



Shipston Forum

The community newsletter for Shipston-on-Stour

March 2015

Shipston Town Council sets a new budget for 2015/16

Shipston Town Council has unanimously approved the 2015/16 budget proposals put forward by the Finance Working Group in February 2015.

The budget sets the town council's annual precept at £216,000, (from 206,000 this financial year) which equates to approximately £85.85 per household. This represents an increase of just 20 pence per household for the year, due to the growth in the number of contributing households.

The budget defines Shipston Town Council's income and expenditure plans for 2015/16, together with its anticipated support towards community events and support organisations. The council is looking to provide nearly £15,000 more towards community events and support than it was able to in this current year (2014/15). This includes funds set aside to support community projects, such as provisions to start the development of the riverside walk, support for the flood protection group, repairs to the cemetery chapel and the works to the sports club.

Excluding grants and community support, the council's 2015/16 income and expenditure has remained largely in line with this year's expected levels.

Chair of the Finance Working Group, Ian Cooper, said: "This will be the first change to the annual precept since 2010/11, and the first increase since 2008/09. Over this period we have seen a steady decrease in the annual charge per household."

Shipston Town Council's precept in 2009/10 cost each householder an average of £108.37 per year. In 2011/12, the town council reduced its precept and the amount per household dropped to £98.14. This has continued to drop as the number of households increased, and currently, it is £85.65 per household.

"Our calculations, based on the likely level of attributable

Shipston Town Council is delighted to be able to increase its grant funding for community organisations by nearly £15,000. Recipients of grants in 2015/16 will include:

Shipston Proms
Young Firefighters
Shipston Link
Victorian Evening
The Music Society
VASA

The Shipston Churches' school holiday club.

In addition, the council is looking to support the Sports Club's renovation project.

Shipston Youth Club
Shipston First Responders
The Wool Fair
Shipston Angling Club
Age Concern
Citizens Advice

properties for the 2015/16 year, indicate an average annual cost of £85.85 per household. Bearing in mind that none of these calculations take into account any inflation factors, in real terms this is probably the lowest precept per household we have had in at least 10 years." Councillor Cooper added.

Mayor, Philip Vial, said: "We have faced a number of challenges this year. For example, many important services such as the Youth Club and Shipston Young Firefighters have needed our support following funding cuts from other authorities.

"I am particularly delighted that despite those challenges, the Town Council has been able to set a precept that maintains services, while keeping rises down to an absolute minimum."

As a general rule, grants and project budgets will be held in reserve by the town council until they are needed. The new precept will also allow the town council to maintain the level of reserves recommended by the National Association of Local Councils.

Don't miss out on your chance to vote

With a general election and local elections just a few weeks away, Shipston Town Council is urging all residents to ensure they are correctly registered to vote.

All residents should by now have received a confirmation letter to show who is registered to vote at their address. Please check the details carefully and inform Stratford District Council straight away if any changes are needed.

If you're unsure whether you are already registered, or are

about to become eligible to vote, you can either register online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote or contact Democratic Services on 01789 260208.



Mayor's column

I am disappointed that at the time of writing this column Stratford District Council hasn't seen fit to reply to the Town Council's letter about their threat to remove CCTV from Shipston. Effectively the District Council are keeping their Council Tax demand down by forcing Town and Parish Councils to pay for a service the District Council provides, forcing many to raise THEIR council tax. I think this is wrong - but I'm keen to hear your views.

The Town Council supports local campaigners seeking improvements to traffic safety on the Fosse Way. A copy of the petition is in our offices, if you haven't done so yet please pop along to sign it.

I know this is reported elsewhere in Forum, but I'd like to personally urge you to make sure you are registered to vote. The District Council is sending letters out to all households, and it's important you don't ignore them. The General Election, District Council and Town Council elections are all in May - and anyone who will be 18 this year should get onto the electoral roll - or they will miss out on their chance to vote.

Lastly, with the Town Council elections coming up in May, I would urge anyone thinking about standing and wanting more information to have a chat with the Town Clerk, me or any of the other Town Councillors. It's important that we have enough people willing to help their local community on the Town Council.

Philip Vial



Paying tribute to Shipston's Fallen

By special request of the Royal British Legion, Shipston Branch, the Shipston Forum will be publishing short biographies of each of the local men who fell in World War I on the 100th Anniversary month of their death.

The tributes have been put together by Mike Wells, based on the more detailed accounts published in his book 'Shipston Remembers'. The first two tributes appear on page 13, with further biographies planned until 2016.

Mayor, Philip Vial said: "When Richard Adams, Chairman of the local branch of the Legion mentioned this idea, we were only too happy to support it. I hope that Forum readers will appreciate the opportunity to find out more about each of these brave soldiers."

The book, Shipston Remembers, is available to purchase from the Royal British Legion, with proceeds going to support the work of the RBL. For more details, please contact Richard Adams on 01608 662328.



Core Strategy changes could impact the Neighbourhood Plan

Last minute changes to the Core Strategy, suggested by Stratford District Council during the Inspector's review of the proposals, could mean a bigger role for the Neighbourhood Plan in deciding Shipston's future.



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

At the February town council meeting, Martin Ferrier updated councillors on developments which took place at the inspection. Shipston is one of eight main rural centres (MRCs) in the district. There is likely to be an increase in the number of houses for these MRCs but Stratford District Council expects the local MRCs to negotiate amongst themselves how an additional 2910 will be split across each of the centres.

The district council also suggested that the Neighbourhood Plan process would deal with the numbers and sites for those houses. Finally, a new policy was introduced which would require an extra 10 per cent of housing allocation to be held in reserve, which should also be dealt with by the Neighbourhood Planning process.

Mayor, Philip Vial commented: "These changes only serve to highlight how important it is that we continue to make progress on developing a Neighbourhood Plan for Shipston. I urge the community to continue to engage with the process, particularly as initial options and ideas emerge over the coming weeks."

The topic groups have been sharing initial ideas and discussing collaborative projects in recent weeks, with a view to sharing options with the community for initial discussion and response. For more information about how you can get involved with the Neighbourhood Plan, visit www.shipstonnp.org or email np@shipstononline.org.

Shipston gets tough on crime

Shipston's Safer Neighbourhood Team has warned that there is a documented link between the appearance of illegal doorstep sellers in an area and an increase in theft or burglary offences. Thanks to alerts from local residents, police have recently dealt with doorstep sellers operating illegally, some of whom had previous convictions.

PC Craig Purcell advises: "If anybody knocks at your door selling goods please check their identification. If they cannot produce a pedlar certificate from their local Police Force or they produce a document which claims that they are ex-offenders on a 'back-to-work' scheme then they are likely to be acting illegally and can be prosecuted. If you are concerned about a door-to-door seller, do not challenge them but call the police on 101".

