



Shipston Forum



July 2025

New hospital open

Following a series of open days in early June, the new Ellen Badger opened for its first clinical appointments for outpatients. Heart failure nurse clinics, midwifery clinics and physiotherapy sessions among others are now underway on the first floor, while the new Community Wellbeing Hub on the ground floor offers activities such as the Warm Hub and the Toy Library.



Connecting the past

Shipston Museum has helped to connect past with the present at the new building, supplying images from its photographic collection to create a timeline showing the vital role the hospital has played in the community since it was first built as a result of the donation in 1896 by local wine merchant Richard in memory of his wife Ellen 'for the comfort and healing of the sick and suffering'.

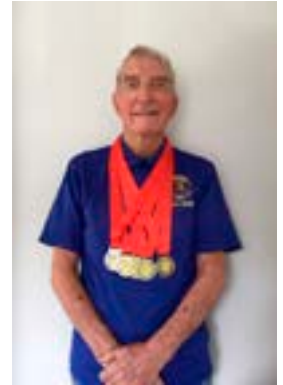


A yellow classic bicycle is also on display with a collection of signposts to commemorate the hospital's 1938 carnival, at which 14 surrounding villages were represented. A 'key tree' made up of leaves created by primary school children (below) along with keys from the old hospital is labelled as a 'powerful reminder of the care, dedication and community spirit that have long been part of (the hospital's) legacy.'



Swimming record

Arthur Lowe, Master Swimmer and husband of Town Crier Marion, competed in a regional gala on 31st May at Birmingham University in his new age group of 90-94 years. He entered five races, came first in all five and won five British records! Arthur is now the fastest 90-year-old male in Britain to swim 50, 100 and 200 metres freestyle and the 50, 100 metres backstroke.



A few weeks later, Marion was also competing, this time representing Shipston in the Ancient and Honourable Guild of Town Criers national championship in Bromsgrove. Although she was not placed - 'It's hard to compete against a big chesty male with a loud voice!' – Marion, as one of only four women criers, was complimented on her precision and diction as she took on the challenge of a cry of 120 words on the topic of Why Visit Museums, while ringing the auctioneer's bell currently on display at the museum. See page 8.

All about the drama

A lot of fun was had at the Townsend Hall when A Bunch of Amateurs took to the stage at the end of May to act out the play of the same name, written by Ian Hislop and Nick Newman. Here's George Kelly playing Jefferson Steele, a fading Hollywood star.



Rafi wins brass band trophy

Rafi Gil-Keeling, aged 7, was the youngest competitor at the recent Oxford & District Brass Band contest where he was awarded this splendid trophy that dates back to 1950. Rafi is also the youngest member of Shipston's Training Band and is receiving cornet lessons with Shipston Brass Academy.



In this issue

Killed in action – after the war ended – page 4

Shipston business focus: Time in Hand – page 5

Band News - page 8

Donations for outdoor play wanted – page 11

Shakespeare's music - page 12

Medical Centre premises plans – page 14

Mayor’s column

Dear Shipston,

Mayor making ceremonies mainly happen in May, so it tends to be a busy month where we all get invited to each others’ events. I had the pleasure of attending services in both Warwick and Stratford and to greet and congratulate Mayoresses Jackie D’Arcy and Dani Hunter in their respective ceremonies which were steeped in tradition and pageantry.

From this point on, I hope to attend as many local events as my diary will allow, so please contact the council office if you have anything that you would like me to attend and support you on. Congratulations to the Sports club and to the Stour Valley singers for their 50th anniversary celebrations in May and I’m sure June will see many community fetes and events for us all to enjoy as we also head towards the 2025 Proms.

In my last column, I promised that I would talk about the issues that are important to the town. So...let’s talk about the Ellen Badger.

Here are some quotes lifted from a recent Facebook post illustrating the strong feeling on this subject by many in the town:

“The word hospital needs to be taken off the building! It is not a hospital.”

“No beds – shameful.”

“Shipston residents now have an ugly box of a building to look at and less services provided to us!”

Now, I should make it clear that I am fully empathetic with the Beds4Badger campaign which continues to fight for the return of the beds to Shipston. I don’t condone what has happened, but before the keyboard warriors out there have a meltdown and start typing furiously at me, I know that this is a very emotive subject for our town with local and national media also previously having taken an interest. So, rather than talk about the beds (or the lack of them!) or, indeed, the definition of a hospital, I would like to take a moment to focus on some of the more positive points of this new facility by sharing my own thoughts with you following a recent tour of the building that I was given. So, grab some crisps, strap in and read on.

In June I attended an open day at the new EBH. The building is impressive with easy access and ample parking. Inside, it looks and feels like a great space that will provide support for community health and wellbeing needs by bringing together an array of healthcare professionals and groups under one roof. A first for the region and one that we can be excited to see developing in our town over the coming year.

The EBH is scheduled to open in stages over the next 12 months as a wider range of health services are introduced before a more official opening date can be finalised. The ground floor benefits from a community café and meeting spaces that will feature a warm hub and toy swap group with many other community wellbeing activities scheduled to follow in the coming weeks and months.

