressed by Japheth’s lovely phrasing and clear tone quality. Fantaisie Pastorale Hongroise by flute virtuoso Franz Doppler was a lively contrast. This piece with very fast scale passages demanded a secure and confident execution which Japheth was able to deliver with ease. Madrigal by Philippe Gaubert, with imitation between the two performers, was a more modern-sounding piece. Chanson by Yiqing Zhu was an exciting piece for listeners to discuss during the interval.

The second part of the evening began with John Rutter’s Suite Antique. Japheth obviously enjoyed playing this and his beautiful legato performance was a delight. Next on the programme, Signs of the Zodiac by Charles Matthews. The evening ended with Earth by Takatsugu Muramatsu which again highlighted the high level of performance that we had all enjoyed throughout the evening from Japheth and Charles. It was outstanding – and was rewarded with rapturous applause.

On 16th May we will have a talk entitled Shakespeare in music, from Greensleeves to Verdi, by Simon Smith from the Shakespeare Institute. We do hope that you will join us - and do bring your friends too.



Stour Community Action Network (SCAN)



At SCAN’s March meeting, representatives of the Town Council, the District Council and the County Council gave illuminating explanations of the roles and responsibilities of each of the councils. We are very grateful to Jo Barker, Olivia Hatch, Dave Passingham and John Dinnie for making the time to attend.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, 13th May at 10am in the Townsend Hall. All will be welcome at the meeting – there is no charge. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available from 10am. The formal meeting will start at 10.30am with a talk by Ray Coyte on Shipston First Responders. Do come and hear about this incredibly valuable group of volunteers.

Please call me on 01608 662998 if you would like to know more. Laurie Grove

Shipston Literary Society

When it comes to telling a story, Dame Prof Karin Barber can really cast a spell over her listening audience. At times she had members of the Shipston and District Literary Society in fits of laughter, at times she had us concentrating, at all times she held our attention.

Karin, who is Emeritus Professor of African Cultural Anthropology at Birmingham University and Visiting Professor of Anthropology at the London School of Economics, lived and worked for 11 years in southwest Nigeria. It was here that she obtained her PhD, researching the oral culture of African peoples – storytelling and theatre. Her research was based on the Yoruba people in her part of Nigeria, but referenced all parts of the continent.



Storytelling and performance came before written literature in all cultures. Even before beginning to write a book, you must have a good story to tell. But storytelling is much more complex than that and is still just as strong today as when the Yoruba were telling tales around the fire generations ago. Think about when you read stories to your young children and take on all the voices of all the characters. You’re not just reading words written in a book. By giving a performance, you are bringing the tale to life. And look closely at modern day rap music, she said. The performer is giving a tale of life on the street, or the condition parts of society find themselves in, told in an emotional and powerful way.

She spoke about how storytelling has evolved and is

evolving. Globally, it was once the most powerful means of communication, then fell out of favour and is now seeing a revival. The renewed form is not the same as the old storytelling, for example in the Yoruba region a new travelling theatre is becoming increasingly popular. A band of young actors travels from region to region and puts on spontaneous performances, referencing people and events in the villages and towns they visit. Often they satirise bad behaviour and local wrongdoing.

It was a fascinating evening well spent.

Our programme of speakers has now finished for the year and will restart in September. For the summer we have our social gatherings, from our ever-popular cheese and wine event through to the annual outing, this year to Canons Ashby in Northamptonshire. The AGM, when our new programme will be announced, is in August at the Tredington Community Hall and will be followed by a lunch.

Working with the Lions



As the end of the Lions’ financial year approached, we granted over £6,000 to a variety of local causes and projects at the recent Lions Den. Look out as we feature the details of these on our Facebook page.

All profits raised by our events are granted to charitable causes, with over 90% going to local organisations or individuals in need in Shipston and its surrounding areas. However, we could not achieve this without the generosity of local businesses and organisations. We are always grateful for any support whether through sponsoring, providing raffle prizes, taking part in special events, displaying our posters or anything that helps us to increase the amount of money we raise – and pass on to our community.