In a separate incident, thanks to CCTV footage, local police were also able to track down and arrest thieves who stole a cash card from an 89 year old lady after she used the cashpoint outside Co-Op. For updates and advice follow @Shipstoncops on twitter or keep an eye on the Town Council's Facebook page.



February's hot topics

Dog fouling complaints: The Town Clerk will organise for 'no dogs' signs and 'fixed penalty' notices to go up to tackle dog fouling at Willets' Piece, near Bosley Close, following complaints from residents.

Spotlight on Shipston this Comic Relief?: Dan Scobie shared news that Comic Relief may be interested in filming the 'Bread Nose Day' event in Shipston on Friday 13th March. He has already been involved in filming for Comic Relief's Celebrity Bake-off sister show – An Extra Slice. There is no guarantee that the recording will be used but tune in at 10pm on BBC2 on the 13th to find out.

Post office pause: Plans to temporarily close the Post Office to allow for the final stage of the refurbishment to take place have been put on hold. As the Forum went to press, no further information had been received about when the Post office works might be completed.

Shipston Proms: Peter White reported that good progress was being made in planning for this year's Shipston Proms. There is to be more emphasis on the launch night and a range of sponsorship packages are being developed to give local businesses greater flexibility in how they get involved. Brian Cooper suggested that publicity should make clear that, as in previous years, the two Co-Op stores are unlikely to be selling alcohol after 7pm by police request.

Pavement problems: Ian Cooper raised concerns about the state of the pavement on Darlingscote Road/Sheep Street which was only recently refurbished. A trench has been dug down the middle and the surface has been poorly patched, leaving a messy-looking, uneven finish. The Town Clerk will investigate further.

Planning issues: The Town Council maintained its opposition to the proposed extension at 68 Hawthorn Way for the same reasons as previously stated, including its overbearing nature on a neighbouring property.

Meanwhile, the revised application for the access to the development proposed at Springhill (off Stratford Road) doesn't address the town council's original concerns about safety and if anything, councillors felt the proposed narrowing of the access road would only make it more dangerous. As a result, councillors continue to oppose it.

Campaigning for Shipston

Portobello crossroads: No response has been received to the town council's letter to Warwickshire County Council, requesting action to improve safety at the junction. Another letter will be sent pressing for a response. In the meantime, local resident, Ms Westwood, alerted councillors to a campaigning Facebook page and efforts underway to maintain awareness of the campaign to improve safety.

Playground funds received: The money promised to the town council to support local play areas has now been provided by Cala Homes as part of their s106 contributions for the site on Stratford Road.

River walk: Sheelagh Saunders reported that progress is being made on shortlisting potential solicitors while contact has also been made with the parishes of Barcheston and Honnington as the intended walk will fall within their boundaries.

Ellen Badger Minor Injuries Unit: Town councillors expressed concern about the reply to their letter received from South Warwickshire Foundation Trust regarding the closure of the EBH Minor Injuries unit from 8pm to 8am. A second letter, copied to Nadhim Zahawi MP, will be sent, reiterating concerns about the reduction in service and the potential long term implications for the hospital.

Town Council business

Smart signage: Councillors voted to purchase new entrance signs for Campden Road, London Road and Stratford Road. The new signs will cost £700 each.

Social media: The communications group is developing a strategy for maintaining communication with residents via social media which will come into effect in after the elections in May.

New Clark House Update



Allotments

The annual meeting of Shipston allotment holders will be held on 11th March at New Clark House at 6:30pm. We hope to see as many of you there as possible.

The payment of allotment fees for 2015/16 is due by 1st April. The fees are:

New Street:

Half Allotment plot £15
Full allotment plot £30

Shoulderway Lane:

Half Allotment Plot £12
Full Allotment Plot £24

Please pop into the office and speak to Jayne to arrange payment.

Parish polls

Following complaints raised over two years ago by Shipston Town Council, the Department for Communities and Local Government is now consulting on proposals to change the current laws around parish polls. Up to now, the support of just 10 parishioners has been required to call a poll.

With these polls costing up to £8,000 each time, both the National and Warwickshire Associations of Local Councils have supported proposals to increase the number of parishioners required to generate a poll.

Although the consultation is ongoing, the fact that it is happening at all demonstrates that it is worth following up on national issues which affect the town as sometimes, Shipston does get listened to.

Georgina Beaumont
Town Clerk
01608 662180
clerk@shipstononline.org

Friends of Shipston Primary swing into fundraising action

Hot on the heels of a successful school disco, the Friends of Shipston Primary School are flat out preparing for two fundraising events in March.

First up is an ideal opportunity to shift some unwanted Christmas gifts or those toys and clothes your children have grown out of. The school's table top/car boot sale takes place in the school hall and car park on the 7th March from 9am to 11am. Stalls cost just £5 and it's free entry for bargain hunters. For more information or to book a stall, email fosp.parents@gmail.com.

The FOSP team is also keen to tap into your competitive spirit with a Family Quiz and pizza night on Friday 13th March. Entry costs £17 per team including two pizzas – for full details see the ad on page 16.

FOSP is responsible for raising funds to support the purchase of playground equipment, subsidise school trips and pay for additional books and materials. All profits from these events will support these activities and everyone is welcome to attend.



Shipston Brownies celebrate Chinese New Year

Brownies

Shipston Brownies welcomed in the Chinese New Year making "Lai See" envelopes to welcome in the New Year of the Goat. The girls received chocolate money from the leaders in individual envelopes, with a message saying "Congratulations and Prosperity for the New Year ahead".

The older brownies and leaders prepared a Chinese meal of Prawn Crackers and Sweet and Sour Noodles for the pack.

Keeping healthy and eating a balanced diet was the theme for this term. The completion of the "Agility" Interest badge was the main focus for the physical activities of skipping, running, throwing, warm ups, and aerobic exercise.

New Leader needed

Outside of day to day activities, Shipston Brownies are urgently seeking a new leader to replace Brown Owl when she retires in September. They are looking for someone to train and lead the team.

Training is given locally and Warwickshire Girlguiding will introduce you to new adult friends, a pack of 20 enthusiastic brownies, a fun personal development programme for the girls, with lots of laughter and community involvement.

If you fancy a new challenge and would like a rewarding voluntary community role in your local community, please contact Judith Jackson on Shipston 661148 after 4pm.

Shipston Scouts take to the streets to tackle local litter

Shipston Scouts went on a litter pick at the weekend and managed to bag 14 bags of litter from along Fell Mill Lane towards Honington.

Before setting off, Dave Faulkner from 'Lawns to Mow' gave the Scouts a talk on how to collect the litter in a safe way. Scout Leader Alistair McQuade said, "We were really surprised when Dave told us that his team collects five bags of litter every day from the streets of Shipston. They do a fantastic job because the town always looks so clean. But outside of the town boundary, particularly around the tip where they do not go, is a different story."

The Scouts collected 14 bags of litter in just two hours, and were all a little shocked at the volume of rubbish in the hedge rows, particularly the amount of beer bottles.