The first floor will provide space for doctors and treatment rooms in addition to accommodating a variety of health services including:

Physiotherapy / Cardiac support / Parkinson’s Clinic / Dementia support / Bladder and Bowel specialists

Midwifery and baby clinics / Speech therapy / Catheter clinics / Eye screening

This list will continue to grow as further services are introduced, and appointments are already being held.

Many of us, myself included, have had to travel to Coventry UHCW or Warwick Hospital to see specialists and receive treatment for these conditions, so having these medical services available in our town will be a major benefit to the community.

The top floor will accommodate Shipston Home Nursing and other professional care organisations all aligned to providing a cross-functional community health care solution. These combined resources will also provide for convalescent care in patients’ own homes.

The legacy of the Ellen Badger Hospital name lives on – as it should. People generally resist change but perhaps there’s a way to move on and accept what we have now been given rather than lament what we have lost? It is my hope that, in time, we may all view this modern new facility in a positive way and appreciate how it will provide for the health and well being needs of ourselves, our loved ones and our community for many more years to come.

As promised, I am also starting a regular column showcasing some of the unique independent businesses in our special town and the extraordinary and dedicated people behind them. This month is the turn of Time in Hand who also celebrate their 50th anniversary this year and hope you will find them as interesting as I did.

Finally, there is now a new Mayor of Shipston Facebook page to be used by myself and future Mayors. This page will be light-hearted but also keep you informed of engagements, events and the issues that matter to Shipston. Please take a look and follow the page.

My grateful thanks to you all for reading my column and I look forward to talking and reflecting with you again next month.

Your Mayor,

Tony Booth



News from Shipston Town Council’s June meeting

New councillors

Two new councillors introduced themselves and were duly sworn in as members of Shipston Town Council.

• Vanessa Benjamin-Smith has lived in the town for two and a half years. She has loved living in town and getting involved. A teacher in Oxfordshire for 35 years, she is starting to wind down her professional life and is keen to keep busy and deepen her involvement in the town.



• Steve Crockett has lived in Shipston since 1999 and now lives in Signal Road. He works full time in telecoms and is also very interested in becoming further involved in helping the community.



Events

Councillors and mayor have variously attended and enjoyed events in town such as the recent performances by the Amateur Dramatic Society, VE celebrations, the first of the Proms concerts, book club, and the Great Big Green Week picnic and film, and thanked everyone involved in putting them on.

Banking

Councillor Williams continues to be heavily involved in the issue of banking facilities in town with the prospect of Lloyds Bank quitting Shipston in November. The bank appears to be accelerating its plans for closure by applying for planning permission for its building and confirming it will remove the ATM. Cllr Williams cited issues remembered by the community when the ATM was out of action for nine weeks and retailers and businesses experienced reduced footfall. His survey shows that the bank is an ‘anchor’ business that brings people into town. A major concern is lack of banking facilities for organisations and charities running events who need cash handling facilities. The local MP is on board and will raise the question of towns without banks such as Shipston with HM Treasury. The council agreed that getting a banking hub, which could offer facilities from up to five banks, should be a focus and that businesses and groups could support a campaign for this.

Sports and Youth Clubs

Cllr Howarth attended the AGM at the Sports Club where there has been a reorganisation, with the bar running separately to the charity and a new barman. The Football Club also has a new management team in place. Options for a new pitch and possible funding were discussed. Plans for a new building for the Youth Club have hit obstacles but routes forward will be sought.

District Council

Cllr Passingham reported looking into a feasibility study on improved cycling routes to school under the Shaping Travel proposals. He also noted that Shipston will feature in a Stratford Herald series on new housing estates in the region.

Blue light update

The police have arrested 12 suspects following the rise in burglaries reported earlier this year. They have also attended road traffic accidents, mental health incidents and dealt with anti-social behaviour which increased during the spell of good weather.

The First Responders’ new Land Rover Discovery vehicle will replace the Subaru shortly. In the year to date they have attended nearly 200 incidents, and saw 48 callouts in May. Just under half of those were within Shipston, with 16 being category 1 (urgent or life-threatening).

Ellen Badger

Councillors attended the open day to see the new building. With the future of the old 1992 building still unclear, Cllr Dinnie has suggested registering it as an asset of the community. This means the Town Council would have to be consulted if the building were to be sold.

Planning

Council voted no representation on proposal for a crown lift of a tree in Orchard Close.

General purposes and assets

Five councillors will take part in online training on the safety of play areas.



Shipston Forum

Got a story to share?

Then we’d love to hear from you and so would the town!

The Forum welcomes news from around the community and from all of Shipston’s many clubs, societies and non-profit organisations.

- Reviews
- Event reports
- Sporting triumphs
- Upcoming events

And don’t forget to include photos!

Remember to plan ahead! **The deadline is always the second Monday of every month, for the issue that comes out the following month.**

You can also submit an advert, preferably in PDF format and also please in portrait shape. Please note there is only one colour ad page.

