

# Shipston Forum

The community newsletter for Shipston-on-Stour

December 2014



On behalf of all the Town Councillors and staff at Shipston Town Council, The Mayor, Philip Vial, wishes all readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

### Shipston gears up for Christmas with help from Small Business Saturday

People in Shipston are being urged to support Small Business Saturday by shopping locally on Saturday 6th December – and making full use of the town's retailers ahead of Christmas.

Small Business Saturday, held on one of the busiest shopping days in the year, aims to celebrate small businesses and to encourage communities to support them. Purchases made from a local business are worth far more locally. Typically, £1 spent with a small business generates £1.76 to the local economy.

Shipston's local retailers are planning a host of special offers, events and new services to encourage more people to shop in the town:

- Karl (pictured below left) and Sharon Peacock are hoping to provide the answer to 'what to buy for the man who has everything' with their new store, M21, at 2 the High Street. Having run The Bakery successfully for nine years, the dynamic duo are expanding into a new market, offering gifts, cards and specialist toiletries for men.
- The Cotswold Tailor has launched a new Formal Dress Hire service in time for Christmas
- Kids 'N' Things on Church Street is giving Father Christmas a helping hand by ensuring there are plenty of toys, games and children's clothes to fill those Christmas sacks.
- Taste of the Country is continuing its Twelve Tastes of Christmas campaign, with daily tastings of artisan cheeses and Christmas treats.
- Richard Harvey will have their traditional 'live shop window' display on Friday 5th December in celebration of the Victorian evening, and will be marking Small Business Saturday with warm spiced cider and Mum's homemade mince pies customers.



This is just a taster of what Shipston has to offer. With independent florists, gift shops and clothing stores, hardware, electrical and furniture shops, and many pubs and cafes, Shipston has your main Christmas needs covered.

Town Mayor, Philip Vial, said: "We are extremely fortunate to have such an impressive range of independent shops in Shipston



Another busy day in Shipston's town centre

and I hope local residents will support them, not just on small business Saturday, but every day, so that we continue to have a vibrant town centre for years to come."

Warwickshire County Council is working with Shipston Town Council, the Federation of Small Businesses and the district council to promote Small Business Saturday. For more information about Shipston's local businesses, visit www. facebook.com/totallylocallyshipston.

### Shipston proudly remembers the fallen

Major Bob Drummond (pictured, front) and Martin Corby were among hundreds of people who turned out on Remembrance Sunday to remember those who gave their lives in the two World Wars.

The parade, led by Shipston Town Band and the Shipston branch of the Royal British Legion, was followed by a service at St Edmunds Church.

For full details see page 2.



# Mayor's column

Normally in Mayor's columns I tend to look forward to



events coming up in the next month but this time I intend to start by looking back.

The Remembrance Sunday Parade was perhaps the most successful of recent years – but perhaps also the most poignant with this year being the anniversary of the outbreak of World War One and the presence of the family of one of Shipston's lost – Archie Nicholls.

I am particularly grateful to Richard Adams and Shipston British Legion, our Rector, Andrew Coleby and all of the volunteers who worked so hard on the day. My thanks also to Shipston High School – who invited me to their own Remembrance Assembly. It was particularly touching to see so many children in uniform – from the Young Firefighters Association to the Sea Scouts.

The Town Council has been asked to recommend names for the new development at the Norgren site. If you have any suggestions please write to me.

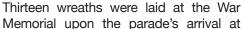
It will soon be Christmas and my thoughts will be with those who are working over the holiday period. From staff at the Ellen Badger Hospital to our retained firefighters to the Police and others, many will be working rather than sitting down with their families.

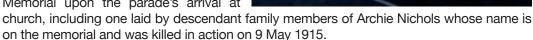
Let's all wish them a quiet time and give them our thanks for the valuable work that they do.

**Philip Vial** 

#### Sun shines on Shipston's Remembrance Parade

Despite torrential rain the day before, the sun shone for the parade on Remembrance Sunday in the High Street. As the church bells tolled, Shipston Town Band led the parade of the Shipston Branch of The Royal British Legion members, Mayor Philip Vial and the Civic Party, High School prefects, Young Fire Fighters, the Scout Group and St John's Ambulance.





The congregation of just over 400 filled St Edmund's for the Service of Remembrance, led by Rector Andrew Coleby. The names of the fallen were read out by High School students as reported on page 5. After the Exhortation to the Fallen, Two Minutes Silence was observed at 11am, followed by Last Post and Reveille being sounded by John Smith.

The service proceeded with the Legion and Youth Group Standards being laid on the altar concluding with singing of the National Anthem after the Standards had been retrieved ready for the march back to the High Street. The parade saluted the War Memorial as it marched past to honour the memory of Shipston's fallen.

On Armistice Day, 11th November, at 11am, a sizeable crowd gathered in the High Street to observe Two Minutes Silence. The High Street came to a silent halt for the occasion.

Richard Adams, Chairman of the Royal British Legion, Shipston Branch, said: "On behalf of The Royal British Legion, custodians of perpetuating Remembrance, I would like to thank the many who joined or observed these events. It is right that while not forgetting

all who made the Supreme Sacrifice we especially remember the Shipston men who died so bravely. We are proud of them and they must never be forgotten."



#### Shipston Sports Club sets its sights on ambitious renovation programme

Shipston Sports and Social Club is working on securing the last remaining funding needed to proceed with a major refurbishment programme designed to make the club fit for the 21st Century.

Having originally been built in 1974 to support four teams – two each for cricket and football, the club's numbers and range of sports has increased dramatically over the years. The club is now home to football, cricket, hockey, tennis and bowls, with both the football and cricket sections having a number of junior and senior teams.

The redevelopment would see the club expand and improve the number of changing rooms available, as well as installing a disabled toilet.