The Scouts' litter pick forms part of their community and environment badges. As well as collecting litter, the team have looked at how to use some of it for bushcraft, like turning waste cans into cooking stoves. Melvin Jones from the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) will be coming to visit Shipston shortly to show the Scouts how the litter they collected can be recycled.

If you're inspired by what the scouts achieved during their litter pick, join the Proud of My Town team on the first Saturday of the month where litter picking sticks and bin bags will be provided and you can take on your own battle against litter around the town. See the What's On calendar on page 7 for details.

Beyond litter picking, the scouts urgently need more help from volunteers. Turn to page 11 to find out more.



Shipston Primary School

Shipston On Stour Primary School



Cross Country Champions

Young athletes from Shipston Primary are celebrating their sporting success after they were crowned winners of the Level 2 Sportshall Athletics Competition.

Held at Kineton High School, the event saw Shipston's team of Year 5 and 6 pupils compete in a combination of field and track events. The Sportshall Athletics Competition tested children's throwing, jumping, running and overall agility against other schools from the local area.

The Shipston team, who were determined to finish higher than their third place of last year, worked hard and scores were extremely close throughout. Following a set of strong performances Shipston Primary romped to victory in the 'over/under' and obstacle relays which were fun to watch, and even better to win.

Paul Bearman, UKA Level 3 coach, said it was one of the closest finishes he's ever witnessed in Sportshall athletics,



as Shipston scored 294 points, winning by just 4 points.

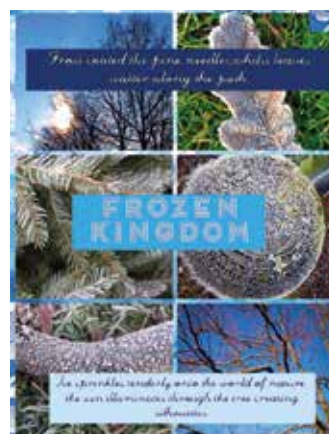
Head of Federation Christian Hilton said: "Well done to all 23 children who represented the school with such tremendous athleticism, commitment and great sportsmanship. A solid and consistent performance from all Shipston athletes led to an overall victory."

The team will now progress to compete in the area finals in Stratford. Ever determined, the team are refining relay changeovers and throwing/ jumping techniques so they have a fighting chance of going through to the regional finals!

Sportshall Athletics was created by George Bunner MBE to provide a safe environment for young athletes to train during the cold and dark winter months. Sportshall quickly developed into a new form of team competition and has become a major highlight of Shipston Primary's sporting calendar.

Frozen Kingdom

As part of the Year 6 curriculum topic "Frozen Kingdom" pupils have been refining their photography and media skills to produce collages of winter around the school site such as this one (pictured right).



Shipston High School

Taking the Next Step

In this ever-changing world of work it is vital that our students are given as much help as possible to guide them through taking their next steps after Shipston High School. Information on further and higher education, careers and work-related learning is a very important part of students' education as they progress. So far this academic year, alongside their normal careers sessions, students have been able to take advantage of several special events including:

- Year 10 visit to Keble College, Oxford for a tour of a collegiate university
- Year 11 dedicated lessons on CV writing
- Year 9,10 and 11 Further Education Fair: displays from education providers and apprenticeship schemes
- Year 11 "Mock" interviews: individual interviews based on prepared CV with members of the local community

A recent event in school was the Year 9 Further and Higher Education Day. Groups of students attended nine different workshops by local sixth form providers and colleges of Further Education to learn about A levels and vocational courses in subjects including Catering, Construction, Public Services, Animal Care and Sport together with representatives from Warwick and Aberystwyth Universities and employers. The knowledge gained should help Year 9 students as they consider their choice of GCSE courses. Many visitors commented very favourably on the students' behaviour and how fully engaged they had been in the activities.

The success of the day was underlined by comments from the students: "The Police were epic", "It has helped me confirm my choices", "I have found out today all the different options I can take when I leave school" and "Today made me think differently about University as I now would like to go".

The next item on the careers calendar is 'The Campus Challenge' involving 48 Year 7 students working with members of Warwick University. This will be a hands-on innovative introduction to University life, where students will learn all about the benefits of Higher Education by creating their own university.

The school is always pleased to hear from prospective employers who can offer employment or apprenticeship opportunities to our students. Please contact Louise Moorman, Careers & Work Related Learning co-ordinator.



Shipston Home Nursing in fund raising frenzy

Shipston Home Nursing has a jam-packed events calendar over the coming weeks, with an extraordinary range of events to suit all tastes. From the Whichford Marmalade Festival to a Vintage and secondhand clothing sale, there are plenty of opportunities to help raise funds for this important local charity.



If you're feeling the stresses and strains of a busy start to 2015, why not book in for some of the relaxing treatments on offer at the Therapies Day on the 14th March? Held at Burmington House, just outside Shipston, the day offers the chance to enjoy acupuncture, massage and hypnotherapy among other treatments. For details, contact Jess on 07806 941374.

Alternatively, meet author, Tom Jaine, and purchase a signed copy of his book "The Book of Marmalade" at the Whichford Marmalade Festival on the 7th March at St Michael's Church. If sport is more your thing, why not head to the Shipston Rugby Club and Football Club Sporting Dinner on 6th March. Tickets cost just £50 and funds raised will be shared among a number of charities, including Shipston Home Nursing.

Finally, for a bit of retail therapy, head to the Sheldon Bosley Hub on the 28th March to bag a bargain. See the ad on page 16 for details.

For more details of these and other events, visit www.shipstonhomenursing.co.uk.

Stour Valley Lions prepare for Senior Citizens' Annual Party

Once again, Stour Valley Lions is to throw a party for Shipston's senior residents.



This year's party will be on Saturday the 28th March at Shipston High School starting at 1.30pm. Invitations have been prepared and distributed. If you have not received your invite or you are new to the area and would like to attend, please contact any Lion member. Lion members are listed on our Notice board located in the Bury.

If previous years are anything to go by, it should be a wonderful afternoon, involving food, entertainment and great company.

To find out more about the events and fund raising activities organised by the Stour Valley Lions, visit www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/stourvalley

Totally Locally campaign gathers pace

Totally Locally Shipston is about showcasing our town, getting people to engage and use their local shops, encouraging businesses to consider local suppliers, highlighting what is available on our doorstep and helping businesses work together - whilst having a bit of fun too!

Totally Locally Shipston meetings take place each month in a local pub. The meetings are an informal get together to discuss healthy promotion of the town.



Over the past 6 months the Totally Locally team has been actively showcasing some of what Shipston has to offer through its Facebook page - www.facebook.com/totallylocallyshipston. Take a look and like the page to receive regular updates. There is also a Totally Locally noticeboard located in the alley through to Granville Court shops, so have a stroll down and take a peek.