Send your contributions to:
forum@shipstononline.org

The Forum is published and produced monthly by Shipston Town Council.

Remembering Shipston’s Fallen

1942799 Driver John Alan Rowett

Alan, as he was known, was the son of John William and Rosamund (née Bradley) Rowett and was born in Boston, Lincolnshire in the autumn of 1920. John worked as a joiner for John Lucas & Son, a builder’s company based in West Street, Boston.



In the summer of 1941, Alan married Audrey Mary Smith of New Street, Shipston-on-Stour, the marriage ceremony taking place in Shipston. The 1939 Register shows Audrey, who was from Shipston, living in at the Thatched Tavern in Station Road as a chambermaid/waitress. In the spring of 1943 Alan and Audrey had a daughter Jillian. At the time of her birth the family were still living in Shipston.

Alan served as a driver with the 152 Railway Construction Company, Royal Engineers, and was killed on 18th June 1945 when a lorry loaded with cleared landmines exploded, killing not just Alan, but also Sapper George Branzniell and three local children. His death certificate lists him as killed in action, even though the war in Europe had been over for more than a month. Alan is buried in Jonkerbos War Cemetery, Nijmegen, Netherlands and is remembered on the Town War Memorial.

Sadly, Jillian died on 27th October 1947. She is buried in the churchyard at Barcheston, and the gravestone reads: ‘Cherished memories of my dear husband and darling daughter. Dvr. John (Alan) Rowett killed on active service in Holland 18 June 1945 aged 24 years. Jillian safe in the arms of Jesus 29 Oct 1947, aged 4 years and 5 months. Unseen unheard yet ever near.’

Beds for Badger campaign

The request for the call in to the Secretary of State will be submitted soon and we will await the government response. We welcome the Medical Centre’s statement on the integration of co-located health workers.



We now have our very pleasant new building with its limited clinical facilities. It is good that the medical centre is able to get some increased accommodation in the building, but we have still to see how the split in services between the facilities at either end of Badgers Crescent will be managed.

Similarly, we have yet to see how the ‘virtual ward’ extending from Stretton-on-Fosse to Tysoe and Wellesbourne to Little Compton is to be staffed and managed between the Primary Care Network and



the staff to be accommodated on the second floor.



Across the country, ambulance delays have reached life-threatening levels. Ambulances stuck in queues at hospitals are unable to respond to emergencies, with over 10,000 excess deaths linked to response time failures. The NHS needs quicker patient turnaround to free up emergency services. Increased bed availability means faster ambulance turnaround which means fewer deaths. Ambulance delays put more strain on our volunteer first responders and make it more likely that an ambulance will not be available for anything other than the most critical incidents and possibly not even then. South Warwickshire University NHS Foundation Trust (SWFT) and The Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) must recognise that more inpatient beds are required in Warwick, Leamington, Stratford and Shipston to reduce ambulance delays.

Keep following on the Facebook page. Thanks for all the likes and shares and for your continued support.

Beds for Badger Organising Committee



Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership update

With the new Community Wellbeing Hub on the ground floor at the Ellen Badger opened in June, it is with great pleasure that we are able to offer community activities in this fantastic space. Our successful Shipston Community Warm Hub has moved from the Scout Hut to the Ellen Badger on Thursday mornings from 10am to 12 noon. In addition, we will be offering a click and collect, stay for a play and cuppa service for The Stour Toy Library, also on Thursdays from 11am to 12noon. For more details on the Toy Library please visit <https://borrow.shwp.org.uk/> Our seated exercise class on Mondays from 11-11:45am has moved from the Townsend Hall to its new home at the Ellen Badger. If you would like to try any of these activities for the first time, please feel free to come along and we’ll be there to welcome you. <https://www.shwp.org.uk/>

Focus on Shipston business

Time in Hand

Time in Hand celebrates its 50th Anniversary in Shipston this year. Situated on Church Street, this fascinating gem has changed little over the years. Upstairs the workshop feels like a step back in time surrounded by many ticking clocks of all shapes and sizes with their relentless symphony of time passing by.

The shop is run by horologists Adrian and Julian with the support of Bernice on the front desk. Since taking over the business in 2019 they have sought to widen the scope of service to include watches of all makes and styles, where previously Time in Hand concentrated mainly on mantle clocks and grandfather clocks. They also sell clocks and watches and are the UK’s only distributor of YEMA, a high-quality French watch brand.

Brexit followed by Covid caused many businesses across the country to close over the last five years, leaving few specialist outlets like Time in Hand, so they find that they are now serving a far wider audience across the whole of the UK. They attribute their resilience to their ability to offer a bespoke service while also providing an online presence. (www.timeinhand.co.uk)

Their passion for their trade in providing a personalised service was evident as they described how they apply original skills and methods to ensure that all work is sympathetic to each piece they work on, from a c1730 movement clock to a modern day watch.

