

Shipston Forum

The community newsletter for Shipston-on-Stour

August 2014

Shipston sets its sights on the Great British High Street Awards

Shipston-on-Stour has set its sights on winning the newly launched Great British High Street Awards, based on its innovative loyalty card scheme, the vibrancy of the town centre, and the increasingly diverse range of shops and services Shipston has to offer. The awards, launched in June by the Department for Communities and Local Government, are designed to recognise examples of innovation, collaboration, transition and outcomes in towns across the UK.

Shipston Promotion Group, the body set up to run the Shipston Loyalty Card, has submitted the application on behalf of the town square, highlighting some of the many reasons why Shipston should be the judges' choice, including:

- The successful launch of the Shipston Loyalty Card, bringing together diverse businesses in a scheme that has enabled over 2,000 people to benefit from loyalty discounts. Funded in part by Operation Footfall, the card has enabled local businesses to attract customers through email marketing and social media, as well as on the spot discounts in stores.
- The number and nature of annual events such as the Wool Fair and Victorian Evening which are organised by local volunteers for the benefit of the community. Every year, Shipston's traders get involved in the events, supporting them through stalls, special products/offers, themed window displays and advertising support.
- Shipston has seen strong growth in new retail outlets and cafes. Church Street has seen a particular revival with a new toy shop, clothes stores and a bookmakers opening in the last few months.

Kate King, Administrator of Shipston Promotion Group, said: "We are extremely fortunate in Shipston to have such a vibrant town centre which is well supported by shoppers, as well



Fingers crossed! Mayor, Philip Vial joins traders to fly a gingerbread 'flag' to mark the town's entry into the awards. The flag will be on display at Taste of the Country

as volunteers who give their time to organise special events which help put our town on the map. We are really excited to be entering the Great British High Street Awards and we hope the whole community will get behind the scheme."

Entering the competition is just the start. Community engagement is a vital part of the award scheme. Shipston will be promoting the awards through its loyalty card Facebook Page (www.facebook.com/shipstoncard) and twitter feed (@ ShipstonCard) using the hashtag #GBHighSt. Residents can get involved by endorsing the application and sharing what they love about Shipston's town centre. More details will be made available once the entry has been submitted.

The closing date for entries is 1st August and category winners will be announced at the end of September.

Keeping up the pressure in aid of Shipston's Young Firefighters



Mayor, Philip Vial pictured with Nadhim Zahawi MP and Shipston's Young Firefighters.

The campaign to save the Young Firefighters Association led to the recent submission of a petition which had attracted nearly 2,500 signatures.

The petition was handed in at Warwickshire County Council after parents, councillors and other campaigners had successfully secured widespread support. Adding his support to the campaign to maintain the Young Firefighters Association, local MP, Nadhim Zahawi, recently visited the Shipston group to see the young cadets in action.

Shipston Town Council is continuing to support efforts to maintain this youth service, which is under threat due to cuts planned by Warwickshire Fire and Rescue

Local News Page 2

Mayor's column

This month I was delighted to attend the Shipston Proms



and to draw the raffle. The Town Council is one of the sponsors of the Proms and we are delighted that the last night saw the town packed with people enjoying the music. On a personal note I hit my record for the Proms – 5 events! Our thanks go to the Proms' organising committee for making the two weeks such a success.

The new Mencap building on the Stratford Road is now open and has its first residents. I was joined by Deputy Mayor, Jackie Warner, to help plant a Time Capsule in the grounds, to be opened in 70 years' time. The Town Council has supported new Mencap development from the beginning and it's good to see this important resource for Shipston completed.

I supported the application at Planning Committee from the owners of Low Furlong to redevelop the site. The work, which is at least 18 months away, will result in an increase in the number of rooms as well as much improved facilities. Currently many people needing to go to a care home have to move away from the area and hopefully this work will mean that more older people can stay in their own community.

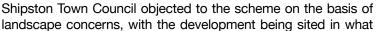
Finally – it's good news that the Town Council has made progress on the markets project, which is designed to ensure Shipston has a regular monthly market. Most of the people I've talked to want one and it will be good to get this off the ground later in the year.

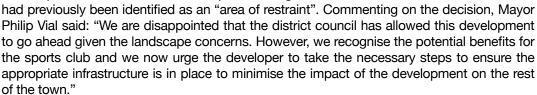
Philip Vial

New housing development approved on London Road

A new development of 55 houses, adjacent to the Angela's Meadow estate, has been approved by Stratford District Council.

The private housing development is being built by Orbit Homes and includes the provision of two new football pitches which will be used by the Sports and Social Club. Of the total number of homes, 19 will be designated affordable housing.





Appeal decisions on other major planning applications, including the ASL supermarket and housing scheme and the Banner Homes proposal are still outstanding.

Putting Shipston on the tourist map

Final touches are currently being made to a new website which will showcase everything Shipston has to offer tourists, thanks to work being completed by the Tourism Group.

The site celebrates Shipston and its surrounding area, providing information about the attractions of the North Cotswolds and of Stratford, as well as what Shipston itself can offer visitors. Thanks to financial help from an Operation Footfall grant from Warwickshire County Council,



the new site will feature a searchable database of accommodation, eating places and events. The site is currently being tested before launch.

"We were surprised and delighted when we started to do the research and found how many accommodation providers there were in and around Shipston," said Tourism Group Chair, Trev Trevethick. "It was also very encouraging to see how many responded when we asked for their details to be put on the database."

There is still time for more businesses to take advantage of free advertising on the site, which also benefits from links to regional, national and international tourism organisations. Trev Trevethick continued: 'If you are an accommodation provider, run an eating establishment or have an event that needs to be listed, get in touch via Shipston Town Council and take advantage of this free marketing opportunity."

To find out more, contact the Town Clerk on 01608 662180.

Shipston young people benefit from Sports Leaders Programme

Young people of all ages are benefiting from a Sports Leaders training programme which will see High School students providing holiday camp activities for younger students, under supervision.