Totally Locally Shipston has great events planned for later this year. To find out more, contact Louise Harvey at The Richard Harvey Collection, or email totallylocallyshipston@gmail.com. Alternatively, get involved in the next meeting on 11th March, 5pm in The George.

Shipston Proms to launch business sponsorship packages

To help fund The Shipston Proms and ensure that local businesses benefit from this high profile community event, the Proms committee is developing a range of sponsorship packages to suit different needs and budgets.

The Gold, Silver and Bronze packages will enable local businesses to take advantage of the publicity generated through the fortnight-long event. This includes exposure in the 6000 leaflets which are distributed to every household in Shipston and the surrounding areas, as well as being put in local hotels, music shops, and information centres.

Committee secretary, Emma-Jane Roberts, said: "We are very aware of how generous Shipston businesses and residents are for all of the various events that take place in the town. This year we would like to offer local traders the opportunity to promote their business and further support the local community with a choice of options and look forward to hearing from traders and businesses keen to get involved."

Residents are also being asked to support the event by becoming a "Friend of Shipston Proms" which is also seeing a revamp. To find out more about what being a 'friend' involves, follow the Proms Facebook page www.facebook.com/shipstonproms or @Shipstonproms on twitter for the latest news.

The committee has grown and is benefitting from new ideas although more committee members would be welcome. Please contact Emma-Jane on emmajane@calypsokids.co.uk for details.

Regular events:

- Mon Citizens Advice Bureau:** Mornings, New Clark House. To book a free appointment, call 01789 200136
- 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 (3, 17) 10am-12pm Scout Hut
- Tues Rhyme time for under 2s:** 10.45am Shipston Library. Free.
- Tues Age Concern Lunch Club at Stour Court.** Contact: Stella 686224
- Tues Silver Surfer Computer Lessons,** Shipston Library 2pm. Booking essential. Contact: 0300 5558171 (also on Thurs)
- Tues Bingo:** Alternate Tuesdays. Doors open 6.30pm. Eyes down 7.30pm. Sheldon Bosley Hub. Contact: 661886
- Tues Shipston on Stour Rotarians:** Halford Bridge Hotel, 7.30pm. Contact Adrian Ramskill 0797 656 6525.
- Tues Cantamus - Richard Emms' Chamber Choir - 7.30p- 9.30pm,** Catholic Parish Hall (Townsend Hall on 3rd Tuesday) For experienced singers. Contact Richard Emms 01608 662163.
- 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.
- Weds Stour Valley Probus:** alternate Wednesdays at 10am, The George in Brailles. Contact: Roger Smith on 01608 238400.
- Thur Shipston Stitchers:** 10am to 3pm, alternate Thursdays.
- Thur Story Stomp:** Shipston Library, 11.30am-12pm.
- Thur Age Concern Lunch Club at Rainbow Fields.** Contact: Diana 01789 740627
- Thur Safer Neighbourhood Team:** Fortnightly. Public surgery, 2.30pm to 3pm. New Clark House, West Street.
- Thur Stour Singers - Richard Emms' Choral Society:** 7.30 - 9.30pm Primary School Hall. Contact Yvonne Ridley 01789 269587.
- Thur Stour Singers,** open to all, 7.40pm at Shipston Primary School. Contact Yvonne Ridley on 01789 269587.
- Fri Walks over fields** with friendly group. Leaves Old Mill car park at 10am. Contact: Marlene, 663616
- 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.**

March Diary

- 2 Stour Valley Visually Impaired Group:** Outing. 2pm, Stour Court. Contact: Shirley Pilkington 662684
- 4 Stour Valley Lions Book Sale:** 10am-4pm. The Coach House, Church Street, Shipston (opposite the Library).
- Shipston Widows Local lunch:** 12pm. Contact: Barbara Bean 663230
- Shipston-on-Stour Women's Institute:** The Mitfords in the Cotswolds by Muriel Pilkington. 7pm, Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road. Contact: Jane Hanks 664519
- 6 Stour Valley Lions Book Sale:** 9.30am-4pm. Details as above
- Shipston Dementia Cafe:** See ad on page 9.
- Shipston Primary School:** Car Boot/Table Top Sale. Primary School. See page 4 for details.
- Shipston Rugby Club:** Sporting Dinner. See ad on page 8
- 7 Stour Valley Lions Book Sale:** 9.30am-2pm. Details as above

- Shipston Town Council Monthly Litter Pick:** All welcome. Meet at New Clark House, West St at 10am. Equipment & refreshments provided. Contact: Fay Ivens 662133 or fayivens@aol.com
- Whichford Marmalade Festival:** See ad on page 8
- Chatterbooks:** Reading group for 8-11 year olds. 4pm-5pm, Shipston Library. Join us for games, activities, refreshments.
- Lions Race Night:** See ad on page 9
- 9 Shipston Town Council Monthly Meeting:** 7pm, New Clark House. All welcome. Contact: Georgina Beaumont 662180
- 10 Senior Citizens Action Network Meeting (SCAN):** 10am-11.30am, Townsend Hall, Sheep Street. Free admission, all young-at-heart over 50s welcome. Contact: Jane Pearce 663491
- Shipston Flower Club: Workshop.** 7.30pm, Shipston Primary School, Station Rd. Visitors £3.50. Contact: Elaine 01608 238255
- Stour Valley Lions Monthly Meeting:** 7.30pm, The George Hotel, Shipston. Visitors welcome. Contact: John Cavana 01295 722287
- 11 Allotment Holders Meeting:** See ad on page 8
- Totally Locally meeting:** 5pm, The George. See pg 6 for details
- Shipston and District Gardening Club:** Hill Close Gardens, Richard Hayward. 7.30pm, Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road. Contact: Tony Mitchell 666933
- 12 Royal British Legion – Shipston Branch:** Committee Meeting. 7.30pm, New Clark House, West St. Contact: Mike Dobbin 664636
- 13 Bread Nose Day:** See ad on page 16
- Shipston Primary School:** Family Quiz night. See ad on page 16
- Rural Cinema:** The Hundred Foot Journey. See ad on page 8
- 14 Mayor's Surgery:** 10am, High Street
- Shipston Home Nursing Therapies Day:** 10.30am-4.30pm. 3 sessions £25. See page 6 for details.
- 16 Stour Valley Visually Impaired Group:** More Recent History of Shipston by Nicci Williamson. 2pm, Stour Court. Contact: Shirley Pilkington 662684
- 17 Shipston Arts and Crafts Society:** AGM at 7pm followed by 'Court Barn Museum - Chipping Campden' at 7.30pm. Catholic Church Hall. Contact: Penny Law 663871
- 18 Stour Valley Lions Book Sale:** 10am-4pm. Details as above
- Shipston Widows:** Join us for a friendly and informal get-together. 10.30am-12pm, Coach & Horses. For further information, contact Barbara Bean on 663230
- 20 Stour Valley Lions Book Sale:** 9.30am-4pm. Details as above
- Stour Valley Carers Group:** Supporting Dementia Carers. 10.30am-12pm, Ellen Badger Hospital (Day Unit entrance). 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
- Shipston Music Society:** See ad on page 8
- 21 Stour Valley Lions Book Sale:** 9.30am-2pm. Details as above
- 24 Multiple Sclerosis Society:** 'Drop in' meeting. 10.30am at the George Hotel. Contact: Ann Bartlett 666161
- Shipston on Stour U3A Meeting.** See ad on page 16
- 25 Shipston and District Literary Society:** Professor Kate McCluskie on How Shakespeare Saw Time. 7.15 for 7.30pm, The George Hotel. Contact: Helen Marshall 01789 740773
- 26 Rotary Club Fashion Show with Niche.** See ad on page 16
- 28 Shipston Home Nursing Vintage Clothes Sale:** See page 16