The club has been successful in securing a grant from Sport England and an interest free loan to cover the majority of the cost of the planned works. The club is now hoping to secure the shortfall of approximately £16,000 through a mixture of grants and fundraising activities and intends to apply for a grant from the town council.

#### Job opportunity at Shipston Youth Club

In addition to appealing for more volunteers, Shipston Youth Club is looking for a Part Time Assistant Youth Worker to work at least one mid week evening, minimum three hours a week, £8.65 per hour.

If you think you have the right skills and would like to put yourself forward, please send details of your experience and qualifications to jasround@gmail.com by Wednesday 10th December.



Town Council News Page 3

#### November's hot topics

**CCTV Review:** Town councillors considered a report from PC Craig Purcell looking at the potential impact of patrols using CCTV camera footage between midnight and 6am. Having looked at the way CCTV footage has been used to prosecute criminals, councillors decided not to put extra funding in to pay for the additional patrols as it was felt that the Police or Stratford District Council should be paying for this.

**Grate grief gone:** The noisy grate in Mayo road has been removed and filled in, resolving the previous noise issue.

**Flood relief:** The Environment Agency is due to carry out some flood amelioration work in the New Year.

**Remembrance:** Town councillors congratulated The Royal British Legion, Shipston Branch, on organizing such a successful and moving Remembrance Parade and service.

**Watch your step:** There has been an increase in dog mess on pavements since the clocks changed. Jackie Warner mentioned new legislation may help the town council tackle the issue – the Town Clerk will investigate.

**Drain clearance:** The road closure for the Victorian Evening will be extended by an hour to enable the drains to be cleared later that evening.

#### **Campaigning for Shipston**

**Having a say on developments:** Martin Ferrier urged the council to look at ways to accelerate the Neighbourhood Plan process having been informed that the Neighbourhood Plan could be adopted before the Core Strategy and would carry weight when planning applications are considered.

**Riverside walk:** Significant progress has been made regarding the introduction of a riverside walk, with one landowner already offering to make room for a new path. However, this would impact an existing right of way so Sheelagh Saunders is meeting Warwickshire County Council's rights of way team to discuss feasibility and implications of changing a route.

A new community award: Shipston Town Council is set to launch a community service award to replace the previous Anne Sankey Award. Nominations will be invited early in the New Year, with the Award being presented at the Annual Town Meeting in April. Ideas for what the award should be called would be welcomed.

**Safety signage:** Fay Ivens again asked Councillor Saint whether there was any progress on when the vehicle-activated signs will be installed on Stratford Road and London Road. Chris Saint will chase the relevant department.

**Recycling centre woes:** Councillors expressed concerns about the poor customer service at the Household Waste Centre. The Communications Group will consider whether a consultation should be conducted to seek people's views on the centre.

#### **Town Council business**

**Cemetery rules:** A member of the public raised concerns about being prevented from choosing a certain adornment for his son's headstone, when others have been allowed in the past. Councillors explained that new rules were brought in recently but suggested a private meeting with the family to discuss what could be done.

**New newsletter rejected:** Councillors discussed the possibility of replacing the Shipston Forum with a Shipston version of the commercially produced, Moreton Times. Although there would be benefits in terms of cost savings and the potential to reach a broader audience, concerns were expressed about the lack of delivery network and the focus on advertising. Councillors voted to reject the proposal, recognising that the publisher may choose to publish a Shipston Times at some point in the future.

**Monthly markets:** Despite originally suggesting a series of pre-Christmas markets, the original market provider has suggested delaying a first market until spring. Councillors expressed concerns over the delay and will look at alternative suppliers.

### New Clark House Update

# Computer access:

We now have two working computers for councillors and members of the public to use to



look at planning applications and other council-related activities. The computers are free to use and are accessible on a first come, first served basis during town council opening hours.

#### Winter preparations

As we get deeper into winter, the town council and our contractors have been preparing for tricky weather conditions. Our snow wardens are ready to help clear snow on pavements around the town centre and public buildings such as the Medical Centre, and Warwickshire County Council will be out gritting the roads if necessary. Please remember, grit in roadside bins is for use on roads and pavements only, not driveways.

With the long-range forecast currently predicting a wet and windy winter, we'll be monitoring the river levels and will distribute sandbags to at risk properties in the event of a flood alert. For more information about our emergency planning procedures, please contact the office.

#### **Christmas opening hours:**

The office will be closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. We will be open as normal outside these dates.

Happy Christmas!

Georgina Beaumont Town Clerk 01608 662180 clerk@shipstononline.org

#### Shipston Scouts' Sleep Out Raises £1,000

Fifteen Shipston Scouts took part in a 'sleep out' to raise money for the homeless children's charity in Banbury, BYHP.

Replicating the same event as last year, the Scouts raised a massive £1000, half of which will go to the Banbury based childrens' homeless charity BYHP and half which will be used to buy new tents for summer camp next year.

The sleep out formed part of their community badge which they will complete by taking part in the Remembrance day parade in November. Organiser and Scout Leader Alistair McQuade said: "It's fantastic to see young children working so hard for other children that are less fortunate than themselves. It has given them a taste of what it's like to not have a warm comfy bed for the night. They've done their best and gone out and raised a significant amount of money for homeless children and we should all be very proud of them."

The Scouts laid out tarpaulins on the grass then constructed shelters out of cardboard and slept out in the open at Hardiman Fields. rained quite



The scouts made makeshift beds with boxes and tarpaulins

hard at the start of the evening but eased up later on. The Scouts also used their fire-lighting skills to create a fire and had a barbecue to help keep morale up.

#### **Shipston youngster wins regional Rotary** writing competition

Former Shipston High School student, Rianna Wall (pictured), has won the senior level Rotary Young Writers' competition for the whole of the Rotary District 1060 (Midlands Area). Rianna was presented with a certificate at the October Shipston Rotary meeting.