Part of a scheme to create positive young role models in communities, a group of twenty 14-16 year olds have been developing leadership skills ahead of running multisports and football courses at the High School this summer. Overseen by two fully qualified sports coaches, the summer sports camps are available to children aged from four to twelve and run from 10am to 3pm (see ad on page 8).

The subsidised courses will benefit both those attending and the young leaders looking to put their new skills to good use. To find out more about the scheme, visit www.supportsportprojects. blogspot.co.uk

Town Council News Page 3

July's hot topics

Safety first: Jackie Warner highlighted that the safety barrier at the exit of the Queen's Avenue play area hasn't been replaced after it was removed to allow new equipment to be installed. The Town Clerk will check on the progress.

Ditch demand: Sheelagh Saunders raised concerns about a ditch on Shoulderway Lane. General Purposes will look into the issue in more detail with the resident concerned.

Perfect Proms: Ronnie Murphy led the congratulations to the Proms Committee for another outstanding fortnight of musical celebrations. Councillors thanked the volunteers who work so hard to make it a success.

Monstrous manhole cover: A loose manhole cover at the bus stop is making a loud noise every time someone drives over it. The Town Clerk will speak to Highways to see if they can help resolve the problem.

Holes and drains: Chris Saint will chase up action on the long-standing potholes in Queen's Avenue and Berry Avenue, as well as requesting certain drains be properly dug out.

Overgrown footpath: Following a complaint from a member of the public, the Town Clerk will contact Orbit request that the footpath between Berry Close and Pittway Avenue is made easier to pass.

Campaigning for Shipston

New community award: The Anne Sankey Medal, given in recognition of services to the community, is to become a Shipston Town Council award. Timing of the award will move to spring, with the presentation taking place at the Annual Town Meeting.

Supermarkets: Shipston Town Council voted to oppose the proposed supermarket on Tilemans Lane put forward by Warner Budgens. Concerns included parking, public transport, impact on the town and on employment.

In the meantime, the public inquiry into the ASL supermarket application on the Campden Road has completed, with a number of representations made on both sides. A decision is due in the autumn.

Safer crossings: General Purposes Working Group will look into whether a second crossing could be provided on Darlingscote Road. Fay Ivens also asked that the promised vehicle activated speed signs for Stratford Road and London Road be prioritised, particularly in light of recent accidents on London Road.

Town Council business

Vacant councillor post: Following the resignation of Brian Healey, a new councillor will be co-opted onto the town council. Candidates will be interviewed at an additional council meeting on the 22nd September. Members of the public are welcome to attend and ask questions of prospective candidates.

Riverside walk: Sheelagh Saunders will now look to work with members of the community to take this project forward.

Sports club pitch lease: Shipston Town Council has agreed in principle to take on a 99 year lease for the new football pitches included as part of the Orbit Homes development. The agreement will be subject to legal advice and a suitable contract being put in place.

Monthly markets: Following the pilot a few months ago, three new monthly markets have been agreed and will be run by an external company. The town council will support the markets through marketing to help ensure they are well attended.

New Clark House Update

Road repairs

We are expecting work to begin on the Tilemans Lane/ Watery Lane/ Station



Road crossing at the beginning of August. Diversions will be in place.

Understanding Housing Allocations

At our July council meeting, Martin Cowan, Housing Officer from Stratford District Council, explained how the housing allocation procedure works following queries which had been raised by local residents.

Mr Cowan explained that the Home Choice Plus system has been in place since 2008. Available houses are added to the system which those on the housing register can express an interest in. Those expressions of interest (also known as bids) are then assessed based on information provided about each individual's housing need. Whether you are successful in being allocated a particular house will depend on the level of your housing need, the number of other people with similar or greater needs and whether you meet any associated local connection criteria.

Mr Cowan also explained that in Shipston, all new housing (built in the last 20 years or so) requires a local connection (which can include close relatives living in the town or at least 12 months working in Shipston). However, the former council houses which were transferred to housing associations some years ago do not require a local connection. This explains why sometimes people from out of the area are allocated housing more quickly than those living locally.

Councillors agreed to speak to Orbit Housing to see whether it may be possible to introduce a local connection clause on the older properties as well.

Useful numbers

Stratford District Council has produced a useful contact list of numbers for different services. Take a look at page 16 or pop in to New Clark House to pick up a separate copy.

Georgina Beaumont Town Clerk

01608 662180

clerk@shipstononline.org

Shipston Cub Camp tests scouting skills in more ways than one!

Shipston's Cubs completed a testing range of planned - and unplanned - challenges during their recent cub camp at Hardiman Fields.

The three-day camp began with a night hike from Cherrington to the campsite on the edge of Shipston. Having successfully navigated over stiles, through gates and past farm livestock, the cubs were rewarded with hot dogs and drinks on arrival at camp.

Saturday brought new challenges, from den making and bridge building to fishing and wildlife watching. The cubs also took part in backwoods (outdoor) cooking, before singing songs and toasting marshmallows around the campfire.

Unfortunately, Mother Nature decided to set her own test for two unsuspecting Cubs who accidentally disturbed a wasps' nest, resulting in a nasty dose of stings. Thanks to a prompt response from the Cub leaders, the situation was dealt with and both Cubs were eventually able to complete the camp – albeit with some memorable war wounds!

The camp concluded with an award ceremony before the tired but triumphant cub scouts headed home for a well-



Breakfast at Cub Camp before the challenges begin

earned rest. Cub Scout Leader, Martin Castle, said: "We were all extremely impressed with the way the cubs behaved throughout the weekend, throwing themselves into the various tasks with real enthusiasm. Thanks to nature's lively intervention – it's not a camp we're likely to forget anytime soon!"

Shipston Youth Club gets its hands dirty

Shipston Youth Club has been given an allotment by the town council for a new and exciting youth community project.

With many gardeners amongst the club's members already, the Youth Club want to use the allotment to encourage more young people to get involved.

