



Shipston Forum



September 2025

VJ Day remembered

A ceremony at the Gyratory Garden on 15th August commemorated the 80th anniversary of VJ Day and remembered those who had fallen, were held captive and endured unimaginable hardship in the Far East. After a moving citation by the Royal British Legion President, and a reflective service by Revd Sarah Edmonds, wreaths were laid by the Mayor of Shipston, the Royal British Legion and the High Sheriff of Warwickshire.



Karen Lynch, the 691st High Sheriff of Warwickshire (pictured right, below), said: 'The service was beautiful and so well attended – my thanks to the Royal British Legion and their volunteers for making it possible.' She went on afterwards to visit the Museum's special exhibition and hear the remarkable story of Cyril Mace, former Shipston resident and WWII veteran, from Cyril's daughter Barbara Harris. Cyril was a local postie who survived the sinking of the ship Lisbon Maru and spent three months on an island, being protected by Chinese fishermen. You can find out more about his incredible story at the Shipston Museum until the end of September.



Reaching for the sun

Joshua Allen knows how to bring out the sun – this is the second year in a row he has won the 11-and-under category of Shipston Rotary's annual Tallest Sunflower competition, now in its 10th year. This year Joshua, aged nine, grew his sunflower to an amazing 9ft 6ins, having saved the seed from his giant prize-winning sunflower last year, which had measured over 15ft.



Meanwhile 13-year-old Robyn Pelwenkhan managed to encourage her sunflower to reach the impressive height of 12ft 5ins to win the prize for the over-11s. Robyn last won the competition in 2020 when she used her prize money to buy a sunflower clock which she still has. The two winners each receive a £10 Amazon voucher. Other entrants this year included Beatrice Taylor (7ft 9ins) and Susan Perry (6ft 8ins) and Laila Darbyshire, the youngest at age three, whose sunflower grew all the way to 6ft 5ins.



Congratulations to all the green-fingered, flower-powered growers.

Last chance to see... at the Museum

There's still time to catch Shipston Museum's three exhibitions before it closes for the season at the end of September: Shipston Remembers, looking at past world wars, Under the Hammer, a unique auction poster collection, and the Iron Age Dubunni will run to the end of the month.



There will be a series of talks running throughout the winter, with a full line-up from October 2025 to March 2026, including another walking talk around town planned for November.

The big events

Two September favourites are rolling into town this month. First up is the Food Festival on Sunday 14th September. Stour Valley Lions, the Festival's tireless organisers, are promising even more choice this year, with a delicious range of treats on the menu!

Running from 20-28 September, Shipston's Bookfest is back for a second year, with something for all ages and interests. Actor, comedian and best-selling author Ben Miller (pictured) will be talking about his latest story from The Fairytale Woods series. Turn to the centre pages to find out more about the full programme.



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Mayor’s column



Hello Shipston and welcome to September.

Where has the year gone?!

Personally, July was a special month for my family since our son James and his wife Sophie welcomed their first child, Edward, into the world. Then, like many of you, we decided to fly off to find out where the sun had gone! We still had some time to attend a lovely Mayor’s Civic event in Coleshill along with many other mayors, and we also attended an inspiring evening of community volunteering awards hosted by the Warwickshire High Sheriff at the Sikh Temple in Leamington.

The Shipston community has a great deal to look forward to over the coming weeks with Bookfest preparations well underway for September and the Food Festival also looming. Meanwhile, 15th August marked the commemorative 80th anniversary for VJ Day (Victory in Japan) when the end of the second world war was finally achieved, albeit by arguably the most brutal and devastating events in human history with the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. If possible, please pay a visit to the Shipston Museum located next door to the Council Office. They put on a fascinating VJ Day display – Shipston Remembers – which included the story and uniform of Regimental Sgt Major Cyril Mace (Japanese PoW).

I don’t have a single subject to get off my chest this month, but I thought it might be good to mention a few of the challenges we have that we, as a council, are facing and trying to support the town with.

The Youth Club is my nominated mayoral charity this year, to support their efforts to find a permanent home. We have identified a location near the Sheldon Bosley Hub where a purpose-built building can be located and a request for planning permission has been submitted. It is the council’s intention to financially contribute and help the Youth Club in securing a new building that will become their permanent home and hopefully provide an exciting space for the youth of our town to enjoy.

The Twin Chapels at London Road Cemetery have recently been repaired externally, but the council needs to determine how the buildings will be used in the future, in order for us to qualify for additional funding to further improve them. However, with limited parking, a long walk and a cemetery location, any purpose would need to be sympathetic to the area. What should we do with it? That’s a question for you, our community. How would you like to see this building used? We need your ideas, so any thoughts would be very welcome, either to our council email clerk@shipstontowncouncil.org or we can be contacted on our Council or Mayor’s Facebook pages.

In August, there was a lot of talk that our esteemed Deputy Prime Minister, Angela Rayner, had put her foot in it by suggesting that councils will be able to sell off allotments. Cue many anxious and concerned calls from the community to our council office asking if we are selling off the allotments! The answer is simply NO. The council has no plans to sell off any allotments and no plans to even raise this as a matter for council discussion. So your prized runner beans and pumpkins will remain safe and well.

Of course, we still have the ongoing challenges of numerous housebuilders in our sights, and we are meeting and challenging a number of them on their plans ahead of the SWLP consultation outcome later this year. The Ellen Badger hospital also continues to be a flagship of town frustration, and the council remains fully aware of the strength of feeling on this subject by many in the community.

A revamp of the Council website is currently underway, and we hope to provide more information and useful links to the community as it becomes more user friendly and interactive. Watch this space.

Finally, on behalf of Shipston Town Council I would like to take this opportunity to make a very public thank you to Mike McCarthy, a founding member of Shipston Area Flood Action Group (SAFAG). Without the support and active flood mitigation measures that this group has introduced over the years, our town and surrounding areas could have been seriously flooded many times over. Mike has worked closely with the Council and has been instrumental in putting in many flood mitigation initiatives. Our town is a much safer place to live because of SAFAG. Mike will be stepping down from his role due to a pending house move, but he will continue to support and guide the team over the next few months. Mike’s SAFAG legacy will continue to thrive and protect our town, and we wish him well for the future. Thank you, Mike, for your invaluable contribution to the ongoing safety of our community.

Your Mayor,

Tony Booth

News from Shipston Town Council’s August meeting

Councillors out and about

Cllr Howarth attended Townsend Hall AGM, Taylor Wimpey consultation, and a Digital Towns meeting in which they heard how Abergavenny is successfully using a Local Area Network. Cllr Dinnie attended the Sainsbury’s planning appeal meeting. Cllrs attended Brailes show.