The future is hopeful, but this industry is feeling the impact of the digital age as well as the effects of cheap reproduction battery operated clocks and little interest from current generations to pursue an horology career, but Adrian and Julian feel proud to work and live in Shipston and hope to continue running their business within our community for many more years to come.



Vet shares stress-free tips for cat

It can be daunting to take your cat to the vet, but it’s important for their health and wellbeing that they can go to the vets if they’re unwell or need routine healthcare such as vaccinations.

Dr Victoria Organ, a veterinary surgeon at Shipston Vets in West Street, has some suggestions to make your cat’s visit to the vet as stress-free as possible.

- 1. Invest in a sturdy carrier, ideally plastic so it can be cleaned easily, and choose one with access at the front and a removable top.
- 2. Let your cat explore the carrier out at home, so they don’t just associate it with vet visits. Pop in some cosy bedding, food and toys.
- 3. Look for a vet practice that, like Shipston Vets, is an International Cat Care Cat Friendly Clinic, which promotes cat health and welfare.
- 4. Ask your vet practice if they offer cat-only clinic times. Shipston Vets has cat-only appointments on Monday and Tuesday lunchtimes after our normal morning clinics. It also has a designated cat waiting area and shelves – cats are happier higher up. The practice offers 15-minute consultations, so cats have time to explore the consult room and find somewhere they feel safe.

5. You can apply a pheromone spray to the carrier and the car 20mins before you leave to help reduce your cat’s anxiety and stress. Pet owners can collect free natural calming wipes from us prior to appointments.

6. If travelling by car, place the carrier level on the back seat and secure it with the seat belt. Some carriers have special seat belt hooks. Cover with a towel and talk soothingly to your cat.



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, Ellen Badger Health & Wellbeing Hub

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

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, 11am 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 Community 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

Page 6

What’s On Calendar: July 2025

1st. Shipston Library Reading Group: 2pm-3pm first Tuesday of each month.

1st & 15th. ‘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

2nd. Shipston Widows: The first Wednesday of each month at the Horseshoe. Coffee from 11am and stay for lunch. Contact: Barbara Bean 6632304

2nd. Shipston on Stour WI: What did you Do? – Members’ Social Evening. 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

2nd & 16th. Stour Valley Stitchers: 10am-1pm, The Hall, Stourton, CV36 5HG. 1st & 3rd Wednesdays

4th & 5th. Evening Swift Walks: 7.30pm-9.45pm See ad on page 10

4th & 18th. 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

5th. 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

6th. Lego Church: First Sunday of the month 10:30am during morning service at St Edmund’s. For school age children. Please bring an adult. Contact rector@shipstonchurch.org.

8th. Stour Valley Lions Meeting: 6:30pm – 9:30pm; The George Townhouse. 2nd Tuesday of every month

10th. The Royal British Legion – Shipston Branch: Committee Meeting. 18:30 hrs, St Edmund’s Church. If you would like to know more, become a Committee member or a member of the Branch call or message the Branch Secretary Alex Black on 07789 968733 or email alblack32@hotmail.com

11th. Probus meeting: Shipston Sports and Social Club, London Road, 10.30am

11th. Shipston Tennis Club: Quiz Evening. See ad on page 10

14th. Town Council Meeting: 7pm, New Clark House

15th. Townsend Hall AGM: 7pm. See page 12

17th. Drop In Clinic: For the over 65s. 10am-12pm, Ellen Badger Hospital. Every third Thursday

18th. 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

19th. Stour Valley Lions: Bumper Book Sale - See ad on page 10

22nd. 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

25th. Probus meeting: Shipston Sports and Social Club, London Road, 10.30am

27th. Messy Church: See ad on page 16

31st. Local Quaker Meeting for Worship: St Edmund’s Church, last Thursday in the month at 2.30pm, followed by tea/coffee, biscuits & chat

Adverts

SEATED EXERCISE

Mondays at 11am

ELLEN BADGER, SHIPSTON ON STOUR

A gentle seated exercise session, designed to help build strength for everyday activities.

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

This is one of the range of activities in the Dr Sue Pritchard Memorial Challenge delivered by the Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership

10AM TO 12PM THURSDAY

ELLEN BADGER COMMUNITY HUB

SHIPSTON ON STOUR

WarmHub

EVERY THURSDAY

Complimentary tea and coffee along with a friendly face. Every week we have both the social prescriber from Shipston Medical Centre, and a counsellor from Nhs.uk who are on hand to assist with any health and wellbeing needs you may have.

1ST THURSDAY

Tools and resources to help you get online. One of the staff will be able to run through the basics so if you have any digital questions, come along with your phone or tablet.

1ST AND 2ND THURSDAYS

We will be running cooking groups with Wendy, improve your cooking skills and meet new people. Places are limited so it will be on a first come first served basis.

3RD THURSDAY

There will be a Frailty Nurse joining us every month from Shipston Medical Centre. She will be running a drop in clinic and will be on hand to help with any health and mobility issues you have.

