



Shipston Forum

June 2025

Memories and celebrations for VE Day at 80

'We should be renamed Shipston-on-Telly!' joked museum trustee Stephen Hartley after the BBC Midlands Today made the town the centrepiece of its coverage of the 80th anniversary of VE Day on 8th May. Reporter Joan Cummins interviewed residents, including Doreen Knapton, 101, who remembered 'doing her bit' by working in the town's munitions factory. Bernard Maguire reminisced about the original VE celebrations while Graham Wilkes recalled the figure of Hitler on top of the celebratory bonfire.



Eighty years on, the blazing beacon lit up the night sky once more at the end of a day of events which began early with the Town Crier's proclamation and a wreath-laying ceremony at the Gyratory memorial.



Shipston Branch Royal British Legion outside the Museum.

ArchiWildish, with their colourful display created by the Brownies and Rainbows, was the winner of the Best Dressed Window. Over 30 shops took part.



There were some treats for those old and wise enough to be able to remember the original celebrations, with music, laughter and even dancing at the Scout Hut during a celebratory lunch (cake pictured below), and an outdoor party at Low Furlong.



More VE Day words and pictures on pages 8-9.

There's a new Mayor in town

Shipston has a new Mayor. At the annual Mayor-making ceremony on 12 May, Tony Booth was elected unanimously by the members of the Town Council. He has pledged to support this 'amazing town' and told the Forum that he is proud of the Shipston tradition of volunteering and coming together to support all parts of the community, from the young to the elderly and those in need. Tony has a track record in volunteering himself, from youth and Scout leadership to First Responders, not forgetting his years of service on the Town Council. He expects there will be challenges in the year ahead as well as plenty to celebrate, with events from the Proms to VJ Day. He has also promised to highlight local businesses – watch this space! You can read Tony's first column on page 2.

Tony behind the wheel of the 'First Responders' latest vehicle. Full story of the car on page 5.



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Mayor’s column

Dear Shipston,

And so it begins. My term as Mayor of Shipston-on-Stour. (Wow, me! Are they mad?) I’m not sure how I got here, but what a fantastic opportunity to represent our amazing town and community. Thank you to all of my councillor colleagues for their trust in me to represent Shipston. I also thank our outgoing Mayor, John Dinnie, for his enthusiasm and dedication to his duty last year. His passion to work with the community was there for all to see as he supported the challenges at the Ellen Badger Hospital, as he continues to do.

A warm welcome to Councillor Richard Walters as my Deputy Mayor for this year. I should also mention my wife of 35 years, Her Lady Mayoress Jane. Together we hope to attend as many local events as our calendars will allow.

I have thought long and hard about what to put in my column as I would like to keep it upbeat and focused on the issues that we all care about rather than just bang on like Donald Trump about all the nice things I’ve been doing last month. So: let’s Make Shipston Great Again! To that end, I would like to shine a light on our town and particularly those who serve within our community. There will be a Focus On... column to showcase local independent businesses. I will be getting out to meet some of the special people in our community who I will introduce to you, and I hope that some of my enthusiasm will shine through as the year progresses.

Shipston is facing a number of challenges this year, as we all know.

- We are already marking out the battle lines for the sheer volume of new-build housing sites that have been proposed as part of the South Warwickshire Local Plan.
- The refuse tip has been earmarked for review as a potential site for residential properties – that’s rubbish, I hear you say!
- We will be losing our last remaining bank in November.
- Proposed developments for Sainsburys: another emotive subject that has divided opinion.
- The list goes on.

However, there is still plenty for us all to look forward to and get excited about this year including:

- 80th anniversary VE/VJ commemorations and Remembrance Day.
- The annual Proms and Shipston Bookfest, both looking to be bigger and better than ever.
- Hopefully a new and permanent building for Shipston Youth Club is around the corner.
- The opening of the new Ellen Badger Hospital (controversial to many, I know, but I will be focusing on the positive bits!)

Some of you reading this may also know me as a local Community First Responder. Or remember me as a Scout leader or a Youth Leader. Either way, I am passionate about serving our town and playing a small part in helping the community where I live, and where I hope I can simply help to make a difference. Being a Town Councillor for the last three years has provided me with just such an opportunity to support our community and I pay tribute to all of my fellow councillors who all work so hard, voluntarily, to help the town overcome the constant challenges that are thrown at us and the wider community including those listed above.

This year, for my Mayoral Charity, I intend to support the young people of our town by helping Shipston Youth Club with their ongoing efforts to raise funds for a new building.

Also, in this special 80th Remembrance year, I will support Shipston Royal British Legion in their efforts to raise funds for our own armed service men, women and veterans.

Finally, a big shout out to the organisers of the Beacon for VE day celebrations. A great evening with a buzzing crowd to watch as our beacon lit up a very clear night sky. In the distance other beacons were also visible and in an ironic twist, our own Shipston fire crew were called away from our event – to attend another beacon! Then, on the way back they were called to attend another fire – the Shipston Beacon!

So, on that bombshell, thank you for taking the time to read my first column. I’m now off to take receipt of a luxury jumbo jet from Dubai so that I can conduct my Mayoral duties around Warwickshire and beyond! I look forward to speaking with you again next month.

Your Mayor,

Tony Booth

News from Shipston Town Council's May meeting

New mayor voted in

Mayor-Making was the main item on the agenda of the Town Council meeting on 12th May. Town crier Marion Lowe introduced proceedings with a flourish, and then the annual change of Mayor took place. Outgoing Mayor John Dinnie proposed Tony Booth as his successor. The nomination was unanimously supported by all members of the council. Cllr Booth then read his declaration of office, and the mayoral chain was duly handed over. The next step was the appointment of the Deputy Mayor, and the nomination of Cllr Richard Walters was again accepted unanimously.



Tribute to John Dinnie

Tony Booth paid tribute to his predecessor with a brief reflection on his time in office. He thanked John Dinnie for his work during a year which has not been without challenges, and said he had steered the ship smoothly, overseeing more efficient ways of working at the Council and a transition to a new office team, as well as being a welcome presence at many events and in his support for the businesses in town. He said John had shown unwavering commitment to the cause of the Ellen Badger hospital with his work for the Beds4Badger group as he navigated his conflicting position between campaigning, his council remit and his neutral position as Mayor, always showing compassion and drive to do the right thing. He concluded by saying the council was now in a better



position to take on the fresh challenges which he anticipated will include health, emergency services, the waste disposal site and local planning but there was also much to look forward to in the town’s many events, which this year will include the anniversary celebrations of VJ Day in August.