Banking

Cllr Williams continues robustly to challenge the Link cash access assessments over their factual errors in how they have categorised the town, including its number of shops, transport links to Moreton – suggested as the nearest alternative banking centre – and accessibility of the Post Office.

Stratford District Council

The consultation over devolution to a unitary authority is out and Cllr Hatch encouraged all councillors to fill it in before the deadline of 25 August. Cllr Hatch will attend a meeting with the SDC case officer for the latest application for Darlingscote Road and has requested that dialogue is kept open.

Warwickshire County Council

Cllr Barker reminded the meeting that the Rural Development Fund is available to help businesses. She has fielded a number of concerns about footpath maintenance which she will pass on to the relevant officer at WCC. A dropped pavement will be installed at Sadlers Avenue.

Ellen Badger

Around 30-40 people attended a demonstration outside the EBH. The local MP is requesting a call-in to the Secretary of State for Health to review the consultation process and the decisions made. Council voted not to support the call-in request.

Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership

The organisation has a new CEO, Kirsty Holder, who was previously charity manager at VASA, the community transport organisation.

Open forum

Debbie Williams spoke as an allotment-holder concerned that allotments may be vulnerable to being given over to housing after comments by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government saying that local authorities could consider selling allotments. With other residents expressing the same concern, councillors wanted to assure people that the Council has no intention of selling the allotments.

Environmental and Flood Action

Severn Rivers Trust will put in a scrape on Cornmill Meadows which will help to ‘re-wet’ an area for wildlife. A query on fishing resulted in a reminder that these should be channelled via Shipston Angling Club.

Planning

Council has submitted a detailed objection to a plan for housing on Darlingscote Road. It was noted that as of 12th July, the Government has withdrawn all funding for the neighbourhood plans, making it harder for councils to produce one. The current Neighbourhood Plan for Shipston is in force until 2031. STC is committed to carrying out the next one, due to run for a further 15 years. Planning for this will need to begin this autumn, and volunteers to work on the team for this immense task will be required. Council has some reserves set aside.

General purposes

An audit of play areas has been carried out since the last meeting. Cllr Benjamin-Smith completed playground safety training and Cllr M Kelly has also carried out an inspection. The Skate Park failed the inspection and this will be rectified. Planning permission for a new Youth Club facility has been submitted and progress is being made with securing new building. Meanwhile a container has been sourced for the club to store its equipment.



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Shipston in Bloom are on the lookout for volunteers

If you can offer help with planting, weeding, watering and general care of our lovely tubs and planters around Shipston, please get in touch!

Email Hilary –
hilary.kelly@shipstontowncouncil.org

Or give the Town Council Office a call
01608 662180



Community News

Thank you, Mike

Mike McCarthy, the last of the original members of SAFAG, will shortly be moving out of the area and giving up his position of team leader.

Over the years, Mike has steadfastly supported SAFAG’s local flood mitigation efforts, by arranging meetings, attending presentations, liaising with landowners, farmers, contractors and various agencies, to walking the fields and pathways leading the group members to inspect the condition of over 850 interventions (leaky woody dams, ponds, wetlands, bunds, and scrapes) installed upstream of Shipston.

Mike’s experience and knowledge isn’t readily replaceable. Fortunately, during the current interim transitional period, Mike will be helping to shape and plan the future role and objectives of SAFAG covering the next couple of years.

The SAFAG team’s efforts to ‘slow the flow,’ has helped to reduce the risk and impact of localised flooding, which has historically affected Shipston and the local communities bordering the Stour.

Mike’s efforts deserve recognition, and the thanks of all local residents who have benefited from his commitment and enthusiasm.

Further information about SAFAG’s achievements can be found on the website - www.safag.org

Shipston Widows: 1994-2025

Sadly, because of a severe drop in members, Shipston Widows is now no more. For various reasons, we are down from 20+ members to just two! Ill-health now has a big part to play. No-one wants to be a widow, but our club served its purpose.

We enjoyed our meetings at various locations in Shipston, with speakers, regular lunches (in different pub locations, transport being provided by our members), outings, holidays and each other’s company. We have had fun and laughed a lot.

Those who are able will continue to meet at 11am on the first Wednesday of each month, for coffee/lunch at the Horseshoe.

Thank you to all members, past and present, who have come along regularly, and who have been supportive, empathetic, very helpful and fully appreciated.

Barbara Bean



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Beds for Badger

Thank you to those who turned out on Monday 11th August to support our MP Manuela Perteghella in submitting our request to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care for the decision of the Integrated Care Board to be reviewed. For SWFT to suggest this gathering would disrupt patients and participants attending activities at the ‘Hospital’ is a total failure to understand the nature of our community. Their use of this suggestion to cancel activities on that day is deplorable.

After the clear support from Stratford District Council, we were disappointed to hear that Shipston Town Council voted against supporting the call-in request. We are of the opinion that they must have been misguided in coming to this decision in view of their supportive submission to the consultation and the clear evidence of the views of the townsfolk.

We have made two requests for improvements to the facilities at the ‘Ellen Badger’:

- 1. That midwives conducting maternity clinics be given access to ultrasound scanning equipment and blood testing capability. The SWFT response to this was: ‘Ultrasound services are delivered at the South Warwickshire Community Diagnostic Centre (CDC) in Stratford for Shipston residents, as part of the national diagnostic strategy. This centralised model ensures patients have access to high-quality imaging services in the most appropriate setting.’

Our community goes a lot further than Shipston and we can only suggest that mums-to-be head for North Cotswolds Hospital in Moreton which does have ultrasound.

- 2. We asked about the EBH becoming a Neighbourhood Health Centre under the National Neighbourhood Health Implementation Programme. The ICB response was: ‘The NNHIP will be delivered at Place level, i.e. Warwickshire...The ICB will be submitting two bids, one for Warwickshire and one for Coventry.’

The ICB has again missed our understanding of a community and a neighbourhood.

We will continue to battle for improved healthcare in our community, that rough diamond from Wellesbourne to Little Compton, Stretton on Fosse to Tysoe. The NHS practitioners are trying their hardest. It is the layers of expensive management that are failing.

Beds for Badger Organising Committee



Community News

Medical Centre news

Your repeat prescriptions

Our dispensary is a valuable element of the practice. It provides an important and convenient service for patients and having a dispensary helps to provide funding and stability for other elements of the practice. What goes on behind the scenes?