Thank you to the businesses that support us year-round. The PiR Partnership on Stratford Road have examined our accounts; the Co-op in the High Street allow us to sell raffle tickets and the Easter Egg Draw in their shop; The George Townhouse provides space for our meetings; The Flower House in Market Place sells tickets for our monthly Community Film Evening and Shipston Town Council provide a Community Grant to cover some of the costs of putting on the Shipston Food Festival. Over 20 other businesses and organisations have provided raffle prizes or sponsored us, and these are listed on our website at <https://www.stourvalleylionsevents.club/sponsoring>.



Donations for victims of Myanmar Earthquake

(Stour Valley Lions: CIO Registration Number 1191826)

Monies raised will be sent direct to Lions Clubs in Myanmar working in humanitarian relief operations

THANK YOU

If you are interested in supporting our efforts, please consider sponsoring an event. One of our regular Community Film

Evenings or Bumper Book Sales could bear your company’s name from as little as £50; a race at the annual Duck Race on 18th May could be named after your company; or you could donate a prize for our summer or Christmas raffle. In every case, you can be assured that your name will be promoted through our social media and on print material where appropriate. If you want to help us in any way, please contact our sponsor coordinator Duncan Cashmore on 07984 986350.

Astronomical Society News



The Stratford-upon-Avon Astronomical Society meets every first and third Tuesday at 8pm (doors open at 7.30pm) at Alderminster Village Hall. Everyone is welcome, especially beginners and those wanting to learn more. The first Tuesday is a club night. In May that will be on 6th May and the speaker on the third Tuesday 20th May will be Dr Steve Barrett, from the University of Liverpool, with two talks called The Lighter Side of Astronomy and First Eye on the Sky. Please note that the speakers usually start quite promptly at 8pm.

Adrian Wakeham sets out what to look out for this month.

As the days lengthen, and the nights shorten, the astronomy opportunities lessen but we must make the best of what’s available.

The obvious constellations are Leo the Lion (although it looks more like a flat iron or mouse) and Virgo (the Y) which is dominated by the bright white star Spica. If you head backwards up towards the Plough’s panhandle, you’ll see the bright yellow star Arcturus, which is the nearest red giant star just over 36 light years away.



credited to Stellarium

Two planets will be dominant. In the evening, Mars, which is the pink star closest to Gemini’s stars Castor and Pollux. On the third of May Mars will be closest to the Beehive Cluster (which is just visible to the naked eye, but is a beautiful sight in binoculars). The “star” of the morning is the planet Venus emerging from the glare of the Sun. On the 22nd to 24th, Venus, Saturn and the Moon are all in close proximity. Please make sure that the Sun is below the horizon, you can then use binoculars to reveal the crescent shape of Venus.

For more details about the Society, go to <http://www.astro.org.uk> or contact the Chair, John Waller john.waller@astro.org.uk or on 07703 192188.

Shipston Cricket Club

We are really looking forward to the start of the new season with our first League game at home against Wellesbourne on Saturday 3rd May. This is also the now annual Turner/Bradley cup match held in honour of John Bradley and John Turner who were both dedicated to Shipston and Wellesbourne cricket clubs. Spectators are always welcome!

Our home fixtures for May are: Saturday 3rd: Wellesbourne (1st Team); 10th May: Henley-in-Arden (2nd Team); 17th May: Stoneleigh (2nd Team); 24th May: Adlestrop (1st Team); 31st May: Kineton (1st Team)

All Stars and Dynamos youth cricket start on Friday 9th May at 6pm.

County Council

It’s a privilege to be a county councillor. It’s not always easy and you’re not always popular. I can say that I always do my best, and to anyone who has ever asked for help, you will know my mantra is that the hungry, homeless and abused always take precedence. We do live in a difficult time where change seems constant and the ‘system’ seems pitched against us, so I seem to be asked for help more than ever.

I first agreed to stand as a county councillor because I thought there had to be a way through the bureaucracy and waste. I still think that, and have redoubled my efforts to challenge wasteful practices, but it can be like wading through treacle.