4TH THURSDAY

Shipston Home Nursing staff will come and offer bereavement support along with a warm bowl of soup and a friendly atmosphere.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT: WWW.SHWP.ORG.UK

Page 7

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

THE STOUR TOY LIBRARY

Where is it?

Book your toys online and collect from either:
Shipston Baby and Toddler group, Scout Hut, Monday 10am - 11am
Ellen Badger Community Hub, Thursday 11am - 12pm.

How much does it cost?

There is an annual membership fee of £5
To borrow the toys, there is no additional cost. You can borrow 2 at a time.
We are so grateful to the many funders and supporters of The Stour Toy Library, who have been able to make this possible.

How does it work?

All toys are available to view and reserved on the booking site.
Alternatively, you can come along to the sessions to see the toys in person.
Once you are happy, sign up as a member and start enjoying the benefits of the Toy Library while making friends with other young families in the area.

Access and book all of the incredible toys here:
http://borrow.shwp.org.uk
Or scan the QR code below

If you would like to be involved or have any suggestions on how we can improve the Toy Library, please email: thestourtoylibrary@gmail.com

Around town

Ducks away!

The annual Duck Race was great fun for all the family and raised over £2,000 for Shipston Home Nursing and Young Anglers. Huge thanks to headline sponsors The Fuzzy Duck, and to the many other businesses in town who sponsored races or entered the Duck Derby where the mallards raced instead of the little yellow ducks. Thank you to everyone for your support!



Under the hammer

The Museum’s current Under the Hammer display was featured in the Stratford Herald when journalist Patrick Hollis interviewed Robert Harper, the last of the Shipston auctioneers, about the collection he has helped to preserve over the years. The article covered the early auctioneers like William Bull, whose gavel from 1842 is on show. Among the fascinating items are the swag bag which held the cash and the 1909 Sheldon wine merchant’s ledgers which reveal local sales, open at the page for Frank Parsons.

This unique collection of auction posters and brochures tells stories from major estate sales like Idlicote to cottage pots and pans, and farmers parting with their herds noting the name of each cow and its milk yield.

‘The display of Shipston’s rich auctioneering history shines a light on a chapter of the town I was pleased to find out about,’ Patrick Hollis told us. ‘I would highly recommend anyone in Shipston and the surrounding area to pay a visit to this collection.’

Trustee Stefan Lang who helped display this collection said: ‘It’s a fascinating insight into when large rural estates and local artisans were key drivers of economic activity. The Shipston auctioneers held almost daily auctions across a wide area. I was fortunate to be guided by Robert Harper with his intimate knowledge of the business and the local area.’

Walk the talk

There’s an opportunity to engage with history in the museum’s latest walking talk on 26th July. Meet at the museum at 3.30pm for A Walk Through Shipston’s Past, from the prehistoric salt trade to the coming of steam.

Bookfest band

The Bookfest team is excited to share the first news of the second Bookfest, running 20-28th September. The launch weekend kicks things off on Saturday 20th with The Bookshop Band, an award-winning group of folk songwriters, Beth Porter and Ben Please, who

Page 8



Around town

draw their inspiration from books. Their latest album, Emerge, Return, features songs inspired by authors including Philip Pullman, Margaret Atwood, the Brontes and Robert Macfarlane. The album was produced by no less a star than The Who’s Pete Townshend. At the event, run in partnership with the amazing Shipston Proms, there will be a showcase of local authors talking about their books. Other events over the period will include spies and Spitfires, well-being and workshops, plus crime and more. Tickets for the full programme go on sale from Friday 18th July, available from our website www.shipstonbookfest.org and The Richard Harvey Collection. Come and speak to the Bookfest team at the Lion’s Book Sale on Saturday 19th July at the Scout Hut and stay up to date with us on social media @shipstonbookfest on Facebook and Instagram. Shipston Bookfest is a volunteer-run festival that brings the community together to celebrate the joy of reading.

The 2025 festival runs 20-28th September.

Shipston Proms

A full round up of the Shipston Proms Music Festival will be in next month’s Forum, but for now we hope you had a fantastic time during our two week music extravaganza! As usual, it has been a real community effort to put on something of this scale and a huge thank you to all those who got involved. This year we had some very generous raffle prizes, including two from Charingworth Manor, and the offer of a music lesson from our own expert music teacher Jill Davies.



Shipston Introducing winners Jay Mac, Mimi Rogers and Jamie Webber

One of Jill’s former pupils 17-year-old Charlie Martin, now at Chipping Campden school, was one of five very talented performers to enter our Shipston Introducing event at the beginning of June. Charlie has a wide vocal range which saw him sing Radiohead’s Creep and also master the soaring cadences of Grace Kelly by Mika. Another student to enter from Chipping Campden was Sam Conisbee, a Shipston Introducing regular and growing from strength to strength on acoustic guitar. From further afield in Banbury, we had Jayden Tin performing two songs with great confidence on piano at just 11 years old. However, it was Jay Mac, also from Banbury who won the solo category and the chance to play on the main stage on Final Night. He impressed the judges by playing a mixture of hip hop, rap, drum’n’bass and fusion as well as performing his own material. Oddington and Chipping Norton duo, Mimi Rogers on vocal and Jamie Webber playing keyboard were the group who won the chance to play on the main stage on the Final Night with their outstanding mix of soul, funk and pop.