Step 1 – medication requested by patient

- Requests can come in paper form, via our website, via the NHS app or via our phone line

- A dispenser reviews the order to ensure the request is valid and there are no concerns

- If there are concerns (regarding safety, over-use etc) this is flagged for GP review

- Requests are reviewed until 2pm; orders after this time are reviewed the following day

Step 2 – GP signature

- All dispensary requests are printed and sent to our GP team for signing

- On average the dispensary prints around 250 forms a day for this purpose

- The dispensers need to wait until a GP has had time to review, sign and return the forms

- Prescriptions to go to local pharmacies, generally sent electronically after the GP has signed them

Step 3 – stock and ordering

- Dispensers will now check if we have the required medication in stock at the practice

- As with most pharmacies, commonly used items are generally held in stock

- Less commonly used items need to be ordered in; this usually arrives same or next day

- Sometimes a medicine is nationally unavailable; in recent years this is happening more often. Where this occurs, the dispenser must identify a suitable alternative by discussing with a GP

Step 4 – dispensing

- With the form signed and the drug in stock, our dispenser can dispense the medication

- The dispenser goes through a series of checks to ensure the medication is correct, including drug name, strength, formulation and quantity

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• Once our dispensers are satisfied, they dispense, pack and store the medication

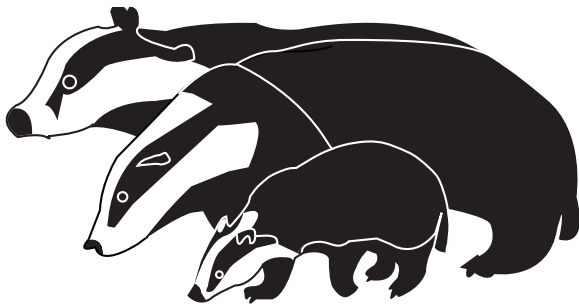
- A message is then sent to the patient advising that their medicine is ready to collect

It is a complex process with numerous members of our practice team involved. Dispensing is a skilled role, and our team undergo regular training in line with national standards. Our dispensary team do a great job; we dispense to over 5,000 patients and process over 10,000 medications a month as well as emergency ‘on the day’ prescriptions which need to be dispensed urgently. We do so as efficiently as possible, but all these steps require time; it is for this reason that we ask patients to order medications at least four working days before they need them.

We recognise there will be times when patients need medication at short notice, often when they have either forgotten to place an order or lost their medication. The team do their best to help on these occasions as they recognise how important medications are. However, the number of urgent requests has grown significantly in recent times which makes it harder to work efficiently. If remembering to order is an issue, please discuss with the dispensary team as regular monthly items can be ordered automatically for patients.

Legally the practice is only allowed to dispense to patients who live more than a mile from a pharmacy, which means that people who live in Shipston cannot have their medications dispensed by us.

Please remember that the practice dispensary is closed on bank holidays which are thus not working days; note that on bank holiday weeks the team have fewer days to process the same number of requests. We hope this helps you understand the work done behind the scenes as well as the scale of work that our team undertake and thank you for your continued use of, and support for, our dispensary.



Shipston Medical Centre

Regular Events

Monday

Seated Exercise Class: 10:30am or 11:30am, 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.

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

Tuesday

Community Warm Welcome: 2pm-4pm, Shipston Methodist Church, New Street (Sep-Mar)
free refreshments, a chat, games and jigsaws

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, Ellen Badger Health & Wellbeing Hub

Standing Tai Chi: 10.30am, Ellen Badger Health & Wellbeing Hub

GLOSS Coffee Morning: 11am, The White Horse

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,
Ellen Badger Health and Wellbeing hub.

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

The Stour Toy Library click and collect 11:00am - 12noon,
Ellen Badger Health and Wellbeing Hub

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: September 2025

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

2nd & 16th. ‘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

3rd. Shipston on Stour WI: Colin Millett – Porcelain – A Collector’s Tale. 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

3rd & 17th. Stour Valley Stitchers: 10am-1pm, The Hall, Stourton, CV36 5HG. 1st & 3rd Wednesdays

5th. Stour Valley Lions Cinema: The Penguin Lessons. See ad on page 10

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

7th. 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.

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

9th. Stour Community Awareness Network (SCAN): See ad on page 7

9th. Stour Valley Lions Meeting: 6:30pm – 9:30pm; The George Townhouse. 2nd Tuesday of every month

12th& 26th. Shipston Stitchers: A friendly quiet group who meet at Darlingscote Rd church hall to embroider fortnightly on a Friday. We are mixed ability. Eg some gold workers, some cross stitchers. We welcome new members. Pop in to say ‘hello’ or ring Anita on 01993 832665

14th. Shipston Food Festival: See ad on page 16

18th. Drop In Clinic: For the over 65s. 10am-12pm, Ellen Badger Health & Wellbeing Hub. Every third Thursday

18th. Shipston High School Open Evening: Headteacher’s presentation at 5.30pm (repeated at 7pm) followed by an opportunity to view the school until 7.30pm. Darlingscote Road Shipston, CV36 4DY. Contact 01608 661833 or email info@shipstonhigh.co.uk.

19th. 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. If you are interested in Branch events or enquiring to join the Branch, please contact the Branch Secretary, Ali at ShipstonOnStour.Secretary@rbl.community

19th. Shipston Music Society: Methodist Church, New Street, starting at 7.30 p.m. Recital by Madeline Kirby (harp) and Judith Scholes (flute). Tickets for a single concert cost £10. If you subsequently decide to become a member the cost of one ticket will be deducted from your subscription. Annual membership is £48, equating to £6 per meeting for seven recitals and one talk. New members will pay only £40 for the first year. See ad on page 16

19th. The Bossa Gringos: Townsend Hall. See ad on page 16

20th-28th. Shipston BookFest: See ad on page 16

21st. Shipston Home Nursing: 10K fun run/walk – see article on pages 8-9

23rd. Shipston U3A: See ad on page 10

23rd. GLOSS (Great Ladies of Shipston and Surroundings). A social group for women to have fun and make friends. 7.30pm- 9.30pm at the Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road. The 4th Tuesday of every month (except December). All ladies welcome. Entry £2.

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

25th Shipston High School Open Morning: 9am-10.30am. Darlingscote Road Shipston, CV36 4DY. Contact 01608 661833 or email info@shipstonhigh.co.uk.

u3a

Shipston-On-Stour Area

Shipston on Stour Area u3a
A Friendly and Stimulating Local Community

Are you no longer working full time and wanting to do something new?