Shipston Music Society
www.shipstonmusic.org.uk



Warwickshire Boys' Choir


Shipston High School
Darlingscote Road, Shipston-on-Stour
@ 7.30pm - Friday 20th March 2015

Guests £6.00 - Students & Under 16 £2.50
New Members are always welcome

Registered Charity Number: 1146459 (England)


STOUR VALLEY LION'S CINEMA

HELEN MIRREN



Om PURI Manish DAVAL Charlotte LE BON
The HUNDRED-FOOT JOURNEY
FROM THE AWARD-WINNING DIRECTOR OF 'CHOCOLAT'

COMPETITION IS THE SPICE OF LIFE



Temporary new venue: Townsend Hall
Friday 13th March, 2015 at 7:00 pm
Advance Tickets £3.50 (£4 on door)

From: R. Clarke Electrical, 27 High Street, Shipston On Stour.
: Lisa Judith Jackson. Tel: 01608-661148
Interval for Raffle, Refreshments and snacks.
Disabled parking, wheelchair access and toilets



Calling all allotment holders

The annual meeting of
Shipston on Stour Allotment Holders
will be held at 6.30pm
on Wednesday 11 March 2015
at New Clark House

All allotment holders welcome.



Any queries, please contact
Jayne Potter, admin assistant at the
Town Council office on 01608 662180.

MEET TOM JAINE
Celebrated good food promoter, restaurateur and wit.

Tom as publisher will introduce his 'The Book of Marmalade' and bring copies of his cookery books for sale at

WHICHFORD'S MARMALADE FESTIVAL
on Saturday 7th March at 10am in St Michael's Church

To enter the competition, deliver 1 pot of marmalade and £5 entry, to St Michael's church by Thursday 5th march

WE NEED LOTS OF YOUR MARMALADE TO SELL IN AID OF SHIPSTON HOME NURSING & ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

Contact: Julia Melvin 01608 684019; Sophia Corlett 01608 684369

Shipston Rugby Club & Shipston Football Club Present... Rugby Legend Gareth Chilcott at the



Eighth Sporting Dinner

Friday March 6th at the Townsend Hall, Shipston-on-Stour. Time 7 - 7.30pm Black Tie
Tickets £50 - Drinks not included - Tables of 8-10-12

Profits from this event are split between the two clubs & a number of Charity's in the town. SHN will be one of the Charity's to benefit.

For tickets email: alasdair.elliott@gmail.com



Notice of Annual Town Meeting
Shipston Town Council invites all residents and businesses to attend the Annual Town Meeting on 23rd April 2015

Please join us for a review of 2014/2015, the presentation of The Shipston Award and to ask any questions of your town councillors.

If you are the Chair of a local group and would like to have your annual report included, please send it to the Town Clerk, via post or email by 10th April.

Shipston High School, 7pm
All welcome

www.alzheimers.org.uk

Leading the fight against dementia
Alzheimer's Society | Dementia Cafés

Shipston Dementia Café



The dementia café takes place at:
Stour Court, Old Road, Shipston-on-Stour, CV36 4HF
1st Friday of the month (except January)
Between 2.00pm to 3.30pm

Dates for your Diary 2015

Jan 9th	Feb 6th	Mar 6th	Apr 10th	May 1st	June 5th
July 3rd	Aug 7th	Sept 4th	Oct 2nd	Nov 6th	Dec 4th

The café is an opportunity for people with dementia, their family and friends to meet in an informal social setting. Staff will be available to give you support and provide you with information

For further information please contact Charmaine Bird, Café Coordinator on 01926 888899 or charmaine.bird@alzheimers.org.uk

Charity No: 290845

CANCER RESEARCH
 IN CONJUNCTION WITH
THE LIONS RACE NIGHT
 At the Townsend Hall

Adult **£7.50**
 Child **£5.00**
 Price includes supper

Tickets Available from:-
 Marilyn: 07855 855252
 Jackie: 07717 391234
 David: 07511 694733

Saturday 7th March at 7pm
www.townsendhall.com

Planning a Meeting or a Function?

Did you know that Shipston Sports Club is available for hire from Monday to Friday??

We can accommodate up to 100 people for private parties/functions and can also provide facilities for smaller meetings and discussion groups. A licensed bar and a wide range of refreshments can also be provided should you require them. A free car park is also available on site.

If you think that we can be of help to you or your group and would like more information, please contact Emma, our stewardess, on 07853 441687 in the first instance or visit our web site at:

www.shipstonsportsclub.co.uk

Our Lady & St Michael Shipston and SS Peter and Paul Brailes

(Roman Catholic)

Palm Sunday (29th March)

9.30am Procession and Mass at Shipston

11.30am Mass at Brailes

6.30pm Stations of the Cross at Brailes

Maundy Thursday (2nd April)

11.30am Mass at Brailes

7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
followed by Watch at the Altar of Repose
at Shipston

Good Friday (3rd April)

10.00am Ecumenical Walk of Witness at Shipston

11.30am Stations of the Cross at Brailes

3.00pm Liturgy of the Passion at Shipston

Holy Saturday (4th April)

7.30pm Easter Vigil at Shipston

Easter Sunday (5th April)

9.30am Mass at Shipston

11.30am Mass at Brailes

Methodist Church

Maundy Thursday (2nd April)

7.00pm

Holy Communion

Easter Sunday (5th April)

9.00am

Breakfast followed
by short time of worship

11.00am

Holy Communion

St Edmund's (Church of England)

Maundy Thursday (2nd April)

7.30pm Eucharist with foot-washing

Good Friday (3rd April)

10.45am United Service

(following the Ecumenical Walk of Witness)

2.00-3.00pm Reflection at the foot of the Cross

Easter Sunday (5th April)

8.30am Eucharist

10am Eucharist

11.30 Eucharist at Tidmington

Stour Valley Baptist Church (at the High School)

Easter Sunday (5th April)

10.30 am Family Easter Celebration
(with baptisms)

Further information:

www.stourvalleybaptist.co.uk
(01608) 664876

Quaker Meeting

Broad Campden Meeting

House Lane, Broad Campden

Meeting for Worship – Sundays at 10.30am

Ettington Quaker Meeting

Old Halford Rd, Ettington

Meeting for Worship – Sundays at 11am

Sibford Quaker Meeting

Sibford Gower Meeting for Worship – Sundays at 10.30am

Church contact details

If you would like to contact any of the Churches
please see the telephone numbers
on page 15.