This year, entrants were required, to write a 500 word short story entitled "What a difference that made to my life". A tricky title to deal with, but Rianna went from winning the local round of the contest to take the winner's prize at District level.



Rianna, recently moving on from Shipston High School, is now studying Creative Writing at Stratford College. Her imaginative and well-crafted winning entry suggests that she has all the attributes of a great story teller! Well done Rianna!

#### **Shipston Youth Club** membership is on the rise

Shipston Youth Club is going from strength to strength, with all three youth groups, junior year 7, junior year 8 and seniors, year 9 to 18 years, have been growing in popularity are now catering for some 140 to 150 local young people.

In addition to the normal games of pool, table tennis, table football and x-box active games, the groups have used the High school gym for dodge ball, bench ball and football sessions. The groups also really enjoy the opportunity to have somewhere to socialise, make friends and just have a good time in a safe environment.

Local residents have generously donated tools for the youth club allotment and work has continued on preparing the ground. The senior club has tried their hand at archery at a session given by Mr Beeton from Shipston High School. Meanwhile, the year 8 and senior clubs welcomed the local community police who gave sessions on keeping safe, dealing with the potential dangers of drugs and bullying/cyber bullying.

With the growth in popularity, more volunteers are needed to support the clubs. For details on how you can help, turn to page 10.

#### Festive Friday Fun at Shipston Primary's Christmas Bazaar

Shipston Primary's Christmas Bazaar takes place on Friday 12th December, 5.30pm - 7.30pm.

The perfect place to find some lovely pocket money gifts for well deserving Mums and Dads, the Bazaar will be packed full of entertainment, food and fun.

There will be plenty of activities for children and a variety of stalls such as hot food, cakes, crafts, raffle, tombolas and much more!

Anyone interested in having their own stall at the Bazaar should email secretaryfosp@gmail.com



Shipston On Stour Primary Scho

#### **Shipston Primary School**

#### **Pirates of Shipston**

Shipston Primary School was transformed into Shipston Pirate School as students from Year 2 dressed in a swashbuckling fashion for the day.

Children enjoyed a host of activities including the making of sea biscuits, pirate hats and pirate passports and Wanted posters. The day was held as a grand finale to the topic 'Land Ahoy', which provided a fun way for six and seven year olds to learn about the sea whilst improving Maths, writing, History and Geography skills.

Previously the children had learnt about the Pirate Code, the different parts of a pirate ship and in Maths they learnt about position and giving clear directions. History lessons included notorious baddies such as Blackbeard as well as goodies such as the Victorian heroine Grace Darling and her life as a lighthouse keeper's daughter.

All the learning linked to geography work about the countries





which make up the British Isles and the names of the surrounding waters.

Theo, Henry and Keisha in the Kingfishers said: "We all came to school dressed as fierce, terrifying pirates! Even the teachers were dressed as pirates!"

"We wish we had another day like this" they concluded

#### Rugby 1,2,3

Year 5/6 Rugby players represented Shipston Primary School superbly as they competed against other local schools at the Cluster Tag Rugby tournament recently.

Shipston's Year 6 team took second place while Shipston's Year 5 team came back to school as winners, carrying a massive trophy that is too big for the school's trophy cabinet!



### Shipston High School

#### Remembrance Friday

On the Friday before Remembrance Sunday, members of the Shipston branch of The Royal British Legion joined us for lunch with staff and senior prefects, serving members of the armed forces and the Shipston Mayor. All were guests at our special assembly led by branch Chairman Richard Adams. This year the school was also pleased to welcome representatives from the Royal British Legion Welfare team.

To see the whole school of 460 students enter our main hall, maintain total silence throughout the assembly and leave in total silence was an emotional sight. Each year you can never fail to be moved by the two minutes' silence and sounding of the last post and reveille. Students who belong to local service groups were allowed to wear their group uniform to school for the day which adds extra poignancy to the occasion, and many bring into school wartime medals and



other family memorabilia which are displayed in the foyer for all to see.

The school was honoured to once again be invited to join the town Remembrance Sunday celebrations where four senior prefects march in the parade from Shipston High Street to St. Edmunds Church.

This year head boy,

Connor Rose, had the privilege of laying the school's wreath of poppies at the Shipston War Memorial and he, along with head girl Emma Richardson and senior prefects, Sam Hunt and Holly Holcombe, read out the names of the Shipston Forum during the remembrance service. Congratulations to all four students for representing the school so brilliantly.



#### **Awards Evening Trophies**

Thank you to all the Shipston Forum readers who responded to our appeal for help in tracing the source of some of our Awards Evening trophies. We have now received detailed information on the origin of all our awards and are delighted that previous years' benefactors will retain their place in the history of the school.

Event News Page 6

#### Santa Claus is coming to town for Shipston's Victorian Evening

Father Christmas was so impressed with the turnout of well-behaved boys and girls last year that he's booked a bigger and better grotto for this year's Victorian Evening. At the special request of the man in red, Peter Clarke has agreed to hand over the keys to its office to allow Shipston Rotary – and Santa's elves – to prepare for a busy night.

But it's not just Father Christmas who will be on hand to entertain children and their families on 5th December.

For the first time, there will be a carousel offering rides for youngsters, while Taste of the Country will be offering free gingerbread character icing in their shop throughout the event. Street entertainment will include The Shout Choir, Stilt Walkers, Shipston Town Band and a Ukulele Band, while those wishing for a festive makeover can head to the Face Painter stall for a new look.

Shops and Businesses in the town will be participating in the 'Christmas Best Dressed Window' competition, while children from Shipston Primary School will sing carols to get everyone in the festive mood.