This very new project is being started from scratch and donations are desperately sought to help get the scheme off the ground. The club is particularly keen to receive tools, seeds, netting and watering cans.

Katie Corby, youth support worker at the club, said: "We have been given some things already which have been brilliant and had a lot of interest and support from locals and business such as John Lyne Home Hardware, Lucy Walker Flowers, Shipston Rotary and Flora Fauna from Chipping Norton. We were also very lucky to have Lawns2Mow clear the site for us which has given us a great start."

To register your interest or to donate equipment, please contact Katie Corby on katiecorby@btinternet.com or Richard Baldwin on richard.baldwin9@btinternet.com or call 01608 662178

Warwickshire Brownies celebrate their Centenary

Shipston On Stour was invaded by over 1300 brownies on the 28th June, to celebrate 100 years of



brownie guiding. Girlguiding Warwickshire used the county campsite, Hardiman Fields, to stage the huge party. Over 25 coaches dropped off girls from all parts of the county.

Brownies have completed many different challenges to gain their Brownie 100th Birthday badge. During the day they saw sunshine and torrential rain, but when the sun shone the girls continued to dance, space hop, complete craft activities and bounce on the four huge bouncy castles and slides.

The Brownies welcomed the Midlands Region Commissioner and the Chief Guide to present awards on the day and a great time was had by all.



Shipston Brownies thoroughly enjoyed the space hopper race.



Shipston Primary School

Shipston On Stour Primary School



Young artists leave their mark

Parents and carers were invited to a private view of Gallery Rebels, an art exhibition by Year 6 pupils at Shipston Primary School.

Gallery Rebels, which was held in the school hall over two days, was the first ever art exhibition to be organised by the children at the school.

The group of 10-11 year olds worked throughout the term to explore a range of artists, and art movements including cubism, realism and impressionism.

Drawing inspiration from the term's topic, children produced their own works that referenced a movement or imitated a particular work.

Year 6 teacher Mrs Molson said: "Our Year 6 pupils certainly left their mark on the school with the Gallery Rebels exhibition. The work on display was outstanding and ranged from a truly individual cubist piece featuring Winnie the Pooh, to reproductions of Van Gogh paintings and graffiti by Banksy."





Peter Pan Performance

Year 5 and 6 pupils played to a packed house three nights in a row with their superb musical performance of Peter Pan.



Based on J.M. Barrie's enchanting classic, the show took the audience on a flight to meet pirates, Indians, mermaids, lost boys and fairies. The cast performed songs from the Disney version of the story including You Can Fly and A Pirate's Life.

The performance was the work of the school's Production Club, which gives Year 5 and 6 children the chance to sing, dance, act or help back stage over the summer term.

Head of Federation Christian Hilton said: "The audiences thoroughly enjoyed the show and were highly impressed with the quality of the production. A great deal of effort was put in by the staff, children and friends of the school, and it certainly showed throughout."

Shipston High School

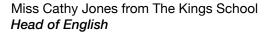
Encouraging your child to read a wide variety of books is probably the best education you can give them - but sometimes that can feel like an uphill struggle! Therefore what better way to help encourage them than meeting a real, live, author. On Thursday 3rd July Shipston High School was delighted to welcome Chris Bradford, author of the blockbuster BODYGUARD, YOUNG SAMURAI and NINJA series, for an explosive event as part of his international book tour.

Students in Year 7, 8 and 9 learned all about his karate, kickboxing and Samurai swordmanship, having earned his black belt in Zen Kyo Shin Taijutsu, the secret art of the Ninja. He is also qualified as a professional bodyguard as part of his research for the new BODYGUARD series. His books have been translated into over 20 languages and to date he is the recipient of 28 book awards and nominations. Students had the chance to ask Chris various questions, purchase books and get books signed with personal dedications. Judging by the queue of students a good many will be settling down for a good read over the Summer holidays.

Welcome to Shipston High School

After two very successful Induction days at the end of June we are very much looking forward to welcoming 92 new students from 15 different primary schools into Year 7 in September. Some of them have already shown their potential by earning their first "Merit" points ready to put

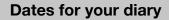
in their Student Planners next term. We are also welcoming several new members of staff, namely:



Mrs Kay Greaves from Magdalen College School *Teacher of English*

Mrs Lesley Swift from the University of Warwick *Teacher of Mathematics*

Mr Simon Martin, ex-Shipston High student *ICT Apprentice*



Thursday 18th September from 7pm – 9 pm OPEN EVENING

Friday 28th and Saturday 29th November School Christmas production: "ANNIE"

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Friday 28th and Saturday 29th November School Christmas production: "ANNIE"



Event News Page 6

Shipston Proms brings biggest-ever street party to the town square

Shipston witnessed the biggest-ever street party in the square for the Last Night Of The Proms on Saturday 5th July.

Proms Fame Contest winners 'Amy Joynes', and 'Me, Him, And The Others' opened the show, followed by no holds barred folk-rockers, Leatherat, who got the audience dancing to their fiddle-led rhythms. U2UK rounded the evening off in style, with many people commenting that they hadn't realised they knew so many U2 songs. It seemed as though the whole community had come to join the party, proving that this 17-day event successfully caters for everyone's musical tastes.

It wasn't just local residents showing an interest in the proms. BBC Midlands Today also came to Shipston to film premier UK boogie and rock and roll pianist Mike Sanchez doing a workshop at Shipston High School.

Town Mayor, Philip Vial, said: "I was delighted to be able to attend five Proms events this year, all of which were of a very high standard. The committee have worked extremely hard this year and their efforts certainly paid off."

The Shipston Proms is unique in that the organsiers try to get music of all genres into all corners, and not just at the high profile events. Proms Chairman Tim Porter said: "The



standard of musicianship in the High School has increased dramatically over the last few years, and we like to feel that we have played a part in that." Battered Soul, Shipston High School's soul band, now play concerts in the area, and they were an entrant in the Proms Fame Contest last year.