Shipston Area Flood Action Group (SAFAG)

An update from the Environment Agency (EA)

The EA is planning to re-profile the river channel around the road bridge in Shipston. Works will be carried out both upstream (South) and downstream (North) of the bridge, beginning in February if weather conditions allow.

Large blockstones will be placed within the channel and will be carried in the direction of the river flow.

The purpose of these works is to direct the river through the two most western arches of the bridge during normal flow levels in order to reduce siltation of the river channel. The area in line with the 3-4 most eastern arches will be maintained (mown) during normal river levels, with marginal vegetation between the normal water level line and the mown section for biodiversity.

By restricting the channel width during low flows the river maintains its energy and therefore continues to carry sediment loads, rather than depositing it before and after the bridge as it reaches the overly widened channel. Mowing the upper channel sections (silt deposits) will ensure there is no unmanaged vegetation to reduce flows as the water levels rise and flow through the eastern arches and thus reduce siltation.

During flood conditions/raised levels all bridge arches will carry the river capacity. A similar design is currently working in nearby Wellesbourne.

The EA does not plan to remove any silt from either the upstream or downstream sections. The current silt levels have been modelled and a reduction of the current levels would not reduce flood risk.

Tree work has already been completed along the river bank, with approximately 18 willow trees pollarded to reduce potential blockages in the future. For more information on this and other flood prevention work, contact SAFAG chairman, Phil Wragg, on wragg1@btinternet.com

Shipston Scouts

Shipston Scouts held their AGM on Saturday 31st January and despite over seventy letters going to parents only one parent attended the meeting and one returned a slip to indicate an interest but was unable to attend.

The group is extremely well supported by the young people that attend and we have a waiting list for all sections. At the meeting the chair of the past sixteen years stood down and we now need to find a new chair and secretary as well as more general committee members to support the excellent Leadership Teams, so they are free to provide the challenging activities and not become involved with fund raising. Volunteers do not have to become members of the Scout Association but will need to complete a DBS check if you are going to work with children on a regular basis.

Further details and sample 'job descriptions' are available from David Wright on 01608 662158 or d.wright61@btinternet.com



Shipston Foodbank

Shipston's foodbank is now well established and we receive the most generous support with goods for our 'larder', generous financial contributions and practical help, all of which we are grateful for and thank everyone very warmly.

We get an average of four referrals each week from GPs, district nurses and other professionals. The food packs are delivered to the Badger Valley Children's Centre for distribution from there.

We can only provide tinned and dried goods normally but at Christmas were able to include some fresh things: a chicken, vegetables, fruit and some special Christmas goodies. There were fourteen requests on behalf of families, including thirty-two children, which made it feel very rewarding assembling the packs.

St Edmund's Church kindly enables us to keep supplies there but there is not a lot of space (we are currently well stocked with food). If anyone has a room or an outside building, fairly central in the town, that they could lend us as an over-spill facility, we would be most grateful. If you can help please contact Beverly Abson on (01608) 665093.

Again huge thanks to everyone who has helped. Without your support, we could not continue.

Shipston Music Society

Concert report:

Charles Mathews and Colin Druce

Two international pianists playing on one keyboard not only requires a high level of dexterity but also a high level of confidence by both pianists. This was very evident at the January concert performed by local pianists Charles Matthews and Colin Druce. Charles is organist of St Catharine's Church, Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire; he also works extensively with children, teaches piano and organ and works as a conductor and contemporary music coach. Colin studied piano and organ at Chester Cathedral and later at the Birmingham Conservatoire, where he won the BMI Organ Competition and the Ludlow Philharmonic Concerto Competition.

The concert began with two of Dvorak's Slavonic Dances op 46 and 72, a popular medium for music-making in the home in the mid 1800s. These were written for four hands on the piano and proving to be popular, were later orchestrated by the composer. Also written for four hands was the Sonata in D major by Mozart which Charles and Colin performed effortlessly. Rachmaninof's Barcarolle from six pieces and the popular song from Facade by William Walton completed the first half of the programme.

The second half of the programme was dominated by The Mother Goose suite by Maurice Ravel, a charming and most descriptive piece of music full of warmth and fantasies written by Ravel for the two children of his close friends. The evening concluded with the overture to the operetta "Poet and Peasant" by Franz von Suppe. The



whole evening was a delight to listen to and amazing to watch as each played their part, often crossing over hands but without even a hint of getting in each others way.

The next meeting of the Music Society will be 20th March 2015 – The Warwickshire Boys Choir. The concert will be held at Shipston High School, Darlingscote Road. Visitors are always welcome – For more information please phone Richard Baldwin 01608-662178 or visit the web site www.shipstonmusic.org.uk.

Shipston WI



February 4th might have been one of the coldest nights of the year with a huge moon making the frost glisten, but Alan Brewer transported WI members to warm exotic climes. There was a time when he could have transported us physically but on this occasion it had to be all in the mind.

Alan's career had been with BOAC (later British Airways) as a cabin steward. He quickly rose through the ranks and ultimately was chosen to serve the Queen on several occasions on her travels around the world. The first time he met the Queen was when she went to New Zealand to open the Commonwealth Games. Alan had several pleasant anecdotes about Her Majesty - she likes Earl Grey tea made with Malvern water and a slice of lemon, is considerate of her fellow travellers, has a good sense of humour and appreciates good service.

Over the years Alan has been invited to dinner at 10 Downing Street and known several Prime Ministers. He has become friends with many of his clients because of his down to earth attitude and ability to anticipate peoples' needs.

The meeting continued with WI business. Christine, the President, welcomed several visitors. There will be a skittles evening in March to which members and friends will be welcome, and a winter walk in February. The Book Group has just received the next book to be critiqued and the Knitting Group continues its good work. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, 4th March at 7pm in the Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road, when the speaker will be Muriel Pilkington talking about The Mitfords in the Cotswolds.

Shipston Rotary



Shipston Rotarians started the New Year with two successful social events – a Fish & Chip supper at the Norman Knight Pub in Whichford, followed the following week by a Skittles night at the Butchers Arms in Mickleton.

Our normal weekly activities have now resumed and planning is well under way for our fund raising events in the Spring months.

Thursday 26th March we have the Fashion Show at the Townsend Hall. See the advert on page 16 for details.

Sunday 3rd May – The 25th Annual Cotswold Walk

Sunday 24th May – A Community Service with Songs of Praise in St Edmunds Church

We had a fascinating talk from one of our own members, Harold Porter, who celebrated his 90th birthday in December last. His talk was titled "My first 90 years". What an eventful life and career – we all look forward to hearing about his next. The month was completed with a talk from our Rural Crime Co-ordinator, Lucy Lambert.