Join us at u3a on a fulfilling journey of learning, friendship, and fun, where individuals come together to explore new interests and share experiences.

We offer many different activities including **arts, nature, history, physical activities, music, languages, and social events**. Our welcoming community of over 350 members from all over the Shipston on Stour area encourages you to pursue lifelong learning and discover new hobbies while enjoying the company of like-minded people.

Why Join U3A?
Learn Something New: Explore and join any of our 39 interest groups
Make Friends: Connect with others who share your interests and experiences. Rediscover the joy of learning.
Stay Active: Join our regular outings, workshops, walks and social events.
Flexible Participation: Choose the activities that suit your schedule and interests.

For more information and a full list of activities, please look at our website www.sosau3asite.uk
Come along to one of our monthly meetings which start at 2pm normally on the 4th Tuesday of every month at the Townsend Hall, Shipston, or contact Secretary, John Keyaes, by e-mail secretary@sosau3acommitee.org to find out more


ACTIVITIES IN SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR

Dr Sue Pritchard Memorial Challenge

Health and wellbeing opportunities brought to you by the Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership.

SEATED EXERCISE CLASS	Mondays	Ellen Badger	10.30am or 11.30am
PICKLEBALL	Mondays	Townsend Hall	1.30pm
STRICTLY FITSTEPS FAB	Tuesdays	Townsend Hall	10am
SEATED TAI CHI	Wednesdays	Scout Hut	9.30am
STANDING TAI CHI	Wednesdays	Scout Hut	10.30am
INDOOR CURLING	Wednesdays	Townsend Hall	2pm
PILATES FOR COMPLETE BEGINNERS	Fridays	Townsend Hall	9.30am

For more information or to book a place contact Rowenna Webb on 07967 479375 or email admin@shwp.org.uk



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Stour Valley Lions

presents a

Cookery Book Sale

Sunday 14th September

10am to 3pm


at the Shipston Food Festival

High Street, Shipston-on-Stour CV36 4AA

Fresh stock at every event

We are sorry, but we cannot accept book donations on the day. Please phone 07511 694733 if you have any quality books you wish to donate

All proceeds go to Lions charities
Registered Charity No. 1191826



Come and join us! We are a friendly group who meet every other month to share ideas and learn more about our local community services.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 9th September 2025

Speakers: Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service

At: Townsend Hall, 52 Sheep Street, Shipston-on-Stour, CV36 4AE

10am for free refreshments. 10.30am start, 12 noon finish.

If you require transport to the meeting, VASA **may** be able to assist. Call 01789 262889 or email transport@vasa.org.uk.

What to see at Bookfest

A full programme for the Bookfest accompanies this Forum, and here are some of the highlights to look forward to from events covering true crime and 20th century history, all the way through to feel-good fiction and wellbeing.

On Saturday 20th September, join us for an evening of live music as The Bookshop Band (Beth Porter and Ben Please) perform their songs, inspired by stories, in the Townsend Hall. Or if true crime is more your thing, then hear from author John Cornwell about the chilling case of the deaths of three siblings on a remote Devon farm, covered in his book *Earth to Earth*.

The week brings our Literary Lunch at the Bower House with Sandeep Mahal; she will explore how books transformed her life, taking her to the Board of the Women’s Fiction Prize and to the Royal Shakespeare Company. And on Friday evening authors Kate MacDougall and Elizabeth O’Connor are with us to discuss their two novels: one feel-good fiction and the other literary fiction, they both explore the uniting powers of family relationships and forces of change.

On Saturday 20th September, we are excited to bring actor, comedian and children’s book author Ben Miller to Shipston. Star of *Death in Paradise* and *Bridgerton*, Ben will be talking about his career, and his journey to becoming a children’s author as he introduces us to the Wicked Witch in his latest story from the *Fairytale Woods*.

Our other events on Saturday have a wellbeing focus: David Larbi, writer, creative and TikTok star, will give a talk and workshop on how to be ‘frequently happy’, using his new book and its journaling prompts. In the evening, author and extreme adventurer Phoebe Smith talks about *Wayfarer*: walking, writing and the transformative power of nature and spaces.

We also have a range of children’s and young people’s events in the schools and town – see them all in our programme.

Tickets for the full programme are now available to buy on our website (www.shipstonbookfest.org) and via Richard Harvey. Shipston Bookfest is a volunteer-run festival celebrating books and the joys of reading. We hope you’ll join us this year.

You can discover the full programme now live on our website: www.shipstonbookfest.org



Focus on Shipston business... Richard Harvey Collection

This year marks the 20th anniversary of The Richard Harvey Collection, a shop dedicated to selling high quality goods from furniture to gifts and cards. It is run by husband and wife team Richard and Louise Harvey and supported by three part time staff, Mary, Sam and Jo.

The shop is also celebrating its 50th anniversary since its conception in 1975 by Richard Harvey’s father under the original name of Pine and Country Antiques. In the early days the shop featured mainly furniture and engaged with famous customers such as Sir Ben Kingsley, Kenny Everett and Roger Taylor.

Latterly, Richard and Louise have widened the scope to include traditional British-made Knowle sofas. There are housewares, gifts, accessories and cards and much more on display in the adjoining converted church which just adds to the individuality and atmosphere of this incredible shop. More recent customers include Kate Winslet, Geri Halliwell and Johnny Herbert and the shop also serves the wider UK online with its bespoke collections and individual customer service.

A generous service also allows for customers to request for any item (big or small) to be delivered to their home to try before they buy within a five-mile radius and without charge. People may view this shop as high class and expensive but actually there is something for everyone. It is a very charming and fascinating place to visit and simply have a mooch around, and it’s right on our doorstep in the middle of Shipston. So why not pay a visit and inspire yourself?



Walk or run for a great cause

Dig out your walking boots or your running shoes: it’s time for Shipston Home Nursing’s annual 10k Walk / Fun Run at Walton Hall. Taking place on Sunday 21st September, it is set against the backdrop of the historic 16th-century mansion and its scenic 65-acre estate. The event promises a fun-filled outing and wonderful way to support patients and families in Shipston-on-Stour, Wellesbourne, Kineton, and surrounding areas.

‘Once again, we’ll be offering electronic race timing for runners and the all-important bacon



sarnies and medals at the finish line!’ says Kate Bamford, Head of Fundraising & Communications at Shipston Home Nursing. ‘Whether you love running or prefer the idea of a country walk with the family, please come along for a great morning and raise some money for your local hospice at home charity!’