"This has been the most successful Proms to date and all the events were well attended which provides a strong platform for next year." Tim added.

Love Food? Don't miss Shipston's Food Festival

Building on the success of last year's inaugural event, Shipston Food Festival is back – and this time it promises to be even bigger and better than before.

The organisers are delighted to welcome Hook Norton Brewery as a sponsor for the 2014 Food Festival weekend. The family-owned business has been brewing beer in the Cotswolds for over 150 years and was keen to get involved with the event.

Festival Chairman, Dan Scobie, said: "We created the festival to provide a platform for local food and drink related business to promote themselves within the local community, and as a celebration of all things local. It's therefore fantastic to have such a well-loved local brewery as a supporter of the festival. This support means we can build a bigger and more successful festival for 2014."

The Shipston Food Festival weekend runs from 19th to



21st September 2014, with the main event taking place in the town square on the Sunday.

The Shipston Beer Festival takes place on 19th at Shipston Rugby Club, with family fun from 4pm, followed by live music and a range of homemade curries in the evening.

Baking and food

related competitions will take place on the 20th at the Townsend Hall as part of the Creative Arts Weekend – see next month's Forum for more details.

The square will once again be filled with stalls offering delicious treats and exciting workshops from 10am on Sunday 21st – an event not to be missed. For more information, visit www. shipstonfoodfestival.co.uk or call Dan Scobie on 07771 772511.

Shipston Tennis Club launches new courts

In the midst of Wimbledon fortnight, Shipston had its own special focus on tennis with the launch of the newly resurfaced courts at Shipston Tennis Club.

The sun shone for the open day, which combined tennis workshops with other fun activities for families and delicious strawberries and cream refreshments for all. With good attendance from both existing members and the wider community, the club was delighted to sign up a number of new members on the day.

Attending the opening, Mayor, Philip Vial, said, "These tennis courts are a wonderful resource for Shipston and I'm delighted that the Club brings tennis to 250 children a week through its coaching programme."



Town Mayor, Philip Vial, pictured opening the new tennis courts, with Shipston Tennis Club Chairman Janet Connor.

Regular events:

- **Mon Citizens Advice Bureau:** Mornings, New Clark House. To book a free appointment, call 01789 200136
- **Mon Fitsteps:** 9.30-10.30am, Sheldon Bosley Hub. Other classes available. Contact Michelle on 07764496947.
- **Mon St John's Ambulance:** Badgers, 6-7pm. Cadets 7-8:30pm. Meet at Shipston Fire Station. Contact: Josie Bayliss, 684834
- **Mon** Shipston Duplicate Bridge Club: 7pm for 7.15pm, Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Rd, Shipston-on-Stour. Call Penny Law 663871
- Tues Stroke Club: Fortnightly (5th and 19th) 10am-12pm Scout Hut
- **Tues Rhyme time for under 2s:** Now every Tuesday. 10.45am Shipston Library. Free. Contact: 0300 555 8171
- Tues Age Concern Lunch Club at Stour Court. Contact: Stella 686224
- **Tues Silver Surfer Computer Lessons**, Shipston Library 2pm. Booking essential. Contact: 0300 558171
- **Tues Bingo:** Alternate Tuesdays. Doors open 6.30pm. Eyes down 7.30pm. Sheldon Bosley Hub. Contact: 661886
- **Tues Aerobics:** Shipston Rugby Club. 6.30-7.30pm. Suitable for all fitness levels. Contact Vanessa on 0797 140 3383
- **Tues Shipston on Stour Rotarians:** Halford Bridge Hotel, 7.30pm. Contact Adrian Ramskill 0797 656 6525.
- Weds Coffee at St Edmunds Church. 10.30am-12pm. All welcome.
- **Weds U3A Chicago Bridge:** Social Bridge 2pm-4.30pm, Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road. Contact Roger Smith on 01608 238400.
- Thur Shipston Stitchers: 10am to 3pm, alternate Thursdays.
- **Thur Story Stomp:** Shipston Library, 11.30am-12pm. Stories and rhymes for children aged 2 4. Free.
- **Thur Age Concern Lunch Club at Rainbow Fields.** Contact: Diana 01789 740627
- **Thur Silver Surfer Computer Lessons**, Shipston Library 2pm. Booking Essential. Contact: 0300 558171
- **Thur Safer Neighbourhood Team:** Fortnightly. Public surgery, 2.30pm to 3pm. New Clark House, West Street.
- Thur Aerobics: (details as above)
- Fri Walks over fields with friendly group. Leaves Old Mill car park at 10am. Contact: Marlene, 663616
- Fri Age Concern Lunch Club Stour Ct Contact: Linda 01789 722433
- Fri Shipston Probus: alternate Fridays

There are lots of regular classes on at the Townsend Hall. Visit www.townsendhall.com or call Lisa Bryan on 07800 771368. Please note that timings of some regular clubs and classes may differ during the summer holidays so please check with the organiser before attending.

August Diary

- 1-29 Summer Sports Activities for Children: Shipston High School.

 Mon Fri throughout August (except the Bank Holiday). Contact
 07801 597666 or email: supportsportbookings@live.co.uk
- 1 Shipston Dementia Cafe: 2pm-3.30pm, Community Lounge, Stour Court, Old Road. Contact: Barbara Smith 662433
- 2 Shipston Town Council Monthly Litter Pick: All welcome. Meet at New Clark House, West Street at 10am. Equipment & refreshments provided. Contact: Fay Ivens 662133 or fayivens@aol.com
- 3 Shipston Cricket Club Presidents Day: Shipston Sports Club, from 1pm. See ad on page 9
- **5 Chatterbooks:** Reading group for 8-11 year olds. 4pm-5pm,

- Shipston Library. Join us for games, activities, refreshments and the chance to make new friends.
- 6 Stour Valley Lions Book Sale: 10am-4pm. The Coach House, Church Street, Shipston (opposite the Library). Books include fiction, children's, cookery, gardening, art etc. To donate books contact Lion David Squires on pinnegards@tiscali.co.uk
 - Shipston Widows: Lunch. 12pm. Contact: Barbara Bean 663230
- **Stour Valley Lions Book Sale:** 9.30am-4pm. Details as above
- Mayor's Surgery: 10am, High Street
 Mental Health Matters: Drop-in session at Shipston Library from 10am
 - Stour Valley Lions Book Sale: 9.30am-2pm. Details as above
- 11 Shipston Town Council Monthly Meeting: 7pm, New Clark House. All welcome. Contact: Georgina Beaumont 662180
- Shipston Flower Club: Garden visit to Mill Dene, Blockley. Meet at the Shipston Bridge car park at 5.45pm, to leave for Blockley at 6pm. £6 to include tea & biscuits. Contact: Elaine 01608 238255 Stour Valley Lions Monthly Business Meeting: 7.30pm, The George Hotel, Shipston. Visitors welcome. Contact: John Cavana 01295 722287
- 14 Library Reading Group: 7pm, Shipston Library.
- 15 Stour Valley Carers Group Supporting Dementia Carers: 10.30am-12.30pm, Ellen Badger Hospital (using the Day Unit entrance). Friendly welcome for all visitors. Contact: Carl Watkins 663808 or Lizzy Feather 686013
 - **Dementia Friendly Singing Group:** Singing Down Memory Lane. An enjoyable experience for those with Memory Problems. 2pm-3.30pm. Community Lounge Stour Court, Old Road. Contact Dave Hollingworth 654444 or Barbara Smith 662433
- **Safer Neighbourhood Team:** Drop-in surgery at Shipston Library. 10am to 11am
- **Shipston Neighbourhood Plan:** Monthly meeting. 7pm New Clark House. All welcome.
- 20 Stour Valley Lions Book Sale: 10am-4pm. Details as above Shipston Widows: Meeting. 10.30am-12pm, Coach and Horses. Contact: Barbara Bean 663230
- 21 Summer Reading Challenge: "Minotaur & Maze". 2.30-4.00pm, Shipston Library. Free event for primary school age children. Contact: 0300 555 8171
- **Stour Valley Lions Book Sale:** 9.30am-4pm. Details as above
- 23 Stour Valley Lions Book Sale: 9.30am-2pm. Details as above
- **Multiple Sclerosis Society:** 'Drop in' meeting. The George Hotel, 10.30am. Contact: Ann Bartlett 666161
- 27-29 Holiday at Home: 10am-3pm, Townsend Hall. See ad on page 8
- 29 Classic Clapton: 8.30pm, Townsend Hall. See ad on page 9

Don't miss the 24-hour table tennis fundraiser!

Shipston Youth club are raising money by playing table tennis for 24 hours! Starting on the 8th of August at 7pm until 9th Aug 7pm, everyone is welcome to cheer the team on and challenge any of our players to a game. Head down to the Youth Club at the High School to take part.



Holiday at Home

August 27th, 28th 29th 2014

Townsend Hall Shipston on Stour

If you are over 65 you are welcome to join us for one, two or all three days of activities, games, quizzes & entertainment. Let us know if you need a lift to the hall.

£5 per day including refreshments and two course lunch.

To reserve your place on the Holiday at Home days please contact:

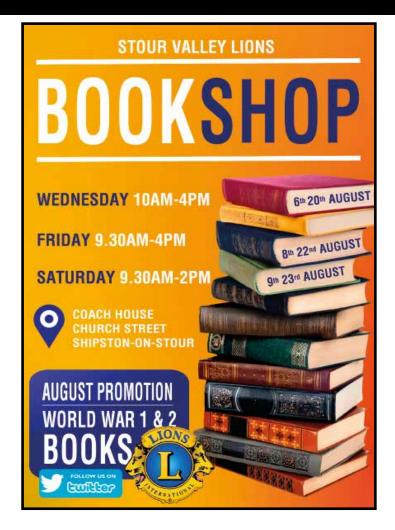
Rosemary on 01608 **662584** or Jude on 01608 **663779** by August 18th

An event organised by Christians Together in Shipston.

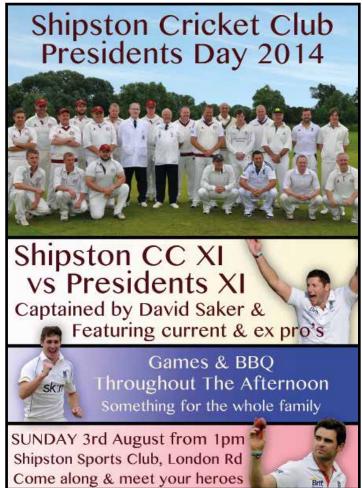














Could you do more for Shipston?

If you would like to get more involved in supporting Shipston, now is your chance.

Shipston Town Council has a vacancy and is keen to co-opt a new councillor as soon as possible. If you think you've got what it takes to be a strong voice for the town, contact the Town Clerk by Monday 1st September to register your interest.

Applicants will be interviewed at the Town Council meeting on the 22nd September 2014. Members of the public will be invited to ask questions.

T: 01608 662180 E: clerk@shipstononline.org



Running your own business? Working from home? Self employed? Your views are vital.

Help shape the future of Shipston's business environment. Please complete the simple online questionnaire now! www.shipstonnp.org/job-done



Shipston's neighbourhood plan Our town, our plan, our future.



Shipston charity saving lives in all corners of the globe

Arrhythmia Alliance is 10 years old this year.

A-A is a coalition of patients, professionals, charities, government bodies, industry representatives and care providers and works to promote the timely diagnosis and effective management of arrhythmia.

A-A campaigns tirelessly to alleviate conditions like atrial fibrillation, sudden cardiac arrest and AF-related stroke.

If you are interested in becoming a local ambassador for Arrhythmia Alliance and representing us at local events, please call Becky on 01789 867524.

www.heartrhythmcharity.org.uk



Wool Fair AGM

Join us for the the first
Annual General Meeting
of the Wool Fair committee

Wednesday 17th September 6pm at New Clark House

On the agenda will be a review of the 2014 Wool Fair and thoughts on how we ensure 2015's event is even better.

For more information, contact the Town Clerk on 01608 662180







CHARITY FOOTBALL MATCH

Sunday 24th August

In aid of Diabetes Care

Shipston Sports Club - Kick Off: 10.30 am Followed by Bud's BBQ at White Bear

Music from 8pm!

EVERYBODY WELCOME!

Shipston Rotary Club

We had two very interesting speaker evenings during June. The first was about William Trevethick who was involved with the invention of steam engines and many other innovations. Later in the month



we heard about the Dementia Awareness initiative in Shipston, and how singing and music can help those with Alzheimer's and other similar problems.

Our last fundraising event of the Rotary year was a visit to three colourful gardens in Whichford followed by a Champagne tea. The sun shone and approximately two hundred Rotarians, their family and friends joined us for a very successful afternoon.

July is an important time in the Rotarian Calendar when a new President takes over for the current year. The President for the year 2014/15 is Judith Slinger and a successful hand over evening was enjoyed by Shipston Rotarians and partners when the outgoing President John Round formerly wished Judith a successful and enjoyable year.

Also at this time of year Shipston Rotarians distribute the funds they have raised during the year to various local and national charities. Beneficiaries include: the Shipston High School award scheme, Dictionaries to local primary schools, Shipston Home Nursing, Shipston Stroke Association and Alzheimer Café, Shipston First Responders and the Shakespeare Hospice. Some of the National and International charities supported are End Polio, Parkinsons UK, Air Ambulance and Water Aid.

Come along and join us and help us meet the Rotarians community work of Service before Self. If you would like to find out more about Shipston Rotary please visit our website; www.shipstonrotary.org.uk or email President Judith Slinger jasling@tiscali.co.uk

Dementia Café

You may have already read that a steering group at the Medical Centre have been meeting to put together an Action Plan to make Shipston a Dementia Friendly Community (May Forum, page 14). One of their action points was to liaise with the local Police and to invite them to visit the Dementia Café in order to talk about community safety issues and support for people with dementia. And so it was that PCSO Emma Turner came to talk to us on 4th July.

It was reassuring to hear that Warwickshire Police are also signing up to the Dementia Action Alliance and more details of their plans can be found on the following web links: http://bit.ly/1m0bECA and http://bit.ly/1y37W3s

Apart from crime prevention advice relating to our homes and personal safety, Emma also mentioned that anyone who has a key safe should advise their local Safer Neighbourhood Team of the number so that they can gain entry should an emergency situation arise. Another useful tip is to check whether anyone you know with dementia

is receiving a lot of junk mail as they may be a target for fraudsters. More information on keeping safe in your home can be found on the Alzheimer's Society website: http://www.alzheimers.org.uk/

Shipston Probus

The 6th June was an appropriate day for Ron Gallivan to give his second talk on the Mulberry Harbour. There were in fact two harbours, one British and the other American. They were built in Britain in 14



months, a tremendous effort involving huge quantities of cement and steel. 150 tugs towed the sections across the channel and many sank. Within eight days they were operational although the American one was later destroyed by a violent storm. In spite of that, enough supplies were landed to maintain the invasion during the critical early days. One of our members remembers witnessing its construction as a young boy.

On 20th June, James Grafton joined the club's list of members who have given excellent talks. The title of his talk was "Growing up with Goons" and provided for us an hour of humorous nostalgia. James' father was the scriptwriter for "The Goons" and he told us how they met at a pub where his father was the landlord. It took two years for these 'crazy people', Harry Secombe, Spike Milligan, Peter Sellers, and Michael Bentine to convince the BBC about their show. To hear their voices on a CD, particularly that of Eccles, took us back many years. Sadly, modern humour has changed and is no longer so funny.

Interested in home brewing?

Last year several Transition Shipston supporters started brewing cider from the glut of apple juice we had. Now a group is being set up for anyone interested in home brewing of all types.

The group is for beginners or those who have knowledge to share. If you would like to be involved in forming a new group based in Shipston, contact Alex Lilley on 07764753530 or alex@redwax.co.uk

Men Behaving Godly

Have you ever taken the time to explore what other people think about life's 'big questions'? Ever really got stuck into a discussion about something more than just football, or the weather? Big Questions like: If you could live forever would you be happy? What's the most powerful job anyone could do? Why are 3 out of every 4 suicide victims in this country men? What is this life all about? Why not live for the moment?

Every month, a group of guys from in and around Shipston get together to take time to discuss these and similar questions. The idea was borne out of the Stour Valley Baptist Church men's group. The guys in the church increasingly found there were precious few opportunities in the week to discuss the 'big questions', away from the

distractions of hectic modern life.

Now the group meets regularly to discuss a broad range of topics including current affairs, local issues and theological subjects such as fair trade, capital punishment and living out one's faith in today's society.

The group meets at The George, Shipston around 7:30pm on the first Tuesday of every month. The discussions are lively, humorous and informal. There are no experts, no leaders and often no right or wrong answers, just opinions and experiences shared.

If you would like to come along and listen in, or share your thoughts or questions then you're welcome to join.

Later Life Challenge

Have you done something new since you retired? Started a new hobby or interest, joined a club or planned an event or trip?

The Laterlife Challenge, a project designed to help older people across the UK to become more active, is looking for entries from the over 60s to demonstrate how they are making the most of their retirement years.

There are some great prizes to win alongside the knowledge that your story may help inspire others who are finding their

senior years lonely or difficult. Chief judge is Blue Peter's Valerie Singleton. Find out more by visiting: www.laterlife.com/challenge

Shipston Proms

Proms performers start young!



This year's Shipston Proms saw performers as young as three take to the 'stage' for their moment in the spotlight.

For the first time, the Proms included a family "Proms Picnic in the Park" at the Queen's Avenue playground, where children were invited to take part in Calypso Music sessions and a Ukelele workshop.

The free event concluded with a unique 'open mic' session which saw youngsters from three upwards showcase their talent. Organiser, Emma-Jane Roberts said: "We were thrilled to see so many children enjoy their moment in the spotlight. From recorder and guitar-players, to singers and dancers, we were all kept thoroughly entertained."

Young performers from in and around Shipston also delighted audiences at both the High School and Primary School concerts.

Readers' Letters

Letter from Tim Porter, Chair of Shipston Proms

Thank you to all who contributed to making the 2014 Shipston Proms Music Festival the best ever. All events were well attended, and there was a vibrant atmosphere amongst performers and audiences during the whole 17 days. The last night was particularly busy and upbeat on a pleasantly warm summer's evening after the earlier showers. The huge crowd enjoyed the music and it was good to see all parts of the community represented from young to old.

My thanks particularly go to the Proms committee who go well beyond the call of duty to make it as smooth an operation as possible. Several members who have served for a while are leaving this year, so we are looking for people to step up and join our friendly group of volunteers. If you can help in any capacity please contact me on 01608 685332.

Letter from Jack and Shirley Crimp

We would like to express our thanks to the Shipston Proms committee for another excellent 2 weeks of "Music for All" during which we were fortunate indeed to attend several events. Special thanks are due to the amazing Porter family for their inspirational commitment.

Finally after the wonderful "Last Night" when so many of us had such a happy summer's evening, then to see at 9 am Sunday morning a spotlessly clean and tidy High Street - we have to wonder how long it took those involved to do this and what time they eventually got to bed - well done and thank you all!

Letter from Kathleen Barrett

I am writing to report that I have just visited the Stour at Shipston Bridge and observed that it is silted / blocked to a greater amount than I have ever seen it in 23 years.

I live in the flood area surrounding the bridge and receive warnings from your agency when we are threatened by weather conditions.

At the moment, it being a dry period, would be the time for the bridge condition to be inspected not when the rains come again, as they surely will soon.

In December 2013 the Stour overflowed its banks several times. The next time if some maintenance isn't done, we could face major town flooding as in 2007.

Please pass this observation on to the agency or officer who can inspect the bridge and hopefully do the proper dredging to avoid the catastrophic events we went through before as well as being under constant threat and warning.

Editor's note: Letter has also been sent to the town council and other representatives.

Letter from Gerlinde Gray

Thank you Shipston

Thank you to everyone who sponsored Ali Dibbens, Julia Aldridge, Gerlinde Gray and Jono Wright who were wearing mad wigs for Wig Wednesday on 11th June. All money collected has been donated to Clic Sargent to help Children with Cancer. Thanks to your generosity we raised £198.06.

Neighbourhood Plan Update

The Neighbourhood Plan's online survey, aimed at capturing information from home-based businesses, those who are self-employed or working out of less 'visible' premises in and around the town, remains open for a short time to maximise responses.

If you think it might apply to you PLEASE visit the link and take a couple of minutes to voice your thoughts. We want to hear from anyone conducting any economic activity, from web designers to dog walkers, hairdressers to child minders, consultants to gardeners, and all sorts in between! The survey can be completed anonymously but will give us information that will help shape ideas needed to support all types of business activity in the town for the foreseeable future. Visit: www.shipstonnp.org/job-done

Meanwhile, the topic groups are starting to hold their own workshops to explore the evidence they have gathered and draw out ideas to take forward.



The Neighbourhood Plan team overall could certainly still use additional volunteers to help with the remaining information and evidence gathering and the next stage of ideas development across the plan. If you feel you could get involved then please do contact Erry Lilley on 07775 765572 or np@shipstononline.org for further information or to volunteer ideas, information or time.

The next NP project meeting is on **Tuesday 19th August 2014**, **7pm New Clark House**. Anyone is welcome to attend the meetings to find out more about the Plan, the work being done, to offer ideas, support and involvement.

Proud of my town

Nancy Pettipher reaches 100 in style

Long-standing Shipston resident, Nancy Pettipher, celebrated her 100th birthday in July with not one, but three parties, demonstrating a zest for life which belies her years.

Nancy has lived in Shipston for over seventy years, many of which were spent with her late husband Eric Pettipher, who, with his brother, ran Pettipher's garage on Church Street. Nancy's three children grew up in the town and still visit regularly, along with her six grandchildren and one great grandson.

Nancy prides herself on maintaining her independence, cooking fresh food daily, visiting the town twice a day and keeping in touch with friends and family by writing letters. "Getting old has never bothered me" Nancy said, and added; "I don't feel old." She attributes her good health and independence to wholesome food and perseverance. "Letting other people wait on you is the worst thing you can do," Nancy warned.

Nancy is full of tales of old Shipston and has plenty to say about current affairs – with Wimbledon and the World Cup being among recent topics of conversation. Far from sitting waiting for her birthday to arrive, Nancy is so busy that when the Queen's representative first arrived to confirm all her details in preparation for her card from The Queen, Nancy was out! His comment was "I've never had someone abscond before!"



Nancy Pettipher pictured with Deputy Mayor, Jackie Warner.

Nancy will be enjoying private family birthday party and a separate party for local friends. In addition, a tree is to be planted in her honour on Horsefair, and a bench placed there, bearing her name. To start her party month off, Deputy Mayor, Jackie Warner, dropped by to wish her a happy birthday and share tales of Shipston past, present and future.

Shipston author sees work submitted for National Literary Award

'Sailor in the Desert', a book by David Gunn of Sheep Street, Shipston, has been put forward for the 2014 Mountbatten Literary Award.

The book is based on the experiences of David Gunn's father, then an Able Seaman, fighting the Turks up the River Tigris in 1915 in what is now Iraq. This was to protect the supply of oil that had recently been discovered in South Persia (now Iran) and over to which the Royal Navy's ships were changing from being coal powered.

The annual award is for the author of the work of literature that 'contributes most significantly to public awareness of maritime issues'.

Laura Lawton, from the book's publisher, 'Pen & Sword, said: "Sailor in the Desert illustrates the incredible versatility required of the Royal Navy – they chart the seabed, pursue a German cruiser across the ocean, defend the Suez Canal then fight the Turks across a desert. The same versatility is required today which is why we felt this book closely fitted the criteria of the Mountbatten award."

Congratulations to David on the nomination – and good luck!

District Council update

Orbit Homes have been granted permission to build up to 55 houses on land off the London Road. I objected to this proposal due to the impact on the landscape, on the girl guides camp and on the infrastructure in the town. On a positive note however, the decision will mean that the football club will be able to use the football pitches once again and there will 19 more affordable houses.



The planning inspector should soon announce his decision about the plans to build up to 70 houses on the land behind Oldbutt road.

It is likely to be the autumn before we know the planning inspectors decision about the proposed supermarket and 180 houses to the North of the Campden Road. However, the planning committee rejected plans to build 215 houses on the same site.

Meanwhile Budgens have submitted an application to build a 600sq. metre supermarket on the corner of Darlingscott Road and Tilemans Lane. For comparison the larger Co Op in the High Street is currently about 300 sq. metres. I am objecting to this plan as I believe it will have a negative impact on the town centre and I think the site should be reserved for manufacturing employment.

The parents and friends of the Shipston Young Firefighters are campaigning hard to persuade the County Council not to close this valuable service down. I fully support them and am meeting with county councillors and senior fire officers to see if there is a way forward.

Councillor Richard Cheney

t: 01608 685570 e: richard.cheney@btinternet.com Richard Cheney & Jeff Kenner take it in turns to provide the content for this column.

County Council update

Young Firefighters

I was pleased to arrange for the Chief Fire Officer, Andy Hickmott, to meet with some of the parents of our



Young Firefighters at Clark House some weeks ago.

While we do live in time of tight finances, closing down youth organisations like this is counter productive and saves very little. I believe in providing facilities for young people that help turn them into responsible adults of the future.

While the Young Firefighters are not the only organisation to cater for young people, they have a valuable role to play in the range of facilities available.

Our rural hinterland

A few weeks ago, I visited some the working farms and smallholdings owned by the County Council. Your Shipston County Councillor is in a unique position representing both town and the surrounding rural parishes. We had a county wide tour, but WCC have local farms at Cherington, Ilmington and Long Compton and these contribute to our rural economy.

The Local Plan

The County Council has supported the latest proposals in Stratford District's Core Strategy and has been working on issues related to the essential infrastructure to accompany any new development. As the Plan approaches its examination in public, before a planning inspector, we shall all be working together to create a positive working Local Plan.

Councillor Chris Saint

t: 01608 664048

e: christophersaint@warwickshire.gov.uk

Shipston Medical Centre

GPs

Unfortunately Dr Caroline Nixon, who has been absent due to ill health for 8 months, is very unlikely to return to work and has applied to retire on the grounds of ill-health. Dr Nixon has been a key part of the practice for nearly 25 years, with her clinical knowledge and skills being very valued, as well as her leadership in recent years.

Another valued member of our team, Dr Jo Piercy, who has also been with us for well over a decade will also be leaving at the end of August, having been offered a partnership position at Hastings House Surgery in Wellesbourne. Whilst we are very sad to be losing Jo, we wish her all the best for this exciting new chapter of her life.

We are very pleased that Dr Carolyn Barcoe, who has been a regular locum at the surgery since completing her training with us in 2013, will be working with us on a permanent basis, and we will also be welcoming Dr Caroline Ward to the practice late August. Additionally, Dr Richard Levison, who has worked at the practice on a salaried basis for a few years has now become a partner with us.



Shipston Medical Centre

Nurses

Sister Karen Smith-Young has moved to Priory Medical Centre in Learnington to take up position as Nurse Manager - a great promotion for Karen and closer to her home. We wish her well for the future. We are actively recruiting for a new nurse to join us and hope to have someone in place early in September.

Medical Centre - t: 01608 661845

Website: www.shipstonmc.warwickshire.nhs.uk

Twitter: @ShipstonMC

Useful Contacts Page 15

Your Town Councillors



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lan Cooper Finance group chair t: 01608 663785 e: ian@piruk.com



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Arthur Ivens

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Fay Ivens

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Vacant See advert on page 8 for details of how to apply

Shipston-on-Stour Town Council

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

Georgina Beaumont, Town Clerk

t: 01608 662180 e: clerk@shipstononline.org

Something exciting to share?

If you have a story that's relevant to Shipston residents, please contact the editor, Catherine Martin, on 01608 495955 or email: forum@shipstononline.org

Copy deadline: First Wednesday of every 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 to support the community and is distributed to all households. If you don't receive a copy, please contact the Town Clerk. The Forum can also be downloaded from www.shipstononline.org

Copies of the Talking Shipston Forum can be requested via New Clark House.

Large print copies are available to read at the Library, New Clark House and the Medical Centre.

While every effort is made to ensure information is accurate, the Town Council does 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.



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Melanie Trapp

t: 01608 666939

e: melanie.trapp@sky.com

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 Post Office	01608 661465
Shipston Forum	01608 495955
Shipston Recycling Centre	01926 412593
Stratford District Council	01789 267575
Warwickshire County Council	01926 410410
UCHW Hospital	024 7696 4000
Warwick Hospital	01926 495321
Local police (non emergency)	101
PC Craig Purcell	07977 456585
PCSO Hayley Ditchburn	07879 608696
PCSO Andy Steventon	07966 626908
Churches of Shipston:	
Stour Valley Baptist	01608 664876
Our Lady & St Michael	01608 685259
St Edmund's	01608 661210
Methodist Church	01608 642256

Please note the new contact number for the Forum Editor (above)