To all who entered, we wish them all well with their future music careers. We hope to see them all again soon.



Page 9

Going forward to next year, to keep up the success of the Proms Music Festival, we do have roles to fill in the committee, including a chair. It is a wonderful opportunity to get immersed in the music of Shipston and help shape the next few years ahead. Please get in touch through our website www.shipstonproms.org or our Facebook page.

Next year’s dates for Shipston Proms 26 are 19th June-4th July

Shipston in Bloom



I am very grateful to all the volunteers, householders and businesses who have been caring for tubs and beds in our town in the last few months. Recently it has become apparent that some people have mentioned that not all the beds and tubs have been planted up. Unfortunately, we do not have enough volunteers to plant them and with almost all the previous Shipston in Bloom volunteers all retiring at the same time, there was little handover experience.

We would very much welcome you to join our small band of volunteers so we can plant up more tubs. Do you have one near where you live which you would like to help plant? Plants and compost are provided by the town council, but weeding, watering and general care would be down to the volunteer. We are trying to make the planting pollinator-friendly and growing native plants when possible.

Please contact me at hilary.kelly@shipstontowncouncil.org if you would like to help.

Hilary Kelly

Music at the (indoor) picnic

There was a lovely atmosphere at the Great Big Green Week picnic, helped by the band Misspent Ukes, despite having to be held indoors. The children joined in with kazoos and percussion instruments and the sampling table of veggie food was popular. Some children’s games were able to be played outside once the rain had stopped.



Clubs and societies

Probus

A brief history of the Roman Republic

After over two years as a member of Shipston Probus, Phil Bennett stepped up to talk on a subject which has fascinated him for many years – the Roman Republic.

Rome evolved through many constitutional formats. Legend tells us it was founded by twins Romulus and Remus, famously suckled by a she-wolf and adopted by a local shepherd. As they grew up the twins fell out over where they should establish a new city. Remus was killed, and Romulus subsequently named their city Rome in his honour.

A more likely scenario is that local tribes, the Etruscans, together with other tribes founded a twelve-city state which expanded into the kingdom of Rome. The kings were overthrown by noblemen who proclaimed a Republic in 509 BC initiating a period of almost constant war.

The Gauls attacked and famously sacked Rome in 390 BC. Rome needed a bigger army and built the strategic Appian Way to open up the resources of southern Italy. Three wars from 343 to 390 BC against the Samnites marked a key phase in Roman expansion, again helped by the construction of a road across the Pontine marshes enabling the final defeat of the Samnites.

Three Punic wars were fought against the Carthaginians from 264 to 146 BC, giving the Romans domination of the western Mediterranean. After numerous sea battles Sicily and Corsica were captured. Phil corrected the popular belief that slaves were used to row Roman boats; in fact, rowers were trained citizens, also expected to join in the battle.

During the second and third Punic Wars, Hannibal famously crossed the Alps with war elephants, occupying much of southern Italy but never Rome itself. The third war ended in final victory and much of N. Africa becoming a Roman Province.

No account of Roman history can be complete without mention of Spartacus, a slave and gladiator, who led an uprising against his masters. He achieved much success, but his slave army was trapped in southern Italy and finally defeated in 71 BC. Survivors were crucified and hung along the Appian Way, a warning to all potential future revolutionaries.

Phil demonstrated how a hobby interest can be a lifelong fascination, and members thanked him for sharing his enthusiasm and great knowledge of such an important part of our own and world history.

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 01608 663407 or email tonyjoint73@hotmail.com for further details.



Townsend Hall AGM

CHARITY No 522997

Come along to our Annual General Meeting on 15th July at 7pm to help support this important community facility. The hall operates as a charity and your input on how it is run would be very welcome. It is managed by a small number of trustees, with openings for further trustees and volunteers to get involved and help support the smooth running of the hall.

In other news, our music events will be returning in September after a summer break – check out our website for details: www.townsendhall.co.uk

Jenny Glover

Townsend Hall Chair

Shipston Stitchers

We are 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.

Next meeting dates: 4th, 18th July; 1st, 15th, 29th August; 12th and 26th September; 10th, 24th October; 7th, 21st November.

Music Society

Members gathered not for a recital, but for a long-awaited talk, Music in Shakespeare and Shakespeare in Music by Dr. Simon Smith, FSA, Associate Professor of Shakespeare and early modern drama at the Shakespeare Institute, University of Birmingham. His research is concerned with the musical and theatrical culture of the early modern period and especially the intersection of the two. He has worked as consultant for Shakespeare's Globe, the BBC, the Independent and the RSC. He was the historical music researcher and early modern theatre adviser for the BBC's Wolf Hall adaptation.