Tony ended by saying ‘I hope I will do you proud in taking on the mantle and will continue to support our amazing town and community.’

Thanks from John

John Dinnie thanked all the councillors, saying that every single one had always stepped up when asked to help out, even if they had disagreed. He thanked the council staff, including Helen Morgan who has now retired, for her invaluable knowledge.

Councillor G Kelly also finally received his medal of recognition for his time as Mayor from 2023-24.

Meet the new mayor

Tony Booth has lived in Shipston for over 20 years. An RAF baby born in Lincolnshire, Tony was educated mainly in Stratford. He and his wife Jane moved to the town from Buckingham and have brought up four children here. Emily, James, Oliver and Maria all attended Shipston High School and Jane works at Kitebrook School. Tony, who works in procurement for Jaguar Land Rover, has always given his time to volunteer in the town. He has been Scout Leader, as well as a Youth Leader. The First Responders is a cause close to his heart, and he has volunteered with these vital local lifesavers for 13 years.



Tony has chosen Shipston Youth Club as his main charitable cause to support its ongoing efforts to find a permanent home, and will also support the Royal British Legion for their continuing work with veterans in this landmark year.

Planning

Council discussed the launch of an initiative by Bellway Homes over the potential development of two plots of land off Darlingscote Road. The developer has been issuing communications in the form of leafleting and social media which it has termed a public consultation over the developments. The Town Council will write to the planning authority to make clear that Bellway’s actions do not constitute a public consultation and ask that the District Council strongly resists such speculative efforts while the new Local Plan is in progress, with a reminder that the town has already exceeded its allocation of housing under the current Local Plan without any additional infrastructure, health or education provision.

Stour Valley Lions -working for your community



Last month we shone a spotlight on some of the wonderful local companies who regularly support our events through financial sponsorship and in-kind help, as well as detailing how you or your company can help us to raise money for our community.

But where does the money go?

In late March we held our annual Lions’ Den, where grants are awarded to local groups and organisations to help them further their aims with the Stour Valley community. This year the Club received a record 20 bids for funding. All of them were carefully scrutinised by the Club’s Welfare Team, which recommended 10 for approval.

Stour Valley Lions President Paul Macpherson says: ‘The club is proud to be able to support these wonderful local causes. Their stories are humbling and the commitment of their volunteers is amazing.’



Awards were made as follows:

- Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership for lunch with entertainment for the residents of Shipston on Stour to celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE Day.
- Shipston Excelsior Pan-disability football club received a donation towards training shirts, tracksuits and Match Day kits for new young people – look for our logo next time you watch them train or play.
- Newbold and Tredington Parents Teachers Friends Association asked for money to go towards a defibrillator on the Newbold school site.
- Shipston Junior Angling Club needed storage capacity for tackle, equipment and work tools for bank clearing and maintenance. We were happy to provide funds to help them acquire a container.
- Tysoe Village Hall Trust are currently refurbishing the kitchen to enhance the facilities available to the community and asked for our help to purchase a fridge freezer.



- Shipston Area Flood Action Group (SAFAG) will use their award to produce and distribute an educational/flood advice leaflet in high-risk areas.
- The Warm Hub cookery lessons (part of Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership) now have suitable equipment for twice monthly lessons.
- Carers4Carers asked for financial support towards the cost of providing their Carer Wellbeing Programme, monthly newsletter and telephone.
- Shipston Book Fest (right) sought assistance with schools’ book events.
- Shipston Sports Bowls Club needed a green sprayer to improve the bowling surface – we were happy to match the funds they had already raised themselves.



Would you like to help us make our fundraising events happen? The next one is Bingo on Saturday 16th August. Call us on 0345 833 2835 or go to <https://www.stourvalleylionsevents.club/> contact to find out how you could get involved.

Gear up for Great Big Green Week

Great Big Green Week (7th-15th June) is the UK’s biggest celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature. Organised by the Climate Coalition, it brings communities together in a wave of support for action to protect the planet. Since the first Great Big Green Week in September 2021, it has continued to grow and last year 600,000 people around the UK took part.



Swapping is a big theme of the week, encouraging everyone to consider exchanging instead of throwing away, or to swap skills, ideas, items and even habits to show support for a safer, greener, fairer future.

Here’s what’s happening in Shipston during the week:

- 7th June: Teddy Bears’ Picnic, 12noon-2pm Scout Hut & Little Recreation Ground CV36 4AW. Bring your own picnic and a teddy – dress it up in a homemade outfit for a chance to win Best-Dressed! Music by our very own ukulele group ‘Misspent Ukes’. In the Scout Hut if wet.
- 7th June: Free Film ‘The Age of Stupid’ 7pm for 7.30 at the Scout Hut.
- 14th June: Fashion Show and Competition 2-4pm at St Edmund’s Church, using clothes that are second-hand, home-made or from charity shops. Two age groups: Under 10 and 10-15 and two categories, Smart and Casual.
- 15th June, Blessing of the River Stour by Shipston’s Druid,

Martin Russell. Gather at 10am for 10.30. You can learn how to test the river water too.

15th June, 1.30pm Wild Forage Walk by Katie Beswick, starting from Little Bird Soaps next to Telegraph Street car park.

For more information contact Verity on 07929 889091.

Churches Count on Nature

This annual event takes place nationwide between 7-15th June. If you would like to join in, St Edmund’s churchyard is open every day for you to sit and relax or explore. Enter by the gate being currently used, on the left side of the church. You can just sit and observe birds, butterflies or flowers, or perhaps you could go searching in the longer grass for mini-beasts, or lift some stones or logs to see what’s underneath. (Make sure you put the stone back!). It’s even more helpful if you can record what you have seen, either on the iNaturalist app or on paper which you can leave in the back of the church. Take advantage of a little piece of nature, right in the centre of Shipston.