The event starts at 10am, with registration at 8.45am, at Walton Hall, Wellesbourne, CV35 9HG. Enter as an individual or form a team with friends, family or colleagues. Register online via the Shipston Home Nursing website www.shipstonhomenursing.co.uk.

Brailes mission for RBL

The Shipston-on-Stour Branch of the Royal British Legion proudly represented the RBL at the Brailes Village Show in August.

Our mission was clear: to stand with the local community, raise awareness of the RBL’s vital work, and strengthen the visibility of the Shipston Branch across the wider region.

The event was a resounding success, with excellent attendance and genuine interest from visitors. Many stopped by to learn more, not just about what we do, but about what it truly means to become a member of the Royal British Legion. We spoke with individuals who hadn’t previously understood the depth of support and camaraderie that membership offers, from welfare assistance to community engagement and remembrance.

We’re here to support, to remember, and to grow. If you’ve ever wondered what the RBL stands for, or how you can get involved, we’d love to hear from you. Please contact Ali at ShipstonOnStour.Secretary@rbl.community for more information.



National roles for Shipston’s brass musicians

Two young south Warwickshire brass musicians have secured principal positions in the UK’s leading band for children and young people.

In a first for Shipston Town Band, two of its former players, Alec Banner and Alex Jeffery have been appointed principal percussionist and principal trombone in the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain (NYBBGB). Both players spent the beginnings of their brass band careers at Shipston Town Band and Alec started at its training band, which is about to launch its new term in September.

Earlier this year, at the age of 17, Alec Banner became the conductor of the training band, guiding budding musicians and helping develop their skills as part of an ensemble. Alec, who himself started as a beginner with the training band, is now a percussionist with the world-renowned Flowers Band and Principal Percussionist for the Swan Youth Orchestra. He has been the Principal Percussionist of the National Children’s Brass Band, principal percussionist of Youth Brass 2000 and won the Katie Ogden Solo Prize for the percussion section in 2024.

Alex Jeffery, 18, began playing trombone at 11 years old. He is a pupil at King Edward VI School, Stratford and is due to begin studies at the Royal Northern College of Music in September. As well as performing with Shipston Town Band, he also plays with the National Youth Orchestra, English Schools Orchestra and English Symphony Youth.

Alec and Alex are the latest in a long line who have become members of the NYBBGB including two of Britain’s leading cornet players Kirsty Abbotts and Luke Barker and percussionist Francesca Lombardelli.

Membership of Shipston’s training band is free. For those without their own brass instrument, the band offers instruments on free loan, with music and rehearsal facilities also provided at no cost. The mentoring group’s guidance is included, ensuring every member has the resources they need to succeed. The band rehearses on Wednesday from 6pm-7pm.

Subsidised music lessons at only £10 per lesson are also available for those requiring individual tuition from a professional brass teacher via the band’s brass academy.

For more information visit: www.shipstonband.co.uk, email: info@shipstonband.co.uk or call: 07784 300943



Alec and Alex, second from right and right, respectively, were principals on the Youth Band summer course.

Spreading sunshine



We couldn't resist adding these sunny photos of these sunflower competition entrants Laila Darbyshire aged three and Beatrice Taylor as a reminder of our long hot summer!

SHIPSTON ON STOUR AREA

u3a


Registered Charity no 1170969

Tuesday Sept 23 2025

2.00pm at the Townsend Hall

RUDYARD KIPLING

The Incredible Story of the Writer of Britain's Favourite Poem



Rudyard Kipling was an author, poet and controversial political figure. Once Britain's most famous and biggest selling writer he had a life every bit as exciting as his own stories. Learn how tragedy and trauma in his personal life fashioned his genius as a storyteller for both adults and children. The writer of "The Jungle Book", "The Road to Mandalay" and "If—", voted the nation's favourite poem, captured the vigour and excitement of the British Empire at its pomp but still has much to say about our modern world.

Admission

Members free

visitors £2

WARWICKSHIRE & SOLIHULL

CAVA

COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY ACTION

COMMUNITY GROUP

AND VOLUNTEER ADVICE

DROP IN SESSIONS

Looking for funding for your group?

Want to volunteer or recruit more volunteers?

Drop in for an introductory chat

with Warwickshire Community

And Voluntary Action (CAVA)

staff and see how we can help.

Our forthcoming events...

Locality	Venue	Date/Time
Shipston on Stour	Ellen Badger Community Hub	Tuesday, 30th September 2025, 1.00pm-3.00pm
Bilford	The Cranford Memorial Hall	Wednesday, 1st October 2025 10.00am to 12 noon
Studley	Studley Village Hall	Monday, 6th October 2025 6.00pm-8.00pm
Southam	Graham Adams Centre	Wednesday, 8th October 2025 1.00pm-3.00pm
Welfordbourne	Welfordbourne Library	Friday, 10th October 2025, 2.30pm-4.30pm
Alcester	Eric Payne Centre	Tuesday, 14th October 2025, 1.00pm-3.00pm

FREE of charge. No booking required.

Email: stratfordinfo@wcava.org.uk or call 01789 332962

A charitable company by guarantee. Registered in England & Wales, Number 3603 1286. Registered charity number 1120462.

Stour Valley Lions

presents a

"Bumper"

Book Sale

Saturday 27th September

9.30am to 1pm

at the Scout Hut

New St, Shipston-on-Stour CV36 4EW

Fresh stock at every event

We are sorry, but we cannot accept book donations on the day. Please phone 07511 694733 if you have any quality books you wish to donate

All proceeds go to Lions charities

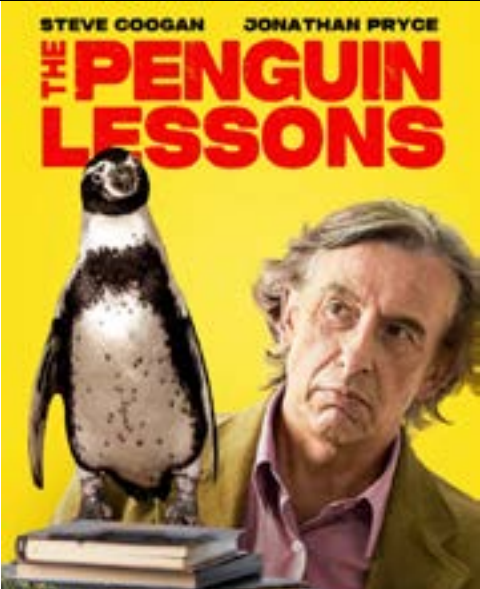
Registered Charity No. 1191826

STOUR VALLEY LIONS CINEMA

STEVE COOGAN

JONATHAN PRYCE

THE PENGUIN LESSONS



Certificate 13 – Funny and Heartwarming.