His current projects include an edition of Twelfth Night for Cambridge Shakespeare Editions for which he has been exploring the play's performance history. This research has taken him to archives across the UK and USA and will take him to France and Germany in 2025. With Carla Della Gatta he is co-editing The Cambridge Companion to Shakespeare and Sound, exploring music, sound and identity in Shakespearean performance across the centuries. He is also writing a short book Shakespeare and Music for the Oxford Shakespeare Topics series.

For his talk, Dr Smith answered the questions of how does music affect us, and what does the use of simple, portable instruments add to a performance? As an example, the shaming of Falstaff by the fairies is often accompanied by enthusiastic banging and blowing from instrumentalists on stage. Shakespeare's works have often provided inspiration for composers: Verdi's Otello (1887) and Falstaff (1893) are often called operas but are



Clubs and societies

more like music dramas. Then came Gustav Holst with At the Boar's Head, in which Falstaff was expected to move to genuine folk tunes! Vaughan Williams too was inspired by Shakespeare with Hugh the Drover (1924) and Sir John in Love (1929), both thought of as being robust and very English. William Walton was inspired by Henry V and was asked to compose the score to accompany the film which he did. It is a fantastic score.

It was an excellent evening with such an inspired speaker. We do hope he will return at some point in the future.

Women's Institute

Shipston Women's Institute met on 4th June to hear Ian Malins talk about the work of Warwickshire Search and Rescue – one of the UK's 34 Lowland Rescue Teams. They assist the police in searches for vulnerable missing people throughout the West Midlands.



The team of professionally trained, unpaid volunteers is on call 24-hours a day, 365-days a year. It provides search management expertise and physical resources for searches on land and inland waterways and includes specially trained drone and water teams. The Warwickshire Search & Rescue was set up in 2013 and became operational in 2017. Of necessity, the training is rigorous. The majority of calls for their services are for missing persons. Generally missing people are at high-risk with dementia or mental health issues whose lives are in danger. Last year the Warwickshire team was called out almost 80 times. When one considers that more than 330,000 people are reported missing each year, the need for a specialised rescue team becomes even more apparent.

Lowland Rescue Team is the inland water section of other national rescue teams like the RNLI, mountain rescue, cave rescue, the coastguard service – all manned by volunteers. Searches can take hours or days so volunteers must be prepared for the long haul. And the work calls for emotional resilience.

Warwickshire Lowland Rescue pay to volunteer and cover their own expenses. They fund all their equipment including a sophisticated purpose-built command vehicle, and soon to be introduced underwater sonar capability. Needless to say, volunteers do a lot of work raising the £25,000 pa they need to function. Their work was recognised when were given The King's Award for Voluntary Service (the MBE for charity groups) and other national awards – all richly deserved. Proceeds will go to Warwickshire Lowland Rescue when Roderick Williams MBE, world-renowned baritone and Susie Alan soprano, perform at The Croft Preparatory School, Stratford CV37 7RL on 2nd July at 7.30pm.

There will be a summer outing to Waterperry Gardens in August, and in July Bridget, Shipston President, will host a garden party at her house on 14th July – members and friends welcome. The next meeting of Shipston WI will be a social evening, 2nd of July at 7pm in the Catholic

Church Hall, Darlingscote Road. A representative of the Barn Wellbeing Centre, Brailes, will also give a talk.

Raising awareness

In May we spread awareness of our local WI by selling cakes, biscuits, jams and marmalade in rooms on the High Street (see picture) and were pleased with the interest we generated as well as raising some funds.



Stour Valley Lions at work



Stour Valley Lions have participated in local festivities, including providing unicorn rides and balloon modelling at the Esmere Gardens Summer Party, and supporting the Shipston Lodge Summer Fête with gladiator games and circus skills activities.

Coming up this summer

There will be a book sale on 19th July at the Scout Hut and a Bingo evening on 16th August. Over 38 traders have confirmed their attendance at Shipston Food Festival on Sunday, 14th September, and we are pleased that Rikki Hansel will once again provide accompanying music.

Support our fundraising efforts

Would you be interested in helping to make our fundraising events a success or in supporting our ongoing work? Please contact us on 0345 833 2835 or visit www.stourvalleylionsevents.club/contact to learn how you can get involved or sponsor an event from as little as £50, which could see your company's name associated with one of our popular Community Film Evenings or Bumper Book Sales. All sponsors are recognised through our social media channels and, where appropriate, on printed promotional materials. We'd love to hear from you.

Charlecote summer fun

The National Trust-run Charlecote Park is having a Tudor-inspired Summer of Play from 22nd July to 2nd September, with lawn games, sports, medieval costumes to dress up, a creative corner, a construction zone, a reading nook, a theatre stage, indoor games for rainy days, and much more. The Summer of Play activities are included in the normal admission price (£7.50 per child, £15 per adult), and it's completely free for National Trust members. Find out more on nationaltrust.org.uk

County Council

I'd like to say that returning to WCC has been going back to normal after the election campaign. Actually, it has been a bit of a gear change to be in opposition! I do seem to have more time which I can give back here!