All a-flutter in Cornmill Meadows

There is excellent news about our new Wildlife Site from Mike Slater, chair of Warwickshire Butterfly Conservation, following his latest survey of Cornmill Meadows.



In addition to recording Large White, Peacock and Speckled Wood butterflies, Mike found eggs belonging to the Brimstone butterfly on the new hedge planted by our team of volunteers early in 2023. He also found Orange Tip butterfly eggs on some Garlic Mustard plants. The 900-plus hedge shrubs planted by our volunteers are now getting well established and it is wonderful that our planting is already improving the biodiversity of this wildlife site.

Another new hedge has been planted in River Meadow, again with the help of volunteers; hopefully this will become a source of more breeding by butterflies.

A lovely little flowering plant known as Lady’s Smock is beginning to establish itself around the site, especially welcome as this, along with Garlic Mustard, is an important foodplant for the Orange Tip butterfly. However, more work is needed to encourage both plants to flourish.



The community orchard continues to grow well, and a decision will be taken soon about whether to let some trees fruit this year or give them another year to improve their root structure.

We are delighted to receive a grant from Stratford District Council for an information board by the entrance to the site.

We have been aware that background information concerning Cornmill Meadows has been lacking; the new board will enable us to inform people about what is happening, and what to look out for.

As always, we ask all dog walkers to support us by keeping dogs on leads especially at this time of year, and please clear up after your dog. Thank you to the resident who leaves spare dog poo bags at the entrance, much appreciated!

If you have not visited Cornmill Meadows, the address is London Road, CV36 4HZ. If you use W3W: [///dislodge.wonderfully.pounces](https://www.w3w.co.uk/dislodge.wonderfully.pounces)

Hilary Kelly
First Responders’ new wheels

Two years ago, Community First Responder Tony Booth entered an internal competition at Jaguar Land Rover, where he works, to compete against other charity groups for the opportunity to win a new car. He and the team were delighted when they found out last year that they had won a brand new Land Rover Discovery Sport and since then the car has been manufactured and liveried up ready for service in Shipston.

On Thursday 8th May, Tony along with Scheme coordinator Stuart Eastbury and other colleagues, attended the JLR HQ at Gaydon to take receipt of the car. Tony said, ‘this is a very proud moment both as an employee of JLR and as a First Responder. We are very grateful to JLR for this incredibly generous donation of a Land Rover Discovery Sport which will help us to serve the community for years to come and enable us to attend call-outs in our rural community where access can sometimes be particularly difficult. The car will no doubt help us to save lives.’

The car will be fitted out with lights and radio equipment over the coming weeks by West Midlands Ambulance Service to bring it up to operational readiness. It will replace the older ambulance which, in turn, will be transferred to Alcester First Responders and the new Discovery will join the new Subaru ambulance that was kindly gifted by the generous fund raising of the town and local charities last year

Both vehicles will be used by our growing team that now numbers 15 First Responders with additional members who support community training and defibrillator management.



L-R Tony Booth, Stu Eastbury, Josh Rowley, Hayley Cotton, Ray Coyte

Regular Events

Monday

Seated Exercise Class: 11am Ellen Badger Health and Wellbeing hub

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, Scout Hut

Standing Tai Chi: 10.30am, Scout Hut

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 4PE, 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

What’s On Calendar: June 2025

- 1st. Lego Church: First Sunday of the month during morning service at St Edmund’s. For school age children. Please bring an adult. Contact rector@shipstonchurch.org.
- 3rd. Shipston Library Reading Group: 2pm-3pm first Tuesday of each month.
- 3rd. Shipston Medical Centre Meeting for Patients - see ad on page 7
- 3rd & 17th. ‘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
- 4th. Shipston Widows: The first Wednesday of each month at the Horseshoe. Coffee from 11am and stay for lunch. Contact: Barbara Bean 6632304
- 4th. Shipston on Stour WI: Warwickshire Search & Rescue. Meetings held every first Wednesday of the month in The Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscott Road Shipston on Stour CV36 4DR at 7.00 pm. For more information contact: Gill Smith – Telephone 07759 232899
- 4th & 18th. Stour Valley Stitchers: 10am-1pm, The Hall, Stourton, CV36 5HG. 1st & 3rd Wednesdays
- 6th. Stour Valley Lions Cinema: Bridget Jones Mad About the Boy - see ad on page 16
- 7th. 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
- 8th. Honington Open Gardens: see ad on page 7
- 9th. Town Council Meeting: 7pm, New Clark House
- 10th. Stour Valley Lions Meeting: 6:30pm-9:30pm; The George Townhouse. 2nd Tuesday of every month
- 11th. Swifts are making a come back! Jacey Jackson., lifelong enthusiast and founder of Shipston Action for Swifts will be sharing her passion for these birds. Cherington Village Hall. Doors open 7.30pm, talk begins 8pm.Refreshments available and donations towards the cost of the talk would be appreciated. Contact Sue Williams 01608 686414
- 14th. Cherington Village Hall: Into the Breach - see ad on page 16
- 15th. Whichford & Ascott Open Gardens - see ad on page 10
- 19th. Drop In Clinic: For the over 65s. 10am-12pm, Scout Hut. Every third Thursday
- 20th. Royal British Legion Social Evening: The Shipston on Stour Branch gathers for a social event on the third Friday of each month at The Horseshoe, starting at 7:30pm. Additionally, every other month, the Branch Committee meets on the third Friday at St Edmund’s Church from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM, before joining the social gathering. The next Branch Committee meeting is scheduled for 6:30 PM on May 16, 2025. If you are interested in Branch events or enquiring to join the Branch, please contact the Branch Secretary, Ali at ShipstonOnStour.Secretary@rbl.community
- 20th. Shipston Music Society: Methodist Church, 7.30pm - see ad on page 16
- 21st. Shipston Bellringers: bellringing taster session - see ad on page 10
- 21st. Shipston Lodge Summer Fete. See ad on page 16.
- 24th. GLOSS (Great Ladies of Shipston and Surroundings). A social group for women to have fun and make friends. 7.30pm- 9.30pm at the Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road, CV36 4DR. Meeting on the 4th Tuesday of every month (except December. All ladies welcome. Entry £2.00
- 26th. Local Quaker Meeting for Worship: St Edmund’s Church, last Thursday in the month at 2.30pm, followed by tea/coffee, biscuits & chat



Shipston Foodbank CIC would like to say a big thank you to the people and Businesses of Shipston and surrounding villages for their generous donations of both money and food.