A disillusioned Englishman who goes to work in a school in a divided Argentina in 1976, finds his life transformed when he rescues an orphaned penguin.

TOWNSEND HALL

FRIDAY 5th September, 2025 at 7.30pm

Tickets on sale from The Flower House, Shipston for cash £6.00, or pay on the door, Drinks, Chocolate and raffle.

Schools news

Page 11

Shipston Primary School

Welcome Back to School

We are looking forward to welcoming all of our children and parents back to school on Wednesday 3rd September. Staff have been working hard at home and at school to ensure that school is looking beautiful for everyone. On Monday 1st the staff will be taking part in phonics teaching training and on Tuesday 2nd we will be working with colleagues from schools across the Stour Federation of schools.

For families preparing to move on from Nursery and start school in September 2026 we welcome visits throughout the year but will be holding specific school tours during the week of 3rd of November. Please look out for more details, including on our updated website.

High School

Shipston High School has started the new academic year with real optimism as students return to the classroom following the summer. Students have returned in an impressive manner. The school is full of life once again, with young people enjoying the school's calm and learning-focused atmosphere. We welcome back existing students, and especially welcome those joining us in year 7, who have quickly focused on their learning.

As you will be aware, the school is consistently popular, and we now need more space to accommodate the many students who continue to make Shipston High School their first choice. The school continues to work closely with Warwickshire County Council on the development of new facilities at the school. The investment of over £10 million into the school has created a state-of-the-art environment through improvements in science and technology. The school has also upgraded its external fenced and floodlit courts with new and improved lighting and an all-purpose artificial playing surface for the courts.

This is great news for the school and community, and we are keen to move the remaining elements of the improvement project forward. The next phase is the construction of our much-anticipated Sports Hall, and we look forward to this getting underway in November of 2025 with the building in operation for autumn 2026.

Another pleasure for this year is knowing that the kind of activities and school trips that bring so much enrichment to our students are fully established, and we are looking forward to an active extracurricular calendar this year. Finishing the year as we did, with a week of trips and activities for all students in July, has certainly whetted the appetite for more such opportunities for all our students in the months ahead.

Parents of year 6 students will already be considering their choice of secondary school for 2026. This is an important decision, and I understand that parents will give careful consideration to the right school for their child. A good number of applications for 2026 are already underway, with the deadline on 31st October.

Families considering Shipston High School have the opportunity to view the school at our open evening, this year hosted on Thursday 18th September 2025, 5.30pm to 7.30pm. We also have an open morning on 25th September (this event requires booking, so please contact the school). Do come along to either event to meet staff and students and see for yourself the positive ethos of the school; we are certain that you will be impressed.

During the summer our latest year 11 cohort received their examination results. The results reflect the hard work not just of year 11, but all the preceding years the students have been in the school, working hard to improve their knowledge and skills. These results are the product of hard work, and will launch our young people into their next phase, whether further study, employment or training. It was joyful to welcome students to the school site to collect their results in late August, where there was a great deal of pride and emotion on show. The students achieved extremely well, and we wish them well for the future.

SHIPSTON HIGH

WELCOMES

PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS AND PARENTS TO OUR

OPEN EVENING

Thursday 18th September, 2025

The evening will commence with the Headteacher's presentation at 5.30 p.m. (which will be repeated at 7 p.m.) followed by an opportunity to view the school until 7.30 p.m.

OPEN MORNING

Thursday 25th September 9.00-10.30 a.m.

"Pupils are at the centre of school life at Shipston High. They uphold the school's values of learning, respect, ambition and achievement in their actions."

Ofsted July 2023

"Pupils show positive attitudes towards learning. This is clear through their written work and the pride they have in their achievements."

Ofsted July 2023

If you have any queries our contact details are:

Telephone: 01608 661833 e-mail: info@shipstonhigh.co.uk

Address: Darlingscote Road, Shipston on Stour, CV36 4DY Website: www.shipstonhigh.co.uk

Shipston Music Society

The first meeting of our new season is on Friday 19th September in the Methodist Church, New Street, starting at 7.30pm. We shall hear a recital by Madeline Kirby (harp) and Judith Scholes (flute). The programme will include music by Gluck, Faure, Piazzolla and Nino Rota.

Tickets for a single concert cost £10. If you subsequently decide to become a member, the cost of one ticket will be deducted from your subscription. Annual membership is £48, equating to £6 per meeting for seven recitals and one talk. New members pay only £40 for the first year. Do you know anywhere else where an evening's entertainment costs so little?

What are we offering for the rest of the season? Musicians from the junior town band will play before the AGM in October followed in November by the Central England Guitar Ensemble – a dozen guitarists playing a wide range of music. The next meeting will be in February when Robyn Pullen, who last sang for us while a student at Shipston Primary School and is now rapidly establishing a name for herself as a professional soprano, will return. In March we shall welcome back George Wilkes, a cellist from Shipston currently studying for a performance diploma at the Guildhall School of Music, who has played many times for the society. Our annual talk in April will be on Aspects of Elgar and given by the chairman of the Elgar Society. May will feature a student from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. The climax of the season in June will be a return visit by Samantha Oxburgh, a mezzo soprano who gave us a truly memorable evening a couple of years ago.

We like to think that this programme will provide a great variety of music for all tastes. Do, please, come and find out for yourself. If you'd like to know more, 07779 151947 or dlaurie.grove@gmail.com will find me. Laurie Grove

Stour Community Awareness Network (SCAN)

The speaker at our July meeting was Lewys Morgan of the Warwickshire Library Service. Probably we all know that libraries are no longer just about lending books for a couple of weeks. In Shipston there are sessions for pre-school children (Rhyme Time 0-2 years, Story Stomp 3-4 years) and Lego club for those at primary school. In the summer there are reading challenges such as read three books on a theme, with incentives and medals.

Adults are not overlooked, with, amongst other things, IT help sessions, a reading group, scrabble club and book bingo: read (or listen to) a book of a particular genre each month for a year. There's a prize draw at the end. Warwickshire Libraries even have apps. The meeting was a real eye opener.



Our September meeting promises to be of great interest. We shall welcome a speaker from the Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service who has been asked to concentrate on safety in the home.

Our meetings are completely free of charge. All will be welcome at 10am on Tuesday, 9th September for tea, coffee, biscuits followed by the talk at 10.30am. We generally finish around noon.