Shipston Rotarian, Chris Cockell, said: "The Rotary Victorian Evening has become an integral part of the Shipston-on-

Stour calendar and we're determined to ensure everyone who attends has a great time. Our stalls were booked in record time this year and we've had some great support from local businesses confident we're this year's Victorian Evening will be the best yet.



Father Christmas is coming to the Victorian Evening

"Shipston's Victorian evening is designed to be fun for all the family, good for local shops and businesses and an important part of the fund raising plans of many local charities and good causes. We look forward to welcoming as many people as possible on the night."

The event takes place from 6pm to 8pm.

#### Stour United Businesses spooked by the supernatural

Spellbound business leaders listened open-mouthed to first-hand accounts of the supernatural at one of the country's most-haunted hotels at dusk on Halloween.

Nick Akerman, regional marketing manager for Handpicked Hotels, welcomed the group to Ettington Park. He gave a tour of the hotel's individual and atmospheric rooms, before showing SUBs members the hotel's priest's hole and describing mysterious tales of white ladies and dark men with guns and black dogs...

But the Ettington Park Hotel was just the first stop for Stour United Businesses (SUBs) members at their monthly social meeting, before they were whisked on to an Aladdin's treasure cave of trophies at EFX, then innovative and totally British engineering products, before having the chance to recreate Patrick Swayze's classic scene on the potting wheel from Ghost at the lively Ceramics Studio.



SUBs members get stuck in at a Ceramics Studio in Ettington

"Business in the Stour Valley ranges from creating artistic beauty out of clay from the ground through stunning trophies valued worldwide to high-end – and totally British – engineering," said SUBs chairman Tina Cook. "Local businesses in this area are alive, well, and thriving – and we are going places." She added.

For more information about SUBs, visit www.subs.org.uk

# Eyes down for bingo fundraisers

Two of Shipston's sports clubs are holding prize bingo evenings this Christmas.

If you feel a lucky streak in the offing, head down to the Townsend Hall on the 6th December, or the Sheldon Bosley Hub on the 20th December for your chances to win.

For more details, see the adverts on pages 8 and 9.

#### Stour Singers offers a Feast of Music

Stour Singers will be singing a lovely combination of Christmas music in St. Edmund's Church, Shipston-on-Stour at 7.30pm on Saturday evening 13th December, with soprano Sarah Power (returning for her third performance with the Singers), and the Cherwell Orchestra.

Stour Singers

Tickets cost £12.50, and are free to accompanied children, and school students. R. Clarke Electricals in Shipston's Town Square will be selling tickets, or call Yvonne Ridley on 01789 269587.



#### 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 (9, 23) 10am-12pm Scout Hut
- **Tues Rhyme time for under 2s:** 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 (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.
- 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 Brailes. 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 Safer Neighbourhood Team:** Fortnightly. Public surgery, 2.30pm to 3pm. New Clark House, West Street.
- **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.

Please note, some regular events may be cancelled over the festive break. Contact the organiser for details.

#### **December Diary**

- **2 Chatterbooks:** Reading group for 8-11 year olds. 4pm-5pm, Shipston Library. Join us for games, activities and refreshments
- 3 Shipston Widows: Local lunch, 12pm. Contact: Barbara Bean 663230
  - **Shipston-on-Stour Women's Institute:** Christmas Party and Celebration of Festive Foods. 7pm, Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road. Contact: Jane Hanks 664519
- 5 Stour Valley Lions Book Sale: 10am to 8pm Victorian Evening. The Coach House, Church Street, Shipston (opposite the Library). To donate books contact Lion David Squires on pinnegards@tiscali. co.uk
  - Shipston Victorian Evening: 6pm 8pm. See ad on page 16
- 6 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

- Mencap Recruitment Day: see page 12 for details.
- Shipston Tennis Club Christmas Bingo: See ad on page 8
- 7 Shipston Town Band Christmas Concert: See ad on page 8
- 8 Shipston Town Council Monthly Meeting: 7pm, New Clark House. All welcome. Contact: Georgina Beaumont 662180
- **Shipston Flower Club:** Ninon Linnell. 7.30pm, Shipston Primary School, Station Road. Visitors £3.50. Contact: Elaine 01608 238255
  - **Stour Valley Lions Monthly Business Meeting:** 7.30pm, The George Hotel, Shipston. Visitors welcome. Contact: John Cavana 01295 722287
- Stour Valley Lions Book Sale: 10am-4pm. Details as above Shipston and District Literary Society: Christmas Lunch. Contact: Helen Marshall 01789 740773
  - **Shipston and District Gardening Club:** Christmas Party. Contact: Tony Mitchell 666933
- 12 Stour Valley Lions Book Sale: 9.30am-4pm. Details as above Shipston Primary's Christmas Bazaar: See page 4 for details Shipston Music Society Christmas Concert: See ad on page 8
- Stour Valley Lions Book Sale: 9.30am-2pm. Details as above Mayor's Surgery: 10am, High Street Stour Singers Christmas Music at St Edmund's: featuring Soprano Sarah Power and the Cherwell Orchestra. See page 6 for details.
- 17 Shipston Widows: Join us for a friendly and informal get-together. 10.30am 12pm, Coach & Horses. For further information, contact Barbara Bean on 663230
- 19 Stour Valley Carers Group Supporting Dementia Carers: 10.30am-12pm, 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
- Norgren Bowls Club Bingo: See ad on page 9Mike Sanchez Concert Townsend Hall: See ad on page 9
- **Multiple Sclerosis Society: 'Drop in' meeting.** 10.30am at the George Hotel. Contact: Ann Bartlett 666161
- 27 Stour Valley Lions Book Sale: 9.30am-2pm. Details as above
- 31 Shipston Excelsior New Year's Eve Disco: See ad on page 9