Aren't the developers and promoters of local sites for houses being cheeky? The government has said build – and we all know how long that will actually take – so they are fishing. Any response we make at this stage will only help in informing how they make their inevitable applications. Pegasus and Gladman are well funded and will try everything to get these through before the South Warwickshire Local Plan is in. We have been here with other sites before but I think we are all prepared to fight for our town's soul and thanks to the local Say No... campaign, we are ready to mobilise. In the meantime we still need infrastructure improvements –please do keep me updated about leaks/poo/pressure issues and electrical outages. I am logging them to form a picture of the frequency and seriousness of what is going on (the result of not being quite as busy!) I am not anti-development – one of my oldest friends has mocked me online for this – I am pro homes in the right place. Rant over - for now!

In other news....it is Carer's week as I write, but let's not forget those who support friends and family. If you know someone who does, maybe check in? Or thank them? A few of you know I will try and remember next time I see you! WCC is trying to encourage more people into childminding and the cabinet has continued the funding of new resource provisions in schools. Ours in Shipston is doing an amazing job.

And finally, the Councillors' Grant Fund is open, so please apply for as much or as little as you need for your organisation. Also on the money front, if you are struggling with fuel bills the fund is still open for that at WCC. With the school holidays approaching, please do ask Foodbank for help to fill the six-week gap, if you need to. Thursdays are back at the George. Come and see me from 10.30am. I'll publicise on the Shipston Noticeboard.

Yours ever, Jo

Jo Barker

County Councillor, Shipston Division

07748968712 | jobarker@warwickshire.gov.uk

Medical Centre update

Thanks to everyone who attended the Patient Meeting in the Townsend Hall on 3rd June. The positive feedback about the meeting was appreciated. The practice provided a general update before talking about service developments, including piloting AI systems for notetaking and the work being done to ensure clinical safety in relation to medications and long term condition monitoring. Also discussed was the future of practice premises, namely the plan for the practice to lease space in the new Ellen Badger Hospital building to provide 10 new consultation rooms and a minor operations room, alongside the existing estate in the current Medical Centre building. This will provide an opportunity to develop services and improve our existing estate, albeit adding in the challenge of operating over two sites.

Shipston Home Nursing and Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership also provided updates on their services. Notes from the meeting, alongside a fuller statement about the practice premises changes, are available on the practice website.

District Council

Although much of what central government is doing at the moment is making me tear my hair out, there are two things that could be positive for Shipston. Firstly, opening up the Land Registry, and secondly bringing the Community Right to Buy to England (it is already in place in Scotland). These may seem minor and niche, but hear me out: at the moment, you have to pay the Land Registry to see who owns each parcel of land. This closes the door to dialogue, and that's bad for landowners and the community alike. This is because land is not just land. It is an asset in many senses: economic, ecological, agricultural and social. All land is, in one sense or another, a community asset. If ownership were a matter of public record, this would open up constructive dialogue between community interest groups and land owners. Then, under new government reforms, some exciting new community projects could evolve.

This could also be another way of combatting the bombardment of new inappropriate housing development consultations that continue to be posted through our letterboxes. It is worth noting that it is not time to panic yet – all of the new housing consultations that have come up this Spring go against current planning regulations, ie, if they went through planning tomorrow they would be refused. At the same time, we mustn't forget the need for social, more affordable housing – we want our children to be able to stay in Shipston. As always, the chant is – plan-led, not developer-led growth, where infrastructure comes first.

Some advance notice of some health screening events: SDC has joined together with the Graham Fulford Charitable Trust to offer blood tests to men over 40 for prostate screening and everyone over 18 for diabetes and cholesterol. The closest ones are on Saturday 13 September at Stratford Leisure Centre and Saturday 11 October at Shipston Scout Hut.

For more info and to book a test, go to this page on the SDC website: PSA Testing @ SDC. Stratford-on-Avon District Council SDC are getting better at telling us what they do, please sign up to their newsletter www.stratford.gov.uk/newsletter

Olivia Hatch

District Councillor, Shipston North

07752562114 | Olivia.hatch@stratford-dc.gov.uk



Shipston Medical Centre

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.



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

FREE ENTRY

HORNSBY CLOSE, SHIPSTON

Street Sale

10AM - 1PM

**SATURDAY
2ND AUGUST**

THE RESIDENTS WILL BE
RUNNING A TABLE-TOP
SALE TO RAISE FUNDS
FOR THE CHILDREN'S
CHARITY.....

MollyOllys

CASH ONLY!

Come along to

Messy Church

This Summer!

Sunday 27th July
Sunday 31st August

3pm - 4.30pm
at St Edmund's Church

Crafts! Stories! Songs!

for all 0 - 11 year olds
accompanied by an adult

No need to book, just turn up!
Refreshments available

Run by Shipston Joint Churches

Who can grow the

Tallest

Sunflower?

Judging on
16th August

**Shipston on Stour Rotary
Club**

To enter contact Fay Ivens
01608 662133