Because of your generosity we have been able to provide many families with food over the past year.

The Foodbank is open on Saturday mornings between 10.30am and 12 noon. You do not need a referral or a voucher just turn up. No-one is turned away.

In these uncertain times we would like to ask you for your continued support.

Donations of basic items can be left in the church porch between 9.00am and 5.00pm Monday to Saturday.

There’s also a collection point in both the Co-ops and Tesco.

For information about our current needs please check on our Facebook page or our website:
www.facebook.com/ShipstonFoodBank
www.shipstonfoodbank.org.uk





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





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 and updates from...
Shipston Medical Centre Partners and PPG
The Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership
Shipston Home Nursing

Any prior questions? Please contact:
Carole Nessiter, PPG Chair shststnppg@gmail.com

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

Around town

Big day for the Royal British Legion

To commemorate the 80th Anniversary of Victory in Europe, the Shipston Branch of the Royal British Legion participated in various activities throughout the day, in collaboration with the Town Council and the Stour Valley Lions. The day began at 8am with a proclamation in the High Street by the Town Crier. This was followed by a small ceremony at the Gyratory Memorial Garden, where the VE Day flag was raised. Speeches were delivered by the Mayor, John Dinnie, and the President of the Shipston branch of the Royal British Legion, David Kernohan, with wreaths laid at the memorial by vice chairman Nick Wilkes.



At 3pm there was a gathering in the High Street to listen to Winston Churchill's 1945 address to the nation, marking the end of the war in Europe. This was swiftly followed by the judging of the Best Dressed Shop Window competition, keenly contested by 30 shops. The winner was ArchiWildish, with judges noting, 'Everyone had made a big effort, but the judges felt that the winners, the Brownies and Rainbows, had put a great deal of imagination, time, and enthusiasm into making their window stand out. The pictures and bunting were all very carefully cut out and coloured in, and the Union flags made a striking impression. The judges all commented on the fantastic planes, which looked very realistic and had obviously been made with great thought and care.'

A small presentation to the winner was conducted by the SRBL secretary Alistair Watkins and treasurer Gary Downs, during which a VE Day 80 commemorative 'Tommy' was presented to Mark and Diane Wildish.

The SRBL hosted a party at the Low Furlong Car Park, where a 1940s singer provided entertainment, supported by Nice Bites, Wild Things, and the Coach and Horses, who supplied refreshments. The day culminated at 9.30pm with the lighting of the Beacon.



VE Day celebrations bring community spirit to life

The Scout Hut was filled with music, laughter, and nostalgia on Thursday 8th May as the local community came together

to mark VE Day with a joyful celebration.

The event, organised by Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership in conjunction with the Royal British Legion and made possible by funding from the Stour Valley Lions, was supported by generous contributions from Thomas Franks Ltd and Sibford School, who provided a traditional British lunch of bangers and mash, followed by spotted dick and custard — much to the delight of attendees.

Entertainment was provided by local performers Kevin O'Conner and Betsy Harmony, whose lively singing brought a touch of wartime spirit to the occasion. Their performances even had guests dancing, adding to the warm and festive atmosphere.

Shipston Home Nursing volunteers played a key role in ensuring the day ran smoothly. The celebrations concluded with the unveiling of a beautifully decorated cake — a fitting end to a memorable community gathering.

Events like these not only honour our shared history but also highlight the power of community, generosity, and togetherness.

Shipston Museum on VE Day

'Action!' was the word at the start of BBC Midlands Today filming at our Museum on VE day. As part of the TV coverage of its 80th Anniversary, the BBC team was drawn by our Shipston Remembers evocative display covering both front-line memorabilia like medals and uniforms to the home front of the Home Guard, women's land army and reminders like gas masks and rationing cards.

But of course, it was the personal interviews that brought the programme, broadcast that evening, really alive. Trustee Stephen Hartley pointed out how local people had come forward to contribute with memories and items to tell their family stories.

One very special story came from 101-year-old Doreen Knapton. Her memories of that time are still clear as she told BBC journalist Joan Cummins about her time working in the Peak Engineering Munitions factory where Tesco now stands. This was a dangerous but vital job, producing the weapons and ammunition needed to fight the war. Doreen laughed when asked if she was proud of her work then: 'I was doing my bit,' she said. And in typical wartime spirit she and the women with whom she worked also had fun — and escapades like scrumping for apples.



Around town

Other interviews were with Museum volunteer Bernard Maguire who reminisced about the street parties to rejoice at the end of the war while Graham Wilkes recalled the figure of Hitler atop the bonfire to celebrate VE day 80 years ago.

Joan, the BBC reporter, told us: 'I had a delightful afternoon at Shipston Museum. This treasure trove of memories and memorabilia offered unexpected opportunities to speak to amazing people with incredible stories.' She added that Doreen shared an insight into work at the munitions factory while Bernard revealed life in Croydon living through the war.

'Graham shared vivid memories of VE Day,' she said, 'Including being dressed up as Charlie Chaplin for the children's parade. Eighty years later he still questions why he didn't win first prize!'

Of course, not all the amazing local accounts could be covered in a short news report, but the display is on until September, so you can still hear and share these stories — and items even as far back as the Boer War.

Trustee Michaela Davis who designed this fascinating display said that it was really interesting working with our volunteers to put together such a varied exhibition. 'It shows how deeply conflict affects a community like Shipston.'



The fact that conflict is not always over was demonstrated with the array of medals worn by our visitors from the Shipston Branch of the British Legion. Asked about service, 'We have been around, yes,' said chairman Alex Black, 'Including Gulf war, Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan.' He said that the group had enjoyed their visit, although it was far too short, adding a well done and thanks for a fantastic exhibition. The news item on Midlands Today was lovely, he said, and quite poignant.

The BBC is planning to film a further feature at Shipston Museum about Sgt Major Cyril Mace (RA), a Japanese PoW, ahead of VJ Day80.