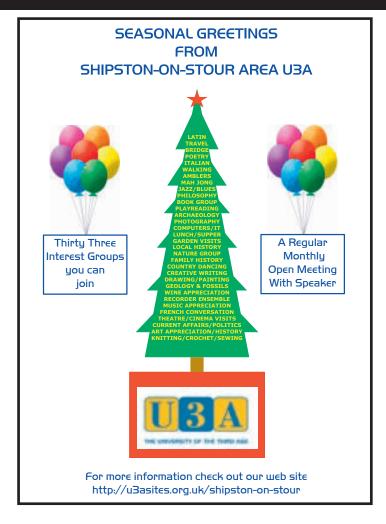
### **Rotary Tree of Life**

Each December the Tree of Life stands proudly in the centre of Shipston.Lights can be sponsored in remembrance of a friend or loved one. Please complete a form and make a donation knowing that every name will be entered into the Book of Remembrance.

All contributions will be donated to the Children's Air Ambulance and other Rotary Charities.

The illumination of the **Rotary Tree of Life** will take place at the opening of the Rotary Victorian Evening on **Friday 5th December at 6pm** 

> Forms are available in local shops, banks, library, post office and other locations or contact Avryl Thompson on 01789 740 047













SHIPSTON EXCELSIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

and

**SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR CRICKET CLUB** 

RESENT

**NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY** 

WITH

# **DIAMOND DISCO**

8.00PM till LATE
TOWNSEND HALL
SHEEP ST, SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR

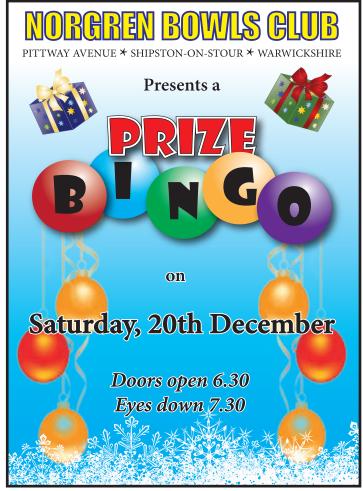
TICKETS £12.50 IN ADVANCE / £15 ON THE DOOR

TICKETS FROM

SHIPSTON SPORTS CLUB or GARY BETTERIDGE 07814 253733 or IAN HUSBAND 07917 531427

Over 18s only





# **Stour Singers**

A Feast of Music

for

# **Christmas**

With music by Handel, Michael and Joseph Haydn, Buxtehude and Mozart and

Carols for All

with

#### Sarah Power, soprano

The Cherwell Orchestra (leader Nancy Taylor) Rachel Bird, organ

Conducted by Richard Emms

Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> December 2014 at 7.30pm St.Edmund's Church, Shipston-on-Stour

Tickets £12.50 (accompanied children free) from choir members, R.Clarke, 27 High St. Shipston-on-Stour and at the door.

www.stoursingers.org.uk



# The Catholic Parish of Our Lady and the Apostles

Our Lady & St Michael, Shipston-on-Stour: SS Peter & Paul, Brailes

#### Saturday 20 December

Vigil Mass 5.30pm Shipston
Confessions 10 – 10.30am Brailes
11.30am – 12 noon Shipston
5 - 5.15pm Shipston

#### **Sunday 21 December**

4th of ADVENT

Mass 9.30am Shipston 11.30am Brailes

#### Wednesday 24 December Christmas Eve

Confessions 10 – 10.30am Brailes

11.30am – 12 noon Shipston

Vigil Mass 5.30pm Shipston

(Carols from 5pm)

Midnight Mass 11.30pm Brailes

(Carols from 11pm)

#### **Thursday 25 December** Christmas Day

Mass of the Dawn 9.30am Shipston
Mass of the Day 11.30am Brailes

Friday 26 December St Stephen

Mass 11.30am Brailes

### **Methodist Church**

#### Wednesday 17 December

7.30pm

Christmas Prayer and Praise

#### Sunday 21 December

11am Carol Service

#### Wednesday 24 December

6pm Holy Communion

#### **Thursday 25 December**

10.30am

Christmas Day Service

## St Edmund's (Church of England)

#### Thursday 18 December

7.30 pm – Tidmington Carol Service (at Tidmington)

#### **Sunday 21 December**

Christingle Service at 10am
Honington Carol Service (at Honington Church) at 10am
Idlicote Carol Service with Holy Communion
(at Idlicote Church) at 11.30am
Town Carol Service at 6pm

#### Wednesday 24 December (Christmas Eve)

Crib Service at 4pm Midnight Communion at 11.30pm

#### Thursday 25 December

Honington Family Communion at Honington at 9am Family Communion at Shipston at 10am

#### Sunday 28 December

Holy Communion at Honington at 8.30am Holy Communion at Shipston at 10am

# Stour Valley Baptist Church (at the High School)

#### Wednesday 24 December (Christmas Eve)

Christingle Service at 4pm

#### Thursday 25 December

Christmas Service at 10-10.45am

#### Sunday 28 December

Family Service at 10.30-11.30am

### **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

#### **Shipston Town Band**

There are plenty of opportunities to enjoy Shipston Town Band this Christmas. The band will be playing at the Victorian Evening on 5th December before building up to its



annual Christmas Concert held at the Townsend Hall on the 7th at 7.30 pm, featuring Anne Hume with her Christmas readings.

The band can also be found playing on 21st December at St Edmund's Church for the Service of Lessons and Carols. On Christmas Eve we will play in the square during the morning and on Christmas Day we will be visiting Low Furlong, Rainbow Fields and the Ellen Badger Hospital.

You may also catch us playing around the streets weather permitting!