I look forward to welcoming many new faces.

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

Shipston Probus

Graham Short had Probus members rolling in the aisles with stories of life as a micro-artist and as an unexpected film star. He auditioned for the film *Ned and Me*, and to his surprise secured the lead. Upon querying why he was successful despite having no acting experience, the answer came, 'We want an old face, and you will need to practice walking like an oldie.'

Aged 15, Graham left school to work in a print works in Birmingham. He rose from engraving letterheads to become the royal engraver for 30 years, where he met and worked for royals.

Micro-artists can engrave the Lord's Prayer on a pinhead. To do such exacting detail, Graham works from midnight to dawn, three nights a week, not because he cannot sleep but to avoid vibrations of passing traffic. He must medically slow his heart and work between heart beats. Needles are sharpened to the finest of points and he uses a microscope and an oversized sketch with guidelines which can subsequently be polished out.

In 2012, he spent nine months engraving Nothing is Impossible along the sharp edge of a razor blade, a project he titled Cutting Edge. To mark the late Queen's Diamond Jubilee, he created a portrait of her on a gold speck inserted into the eye of a needle.

At an exhibition of his work to an English-speaking group in Japan, Graham decided to say a few words in their own language. Noting the 'Ladies and Gentlemen' sign over the toilet, he addressed his audience who smiled politely. At the end, the chairman thanked him but enquired as to why he had started with the words 'toilets and urinals'?

Famous customers abound: Simon Rattle, Uri Geller, Trevor Brooking, Banksy, Ozzy Osbourne and Ronnie Barker. Ronnie had a memorabilia shop in Chipping Norton and asked Graham to engrave the Lord's Prayer on a nail head which subsequently led to him doing the same on a pin head. Graham's work can be seen in museums around the world including the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust.

If you feel Probus could appeal to you, then why not give us a try as our guest? Guests enjoy a free lunch



and no initial commitment to join, entirely your choice! Please contact Tony Joint on 07711 310272 or email: tonyjoint73@hotmail.com for further details.

Shipston Proms Music Festival

We love putting on the Shipston Proms Music Festival, and judging from the positive reaction to Proms 25, you love attending! However, this year, more than ever, we need new members to join our committee. We have reached a point where our current committee is overstretched, and we may have to cut down on some of the events. We urgently need to fill the position of the Chair which Charlotte Haines has recently vacated. We are also looking for a main secretary to help with the general work of the Proms as well as a press secretary. If you like the idea of writing monthly articles for the *Forum* and promoting the Proms in the local papers and online, the press role could be for you! General committee members are also needed.

If you would like to get involved our next meeting is on 24th September in the sports bar of the Black Horse at 7pm. We look forward to seeing as many of you that can make it.

All details can be found on our new website www.shipstonproms.org or on our Facebook page. Provisional dates for next year are 19th June – 4th July

Stour Valley Lions Club

It's been a busy and rewarding summer for the Stour Valley Lions Club.

We kicked things off with a Race Night in Tysoe in support of NOXAID – the fantastic charity, backed by Hook Norton Brewery, that provides practical aid to Ukraine. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we raised nearly £1,000 for this vital cause.

At the Brailes Show, our stand was a hit with transport and motoring enthusiasts, as we sold a wide selection of vehicle-themed books. A lively Bingo evening at Townsend Hall followed, with proceeds going into our local charities fund, which will be distributed through the Lions Den next spring.

We also had the great pleasure of celebrating a special milestone: 40 years of membership in Lions Clubs International for one of our dedicated members. David Squires, our much-valued Book Sales Supremo, has been part of Stour Valley Lions for over 25 years. During the set-up for our recent Book Sale, Club President Duncan Cashmore surprised David with a presentation, congratulating him not only on his years of service but also on his outstanding contribution to our fundraising efforts.

Looking ahead – our next event is a Cookery Book sale at the Food Festival on 14th September. Then, on 27th September, we'll host a full Book Sale in the Scout Hut.



If you have good-quality books of any genre to donate, give us a call on 07511 694733. Finally, our Community Film Evening returns on Friday, 5th September with *The Penguin Lessons*, starring Steve Coogan and Jonathan Pryce. We hope to see you there.

Shipston WI

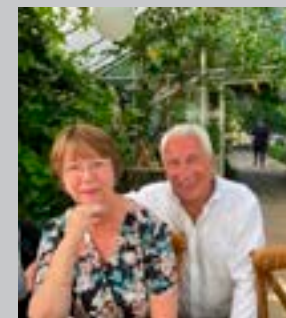
Shipston WI did it again! Blowing kazoos and producing fruit from our artistically decorated 'fruit machine', we wowed the crowds at this year's Brailes Show and gave spectators a taste of the fun to be had from the WI. Not just Jam and Jerusalem.



I joined Shipston u3a and found a community

Lesley Reed writes about how she found new activities and friends by joining u3a.

After moving to Shipston in 2023 to be nearer to our children and grandchildren, I was still concerned that I would be lonely as I had left behind other family and close friends. Then I discovered the u3a website on the internet. I had not heard of it but was delighted to see that there were many groups available to join.



Lesley and her husband Chris

Having an interest in genealogy, I decided to join the family history group first. It can be a bit daunting going along to a new group of people on your own, but I needn't have worried. They were all very friendly and I was made to feel very welcome. I have since joined three more groups, one of which was a walking group. I had asked my husband to come with me on the first walk, and although he had said that joining groups wasn't for him, he then got hooked himself. He now belongs to three groups and started and runs his own group!

For us, the u3a has meant becoming part of a community, keeping our minds and bodies active, learning new things, but best of all making new friends along the way.

Lesley Reed



County Council

It's high summer, very hot, ice cream jingley and GCSE and A level anticipatory!

I write in August, so I am lucky to be feeling quite carefree and holiday-ey. I'm not on holiday – yet – so I have to keep concentrating.

I love all the emails, WhatsApps, messenger messages etc which you send me. I will always do my best to get back in touch. If I don't, please poke me: I'm only human (yes really).

Interesting meeting at Town Council this week, including a great discussion about the Ellen Badger Hospital. I'm the Deputy Chair of the SHWP – amongst other things – and I am so excited about all the activities we are getting in to the Wellbeing space. I've been asked this week alone, to help get space for three local support organisations and a psychotherapist. The space allows for low cost and free use if the activity is beneficial to health and wellbeing. Several people have also asked at their Stratford appointments to be at the EBH in future! I love it when a plan comes together.