If you would like to find out more about Shipston Rotary please visit our website www.shipstonrotary.org.uk or email President Judith Slinger on jasling@tiscali.co.uk

Stour Valley Lions



Lion's Cinema

Our next film on the 13th March is "The Hundred Foot Journey". This is a very funny comedy drama. The stars of the film are; Helen Mirren, Manish Dayal, Om Pur and Charlotte Le Bon.

The family of talented cook, Hassan Kadam, are drifting through Europe after fleeing political violence in India that killed their restaurant business and their mother. A chance car accident and a young woman, Marguerite, inspires Papa Kadam to set up a Indian restaurant. Unfortunately, they have direct competition with the snobbish Madame Mallory's acclaimed haute cuisine restaurant across the street where Marguerite also works as a sous-chef. The resulting rivalry escalates in personal intensity and in response, there is a bridging of sides initiated by Hassan, Marguerite and Madame Mallory herself, both professional and personal, that encourages an understanding that will change both sides forever.

Senior Citizens' Party - Preparations for the annual party are in full swing - see page 6 for details.

Probus



Several of our members have given talks of a very high standard and Guy Harris is no exception. On 9th January, he gave an excellent illustrated talk on the History of Medicine up to 1800. Whilst medical treatment and knowledge has improved immeasurably, it was a reminder of how little was really known in the past. Bloodletting was popular. Syphilis was known in 1500 and took time to solve but by 1800, Edward Jenner had developed a vaccination. By contrast, today there seems to be an immediate cure for almost any ailment. We look forward to hearing part two of his talk later in the year.

Ron Gallivan has many talks on a wide range of subjects and many cover aspects of the two world wars. On the 23rd January, we had 'Operation Goodwood' which was one of the many battles in Normandy fought after the D-day landings. It took a great deal longer to break out of the bridgehead than was planned. Goodwood was largely a tank battle around Caen. There were many failures in its execution and German resistance was well organised. There was no break out and it was generally considered a failure.

Readers' Letters

Letter from James Law

I have read with interest recent comments about flooding in Shipston. Attention appears to focus on the Mill bridge, which may well have some effect on the flood level in Shipston.

However, maybe consideration should be given to the restrictions to flow of water out of the town. For instance, flood water above river bank level would be effectively blocked by the road embankment on the Fosseyway just south of Halford.

I think river bridges used to be designed to accommodate a one in a hundred year flood. The flood of 2007 was reported to be a one in two hundred year flood. Therefore, the solution to flooding in Shipston could be simply to increase the span of the river bridge in the Halford road embankment. This would, of course, cost a lot of money and might increase the flood risk further downstream. Maybe that is why nobody has mentioned this.

Perhaps our County Councillor could ask the question of the County Engineers and Environment Agency.

Letter from Rod Gregg, Chairman 2000 – 2015

On the 31st January 2015 I attended the 1st Shipston Scout Group AGM at the new Scout Hut. This facility, together with one of the best Scout Groups in Warwickshire, is at the centre of our Community and is currently helping to mould over 100 youngsters into valued members of this and surrounding villages.

What an absolute disappointment that only ONE parent managed to attend to see the amazing things the Group has achieved over the past 12 months, despite having had plenty of prior warning.

These, and many other organisations, need help from parents, and the public, to develop and grow. Without help the Leaders are left to run the Group, fundraise and deliver an educational, fun packed meeting every week. This is asking far more than we should be of people who already volunteer a substantial amount of their spare time week in, week out.

Please find time to see if you can help. You don't have to have children attending the Group, you don't have to spend hours every week fund raising, or attending meetings. You don't have to be an official on the Committee. The Committee meetings in the past have been great fun and only take up a couple of hours once a month.

It's not rocket science it's just a bunch of people helping the Scout Group that's all! There are some really good people in this town.

Remembering Shipston's Fallen 100 years on

The Shipston Fallen – March

61508 Shoeing Smith HERBERT GEORGE NASON

Bertie Nason was born on the 4th March 1887 in Barcheston, the son of William and Emma Nason. At the time of Bertie's birth, William was working as a groom and gardener. The family moved around living in Shipston, Barcheston and Willington.

On the 21st April 1890, Bertie entered the Shipston-on-Stour Infants School and on the 2nd July 1894 he moved up to Shipston Boys School, joining class 4. Bertie is next recorded in June 1908 when he joins the Army, serving for two years at home with V Battery of the Royal Horse Artillery before being posted to India. He had been in that country for five years at the outbreak of war in August 1914.

The war diary of V Battery records their return to Europe in late 1914 and notes their arrival in Marseilles on 14th December. From December 1914 through to February 1915 was spent training in northern France and by the 1st March they were at Serny to the southwest of Aire-sur-la-Lys. The war diary for the following day reports:

2nd March 1915 2:30pm Accident with Trench Mortar whilst practising firing it. Major M L Goldie MVO DSO, 2/Lieut E C Purchase and 2/Lieut P M Hosack wounded. 7 men killed and 30 wounded.

Bertie Nason was one of the 7 soldiers killed outright. His death was reported in the Stratford Herald and the Evesham Journal. He is remembered on both on the Town and the County School Memorials and is buried in Aire Communal Cemetery, Aire-sur-la-Lys, Pas de Calais, France, where he lies with the six other colleagues that died on the day of the accident.

11789 Rifleman ALBERT GEORGE BRADLEY

Albert Bradley was the fourth child of Amos and Mary Ann Bradley and was born on the 18th April 1896. Amos was a Bricklayer and a local preacher who died in 1900, the census the following year shows Mary Ann working as a Charwoman.

It is not known when he joined the Infants School, but it is known that Albert transferred from the Infants to the Boys School on the 1st July 1902 when he was 6 years old.

After enlisting in Warwick in the early days of the war, Albert arrived in France on the 29th November 1914 along with 371 Officers, NCOs and Riflemen as replacements for some of the many men lost in the early battles in the war. By the 23rd December the Battalion was back in the front line. In early March 1915 the Battalion were in trenches being held at Givenchy preparing for the British Army's first major offensive of 1915, the Battle of Neuve Chappelle.

On the 10th March 1915 two artillery barrages preceded the attack. However, after rushing 170 yards to the enemy wire the men of Albert's Battalion found that the wire had not been breached and they suffered heavy casualties under the fire of the German rifles and machine guns. The Battalion lost 161 Officers and Men killed or missing and 94 wounded. Sadly Albert had been killed and his body was never found.

A report of Albert's death appeared in both the Evesham Journal and Stratford Herald. Albert Bradley is commemorated on the Le Touret Memorial and he is remembered on both the Town and the Council School Memorials.