# The Stour Enterprise Centre – a hub for local business

The Stour Enterprise Centre (SEC) is a dedicated business centre run on a not-for-profit basis. The SEC provides low cost, flexible offices, meeting and conference facilities along with business support services, workshop and training programmes to support enterprise development within the Stour Valley region.

We also offer opportunities for businesses to get together and network through activities such as Jelly and other co-working activities which include local business speakers. We have affiliations with the wider Coventry and Warwickshire business community and universities, bringing in expert knowledge to the centre to help you run your business.

Meeting rooms are available from as little as £20 per half day, (£15 for members). Membership entitles you to unrestricted use of the common facilities and business support, costing from just £120 per year.

To find out more or to see the facilities for yourself, come and visit us at Astech Mill (2nd Floor), 50 Stratford Road or call/email Vaughan Randle, Centre Manager on 01608 629693 or info@stourenterprise.co.uk. Alternatively, visit our website www.stourenterprise.co.uk to find more details about our services or upcoming events.

#### **Shipston in Bloom**

The Mayor, Philip Vial, attended our Presentation Evening in October where enthusiastic gardeners, allotment holders and hanging basket experts were all present to accept their certificates and trophies



to accept their certificates and trophies for splendid displays.

We in SIB are proud of our town. Tubs, some beds, pots etc are planted by our volunteers but backed up by the gardeners of Shipston who make our town a pleasure for its inhabitants but also for our visitors. So we thank you for that.

Unfortunately this comes with a sting in the tail! Our tubs

outside of the Ellen Badger were ALL upturned that same evening. By whom? We would like to know. Planting up those tubs cost in the region of £70-£80, but volunteer time too which cannot be calculated. Such a pity that these vandals, can't find something more useful to do.

Our community Police Constable Craig Purcell happened to be on night duty and it is he we must thank for trying to salvage bulbs and compost. It was a sad note on which to finish for a night that had been so positive and enjoyable.

#### **Shipston Arts & Crafts Society**

In September we enjoyed a most interesting talk by Ian Mackintosh on 400 years in the Stroud Valley Textile Mills. Beginning in the 15th century the waterways of the valley families built small mills in which they wove the wool of Cotswold sheep into fine cloth, known as West of England Cloth, used mainly to make military dress uniforms - scarlet for the Army, navy for the Navy and fine cloths for the wealthy. Mr Arkwright's invention speeded up the process of weaving and gradually took the industry up north and the Stroud Valley mills lost their most of their trade.

On 9th October Society members had a most enjoyable day away visiting Malmsbury Abbey - the oldest in Britain - and hearing the history of the resting place of the very first King of England King Athelstan. After lunch we travelled to Corsham Court, the home of a famous collection of Old Masters, and listened to the owner detailing their history.

Finally on 21st October a completely different event for the Society when Mr Tim Porter spoke on the long history of the Three Choirs who were formed in the 15th century in the cathedrals of Hereford, Worcester and Gloucester to present musical concerts, particularly religious and some secular. Mr Porter played snippets of music by Handel, Mozart and Elgar, and several "new" composers of the day.

On 20th January we will hold a members meeting where we bring and talk about our hobbies and interests. Do join us you will be very welcome.

#### **Music Society**

'Exceptional' was the unanimous verdict of the Music Society's audience following the October concert performed by classical guitarists Julien Vickers and Daniel Bovey. First Class Honours graduates of the Birmingham Conservatoire they are currently studying for a Joint Masters in Guitar

Duo with Michael Lewin at the Royal Academy of Music in London.

The evening's concert opened with a Toccata composed by Pierre Petit, followed by Scarlatti's G Minor sonata K87, Promenade 1 written in 1988 by the late Stephen Dodgson, and Suite Española by Isaac Albéniz.

No guitar concert would be complete without the inclusion of the music of the Spanish composer Joaquin Rodrigo and the musicians chose Tonadilla. The first is a very mechanical movement whilst the remaining two movements reveal the lyricism and humour more distinctive of the sounds

commonly associated with Rodrigo's music. The concert concluded with the Argentinian composer Astor Piazzola's Tango suite for two guitars.

Julian and Daniel displayed an astonishing and instinctive feel for each other's playing making the use of scores unnecessary, the whole concert being played from memory.

The next meeting of the Music Society will be on Friday December 12th, a Christmas Concert with Helen Leek and

#### Shipston-on-Stour Area U3A



At the October meeting, Jude Bowley told us about the Shakespeare Hospice and all the varied services they provide.

Started 15 years ago this is a Day Hospice where anyone who needs help in dealing with life can go and enjoy lunch and fun as well as care, support and advice on anything they find difficult. Even showers are available, or a manicure. Since 1999 these facilities have been gradually expanded. In 2004 Hospice at Home was started, for those unable to get to the Hospice, and in 2010 for those who have a family member with a terminal illness.

All this is free, so of course volunteers and raising funds are a major part of the exercise. Big events are staged during the year, down to moneyboxes for small change. Volunteers provide assistance with whatever skills they have, whether organization, arts and crafts, raising money, or merely to talk to visitors, who now total over 800 a year. The area served covers Shipston, as well as Mickleton, Kineton, Southam and Alcester.

#### Single File gets out and about

Single File is a friendly social group, loosely based in Chipping Norton, for those between 45 and 70 who may be single, widowed, divorced or separated. We are not primarily a dating agency, but you never know-you might meet that special someone! Prospective members who live within a 15 mile radius of Chipping Norton are invited to try us out, most events taking place within this area but there are also days out to places further afield.

Fortnightly social evenings are held in either Chipping Norton or Charlbury where established and prospective members can get together.

To contact Single File call 07765 598518 or go to www. singlefilecn.org.uk. Our Meetup address is www.meetup. com/single-file-chipping-norton.