If you would like to be part of the Shipston Museum story, we are hoping more volunteers will join our friendly team: opportunities range from helping with cataloguing to welcoming visitors for a few hours each month with Trustees always on hand to help with questions. If you would like to know more, please contact shipstonmuseum@outlook.com or call into the Museum for an informal chat.

And visiting reminder: open 12-4pm weekends at Old Clark House (near the Council Offices) and again a special opening for VJ Day 15th August, entry free.

From first night to last night: Proms 2025



Seven months and more in the planning and now we promise you a fortnight to remember!

Here's a quick rundown of some of the acts appearing this year. We have tribute country band CountryBound performing classic and contemporary songs at the Townsend Hall on launch night, there is a much anticipated return of the Ibiza on Stour night at the Hub with legendary DJ Judge Jules behind the decks, and back by popular demand to headline the main stage, the awesome Rick Parfitt Junior Band supported by Thom Kirkpatrick, that amazing one man band you loved at Launch Night last year. Our middle band will be The Reggulites, bringing some uplifting reggae vibes to the Last Night.

After a two year absence, we are delighted that the U3A group The Pavilionsaires will be performing again at Cherington village hall. The Longborough Youth Chorus will be rehearsing for Henry Purcell's Dido and Aneneas at the Scout Hut. This will be a great chance to see these young people developing their skills on their way to perform at full scale opera.

We have over 40 events in total including old favourites such as Songs from the Shows, Mrs. Porter's Chamberpot pourri, an Open Mic Night, Folk Night and of course we couldn't do without the popular pub music trail which includes Thirst Edition, the newly opened Little Vins and the new music shop 'Expressions of Sound'.

Our Shipston Introducing event will be held on 7th June, so there's not a moment to waste if you're thinking of entering! And there's another way of taking part with a come-and-sing Handel's choral music on 14th June.

All gigs are listed in the little orange Proms booklet which should be coming through your door any day now, or can be found in and around Shipston including at pubs, the post office, the library and some shops. Richard Harvey in town is selling tickets for some of the events.

This year the committee members will be wearing orange T-shirts and a lanyard at all events, if you have any issues or just want to come and say hello. On the final night, we can be found in the marquee where you will be able to buy raffle tickets, glow sticks for the children and where we will be holding any lost property.

A big thank you to Ryse 3D who is our biggest sponsor this year, and to all our sponsors and everyone who has helped to make this happen.

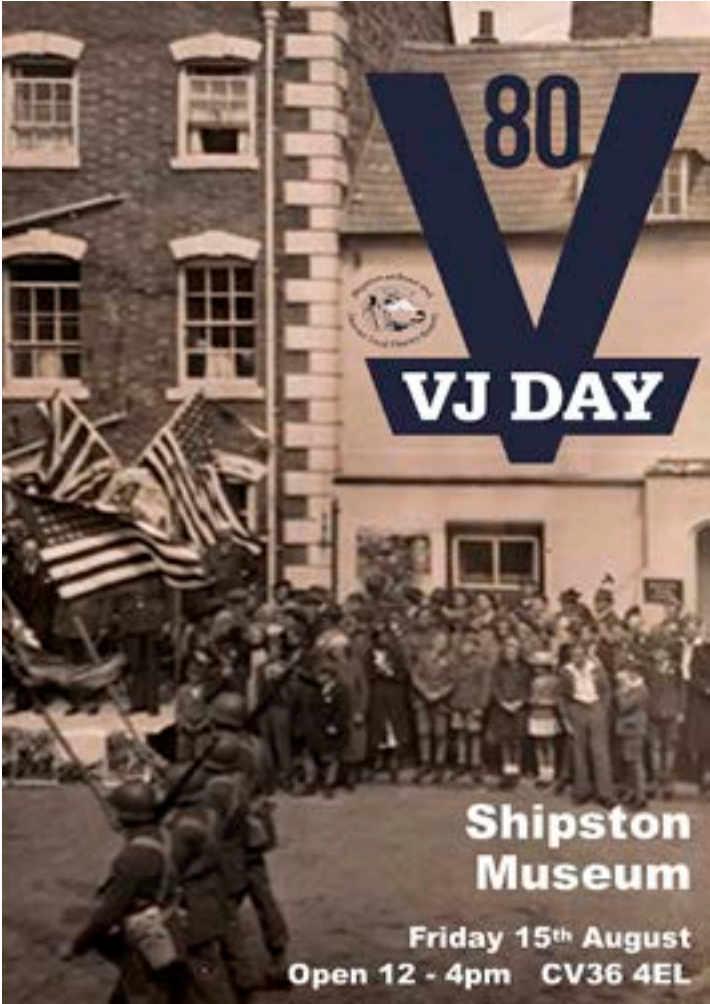
Check out the programme, pick out some favourites or choose something new and we'll look forward to seeing you there! You can buy tickets at Richard Harvey and online at

www.shipstonproms.org.

Shipston Proms Music Festival 13th to 28th June

Food Festival

Date for your diaries! Shipston's Annual food celebration: 14th September 10am-3pm. Town Centre.



Whichford & Ascott Gardens Open

Sunday 15th June 1.30 – 5.00pm

Nine gardens will open:

- Ascott Lodge • Ascott Rise • Belmont House •
- Lenticulars • Murton Cottage • Plum Tree Cottage •
- The Old Rectory • Whichford Pottery • Wood House •

Combined entry: Adults: £7.50 and Children free.

Home-made teas in aid of St Michael’s Church, plant stall, raffle – win a Whichford Pottery voucher.

Bellringing Taster Session

Hosted by Shipston Ringers

Join us for an exciting opportunity to learn more about this amazing hobby

Event Details
Date: Saturday 21st June 2025
Time: 10am to 2pm
Venue: Old HSBC building, Shipston High Street

An ancient art!
Bellringing is a traditional English activity that dates to the Middle Ages. Once a religious activity it is now secular and attracts people from all walks of life.

You don't need to be strong to do it
Bellringing provides gentle exercise for the body and a workout for the brain.