I have given this preamble for two reasons. First, it is harder than ever to encourage people to put themselves forward in public positions. As I write there are two vacancies on Shipston Town Council – again. The commitment and responsibility can feel overwhelming at times, for volunteers, but we have great staff and a can-do attitude and I find the cooperation in our lovely town to be inspiring. We also have fun! The second reason is more personal. I enjoy what I do, even when I get brickbats thrown at me (though I might moan about it - ask my husband!) I truly believe that there is a better way of doing government, at whatever level. I have been encouraged over the last few months of campaigning with the amazing conversations I have had with you.

So here are a few examples of what local people are thinking and my thoughts back!

‘Why do all these road works take so long?’ Over complicated arrangements for short term fixes - do we really need this many traffic lights?

‘Why can’t my child take the school bus?’ You opt for the choice you want for your child and if WCC does not support your application for a bus place you have to pay. Choice is there by law, but the unintended consequence is the potential cost or need to take your child to school. This is just one example of not thinking things through to their logical consequence which drives us all nuts!

‘How come we are being asked to have another 3,000 homes built here?’ Arbitrary numbers applied across the board, ignoring the obvious – such as Fell Mill is a floodplain (clue is in the name) – or that any more sewage in our system will mean we are wading in it. I know I have become obsessed by what is not us under our feet, but I am afraid it is obvious that not many decision makers is not us!

‘Why do I have to wait so long for my carer to come?’ We need to value carers and their profession. We don’t do so properly and even though we do our best we all need to think of the real value (and cost). Let’s try and get them spread less thin.

‘What are you doing about...’ (fill in your question here and email me).

Do get in touch any time - on 07748968712 or jmvbarker@gmail.com

Belated Happy Easter and good luck in exams to those facing them.

Yours ever, Jo

Jo Barker

County Councillor, Shipston Division

07748968712 | jobarker@warwickshire.gov.uk

Letters

Jo Barker is absolutely right to applaud the Stour community’s can-do attitude and enthusiasm for working in partnership to tackle social isolation and other major health and wellbeing issues.

This spirit is epitomised by the Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership (SHWP) which is setting standards across the county, and beyond, for bringing the statutory, private and voluntary sectors together as partners to deliver initiatives for all ages.

There’s much more to do. The SHWP will continue to play a leading role – run by the community, focused on our priorities, armed with funding for full-time staff and making full use of the health and wellbeing centre at the new Ellen Badger.

Trevor Russel

District Council

The big news this month is (not the election!) we can now put all that pesky plastic wrapping in our recycling bin! Of course, it’s better to buy less stuff with less packaging, but sometimes it can’t be avoided. These are the new items that Warwickshire now recycles:

Plastic bags (including those used for fruit and veg, frozen food, bread, cereal); confectionery wrappers (including those used for sweets, biscuits, cakes, ice cream, and chewing gum); foil lined packaging (including crisp and snack packets and coffee bags); plastic film and sleeves; outer wrappings (including for fish, meat, and cheese); bubble wrap (max 1m sections); cling film; and fruit and veg net bags.

Remember all recycling needs to be rinsed – strictly no food in your rubbish or recycling bins; scrape it all into your food caddies.

And if this means your recycling bin starts to overflow, you can put any extra in a rigid container, cardboard box, or clear plastic bag. All items will be separated for sorting at the recycling facility in Coventry, so it should all be loose within the recycling bins. Also, next to your bins, you can put in separate bags; textiles, household batteries, and small electrical items.

Hopefully, your black bins will be emptier, but the following still needs to go in there: sachets and pouches, polystyrene, foam, blister packs, crisp tubes, disposable nappies.

Recycling is something Stratford District can be proud of. We are third in England, recycling 61% of our household waste.

A total of 6,084 people responded to the South Works Local Plan. I know a good number of them were from Shipston, so we wait until the winter to see if they still think Shipston can ‘strategically grow’.

I hope you’re enjoying the proliferation of cowslips, cuckooflower, and ox-eye daisies (amongst other flowers), during No Mow May – the insects certainly are.

Olivia Hatch

District Councillor, Shipston North

07752 562114 | olivia.hatch@stratford-dc-gov.uk

I want to add my heartfelt agreement to the Mayor’s comments in the April Forum about the beautiful displays of daffodils around town – such a lovely spring-welcoming sign. A very big thank-you to all the Shipston in Bloom volunteers for their hard work.

I just have one small query - what happened this year to the daffs usually to be seen in the six planters by the Telegraph St car park? Year after year they’ve been like bright dollops of golden sunshine there to enjoy whenever I opened my front door in March/April. I have really missed seeing them this Spring - please bring them back in 2026.

J. Harris



Your town councillors



John Dinnie, Mayor

Environmental Working Group, Co-Chair

t: 01608 664590

e: john.dinnie@shipstontowncouncil.org



Tony Booth, Deputy Mayor

General Purposes and Communications Working Group Chair

e: tony.booth@shipstontowncouncil.org



Gerry Kelly

Planning Committee Vice Chair

t: 07471 687720

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Ian Cooper

Finance Working Group Chair

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Paul Tesh

Planning Committee Chair

t: 07711 433566

e: paul.tesh@shipstontowncouncil.org



Jo Barker

t: 07748 968712

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



Hilary Kelly

Environmental Working Group, Co-Chair

e: hilary.kelly@shipstontowncouncil.org



Chris Howarth

Heritage, Amenities and Leisure Projects Working Group Chair

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Michelle Kelly

e: michelle.kelly@shipstontowncouncil.org



Richard Walters

e: richard.walters@shipstontowncouncil.org



John Williams

e: john.williams@shipstontowncouncil.org



Vacancy



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

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

General Enquiries

t: 01608 662180 e: enquiries@shipstontowncouncil.org

Town Clerk

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County Council Contact:

Councillor Jo Barker

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District Council Contacts:

Dave Passingham (Shipston South)

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

Olivia Hatch (Shipston North)

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

t: 07973 846605

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.



Shipston Amateur Dramatic Society present

A BUNCH OF AMATEURS

A Comedy by Ian Hislop
& Nick Newman



22nd, 23rd & 24th May 2025 at 7.30pm
Townsend Hall, Sheep Street, Shipston on Stour

Tickets available from John Lyne Home Hardware or
ticketsource.co.uk £10 (Strong language advisory 18+)

www.shipstondramagroup.org
Licensed by Concord Theatricals Ltd

Sponsored by  **The Fuzzy Duck** Armscote
brought to you by 

Stour Valley Lions **FISH'n'FROLICS**

Sunday 18th May

Races from 12pm

at Shipston Bridge



The Great Duck Race

CASH PRIZES!

**£1 a Duck per race. Buy on the day,
or 10th & 17th May at The Coop**

All profits to Shipston Home Nursing and FISH'n'FROLICS - Shipston Young Anglers



Charity Plant and Home Produce Sales



Sponsored by  **NFU Mutual**
CENTRAL SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE



Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th May

Our popular sales return in local villages and towns, stalls confirmed so far are:

| | | |
|------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Barcheston | Great Wolford | Stretton on Fosse |
| Brailes | Halford | Shipston on Stour |
| Cherington | Ilmington | Wellesbourne |
| Ettington | Kineton | Whatcote |
| | Long Compton | Whichford |

To donate plants and produce please contact us at
fundraising@shipstonhomenursing.co.uk or on 01608 664 850

www.shipstonhomenursing.co.uk/events
Registered Charity No. 1162586


Stour Singers

50TH


ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

Brahms' Requiem


Conducted by Richard Emms




Lynn Arnold and Charles Matthews



Richard Emms




Robyn Pullen, Soprano



Roderick Williams, Baritone

SATURDAY 10TH MAY 2025, 7.30PM
ST EDMUND'S CHURCH, SHIPSTON ON STOUR

TICKETS £24*



* accompanied children free