#### **Mencap Recruitment Day**

Heart of England Mencap are holding a recruitment morning on Saturday, 6th December 2014 from 10 am - 12pm at 'Rosedale' 27 Stratford Road, Shipston on Stour CV36 4AZ come join us for a coffee/chat about volunteering or a career in social care.

#### **Shipston Youth Club**

#### More helpers urgently needed



The increase in the number of young people coming to the youth club is really great of course but it leaves us needing more volunteers to support the employed youth

workers to ensure we maintain an active safe environment.

If you think you would enjoy supporting the youth club as a volunteer on Tuesday or Wednesday evenings we would love to hear from you.

We also need to enhance the current management committee and would really welcome anyone with some business background to join us.

Our young people need your support to help keep their youth club running successfully and you would be providing a very worthwhile service to the community. If you think you could help in any way please call Richard Baldwin on 01608 662178 to see what's involved.

#### Shipston-on-Stour WI



Shipston-on-Stour WI held its Annual General Meeting in November, at which the INSPIRING WOMEN President, Christine Watkins, gave a resume

of the past year's events. 2013/2014 has been difficult for the Branch and the Committee in particular - the Treasurer, Val, became ill and died suddenly. Val had been carrying out Treasurer duties from her hospital bed! Jen Bamfield stepped in and then suffered a dreadful accident which incapacitated her for several months. Happily Jen is now recovered and was warmly thanked for her hard work. The Officers and Committee were re-elected and two members volunteered so the Committee is now at full strength.

Shipston WI continues to be involved in events in the town and to be proactive. Cake and tea making skills are frequently called upon to support local events. Our recent Craft/Coffee Morning was a great success and looks set to continue as an annual event. Members are also involved in local bodies such as Shipston-in-Bloom and U3A.

The meeting continued with one of Eileen's very clever quizzes - and we thought we knew our literature!

Next month sees the Knitting, Reading, and Walking groups meeting as usual. Our meeting on 3rd December will be our Christmas Party and a celebration of Festive Foods.

#### Shipston Proms 2014-2015



At the recent AGM, the Shipston Proms committee toasted our best season yet with record attendance and great publicity from BBC Midlands.

'Music for All' is at the heart of the fortnight and we certainly delivered with many musical genres covered - musicals, pop, rock, steel pans, classical, folk to name just a few. We also aim to promote local artists with events such as the Pub trail and encourage the next generation of musicians

from the local primary schools and the High School. Particular highlights this year were the Elvis tribute and, of course, the Last Night of The Proms.

You may be surprised to learn that the committee is very small; only 7 elected officers and a vital handful of volunteers who work hard to keep this event going. We always need new people to bring new ideas and help in a variety of ways so if you are interested our next meeting is on the 10th December at The George at 7.30pm. Please come along to see what happens!

#### **Shipston Probus**

John Mason spoke on 26th September about the 'Invention of Jet Flight' and its outcome on World War II. The jet engine was invented by Frank Whittle



who grew up in Coventry and attended Leamington College before signing on as a 17 year old apprentice in the RAF. He had to overcome many difficulties until finally the first successful test flight was in 1941 and it was not until 1944 that a fully operational fighter, The Meteor, came into service. At the same time, the Germans were more advanced and illustrations of some of their planes showed how fortunate it was that the war was almost at an end.

On 10th October, it was a pleasure to welcome Jan Long again for her talk on Robert Stephenson, a brilliant engineer and a contemporary of Brunel. His father George, who could neither read nor write, recognised he had a clever son and made sure he had the best possible education. Robert's steam engine, the Rocket, won a competition and that was the beginning of a career in the development of many railway lines, famous bridges and tunnels. His one disaster was the Dee Bridge in Scotland. He is buried in Westminster Abbey beside Thomas Telford.

#### Proud of my town

# Local ladies raise over £400 for the Royal British Legion

Local ladies Anne Wagenhauser, Chace Wagenhauser and Joanne French have been busy producing woollen poppies to commemorate the centenary of the start of the First World War.

Their poppies were sold in Shipston's lvy Heart and raised £437. We will remember them.



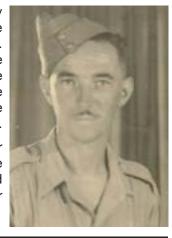
#### Remembering Harold Bury, 70 years on

Seventy years ago, former Shipston resident, Harold Bury, was killed in action while fighting on the Western Front during World War II. Aged just 37 when he died, he left a widow and three children, one of whom was born after his death. He is buried in Schoonselfhof Military Cemetery in Belgium.

Lance Corporal Bury joined the army in 1939, and fought at El Alamein throughout the African campaign. After fighting in Italy, he spent a short time in hospital in the UK before heading to France on D-Day to continue fighting courageously for his country.

Because his family had left Shipston by the time the war broke out, his name doesn't appear on our war memorial. However, Mr Bury's nephew, Cleeve Bury, asked whether a tribute could be written for his uncle in his former home town and place of birth, which the Shipston Forum is delighted to include.

The Forum will be running further tributes in the coming months to those who lost their lives in the First World War, on the 100th anniversary of their deaths.



#### Readers' Letters

Letter from Graham Lawrence

I spent a few hours recently enjoying a sunny morning talking to people as I planted up the tubs, among other places, outside the Ellen Badger Hospital. Having removed the summer bedding which had been beautiful there and around the town I was replanting with daffodils for our spring display. Those tubs would have cost in the region of  $\mathfrak{L}70-\mathfrak{L}80$  to fill with compost, bulbs and water retaining granules not to mention the cost of new pots that we have installed there this year.

We had a great Presentation Evening on Saturday to thank the people in Shipston whose gardens, hanging baskets and allotments had won certificates and trophies for their wonderful displays which help to enhance Shipston. There for us and visitors to enjoy.