To find out more about bellringin
email: shipstondistrictringers@gmail.com
Facebook: Shipston Bellringers

Practice sessions by arrangement

Shipston Primary School

Mike Parkhouse

It is with great sadness that I share the news of the passing of Mike Parkhouse, one of our former headteachers. Mike was Head here for 14 years during the 1980s and 1990s. He was passionate about childhood being fun, loved art and music and believed that every child was important. He was Ms. Freeman’s, Mrs Clarke’s and Mrs Proud’s first Headteacher at Shipston. He was well loved and will be missed greatly as he left such a great impression on so many that he worked with. I am sure that there are parents at our school now who were children when Mike was their headteacher and will remember him fondly.



Smartphone Free Childhood Campaign

We have been advertising about the dangers of social media and smart phones for our children’s development for quite a while and now Oliver Jeffers, author of the wonderful ‘Lost and Found’, has joined the campaign and signed the Parent Pact for his own children.

As one of the most beloved storytellers of our time, Oliver has spent decades capturing the wonder, curiosity and imagination of childhood – and understands just how vital it is to protect that space. So we’re thrilled to have his support.

“It’s very easy for parents to succumb to the pleas for a smartphone because we don’t want our kids to feel ‘left out’.

Our children can present as mature in a world where they grow up fast, so much so that we forget how vulnerable they still are.”

OLIVER JEFFERS

As a parent and artist, he’s pledged to keep his children smartphone-free until at least 14 and off social media until 16. Why? Because, in his words:

‘The evidence of the damage that smartphones and social media are doing to the children in our lives is now clear to see. I’ve chosen to publicly support the Smartphone Free Childhood Parent Pact, to protect their childhood and to encourage other parents to do the same. The more people inside the bubble of protection, the stronger it becomes.’

Why does this matter? Because we need the artists, the writers, the doctors, the teachers, the musicians and the politicians – all of us – to come together and say ‘enough is enough!’ And high profile voices like Oliver’s help prove this movement is for everyone.

Join Oliver and 135,000 other families who’ve signed the Pact to delay smartphones and social media. Together we’re powerful!

Let’s keep sharing the news about the benefits of getting off screens and engaging with each other.

To find out more and to join the growing group of parents pledging to work together to keep children phone free until they have developed their real life social skills visit the website: <https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/>

Play

We have been busy creating more spaces for our children to play in. Many thanks to all the staff who gave up their holiday time to tidy up, build our new sandpit and tunnel and to prepare all of our new den building equipment. The children have loved playing with them. Many thanks as well to our Tilemans Lane neighbours at Timpsons, Europipes Ltd., Venture 4x4, Sydenhams and Steve Clarke Builders for their help and support with donations of resources and time. Thanks also to Mr Aubrey and Mr Hart for their help and time over the last few weeks.

Our work with OPAL has made such a huge difference to our children already and is something we are committed to developing further in the future. Play is a vital part of our children’s development and something we should not stop doing just because we become ‘grown up’. This is a growing national focus. Research shows that our children spend 50% less time outdoors than a generation ago which is shocking.

By its very nature, learning is constantly happening whenever play takes place – from basic numeracy or literacy skills to the learning and development of life skills, such as problem-solving, communication, self-regulation, negotiation or resilience.

Play can improve core strength, stability, balance, spatial awareness, co-ordination and agility, as well as having a positive link with motor skills development.

Play is also a core component of a child’s personal, social, and emotional development. Time spent outdoors can improve mental wellbeing, enhance memories and self-discipline, moderate stress and encourage children to form supportive social groups.

By contrast, ‘play deprivation’ can lead to a fall in brain and muscle development and reduced communication, problem-solving, and social skills. Play needs to start from birth and last throughout our lifetimes. As the saying goes, ‘We don’t stop playing because we grow old, we grow old because we stop playing.’

FOSP PRESENTS SHIPSTON PRIMARY SCHOOLS

SUMMER FETE

SATURDAY 14TH JUNE
12PM-2:30PM
SCHOOL FIELD VIA TILEMANS LANE GATE

ADULT ENTRY £1, CHILDREN FREE
CASH AND CARD ACCEPTED

GLITTER TATTOOS, BOUNCY CASTLE, TOMBOLA, BBQ, RAK, STALLS
AND MUCH MORE!

Stour Singers’ night to remember!

What a fantastic final choral victory for musical director Richard Emms and the Stour Singers in Shipston’s St. Edmund’s Church on Saturday 10th May.

Brahms would I’m sure have been pleased with the highly professional performance of the duo pianistic accompaniment of Lynn Arnold and Charles Matthews, who also gave a tingling rendition of Schubert’s Fantasie in F Minor (Richard’s favourite piano duet). They and our two soloists all collaborated with such sensitivity and enthusiasm to Richard’s baton. And what a joy to have the spellbinding Newbold soprano Robyn Pullen and the cream of international baritones Roderick Williams OBE interpreting this wonderful work.

The Requiem of around the 1860s is quite complex, extending musical norms of the period when Brahms was only in his thirties. The choir responded with confidence and fully succeeded in performance, to be congratulated by Mr Williams on singing superbly. Praise indeed! So well done to all performers who gave a packed house a thrilling musical experience. And a fond farewell to Richard



who, with full support of wife Dorle, succeeded in offering Shipston a choir of which the town and area can be rightly proud.

The choir will be back for their first concert with their enthusiastic new director Alex Silverman in December while Richard will be taking a well earned rest from a musical labour of love and skill in directing the community choir he formed in 1975.

If you would like to be part of Stour Singer’s new era, Alex will be leading a ‘Come-and-Sing Handel’s Coronation Anthems’ as part of Shipston Proms at 2pm on Saturday 14th June at the Methodist Church. To register just scan the QR code or go to our website. stoursingers.org.uk.



Shipston Bellringers

Parish churches have been a focal point of our towns and villages for centuries and today, in the 21st century, bellringers from Shipston and its surrounding villages are as proud as their forebears once were to uphold the tradition of ringing for the local churches and the community. The bells are there to toll as we mourn, to peal as we celebrate weddings or christenings, to mark special festivals or days such as Easter, Christmas and Remembrance. In recent times we have had the honour of ringing for several events of national significance - the 100th anniversary of the WW1 Armistice, the passing of the Queen, the coronation of the King, the 80th anniversaries of D Day and VE Day. Most often though, we ring to reflect the rhythms and routines of our communities and churches. This involves ringing before Sunday services and holding our regular weekly practice on a Saturday morning. On occasion a Quarter Peal is rung by some of our more advanced ringers which involves ringing a variety of different methods for around 45-50 minutes. We really enjoy ringing for a wedding or a christening and feel privileged to toll the bell in memory of someone’s life at a funeral. We always look forward too, of course, to welcoming fellow ringers, whether they are just visiting in a personal capacity or are on an organised ringing tour.

Bellringing is a good workout both mentally and physically but don’t worry, you don’t have to be super fit to do it. It’s a lovely way to get to know other people and is suitable for all ages including young people over 10 years old.

- Did you want to learn a new skill?
- Do you enjoy being part of a team?
- Would you enjoy the coffee and chat in a local hostelry after the practice?
- Would you like the opportunity to contribute to the traditions of our town and village communities?
- Would you like to be a part of someone’s special day?

If the answer to any of these questions is yes, then bellringing could be for you. Come along to our Open Day which will be held in the old HSBC building in Shipston Square from 10am-2pm on 21st June. We’ll be there to tell you what it’s all about with videos and information pamphlets. If you can’t make it then, please do get in touch on 07972 705539. We are looking forward to meeting you!

Shipston Probus

We welcomed speaker Martin Gower, a member of neighbouring Stratford upon Avon Probus Club, to hear his talk The NHS: a jewel in the crown, or a patient in need of some therapy?



After a career in journalism, Martin took on the role of non-executive director for two NHS Trusts including chair of the Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust. His move from the private sector to a government-run organisation was not easy. For example, in his new role

Martin was presented with a file of 300+ pages to digest and had to get to grip with numerous acronyms, from ICB (Integrated Care Board) and MUS (medically unexplained symptoms) to DRE (digital rectal examination) and DNA (did not attend), to name a few!

Martin’s view is that the NHS is very beneficial despite its 38 political leaders since 1948. Like most large and complicated organisations, it contains the good, the complacent and the inadequate!

Running costs have inevitably greatly increased, from initially about £3.02 per head per year to the current £2,850. We spend 11.6% of our GDP on the NHS, but the amount per head is reducing. The NHS employs around 1.3 million full time equivalent workers, similar to Amazon globally. On an average day, 1.2m patients attend an appointment, 70% of them face-to-face, and over 7% fail to attend, at huge cost to the country.

Over the years, significant changes include an increase in referrals for mental health services. Over six million patients are prescribed anti-depressants each year. The number of GPs and consultants have increased, but many of them work part-time. Specialist hospitals are on the increase, patient safety and quality of care is greater than ever, but on the negative side access to services is more difficult, admin is more complicated and local leadership reduced. Just one in five people in 2024 said they were satisfied with the way the NHS is run. This is the lowest level of satisfaction recorded since the survey began in 1983.

The NHS undoubtedly is facing huge challenges; funding, cutting bureaucracy, effective political leadership, waiting times, links with social care, to name a few. The jewel needs constant resetting to meet ever changing and increasing demand!

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.

Cricket club

We have been loving having the ground full of children enjoying learning to play cricket on Friday evenings, taking part in All Stars, Dynamos and Junior cricket training sessions. The parents have been enjoying a few beers in the sunshine while the children play, too!

Our senior men’s sides both unfortunately lost their first game of the season but have bounced back playing some very competitive cricket. Long time club man Gary Betteridge added to his impressive run scoring record with an unbeaten century for the 2nd XI in their first game at London Road in May. The T20 campaign has started with a bang and our Sunday team began the season successfully with captain Jonty Harvey hitting an unbeaten 50 and the ageless Micky Pyne taking 5 wickets. The Junior season has begun with our U11s and U15s in action on Sundays.

We warmly welcome new players. Senior training is on Tuesday evenings from 6.30pm with players making great use of our new second net. Many thanks to Tom Wood for all his work making that happen and thanks, too, to the Town Council for all their support in helping the new net to be built.

Astronomical Society News



Adrian Wakeham writes:

Return to the Moon

In the last year or so, and probably in the next few months, you’ll hear about America’s plans to return to the Moon.

When, in December 1972, as astronauts Harrison Schimdt and Gene Cernan sealed the lunar module before returning to the command module of Apollo 17, not many thought it would be over 50 years before humans would return to the Moon.

Many countries have sent missions to the Moon and landed on the lunar surface. The Russians and Chinese have returned samples of the surface, the Chinese from the far side (also known as the dark side).

Artemis 1 was an unmanned version of the craft which America hopes to use to return humans to the Moon and this orbited the Moon in 2022. Artemis 2 intends to send four astronauts into lunar orbit but not land. This is unlikely to be before April 2026.



If successful, Artemis 3 will land astronauts on the Moon. It will carry four Astronauts, including a woman, an African American and a non-American. The mission is intended to last 30 days.

It intends to land close to the South Pole, hoping to find water, which will be very useful for any permanent lunar settlement.

The next stage will be a permanent lunar gateway in orbit. Then, the next challenge would be to launch a mission to Mars, from the Moon base.

One ‘fly in the ointment’ for the Americans could be the Chinese. They are secretive about their future plans and may try to beat the Americans in this new space race!

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 June that will be on 3rd June and the speaker on the third Tuesday 17th June at 8pm will be Professor Christine Done, from Durham University, with a talk called Black Holes – recent breakthrough results.

If it is clear we do some observing just outside the Village Hall, so please join us. For more details go to the website <http://www.astro.org.uk> or contact the Chair, John Waller john.waller@astro.org.uk or on 07703 192188.

County Council

So, I wrote a love letter to Shipston on the Shipston Facebook noticeboard when I won the election for Shipston and the villages. I want to repeat it here and say thank you so much for putting your faith in me. Whether you voted for me or not, I am here to serve you and am really humbled to be able to continue as your County Councillor.

In my last column I wrote a sentence in the second-to-last paragraph and on recent re-reading I haven’t a clue what I was on about. If anyone has any idea, I’d love to know!

I got special permission to write a blow-by-blow account of the first council meeting (a day after this column should have been in), so I sharpened my virtual pencil and anticipated a rough and tumble meeting. Well, it wasn’t. Reform won the most seats of any party, though without a majority. So, they’re in charge. We will vote (as Conservatives) on issues, one by one. It was a fairly convivial meeting although some members of different political hues were well and truly fed up. My mantra, and that of our little group of nine, is to do our best for Warwickshire and her residents. This we will do.

Budgets will be tight, and we will fight for every penny to be spent sensibly and equitably. I suspect our differing views of equity will cause long debates. When I first became a County Councillor, I was warned that budget meetings went on for 12 hours! For the last eight years they haven’t but I’m thinking I may be in for some long ones this year!

Speeding cars seem to be the biggest pain at the moment for all of us. Shipston doesn’t have a racetrack, although some of you may disagree after some recent behaviour. You know who you are. Please remember we are a community which watches out for each other and that we’re all pretty good at accommodating each other. Just don’t take the mick.

So, June approacheth, and I’m back in the saddle, surgeries and all.

Yours ever, Jo

Jo Barker

County Councillor, Shipston Division

07748968712 | jobarker@warwickshire.gov.uk

District Council

Bellway Homes and Ashbury Homes have circulated their plans to build 200 homes on land on the edge of Shipston. Many concerned residents have contacted us about the proposals. The land is along Darlingscote Road and Tilemans Lane. No actual planning application has been submitted to the Council from Bellway yet. Any new housing outside the existing built-up boundary of Shipston would normally be automatically rejected until a new Local Plan comes into effect around 2030. However, because of a technical change made by the Government to planning guidance there has been a plethora of speculative applications from developers across Stratford District. We have been told by the Planning Manager at SDC that there is a similar planning application for a development on Borden Hill, on the Evesham Road out of Stratford that would not have been considered before the Government changes. This case has been taken to appeal by the developers and is expected to go to a Public Enquiry in July. It will be seen as a test case to see whether the existing Local Plan will hold up. We will keep you posted on the outcome as it will affect what happens on sites around Shipston.

There have been ongoing problems around the Darlingscote Road travellers’ site. Even though the site is close to Shipston it is in Tredington Ward and as such is the responsibility of neighbouring Councillors. However, we have emailed the surrounding Councillors to join in on a cross party effort to improve the situation.

We recently received the latest data from the Office for National Statistics on Fuel Poverty across Stratford District. We were shocked to see that over 15% of households in Shipston are classified as being in fuel poverty according to the report. This is above the average for Stratford District. Fuel poverty is the condition by which a household is unable to afford to heat (or cool) their home to an adequate temperature. This can be caused by a combination of low income, high fuel prices, poor energy efficiency, unaffordable housing prices and poor quality private rental housing. For households needing help with energy bills, you can contact Act on Energy on (freephone) 0800 988 2881. Tips and hints for reducing energy costs can be found in the Energy Advice section of the District Council website.

Dave Passingham

District Councillor, Shipston South

07752 562114 | dave.passingham@stratford-dc.gov.uk



Your town councillors



Tony Booth, Mayor
General Purposes and Communications Working Group Chair
e: tony.booth@shipstontowncouncil.org



Richard Walters, Deputy Mayor
e: richard.walters@shipstontowncouncil.org



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



Michelle Kelly
e: michelle.kelly@shipstontowncouncil.org



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
e: clerk@shipstontowncouncil.org

County Council Contact:

Councillor Jo Barker
t: 07748 968712 e: jobarker@warwickshire.gov.uk

District Council Contacts:

Dave Passingham (Shipston South)
e: dave.passingham@stratford-dc.gov.uk

Olivia Hatch (Shipston North)
e: olivia.hatch@stratford-dc.gov.uk
t: 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.

Beds for Badger Campaign

We are going to request a ‘call in’ to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Services, asking that the health needs of our rural community, including the needs for some inpatient beds, be recognised and acted upon.



We’re taking this course of action because we – and the primary, secondary and community stakeholders we’ve been engaging with – have received a letter from Laura Nelson, chief integration officer at the Integrated Care Board, implying a delay while the ICB works through differing priorities and awaits the NHS Long Term Plan, about which there are limited details. This is inconsistent with the previous letter from the ICB chair Danielle Oum, so we have asked for an explanation. A delay would be totally unacceptable to the residents of Shipston and the surrounding area.

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

Beds for Badger Organising Committee



GILES SHENTON PRODUCTIONS PROUDLY PRESENT
THE WONDERFUL COMEDY

INTO THE BREACH

WRITTEN AND PERFORMED
BY GEORGE CROCKER
JOINS HIS VILLAGE
DRAMA CLUB TO LIVEN UP HIS LIFE.
WHAT HAPPENS NEXT TURNS HIS WORLD UPSIDE DOWN.

"A REMARKABLE AND HIGHLY ORIGINAL PIECE OF THEATRE"
BATH ECHO

"DAD'S ARMY MEETS THE VICAR OF DIBLEY"

LONDON METRO

"THIS SHOW WILL MAKE YOU
LAUGH, CRY AND ENJOY A
DEBATE ON SHAKESPEARE"
STRATFORD HERALD

The Hall Cherington, Stourton & Sutton
Fidolf Lane, Stourton, CV36 3BH

Sat 14 June 2025 7.30pm

Tickets £15 adult £8 U16 Tel - 07775 765572 email - info@thehallevents.org.uk or online at
www.buytickets.at/gilesshentonproductions or
www.gilesshentonproductions.co.uk



SHIPSTON LODGE

Summer FETE

21st June 2025
12.30pm to 4.30pm

Tilemans Lane, Shipston on Stour
CV36 4QG



Supported by Stour Valley Lions

STOUR VALLEY LIONS CINEMA

BRIDGET JONES MAD ABOUT THE BOY



Certificate 15 - Romantic Comedy

Renee Zellweger, Leo Woodall, Hugh Grant, Chiwetel Ejiofor.

After jumping back into the dating pool, single mother Bridget Jones finds herself caught between a younger man and her son's science teacher.

TOWNSEND HALL
FRIDAY 6th June, 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.



**Charles Matthews and
Lynn Arnold Piano Duet**

The concert will include music by
Brahms, Poulenc and Schumann, as
well as Bliss and Tovey, who both have
significant anniversaries in 2025.



Friday 20th June, 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