At WCC there hasn't been a lot going on. Practically every enquiry gets an out of office at the moment. I am keeping a record of all of them to resend in September, before I go away. Needless to say, I am collecting piccies of footpath repairs... keep sending them and I will get our area officer to come down in the autumn.

Some of you have asked why the WCC Conservative group abstained in the vote which saw the largest single group take control. We could not agree with either side. We will vote as we go, vote by vote - doing our best for our residents - in my case - you. Politics is not always easy (never in fact) and the balance of decisions is never going to satisfy everyone. As ever, we will do our best.

Never fear that we are holding feet to the fire via the Overview and Scrutiny Committees we chair – as soon as anything happens! So far we have seen continuity of policies we brought in. I am particularly proud that the brave decision to invest in Resourced Provisions at schools across the county, is continuing. It's better for kids to be educated in their community where possible, to reduce disruption, and spare the time, cost and pain of lots of travel. Common sense in action!

We have remembered VE and VJ 80 year anniversaries this month. I am so proud to take part in events like the memorial for VJ Day at the Gyratory Garden, on your behalf, too, as I know we can't all be there.

Surgeries resume in September, but I am always able to juggle a cup of coffee and chat into my week.

Yours ever, Jo

Jo Barker

County Councillor, Shipston Division

07748968712 | jobarker@warwickshire.gov.uk

District Council

Help shape the future of local government for Warwickshire

As we may have mentioned before, the government, via the English Devolution White Paper, has mandated changes to the way local government works, combining District and County Councils to make Unitary Authorities.

A consultation is now underway (closing on 14th September) seeking your view on having two Unitary Authorities – one for North Warwickshire (Nuneaton / Bedworth / Rugby) and one for South Warwickshire (Warwick, Leamington & Stratford). You can find out more by clicking on ‘engagement booklet’ at www.stratford.gov.uk/news/press.cfm/current/1/item/138570. We currently favour the two Unitary Authority solution over an all-Warwickshire Unitary Authority for two reasons:

1. The English Devolution White Paper also requires Unitary Authorities to group together to form ‘Strategic Authorities’. It is early days and things may change, but as it stands, it's not clear who we could group with. Many of the bordering Authorities have already identified their group and it does not include Warwickshire. By having a north and south unitary authority, we can combine to make a whole Warwickshire Strategic Authority.

2. We're concerned that any new authority, which will be larger and cover a wider area than the District Council will be more remote from residents and Parish Councils. There is a balance between gaining efficiencies associated with larger organisations and the organisation becoming too large to be a part of the community it seeks to serve. My view is that balance is closer with the two Unitary Authority solution.

Both solutions risk spreading councillors too thin. In my submission I have pressed for the new Unitary Authority to keep the same size areas as the current district Council (about 3,500 residents) to ensure no reduction in service to residents.

The questionnaire (www.shapingourcouncils.co.uk/get-involved) takes just a few minutes, and your opinions matter.

Warm Homes Local Grant

The new funding scheme to help homeowners and private rented tenants stay warm and cut energy costs is now open for applications. The Warm Homes Local Grant funding aims to improve the warmth and comfort of more of the worst performing homes across the District, whilst also reducing energy bills, carbon emissions and levels of fuel poverty.

There are two key criteria for eligibility:

- Having a combined annual household income under £36,000 (savings are not assessed) or receive means-tested benefits or are vulnerable to the cold.
- Having a home EPC rating D or worse. But you don't need an EPC rating to apply – see below.

I would suggest anyone whose household income is below £36,000 and has a house more than 40 years old should apply.

The initial online application takes five minutes and asks you some simple questions about your house if you do not have an EPC rating. After this, an assessor will ring you to discuss your application in more detail. If you are eligible for the scheme, an assessor will visit your home to determine the best energy efficiency measures, which could be various types of insulation, double glazing or clean heating sources. Any approved measures will be installed completely free of charge. Whilst this is paid for by the District Council, EON are the service provider.

Start your application at www.eonenergy.com/grant-finder.html

If you are in anyway unsure or would like assistance at any stage, please get in touch.

Olivia Hatch

District Councillor, Shipston North

07752 562114 | olivia.hatch@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



Steve Crockett

e: steve.crockett@shipstontowncouncil.org



Vanessa Benjamin-Smith

e: vanessa.benjamin-smith@shipstontownconcil.org

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: PC1508 Sid Hammond – 07967303185	
PCSO Katie Brooks – 07870978973	
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.




 52 Sheep Street, Shipston-on-Stour, Warwickshire. CV36 4AE
Charity No. 522997

Townsend Hall, Shipston, presents...

On Friday, 19th September 2025

The Bossa Gringos



This exciting quartet of crack musicians breathe new life into well known and not so well know Latin rhythms (Bossa Nova, Samba, Rhumba, etc). The result is exciting stuff. We promise you'll love it!

Featuring Toliy Vyacheslavov on sax, flute and percussion; Hugh Turner on guitar, and two bassists, Raph Mizraki and Paul Jeffries, who often switch between percussion, upright bass and bass guitar

Doors / Bar Open 19:00 for 20:00
Tickets £15 in advance; £17 on the Door
From the Flower House, 3 Market Place, Shipston and online via ticketsource.co.uk/townsend-hall or townsendhall.co.uk

Tickets are for general admission. For a table reservation of 4 or more people, phone Peter on 07711-562317

Shipston on Stour  

Food Festival

Supported by
Shipston Town Council



Sunday 14th Sept 2025

Shipston Town Centre 10am to 3pm

Even more choice
than last year!



More details at
www.ShipstonFoodFestival.org/foodfestival



Postcode: CV36 1AA Brought to you by Stour Valley Lions - Charity No. 1191826



Shipston Music Society

www.shipstonmusic.org.uk



Madeleine Kirby
Harp

Judith Scholes
Flute

*Programme to include
Sicilienne by Gabriel Faure
& L'Histoire du Tango by
Astor Piazzola*

Friday 19th September, 7.30pm
The Methodist Church
New Street
Shipston on Stour

 Tickets £10 on the door or from E.H.Spencer
Free entry for members
New members always welcome
More information: 01608 662998
Registered Charity No: 1146459 (England)



SHIPSTON 2025 BOOKFEST

Programme highlights include:

HISTORY | TRUE CRIME

FEEL-GOOD FICTION

WELLBEING | NATURE

CHILDREN'S

AND MORE!

A festival celebrating the joy of books and reading

20-28 September
www.shipstonbookfest.org
@shipstonbookfest  