Early Sunday morning a call from PC Craig Purcell was not a positive one. All the tubs outside the Badger had been upturned!!! What a waste of time and effort. What mindless

vandals these people are I hope they are pleased with their work. Needless to say I've been out and tried to restore the tubs but people of Shipston if the display is not up to standard this spring you will know why. Such a pity!!!

Letter from Rebecca Mawle, Fundraising Co-ordinator, Shipston Home Nursing

Shipston Home Nursing: Hospice at Home in Shipston Wellesbourne & Kineton. I would like to thank you all for your support, generosity and help over the last year, raising funds for the Charity.

Without you, this wonderful local Charity would not function and be the success it is. The Trustees and I are extremely grateful for your continual support. Thank you so much.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and Peaceful Healthy New Year.

Very best wishes - Rebecca

#### **District Council update**

I have objected to the proposal to build 95 houses on land to the South of the Campden Road, on the slopes above Shipston, all above the 85 metre contour line. I believe there are issues with the impact on the landscape and the town's infrastructure such as the schools, medical centre, roads and of course the town's draining system. Especially bearing in



mind the other planning applications which have either been approved or proposed along this road.

The District Council's housing master plan, known as the Core Strategy, is scheduled to be considered by a planning Inspector in January. Unfortunately we have also been advised that it will be at least July 2015 before this important planning policy document will be adopted.

I have supported this plan going forward, as I believe it is essential that the district has an adopted plan in place to prevent further ad hoc developments coming forward in our towns and villages.

Meanwhile, I am very pleased to be supporting a proposal by a colleague of mine for the council to provide more affordable housing across the district, using the resources available.

As trustee and treasurer of Shipston Youth Club I am pleased to report that 170 young people are now attending the club. However, we do need some more people to help run the club, either as leaders on club nights or to help with the management of this very worthwhile enterprise. If you are interested, please let me know.

Last but not least, a very happy Christmas to you all.

#### **Councillor Richard Cheney**

t: 01608 685570 e: richard.cheney@btinternet.com

Jeff Kenner and Richard Cheney take it in turns to provide the content for this column.

#### **County Council update**

#### **Community computers**

Congratulations to Shipston Area Flood Action Group, Stour Valley Lions Club and The Stour Enterprise Centre who have been awarded a



refurbished Computer from WCC as part of the Community Computers scheme.

#### **Highway adoption**

I report again on the end to the difficulties in getting roads adopted on what was once known as the railway station estate. Those residents living in Beecham Road, The Wharf and The Sidings, who have suffered through no fault of their own, will now have had their roads adopted.

#### Scam warnings from Warwickshire Trading Standards

Rogue traders have been about offering to reconstruct your driveway, windows, roofing and paving without guarantees of the quality of their work. Rogue traders can be quite charming, but often:

- Falsely claim to work for the Council or at a neighbour's property
- · Are often too ready to start work immediately!
- · Demand payment in cash
- Use false names and addresses on their adverts and flyers

So when arranging for work on your property:

- Avoid unexpected doorstep callers
- Use known local traders, who come recommended and check examples of their work
- Get prices in writing; do not rely on verbal quotes
- Do not be rushed into a quick decision

If you spot a rogue trader, report it to the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 03454 040506

Finally, may I wish you all a very happy Christmas.

#### **Councillor Chris Saint**

t: 01608 664048 e: christophersaint@warwickshire.gov.uk

#### **Shipston Medical Centre**

# Christmas Opening Hours & accessing help during the Christmas period

Our opening hours over the Christmas and New Year period are:

Wednesday 24th December 8am – 12:30pm & 2pm – 4pm

(The Duty Doctor will be available on call until 6:30pm)

Thursday 25th December: CLOSED Friday 26th December: CLOSED

Monday 29th December: 8am - 6:30pm
Tuesday 30th December: 8am - 6:30pm
Wednesday 31st December: 8am - 6:30pm

Thursday 1st January: CLOSED

If you're unwell during this period, speak to a local pharmacist who will be able to offer advice on healthy lifestyles and common ailments. Details of the pharmacies open over the Christmas period will be available via a link on the news section of our website (http://shipstonmc. warwickshire.nhs.uk/) and will also be on display in local pharmacies.

Additionally you can call the GP Out of



Shipston Medical Centre

Hours Service. The Out of Hours Service has a GP at the Ellen Badger Hospital in the mornings each weekend and on each bank holiday (including Christmas Day). Appointments should be made by calling 111. The Out of Hours Service will also offer telephone advice and will visit if needed.

The Ellen Badger Hospital minor injuries unit, open 24 hours, is available to assist with minor injuries such as cuts, bruises and small burns. If your injury is more serious than can be dealt with at the Minor Injuries Unit you will be referred to Warwick A&E. If your injury is best dealt with by your GP and can wait until they are next open, you will be advised accordingly.

Please do not attend A&E unless it is an emergency or you have had an accident.

Medical Centre - t: 01608 661845

Website: www.shipstonmc.warwickshire.nhs.uk

Useful Contacts Page 15

#### **Your Town Councillors**



Philip Vial, Town Mayor
Chair of Communications & Planning Groups
t: 07814 192161



Jackie Warner, Deputy Mayor t: 07717 391234



lan Cooper Finance Group Chair t: 01608 663785 e: ian@piruk.com

e: ppjvial@gmail.com



Martin Ferrier
Sustainability Group Chair
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e: martinferrier4shipston@gmail.com



Arthur Ivens t: 01608 662133 e: fayivens@aol.com



Fay Ivens
General Purposes Group Chair
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**Vacant** 

**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.



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Dan Scobie t: 07771 772511 e: dan@danscobie.net



**Peter White** t: 07792 507168



**Vacant** – for details on how to become a town councillor, contact the Town Clerk

# 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
<ul><li>Out of hours</li></ul>	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



What's on in Shipston this month? See page 7