District Council update

Portobello Crossroads petition

On 30 December I set up a petition seeking road safety improvements and a roundabout at the Portobello crossroads. This followed the death of Mr Julios Catachanas in an accident just before Christmas. It reached 1,000 signatures within 36 hours, nearly one per minute, and stands at over 2,400.



On 5 February I presented the petition to the County Council. We were joined by Mr Catachanas' sister, Panayiota, who spoke movingly about her hope that no one else would be killed or seriously injured at the crossroads.

Data shows that 50% of the accidents at there are serious with a rising trend. Each fatality costs society £1.9 million according to the Ministry of Transport. Studies show that a roundabout could reduce serious accidents by 75%. In the light of this evidence, the Council must, in my opinion, commit to installing a roundabout. We will keep campaigning until it does.

Ellen Badger Hospital (EBH)

Following the reduction of hours at the Minor Injuries Unit, I have sought assurances from the NHS Trust about their commitment to maintaining services at the EBH. The petition I launched to reverse the MIU decision received nearly 400 signatures. More recently, A&E pressures at Warwick led to reopening of closed wards at EBH. This highlights just how vital the EBH is as a local hospital. The Trust have given reassurances but, in my opinion, we need to be vigilant.

Planning

Decisions are awaited this month on both the supermarket appeal and the viability of the Core Strategy. Plans for new housing at Shoulderway Lane, off London Road, with a replacement medical centre are imminent. I welcome your views on all planning matters.

Councillor Jeff Kenner

Email: jeff.kenner@stratford-dc.gov.uk Tel: 07790 725415

Jeff Kenner & Richard Cheney take it in turns to provide this column.

County Council update

Budget

After a marathon meeting, we finally set the budget for the year commencing 1st April with a Council Tax rise of 1.95%



Portabello crossroads

I have had a detailed briefing from officers. They say that there have been 11 personal injury accidents at the risky junction on the Fosse Way, in the last two years.

Previous to this there had been none at all for three years. The fatal accident just before Christmas is the only such example during that five year period.

I am pressing for immediate improvements to signage ahead of any longer term solution.

Street lights

The County Council has put in a funding bid to change all street lights to climate change friendly LED type illumination. This is much more economic than our current lamps and may give a chance to extend the hours of illumination.

Councillor Chris Saint

t: 01608 664048

e: christophersaint@warwickshire.gov.uk

Due to the forthcoming elections, the Shipston Forum will not feature columns from individual councillors during April and May

Shipston Medical Centre

The Friends and Family Test

The Friends and Family Test is a feedback tool which encourages those who use NHS services to provide feedback on their experience. It asks people if they would recommend the services they have used and offers a range of responses.

Since the beginning of December we have had postcards in the reception and waiting room areas of the Medical Centre which patients can use to tell us what they think about our service. The card asks the question 'How likely are you to recommend our GP practice to friends and family if they needed similar care or treatment?' and also provides space for you to tell us what we do well and what we could improve.

Please do take the time to complete one after seeing a

Doctor, Nurse or Healthcare Assistant as the feedback is invaluable. The ratings we received will also be displayed on both the NHS England and NHS Choices websites <http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical->



work-areas/friends-and-family-test/ and <http://www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/AboutNHSservices/Pages/nhs-friends-and-family-test.aspx>



The feedback we received from you in December was very positive with 91% of respondents reporting they were extremely likely to recommend us. The positive comments we received

Included the professionalism and friendliness of the team; the ability to speak to a doctor quickly and the late night opening on a Thursday. The things people felt we could improve were the parking and availability of GP appointments.

As most people are now aware we continue to lobby for new premises as we recognise the limitations of the current building, which include nowhere to increase available parking. To manage GP appointment availability, we monitor waiting times for GP appointments and capacity in the medical team on a weekly basis.

Medical Centre – t: 01608 661845

Website: www.shipstonmc.warwickshire.nhs.uk

Your Town Councillors



Philip Vial, Town Mayor

t: 07814 192161
e: ppjvial@gmail.com



Jackie Warner, Deputy Mayor

t: 07717 391234



Ian Cooper

Finance Group Chair

t: 01608 663785
e: ian@piruk.com



Martin Ferrier

*Planning Group Chair
& Sustainability Group Chair*

t: 07814 092134
e: martinferrier4shipston@gmail.com



Arthur Ivens

t: 01608 662133
e: fayivens@aol.com



Fay Ivens

General Purposes Group Chair

t: 01608 662133
e: fayivens@aol.com



Brian Cooper

t: 01608 663237
e: briancooper_1951@yahoo.co.uk

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.

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.

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

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.



Alison Henderson

t: 01608 661911
e: ali.m.henderson@btinternet.com



Veronica Murphy

t: 01608 664518
e: veronica.murphy123@btinternet.com



Paul Rathkey

Staffing Group Chair

t: 01608 664141
e: rathersandco@tiscali.co.uk



Sheelagh Saunders

Riverside Walk Group Chair

t: 01608 662190/07800 889947
e: sheelaghsaunders@gmail.com



Dan Scobie

t: 07771 772511
e: dan@danscobie.net



Peter White

Communications Group Chair

t: 07792 507168
e: pjwhite78@hotmail.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



Hospital at Home
Shipston, Wellesbourne
and Kington

VINTAGE 2ND HAND CLOTHES SALE

Saturday 28th March
10.30am - 12.30 - FREE ENTRY
Sheldon Bosley Hub,
Shipston-on-Stour, CV36 4DQ

For more details call Rebecca on **01608 674929**



Our next Monthly meeting

Tuesday 24th March 2015
at 2 p.m. in the Townsend Hall

"Life in the Music"



A fascinating and amusing journey
through life in song with
Singer/Songwriter Andy Smith

Visitors are welcome

Entry and refreshments £2

The Third Age: a time of creativity and fulfilment



Shipston's Food Festival team brings you

Bread Nose Day

Join the team on Friday 13th March
from 5pm for kids bread-making classes
(adults classes will follow)

Head back to buy freshly baked bread
from 9am on Saturday 14th March

The action takes place in Shipston town
centre and all proceeds will be
donated to Comic Relief charities.

For more information about the bread making
classes or event timings,
contact Philip Vial on 07814 192161
or ppjvial@gmail.com

Family Quiz Night



Friday 13th March
6.30pm start

at Shipston Primary School



£17 entry per team
includes 2 Margherita pizzas from
Pizza Alfresco
(max. 4 adults and unlimited kids in each team, plus
option to order more pizzas below)

Licensed bar and snacks available

Please return forms with your entrance fee to the silver
FOSP box in the School's reception by
Monday 9th March. Cheques payable to 'FOSP'.

Entrance on the night: £5 per team (no pizza)
Limited pizzas available to order on the night.

All proceeds to go towards Friends of Shipston Primary

FOSP QUIZ NIGHT
Friday 13th March, 6.30pm

Contact Name:

Number of extra pizzas required (£7 each):

Payment enclosed: