



Shipston Forum

The community newsletter for Shipston-on-Stour

May 2013

Shipston's Woolly Wonderland

Shipston is once again gearing up for the annual Wool Fair which takes place on Bank Holiday Monday, 27th May from 10am to 4pm.

The Shipston Wool Fair is a great day out for all the family, celebrating the town's heritage together with everything Shipston has to offer today.

The highlight of the fair, as always, is the real life exhibition of sheep including many rare breeds and 'celebrity' sheep. Brought to the fair with long coats, they will leave after being shorn in front of a captive audience, led by shearer Alan Scorer.

A 'Wool Process' marquee will show the evolution of the product from fleece through spinning, weaving, knitting and felting. The Stratford upon Avon Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers will be on hand with their support and craft demonstrations showing the many applications of wool, and there will be knitting tuition for all ages! Large screen entertainment will be a new addition this year, showing marvellous sheep dog demonstrations, filmed especially for the Wool Fair.

Throughout the day, there will be an abundance of games for children of all ages in the High Street, all manned by volunteers from Shipston Young Farmers. In addition, the very best of local entertainment will be on offer, with a musical and dancing line up that is sure to satisfy all tastes.

An extensive variety of stalls is set to fill the High Street, selling local crafts, food and drink, not to mention all manner of wondrous woolly items. Hook Norton brewery will be running a promotion and bringing along their heavy horses and dray to add to the attractions.

There will also be an opportunity to see the progress that has been made with the Shipston Tapestry project, as well as add your own threads to the work.

Mayor, Fay Ivens, said "Shipston Wool Fair is a wonderful showcase of Shipston past and present. It is a great chance for visitors and residents alike to enjoy the entertainment, displays and stalls, as well as shopping at the many independent retailers that Shipston is proud to offer."

Activities begin with the opening ceremony led by Claire Bowry of the Rare Breeds Survival Trust and Hook Norton Brewery. It's sure to be a fantastic day!

Don't forget to vote on May 2nd!

Don't miss your chance to have your say in the election for Warwickshire County Councillors on the 2nd May. Shipston's polling station is at the Sheldon Bosley Hub on Pittway Avenue and is open from 7am to 10pm.

Warwickshire County Council is responsible for many local services including highways, education, social care and the household waste recycling centre.

The Wool Fair Issue



The Shipston Tapestry, launched at last year's Wool Fair, is progressing well and will be on show at this year's fair. Photo courtesy of Philip Vial To contribute to the tapestry in advance of the Fair, visit Shipston Needlecraft in Sheep Street on 10th or 11th May from 10am-4pm.

Shipston charities receive £1,000 windfall

Two charities are £500 better off thanks to the fundraising efforts of Shipston's outgoing Mayor, Fay Ivens.

At her final Town Council meeting as Mayor, Fay was delighted to award two cheques of £500 each to Shipston Youth Club and Shipston First Responders. The funds were raised through a series of stalls, raffles and events led by the mayor.

Fay Ivens said "it gives me great pleasure to award this money to two such important local charities. I would like to thank everyone who has helped organise and support our fundraising efforts over the last twelve months."



Mayor, Fay Ivens, proudly hands cheques to representatives from Shipston Youth Club and Shipston First Responders

Mayor's column

It has been both a privilege and an honour to be Shipston Town Mayor for the past year. Here are just some of the memorable highlights:



- The 2012 Wool Fair, when we welcomed other civic dignitaries to Shipston to enjoy the day
- The wonderful town celebrations to mark the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen.
- Presenting the awards at the end of the summer term and opening the Eco Day at Shipston High School along with an invitation by Shipston Primary School to the Heron Rock Café and my 'Meet the Mayor' sessions with the pupils.
- Launching the Shipston Proms with Nick Owen, BBC Midlands newscaster, who was so complimentary about the community spirit that was evident in our town.
- Opening the Catholic Church fete when miraculously at exactly 2pm, as previously forecast by Fr. Brian, the rain stopped and the sun came out for the entire afternoon!
- The successful reopening of Shipston Youth Club.
- Attending my Civic Service in my bright orange plan jacket, straight from my flood management duties, and never being allowed to forget it by my fellow Civic Dignitaries!
- Attending Shipston Town Band's amazing Centenary Concert and witnessing their march through the town in May – not to forget the special moment when I was asked by the leading Bear-skinned Guardsman for 'Permission to march through the streets of Shipston Ma'am'.
- The very emotive Remembrance Day Service and Parade, when I was honoured to lay a wreath on behalf of the people of Shipston at the War Memorial.
- The wonderful Victorian Evening, when our town centre is transformed into a magical storybook setting – despite the lights not coming on at the first press of the 'switch'!

A huge thank you to you all for inviting me to such an amazing array of events over the year – I'm only sorry I don't have space to mention them all. It has been an absolute pleasure to share them all with you.

Finally, I extend every good wish to the incoming Mayor.

Fay Ivens

Part-night streetlight petition gathers pace

A growing number of people are continuing to sign the town council's petition requesting a rethink on Warwickshire County Council's new part night streetlighting policy.

Since 1st April 2013, many of Shipston's streetlights have been switched off between 12:00-5:30am on Sundays to Thursdays and 1:00-6:30am on Fridays and Saturdays. The move has been introduced to save money and reduce carbon emissions. However, many are concerned about the impact on safety of pedestrians and possible increases in crime.

Town councillor, Melanie Trapp, has set up an open group on Facebook called 'No lighty no likey' which has over 300 members and has attracted a number of comments about the new policy.

Mayor, Fay Ivens, said "As a town council, we strongly oppose both the policy itself and the inconsistent way it has been applied. If residents share our view, please sign the petition which is available at New Clark House".

Warwickshire County Council estimates that £500,000 will be saved across the county by the reduction in street lighting, with a reduction in carbon emissions of approximately 3,000 tonnes.



Shipstononline gets a facelift

The town council's website, www.shipstononline.org, has had a makeover designed to make it easier to use. Following the award of the website contract to Redwax, the online calendar has been completely overhauled and is now bursting with up to date information. Agendas, meeting notes and online copies of the Forum are also up to date and easily accessible.

In introducing the new system, the town council has taken on responsibility for updating the news content, while the majority of the calendar entries will be added by the Shipston Forum team, meaning local organisations only have to inform the council once for their information to be added to both outlets (space permitting). Please send your information to forum@shipstononline.org.

The website is in the early stages of development and further content will be added in due course. In the meantime, why not follow the council on twitter: @shipstononline or on Facebook: [facebook.com/shipston.council](https://www.facebook.com/shipston.council)

Shipston welcomes launch of University of the Third Age

The Shipston & District Launch Meeting was attended by well over 100 people who overwhelmingly voted to set up a U3A in Shipston and District. A Steering Committee has been formed from volunteers to take the launch forward. This committee will remain in office until the first Annual General Meeting in approximately one year's time.

A follow-up Inaugural Meeting is to be held on the 21st May in the Townsend Hall at 2:00pm. At this meeting, all prospective members will be able to formally register and join any Interest Groups that have been set up. There will be scope for discussion of future groups and activities, to determine the way forward for Shipston & District U3A over the next year.

Launch coordinator, Geoff Olsson, said "We are delighted to be able to add Shipston and District U3A to the already extensive list of activity and interest groups in Shipston. With the combined enthusiasm of the Steering Committee, supported by our members, we feel sure the club will have a successful future."

April's hot topics

A job well done: All councillors thanked Fay Ivens for her hard work as Mayor and congratulated her on raising £1,000 for local charities.

Persistent potholes: Councillors have completed their pothole surveys and all the information has now been submitted to the Highways Department. Concerns were raised over ongoing delays to the repair of a pothole in Station Road, particularly when another was repaired right next to it in the meantime.

Town Design Statement: The town design statement work, which began last year, is reaching a conclusion, with a report due to be submitted to the council in early summer. The findings will feed into the Neighbourhood Plan.

A marathon effort: Philip Vial led congratulations to Melanie Trapp for completing a half marathon in aid of the British Heart Foundation.

Big blockages: Ian Cooper circulated photographs of some of the worst blocked drains in Shipston. Chris Saint will look into the matter with the Highways Department.

Kerb creep: Concerns were raised about the new kerb installed at the top of Sheep Street. It has been built out too far and is likely to cause more issues rather than alleviate the initial problem of large vehicles not being able to pass along the street without damaging parked cars.

A lighter path: Mrs Merrigan (member of the public) expressed concern about the inadequate lights on the driveway leading to the Catholic Church hall. Although the road is privately owned, Shipston Town Council will write to the Catholic Church to request the lighting be improved.

Campaigning for Shipston

Turbine Blading follow-up: District and town councillors and community representatives, attended a second meeting with Turbine Blading regarding the planned closure. A reduced level of work will continue on the site until the end of the year. The business is unlikely to be sold as a going concern and there are no firm plans for the land but the town council will be kept informed of developments.

Operation footfall: Money has been awarded by Warwickshire County Council to support the Shipston Loyalty Card scheme. However, the town council's bid for funding to pay for a town centre manager was not successful. Ronnie Murphy led the thanks to Ian Cooper for putting time and effort into a strong bid and all councillors expressed frustration at not being awarded funding.

Streetlight switch off: Numerous concerns were raised, both about the part night streetlighting policy and about inexplicable differences in which areas are and aren't lit throughout the night. Melanie Trapp will raise specific concerns with Warwickshire County Council (WCC) where the policy is not being applied correctly. Meanwhile, the town council's campaign to switch the lights back on continues and Stratford has expressed interest in joining forces to present a combined petition to WCC (see article on page 2).

Invisible lines: Jackie Warner and Mark Wildish have received complaints about the poor state of white lining across the town.

Neighbourhood plan: The official green light to proceed with the Neighbourhood Plan has been received from the district council. A communications plan has been drawn up and community engagement activities will now begin in earnest (see update on page 14).

Town Council business

Education charity trustees: Town councillors confirmed the appointment of Mr Little and Mr Taylor as trustees of the Education Charity for a further four years.

Shipstononline contract: The website contract has been awarded to local company, Redwax. The contractor will be responsible for design and web hosting, with the town council providing content for the site (see news article on page 2).

New Clark House Update



Join us for the Mayor-making ceremony

The Town Council meeting on the 13th May will include the election of a new Mayor and Deputy Mayor. The Town Crier will officially begin proceedings by opening the meeting at 7pm at New Clark House. Everyone is welcome to attend.

CAT Marking kits for sale

Shipston Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) now has access to Selectamark DNA Catalytic Converter marking kits, in response to the theft of Catalytic Converters from 4x4 vehicles and Vans in the area. The kits are easy to use, permanently marking the CAT with a unique reference code. They are available from New Clark House at a cost of £5. Please make cheques payable to Warwickshire PCC.

Shed/Van PIR, battery powered alarms are also available at a cost of £10. Please make cheques payable to Earlswood Nurseries.

Both items will need to be paid for by cheque as both the SNT and Town Council are acting as a third party.

Annual Town Meeting

Thank you to all those who attended the Annual Town Meeting on the 18th April. It was useful to hear more from residents about the priorities you want the council to focus on as well as having an opportunity to summarise what Shipston Town Council and Shipston's clubs, societies and charities have achieved over the past 12 months.

The completed Neighbourhood Plan feedback forms will be fed into the plan-making process. For further details, see the update on page 14.

Georgina Beaumont:

Town Clerk
01608 662180
e: clerk@shipstononline.org

Dee strikes gold!

After two years of volunteering, physical exertion and skills development, Demelza Ousbey (Dee) has been awarded the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award, presented by the Duke of Edinburgh himself at St James Palace.

Having competed her Bronze and Silver awards while at Kingsley School, Dee was determined to complete the set. Despite the enormity of the challenge, she has successfully juggled completing her Gold Award alongside working for her biochemistry degree. The Gold award challenges saw Dee complete a gruelling three night trek in Snowdonia, volunteer for the National Trust in the Peak District, and support Shipston's local guide group for a year. The award also requires participants to learn a new skill. Dee spent six months learning to become a radio amateur, supported by a

local group in Stratford. She has also fulfilled her physical challenge by completing a number of local walks.

"The Gold award was a tough challenge but I've really enjoyed getting stuck in to the various tasks. It was fantastic to go to St James' Palace to collect my award from the Duke of Edinburgh - but now I'm looking forward to a rest!"



Dee proudly displays her Gold Award certificate

Sporting fortunes favour Shipston teams

Both Shipston's football and rugby clubs have been celebrating a successful season, with much to be proud of.

2013 marks 50 years of Shipston on Stour Rugby Club, and its U13s team has made it an especially memorable year by going unbeaten all season. This has been achieved through hard work, training and exceptional teamwork. The club would like to thank the team, coaches and parents for their dedication and contribution to one of its most successful seasons.

Across town, another team has been celebrating its unbeaten record, having completed its first season in the Ambassador Evesham Football League and won every game! At an event funded by the team's sponsor, Sunrise Associates, Shipston Excelsior U8's received trophies to mark their exceptional season. Sunrise Associates spokesman, James Evans, said "to win every game, particularly in a new league, is a fantastic achievement. Well done lads!"



*Pictured: Back row; Joshua Cook, Paul Verralls, Benji Wood, Charlie Broome, Edward Seaby
Front row; Elliot Highway, William Wyatt, Ollie Gibb, Ollie Windebank, Jacob Peardon, James Freeman.
Coaches; Bruce Verralls and Keith Windebank.*

Shipston Cubs make a difference

As parts of the Cubs Promise challenge, the Shipston on Stour cubs were given a challenge by the Rev Jill Tucker and Lisa Blunt to 'make a difference' in reference to charity work the church is doing for the children in Malawi.

The cubs raised money by doing good turns in and around the home. These included helping family with cleaning cars, bikes and bedrooms; doing homework and having a bath without protesting for a week; phoning grandparents for a chat and feeding pets, etc.

The cubs were sponsored for each of these tasks by friends and family and, between them, raised £100. Lisa was then invited back to the scout hut for the cubs to present her with the cheque.

She talked to the children about how the money would be spent and showed photos of the children the cubs were now able to help, because of what they had done. The money will go towards many projects in Malawi, but one of the immediate needs is for tarpaulins to cover the roofs of the families to keep them dry during the rains.

Congratulations to all the cubs who took part in this challenge.

School Eco Team Commended by Mayor

Mayor, Fay Ivens, gave Shipston High School's Eco Team a special commendation after they came second in the Transition Shipston Climate Challenge competition in March. The challenge, which was to design an "ideal eco house" in just one hour, was part of National Climate Week. The High School team competed against adult teams from the local area.

The Mayor judged the challenge, with help from Town Councillor, Ian Cooper. In addition to solar panels, recycling and electric cars, the teams included wool insulation, wind turbines and wood pellet boilers in their designs. The winning team from Shipston, impressed the judges with their integrated sprung floors and special water downpipes to collect energy for electricity. Their design will be forwarded to the National Climate Challenge.



The High School Team and judges, from left: Councillor Ian Cooper, Megan Watkins, Bethan Hicks, Farah Ahmed (teacher), Mayor Fay Ivens, Sam Twigg, Katie Bloxome, Sara Bloxome.

Shipston Primary School

Shipston On Stour Primary School



National figures back Shipston Primary's Culture Week

Shipston Primary School has ignited the imagination of local children and national figures alike, through a special cultural week.

Olympic swimmer Rebecca Adlington, World Cup winner Geoff Hurst and leading children's authors Michael Rosen, Julia Donaldson and Michael Morpurgo were just some of the famous names to put forward their suggestions for 'Shipston Super Seven Week'.

In a letter from 10 Downing Street, the school was told that as a child Prime Minister David Cameron enjoyed the book 'Our Island Story' by Henrietta Elizabeth Marshall and the poem 'The Dong with a Luminous Nose' by Edward Lear.

The week was the brainchild of Head of Federation Christian Hilton and class teacher and musician Jono Wright who wanted to give each year group the chance to discover seven cultural wonders. As well as appealing locally to children, parents and school governors for their ideas, Mr Wright contacted local and national celebrities.

Song suggestions poured in from the likes of guitarist Robbie McIntosh of The Pretenders, Sir Geoff Hurst suggested children should watch the 1966 World Cup final and Michael Morpurgo, former Children's Laureate and author of War Horse, described the week as a 'great project'.

Activities included reception children reading the Tiger who Came to Tea and discovering Henri Rousseau's artwork, Tiger in a Tropical Storm. Year 2 watched excerpts from the Lion King – a favourite of England Cricketer Chris Woakes - and

read Where The Wild Things Are, recommended to the school by Ragdoll Productions and local artist, Alan Parry. Year 1 sang 'All things Bright and Beautiful', Year 6 sang John Lennon's 'Imagine' and Years 3, 4 and 5 sang Beatles songs.



Head of Federation Christian Hilton said: "We are grateful to everyone who took the time to share their ideas for Super Seven Week. The teachers have been extremely creative with their planning and the quality of teaching and learning has been outstanding."

Inspire a Generation

The school is now embarking on a new project to give children opportunities to inspire and be inspired through a variety of curricular and after school activities, including special assemblies and guest speakers.

If you have an inspirational story to share with the children during assemblies please get in touch with the school office on 01608 661266.

Shipston High School

School building project

Unfortunately, the High School's bid for £1.4 million to the Education Funding Agency to fund the new Phase 1 teaching block was unsuccessful. The EFA received bids which vastly exceeded the £325 million available. Whilst this news is hugely disappointing, the project is still being pursued and the school is already applying for a different source of funding, as well as following up contacts and attending meetings to try to turn its vision into reality.

The Phase 2 Community Sports Project is still very much to the fore. The report below shows how the school's activities would be enriched by the addition of appropriate sports facilities.

Physical education at Shipston High

Extra curricular sports activities are a very significant part of life in the PE department and every effort is made to give students the opportunity to participate in sport. The range of sports on offer at the High School is extensive, including winter sports trips such as skiing and snowboarding.

Central to the Department is the GCSE Physical Education course. Year 11 students are well into final preparations for the summer exam. They have completed their coursework and practical moderation and are taking part in a structured programme of revision sessions in preparation for the written examination in June.

Year 10 students have been working through the concept of

diet and how this impacts on sporting performance. Students were given the assignment of creating a pre or post match meal for a specific performer, preparing an effective menu for the performer and then cooking their suggested meals. All the groups produced effective meals that would have benefited their performer. However, there could only be one set of winners and this went to the group who cooked a post event meal for a 100 metre sprinter.

The winners, Naomi Parker, Hattie Baxter, Louis Jelf and Jim Smith cooked a fantastic Potato and Leek Soup, packed with carbohydrate to replenish energy stores, followed by a really tasty and filling Parma ham and stuffed chicken dish accompanied with whole grain rice, wholemeal bread and roasted vegetables to aid muscle repair and replenish essential vitamins and minerals lost during performance. This all goes to show that there is much more to sport than purely the physical side!



*Pictured:
Hattie, Naomi, Jim and
Louis with their
winning menu*

Loyd's recipe for Shipston Proms 2013

Food expert, TV presenter and punk musician, Loyd Grossman, will hit the stage at this year's Shipston Proms.

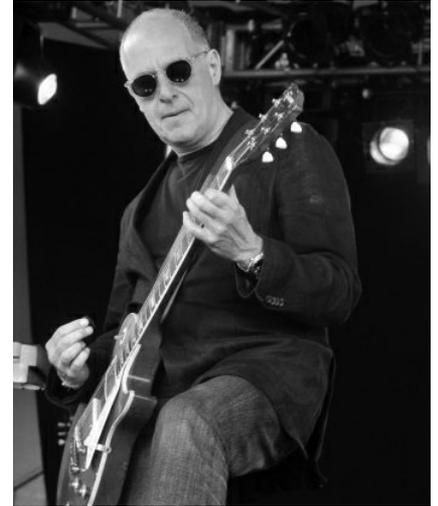
Appearing on Friday 21st June at the Townsend Hall, the man behind the best selling jars of pasta and curry sauces is one of the highlights for Shipston Proms, now in its 15th year. He will be leading his band, The New Forbidden, which has played Glastonbury and the London circuit. Tickets cost just £5.

Tim Porter, chairman of the Shipston Proms organising committee, said "We have a great line-up this year, together with our trademark wide range of music to appeal to everyone – jazz, blues, rock,

pop, classical and choral music, plus our school music workshops."

This year's Fame Contest will be held on the first Saturday, 22nd June again at Townsend Hall. It is open to solo singers and duos, and groups of three or more (aged ten and over) so now is the time to start rehearsing!

The first event in the Shipston Proms 2013 programme will be Clare Teal with the Midland Jazz Orchestra at Townsend Hall on Thursday 20th June. The full programme is on the website www.shipstonproms.org, and you can also follow the Proms on Facebook and Twitter.



Loyd Grossman will take to the stage in Shipston

Sumptuous rewards for walkers

Shipston Rotary's refreshments team are busy planning a wonderful spread of treats to welcome the walkers completing the Rotary Cotswold Walk on Sunday 5th May.

The Cotswold Walk is a seven mile ramble in aid of Rotary charities. The walk follows footpaths and bridleways in the North Cotswolds, taking in beautiful countryside and spectacular views.

Everyone is welcome to take part and can start anytime from 10am to 2pm – but don't leave it too late if you want to replenish your energy with some homemade cake! For further details, see the ad on page 8.



Shopping for a Shelterbox

Shipston shopkeepers, Richard & Louise Harvey have pledged to raise £590 at their shop to fund a complete Shelterbox, which will be deployed to an area in the world where disaster relief is needed.

ShelterBox is an international charity that delivers emergency shelter, warmth and dignity to people affected by disaster worldwide. At the heart of every ShelterBox is a ten-person tent. It is custom made and designed to withstand extreme temperatures, high winds and heavy rainfall.

Each month Richard & Louise will be donating a fabulous prize from their shop and selling tickets for £1. A draw will take place, with a new prize, each month until enough money has been raised to buy one of the Shelterboxes.

Growing every year

That special day in the horticultural calendar is coming round again. Positioned neatly as the gardening year gets its running shoes on. Yes! It's the annual plant sale at the Sheldon Bosley Hub.

Like all great days out, there's something for everyone. Let the kids find out about the fun of getting real mud under their fingernails and the joys of gardening. Grow a lettuce, some herbs and a tomato in a window-box for fresh salad all summer long, or find that special row of bedding plants to give you vibrant colour for months to come.

The Shipston Home Nursing Annual Plant Fair is free to visit and takes place on Saturday 11th May 10 am to 12 noon. All plant donations will be gratefully received. For details see the ad on page 9.

Annual Senior Citizens Party

All Stour Valley Lions plus husbands, wives and buddies worked tirelessly over a number of months to plan, prepare and deliver a party to remember for 134 of Shipston's Senior Citizens.

This year, Mayor Fay Ivens attended to experience the event, talk with residents and enjoy the entertainment. Shipston Young Fire Fighters assisted the Lions moving and positioning 36 tables, fitting tablecloths, 134 chairs and crockery.

The partygoers were treated to a variety of entertainment including music from Shipston Town Band, songs from Maggie O'Hara, vocal comedy from J P James and background music, sound and lighting from Luke Peckover.

Guests enjoyed celebration drinks on arrival, followed by food, cakes, and copious amounts of tea and coffee prepared by Stour Valley Lions and friends.

As well as providing a fun day out for all, the senior citizens contributed £235 to Zoe's Place Trust which the Lions made up to £250 to match the £250 donated previously, as reported in last month's Forum.



Regular events:

- Mon Citizens Advice Bureau:** Mornings, New Clark House. To book a free appointment, call 01789 200136
 - Mon Shipston Duplicate Bridge Club:** 7pm for 7.15pm, Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Rd, Shipston-on-Stour. Call Penny Law 663871
 - Tues Stroke Club:** Alternate Tuesdays (7,21). 10am-12pm Room No 2, Ellen Badger Hospital.
 - Tues Rhyme time for under 2s:** Now every Tuesday. 10:45am Shipston Library. Free. Contact: 661255
 - Tues Age Concern Lunch Club** at Stour Court. Contact: Stella, 686224
 - 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 St John's Ambulance:** Adults division. Meet at Shipston Fire Station, 7pm. Contact: Josie Bayliss, 684834
 - Thur Shipston Stitchers:** 10am to 3pm, alternate Thursdays (2, 16, 30).
 - Thur Age Concern Lunch Club** at Rainbow Fields Contact: Diana 01789 740627
 - Thur Safer Neighbourhood Team:** Fortnightly (2, 16, 30). Public surgery, 2.30pm to 3pm. New Clark House, West Street.
 - Thur Age Concern gentle exercise and relaxation class:** 2:15-3:15pm, Rainbow Fields. Contact Leigh, 665995
 - Fri Walks over fields with friendly group.** Leaves Old Mill car park at 10am. Contact: Marlene, 663616
 - Fri Bridge** 10.15am – 12.15pm Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road. Contact Val Young on 01608 238754 or 07516 091786
 - Fri Shipston Probus:** alternate Fridays (3, 17, 31)
 - Fri Age Concern Lunch Club** at Stour Court. Contact: Linda, 662290
- There are lots of regular classes on at the Townsend Hall. They include: line dancing, badminton, short tennis, yoga, ballet, Calypso kids music, Little Kickers, Zumba, modern jazz dancing, t'ai chi and circuit training. For details, visit www.townsendhall.com or call Lisa Bryan on 07800771368.**

May Diary

- 1 Stour Valley Lions Book Sale:** 10am-4pm. The Coach House, Church Street, Shipston (opposite the Library). Books include fiction, children's, cookery, gardening, art etc. To donate books contact Lion David Squires on pinnegards@tiscali.co.uk
- National Organisation of the Widowed:** Lunch. 12pm. Contact: Barbara Bean 663230
- Shipston-on-Stour Women's Institute:** To the Fringe and Beyond by Ginny Davis. 7pm, Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road. Contact: Jane Hanks 664519
- 2 County Council election:** 07:00 - 22:00. The polling station is at the Sheldon Bosley Hub.
- Story Stomp:** Storytelling for 2-5 year olds. 10.30am, Shipston Library. Free. Contact: 661255
- 3 Stour Valley Lions Book Sale:** 9am-4pm, details as above
- Chamber of Commerce Business Advice Surgeries:** Free advice sessions by appointment at Stour Enterprise Centre, Astech Mill, Stratford Road. 1pm – 4pm. To book, call 629693
- Shipston Dementia Resource and Support Cafe:** Amanda Jerman, Guideposts Trust, talking about Support for Dementia Carers. 2pm-3.30pm. Stour Court, Old Road. Contact: Barbara Smith 662433.
- 4 Stour Valley Lions Book Sale:** 9am-2pm, details as above.

- 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
- 5 Shipston Rotary Cotswold Walk:** See ad on page 8
- 6 Brailes Three Hills Walk:** 6 miles over 3 hills around Brailes, starting from Brailes Village Hall. Walkers can join any time between 9 and 11.30 am. Suitable for all ages as long as capable of walking this distance over fields and quite steep hills. Contact: Richard Cheney on 01608 685570
- Italian Market:** See ad on page 8.
- 7 Multiple Sclerosis Society:** Drop in meeting. 10.30am at the George Hotel. Contact: Ann Bartlett 666161
- 8 Shipston and District Gardening Club:** Starting from Scratch by Judy Berrow. 7.30pm, Catholic Church, Darlingscote Road. Contact: Tony Mitchell 666933
- Shipston Flower Club:** AGM. 7.30pm, Shipston Primary School, Station Road. Non-members welcome. Contact: 01295 788099
- 9 Royal British Legion – Shipston Branch:** Committee Meeting. New Clark House. Contact: Mike Dobbin 664636
- 9-11 Shipston Amateur Dramatic Society:** See ad on page 8
- 10-11 Shipston Tapestry:** Add your threads to the Shipston Tapestry. 10am-4pm, Shipston Needlecraft, Sheep Street
- 10 Stour Valley Lions Cinema presents Life of Pi:** See ad on page 9
- 11 Mayor's Surgery:** 10am, High Street
- Shipston Home Nursing Plant Sale:** See ad on page 9
- Stour Singers:** The Cherwell Orchestra, leader Judy Springate. Vivaldi: Gloria and Dvorak: Mass in D. Conducted by Richard Emms. 7.30pm St.Edmund's Church, Shipston. Adults £12.50, accompanied children free. Tickets from choir members, R.Clarke, 27 High Street Shipston and on the door.
- 13 Stour Valley Visually Impaired Group:** The Citizens Advice Bureau - Spencer Colquitt. 2pm Stour Court. Contact: Shirley Pilkington 662684
- Shipston Town Council Monthly Meeting:** 7pm, New Clark House. All welcome. Contact: Georgina Beaumont 662180
- 14 Senior Citizens Action Network meeting (SCAN):** 10.30am, Townsend Hall. Free admission, all young-at-heart over 50s welcome. Contact: Jane Pearce 663491
- Stour Valley Lions Monthly Meeting:** 8pm, The George Hotel, Shipston. All welcome.
- 15 Shipston Youth Club AGM:** See ad on page 8
- Stour Valley Lions Book Sale:** 10am-4pm, details as above
- National Organisation of the Widowed:** Meeting. 10.30am-12pm, Coach and Horses. Contact: Barbara Bean 663230
- 17 Stour Valley Lions Book Sale:** 9am-4pm, details as above.
- Dementia Carers Drop-in Support Group:** New group meeting at New Clark House, 10am-12pm, the third Friday of each month. Contact Barbara Smith 662433.
- Shipston Home Nursing:** Spring Summer Shopping Day, 10am-4pm. Lower Farm, Great Wolford CV36 5NQ. Free entry.
- Shipston Music Society:** See ad on page 10
- 18 Stour Valley Lions Book Sale:** 9am-2pm, details as above
- 21 Shipston Arts & Crafts Society:** Wood Turner, Designer and Lathe Artist. 7.30pm, Catholic Church Hall. Contact: Penny Law 663871
- 25 Newbold Plant Sale:** See ad on page 10
- 27 Shipston Wool Fair:** See ad on back page
- Stour Valley Lions Book Sale:** From 10am. Details as above
- 29 Stour Valley Lions Book Sale:** 10am-4pm, details as above
- 31 Stour Valley Lions Book Sale:** 9am-4pm, details as above

Shipston Youth Club wants to **THANK YOU!**

a year after the threat of closure we are holding our first new look AGM!

Come along so we can thank you for all your support!

Come along and find out what the club is doing and offering!

Come along and meet the young people!

Come along and find out how we are raising the funds!

Come along if you have ideas about what more the Club could be doing!

Come along if you'd like to get involved!

Wednesday 15th May
7.30pm at Shipston Youth Club
just behind the High School



Shipston Rotary

Cotswold Walk

Sunday 5th May 2013

7 mile walk with spectacular views

Enjoy walking over the wonderful footpaths and bridleways of the North Cotswolds. Besides taking in beautiful countryside, the walk goes alongside Hidcote Manor a well known National Trust property. Bring a picnic or join us for refreshments in Ebrington village hall at the halfway point.

If you are on holiday, Stratford on Avon, Shipston on Stour, Chipping Campden and Broadway are no more than 20 minutes drive. We are in easy reach of many holiday destinations in Warwickshire, Worcestershire, Oxfordshire, West Midlands and Gloucestershire.

refreshments ~ toilets ~ marshals ~ first aid

£5 adults£2 schoolchildren

Walkers may start at any time between 10am & 2pm
Commence at Foxcote Hill, Ilmington, Nr Shipston on Stour, CV36 4LD
Signposted from A429 & A3400 ~ Free Car Park

For further information please go to:-

<http://1060.org.uk/content/rotary-cotswold-walk>

Or Contact:- Avryl 01789 740047
or email nigel872@btinternet.com

Sponsors:-

miles morgan	R J Thompson Building Services tel: 01926 642 264
travel	Specialists in maintenance, building, plumbing and heating
tel: 01608 663456	

Shipston Amateur Dramatic Society
Present

"A 1920's Maritime fantasy drama" *'Outward Bound'*



By Sutton Vane
at

Townsend Hall,

Sheep Street, Shipston-on-Stour
on Thursday 9th, Friday 10th
& Saturday 11th May 2013

Performances commence at 7.30pm

Tickets – £5 Thurs, £7 Fri & Sat

Available from John Lyne Home Hardware,
High Street, Shipston-on-Stour or on the door



Shipston in Bloom 2013

Invites **EVERYONE** to participate in the
Annual Gardening Competition

Free to enter Judging by independent judges
will take place on Sunday 14th July.

Entries will be judged in the following categories

Front Garden	Public places	Children's Garden
Rear Garden	Town Businesses	Hanging Basket/ window box / manger

Displays, except **Rear Gardens and Children's Gardens**, must be viewable from the roadside. Winners will be notified and awarded a certificate of congratulations plus a trophy which will be held for one year. There will be a presentation evening held in the autumn, to which winners will be invited.

An entry form is required **ONLY** for Rear and Children's gardens

**Complete the entry form and return to
Shipston in Bloom c/o Nick Nickerson 50 Furze Hill
Road, or Mal Lawrence at 3 Clark Close**

Download the form from shipstononline.org

STOUR VALLEY LIONS – MAY FILM (12A)
 WINNER OF FOUR OSCARS INCLUDING BEST DIRECTOR

THE JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME

FROM ACADEMY AWARD WINNING DIRECTOR ANGLEE

LIFE OF PI
 IN 3D

COMING SOON

A young man who survives a disaster at sea is hurtled into an epic journey of adventure and discovery. While cast away, he forms an unexpected connection with another survivor: a fearsome Bengal tiger.

SHIPSTON HIGH SCHOOL
 Friday 10th May, 2013 at 7:00 pm
 Advance Tickets £3.50 (£4 on door)

From: R. Clarke Electrical, 27 High Street, Shipston On Stour.
 Or Lion Judith Jackson. Tel: 01608-661148
 Raffle and Refreshments

Shipston Home Nursing

PLANT SALE & PRODUCE STALL

SATURDAY 11TH MAY 2013
 10AM-12NOON - FREE ENTRY
 SHELDON BOSLEY HUB
 SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR CV36 4DQ

DELIVERY OF PLANTS:
 Friday 10th May from 12 noon onwards
 For more info call Fudge 07979 904719 or
 Caroline 07939 368373
 fudpat@hotmail.co.uk
 caroline.larkin2@btinternet.com

ITALIA IN PIAZZA
 THE REAL
 ITALIAN FOOD MARKET

SHIPSTON HIGH STREET
 MONDAY 6TH MAY
 FROM 10AM – 4PM

NORGREN BOWLS CLUB

Sheldon Bosley Hub, Pittway Avenue, Shipston-on-Stour

PRIZES Presents a PRIZES

PRIZE BINGO

on
 Saturday, 1st June

Doors open 6.30
 Eyes down 7.30 PRIZES

In aid of St David's Church
Newbold-on-Stour with Armscote



Saturday 25th May
10 am - 12.30 pm

Newbold Plant Sale

St David's Churchyard

Great Variety! Great value!

Tombola Refreshments Produce Stall



Plant donations greatly appreciated
Please contact Gilly Marsden 01789 459168
or deliver to Church on Friday 24th May 3 - 7 p.m.



SHIPSTON MUSIC SOCIETY

Presents

"Classical Guitar"

DIMITRIS DEKAVALLAS

Friday May 17th 7.30pm

Shipston Methodist Church
Guests Welcome £5.00

For further details ring 01608 663207

Clubs, societies and charities

Shipston Amateur Dramatic Society

The society's forthcoming production is a maritime fantasy drama by Sutton Vane. The play 'Outward Bound' is set in the 1920's in the lounge bar of an ocean liner, setting sail for ...? The seven passengers on board appear to have no idea why they are there or indeed where the ship is bound. They collude and conjecture as they await the arrival of the Examiner. But who is he and why is he coming aboard?

Find out by going to see the show. Performances will commence at 7.30pm on Thursday 9th, Friday 10th & Saturday 11th May 2013 at the Townsend Hall, Sheep Street, Shipston-on-Stour. Tickets at £5 Thurs, £7 Fri & Sat are available from John Lyne Home Hardware, High Street, Shipston-on-Stour or on the door.

For further information regarding the Drama Group visit www.shipstondramagroup.org

Shipston Safer Neighbourhood Team

Shipston SNT is receiving useful intelligence and information from the community on our Shipston Rural Watch email system. We have had good results and leads due to some details passed to us. Please continue to feed information through and spread the word to neighbours and friends.

Please contact us on the phone numbers on page 15 or email: shipston.rural.watch@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk

Stour Singers



If you love to sing, whether a member of a choir or not, there is a golden opportunity for you to take part in a Choral Workshop to be presented by Stour Singers – Mozart's Mass in C Minor, directed by renowned conductor Adrian Partington.

The workshop will take place from 10am until 4pm in the Townsend Hall in Shipston-on-Stour, on 1st June, and prior booking is essential. The workshop fee of £15 includes coffee, tea and biscuits during the day, and the fee is reduced to £5 for students. Scores can be hired on the day at a cost of £1, but workshop participants may also bring their own copies.

Adrian Partington is Director of Music at Gloucester Cathedral, Artistic Director of the Gloucester Three Choirs Festival and of the BBC National Chorus of Wales, as well as Conductor of Gloucester and Bristol Choral Societies. Anthony Gowing, Assistant Director of Music at Gloucester Cathedral, and Director of Music for Gloucester Cathedral Youth Choir will be accompanist for the day.

This promises to be a truly inspiring day of singing. For more information, visit www.stoursingers.org.uk or call Yvonne Ridley on 01789 269587, or Vic Twyman on 01451 870361.

Shipston Music Society March Concert

The advertised concert was changed to "Classical to Gershwin" as Michael Adams was unwell and so Richard Silk, piano, joined Peter Gosling, clarinet, to entertain us.

The concert opened with Three Fantasy Pieces by Robert Schumann, a very free running piece and said to have been written in just two days. This was followed by Variations on a theme by Paganini for clarinet and piano. This is an exceptionally demanding piece for the pianist and demonstrated Richard Silk's command of the keyboard. Richard followed this with a solo, Intermezzo No 6 by Johannes Brahms, a beautiful piece with its constantly recurring themes. The first half closed with Grand Duo Concertant for clarinet and piano by von Weber.

The second half of the programme was devoted to pieces of more modern composition. Ravel's Piece en forme de Habanera, Poulenc's Sonata for clarinet and piano and John Noble's Cat's suite. The final three numbers were all by Gershwin. It ain't necessarily so, clarinet solo, I got Rhythm, piano solo and closed with Walking the Dog, piano and clarinet.

This was a very entertaining concert by two extremely accomplished musicians and much enjoyed by the audience.

For more information contact Clare Faulkes on 01608 663207

Stour Valley Lion's May article

Lions May Film

On Friday, 10th May, the Lion's monthly film, which is held at Shipston High School will be the acclaimed film "The Life of Pi". This film has received rave reviews and we are sure that our regular audience of supporters will enjoy the film.



Talking Shipston Forum

Lions continue to provide the Forum on CD for the Visually Impaired Club and Shipston senior citizen homes. Lion members, High School students and friends make up the voices on the recordings. If you wish to be included in our distribution please contact Shipston Town Council.

Senior Citizen's Party

The annual senior citizen's party was once again a great success. For the full details, see the article on page six.

Stour Valley WI

March meeting

At our March meeting we were entertained by Dick Burge, one of the Curators of Shipston Museum. He had a wonderful collection of slides, one of which was a drawing showing the layout of the town in the 18th century and photographs back to the late 1890s. What a busy



commercial place it was well into the 1960s.

Prior to the arrival of the train for passengers and freight, there was a horse-drawn tram which went to Stratford, a Brewery which had to be closed because of a shortage of water and both a gas company and an electric generating plant. A motor car showroom and a cinema opened in 1913 to "provide entertainment for the young people and to "keep them off the streets". There was even a work house.

One lovely slide of the High Street was taken before the first world war of "The Royal Horse Artillery", guns and horses apparently stopping for refreshments en route from Coventry to Oxford for manoeuvres.

For our longstanding residents of Shipston, nostalgia, and for the many "incomers", amazement that our town has had so many changes, both in size and employment opportunities.

April Meeting

At our April meeting, we were pleased to welcome the Head Teacher, School Secretary and six year nine pupils from Shipston High School.

Mr Baker gave a brief summary of the school, from its opening in 1957 with an intake of 240 pupils from primary schools in the villages of South Warwickshire, to its recent change to an Academy in September 2012. The school now has approximately 430 pupils.

The pupils, aged between 13 and 14, spoke of their many interests in extra curricular activities, from games and athletics, to music, public speaking, drama and visits to places of interest connected to their studies. This included the first skiing trip which took place recently. The children were immaculate in their school uniform, enthusiastic and obviously proud of themselves and their school. What a lovely group of young people.

We meet in the Residents Lounge at Rainbow Fields at 2.00pm on the second Wednesday of the month. Why not join us?

Shipston Arts & Crafts

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held on Tuesday, 19th March. After the Chairman and Treasurer's report, Jill Licence was re-elected as Chairman, David Kennett as Treasurer and Penny Law as Secretary. Pat Nickerson was elected as Vice Chairman and as the Programme Secretary was retiring this post is still vacant. The Chairman hoped someone would come forward at the next meeting.

Following the AGM, John Busbridge gave a fascinating talk, with superb slides, on Russian Painters. He covered the artists between 1880 and 1930 starting with Ilya Repin, Vasily Surikov and Igor Grabar, who were all influenced by the incipient revolution in France. Then showed work by Filip Malyavin, Leon Bakst, Mikhail Larionov and Marc Chagall. This was followed by the six Amazons Of Russian Avant-Garde women artists, and

ended with Kasimir Malevich, Vladamir Tatlin and Vassily Kandinsky whose work combined Rayonism with abstract cubism. This was a subject new to most of the audience and all agreed it opened a new door of the art world.

The next meeting is on the 21st May, 7.30pm at the Catholic Church Hall and visitors are most welcome.

Shipston WI

'Curiouser and curiouser ' said Alice, as did the ladies of Shipston WI after a fascinating talk by Alan Winterburn entitled Cotswold Curiosities.



Many of us weren't aware that the Cotswolds has such a wealth of unusual things. We were shown photographs of gargoyles, weather vanes, war memorials, monuments, statues, epitaphs and much more. Each had a tale to tell. Many of the Cotswold churches are awash with interesting memorabilia, plaques and interesting architecture, as are the villages and towns. A really successful and enjoyable evening.

On display we had the work undertaken by three of our members for the Lane Cup. Their work was displayed at the recent AGM. Our theme was colour, celebrating the sun and the sky. We had a beautiful cushion made at a Denman Workshop, a pretty bag, and the finest of wool was used to make an intricate scarf. Our members were most appreciative of their skills.

We meet at 7pm the first Wednesday in the month at the Catholic Church Hall in Darlingscote Road. We take part in lots of different activities outside of the monthly meeting eg book group, walking group, wine group and more. If you would like to join us we would love to see you.

Noye's Fludde

Are you a budding singer, musician or actor? Would you like to perform in the Shipston Proms?

In June 2013, the Orchestra of the Swan and Shipston-on-Stour locals are joining forces to perform the composer's well-known work, Noye's Fludde.

We are recruiting **string players** of all ages and abilities, and **female singers** who would be interested in performing as the **Gossips**. All those involved will have the opportunity to work with a professional conductor, director and vocal director.

Rehearsals for these groups are as follows:

Strings – Monday 10th June & Monday 24th June, 6 – 7.30pm, Shipston High School

Gossips – Monday 29th April, Monday 10th June & Monday 17th June, 7pm – 8pm, Shipston High School

Performers must also be available for daytime rehearsals on Saturday 22nd June and the afternoon of Friday 28th June. Performances of Noye's Fludde are taking place on Friday 28th June (7:30pm) and Saturday 29th June (3pm & 6pm).



If you have any questions about the project, or would like to take part as a **string player** or **singer**, contact Frances Bridgewater (Project Manager) at noyesfluddeshipston@gmail.com

Further updates will be published in the Shipston Forum.

Shipston Dementia Resource and Support Café



Janice Connolly, Locality Manager at the Alzheimers Society, gave a thought-provoking talk about ways in which we can improve the home environment for people with dementia. Janice concentrated on the elements of colour, lighting and visual clues which, if carefully chosen, can give a sense of security and confidence to those who find they are confused and disorientated.

We discovered how colours can affect our mood and perception and how it can have an impact on our behaviour. Good lighting is crucial in helping people with dementia to identify which room they are in and visual clues such as clear pictures of everyday items on the relevant kitchen cupboard doors help people to find the tea, sugar, coffee etc. For more information contact Janice on 01926 888899 or e-mail at janice.connolly@alzheimers.org.

The next Café will be on Friday, 3rd May, 2.00 – 3.30 pm. Stour Court, Old Road when Amanda Jerman from Guideposts Trust will be talking about Support for Carers. For more information please contact Barbara Smith, 01608 662433.

Probus



This year is the 150th anniversary of the opening of the first part of the London Underground, from Paddington to Farringdon. It was coincidental that on 8th March, John Mason gave us part 1 of his history of the underground railway system, to be followed later in the year by Part 2.

The first section of the Underground eventually became the Circle Line and was constructed at ground level by digging up the roads, where necessary, and also forming the Embankment beside the river. The initial trains were steam driven so travel was unpleasant until the arrival of electrification.

On 22nd March, Jan Long spoke about the 'Highs and Lows of being a Churchwarden' which proved to be full of interest and humour. The full extent of a warden's responsibilities was surprising. In one of the many amusing incidents, she found a tramp sleeping under the altar, and being kind, sent him on his way with a £10 note. Many months later, an envelope appeared in the Church, addressed to the warden and she found her 'gift' had been mysteriously returned.

This month we meet on the 17th and 31st May.

Bread Nose Day raises plenty of dough!

Shipston's innovative 'Bread Nose Day' raised £500 for Comic Relief charities in Africa and the UK thanks to the sterling efforts of three amateur bakers, supported by The Bakery and many willing shoppers.

Local residents, Philip Vial, Mike Ashton and Dan Scobie, spent Friday 15th March not watching Comic Relief, but kneading dough and baking bread – including sourdough, fougasse, ciabatta, focaccia, white and wholemeal. They had the free loan of a commercial mobile oven so that they could make around 60 loaves, plus rolls and specialty breads.

Owners of The Bakery in Shipston, Sharon and Karl Peacock, allowed the keen bakers to take over the front of their shop, and shoppers donated £455 to Comic Relief in return for some fresh, local bread.

Other local people supported the effort with advertising, including setting up a Facebook page and handing out leaflets in the town centre on the day.

Organiser, Dan Scobie, said, "I've been a keen baker for years, and we talked about what we could do to promote local food in general and healthy bread in particular. A few drinks in the pub led to the name – 'Bread' Nose Day – and after that we were committed!"

The Bakery also ran a guess the weight of the cake competition for Comic Relief, taking the total amount raised to around £500.



Picture – Philip Vial (photograph) then left to right: Mike Ashton, Dan Scobie, Karl Peacock & Sharon Peacock

Marathon efforts for charity

Town councillor, Melanie Trapp, battled cold, wet and windy conditions to complete a half marathon in aid of the British Heart Foundation in March. Melanie was proud to hand over £460 in sponsorship for this vital charity. Congratulations, Melanie, on a fantastic achievement!



Pictured: Melanie's half marathon medal

As the Forum went to press, another local resident, Shauni Warner, was preparing to run in the London marathon on 21st April. Shauni put herself forward for the 26.2 mile challenge to support her chosen charity, Whizz-Kidz. Whizz-Kidz aims to improve the quality of life of disabled children and young people in the UK through the provision of customised mobility equipment such as wheelchairs and tricycles.



Sponsorship will still be welcome after the marathon. To donate, please visit <https://www.justgiving.com/Shaulni-Warner/>

A message for Welsh Richard!

Local resident, Jacqueline Little, would like to thank the big Welshman who came to her rescue after she fell over on a bridle path in Shipston.

'Richard' helped Mrs Little to her feet and insisted on taking her to the Ellen Badger Hospital.

"I am so grateful for the help Richard gave me that day but I don't even know his surname. I only hope than if any readers of the Forum know a large Welshman called Richard, they will be good enough to pass on my thanks." Mrs Little said.

Shipston on Stour Cricket Club tackles the Three Peaks Challenge

Five intrepid members of Shipston-on-Stour Cricket Club have agreed to take on a fearsome mountaineering challenge to raise funds for their club and for their designated charity for 2013 – Shipston Home Nursing.

The group of cricketers will be trying to scale Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon, all within a 24 hour period, and are hoping to drum up plenty of support from both local businesses and the generous public to help give them the motivation they will need to achieve their goal.

Expedition leader Tom Cox said, "We will have to walk around 25 miles and climb 10 000 feet so we need to be ready for that. I'm really excited – not only do I think this is a great personal challenge, it is also an opportunity to raise a large amount of money for both our club and for Shipston Home Nursing"

To donate, visit <http://www.gofundme.com/2dclpc> or keep

an eye out for opportunities to purchase wristbands and make cash donations in the town and at cricket matches through the summer. Any businesses who would like to support by providing equipment for the team should email harper_neil1@sky.com for details.



Pictured: (from left) Joe Godson, Tom Cox, Sam Hince and Marcus Ireland

Neighbourhood Plan Update

An important milestone was reached last week when the District Council's Cabinet approved the application to create a Shipston Neighbourhood Plan. This means we can get back to the individuals and organisations that have to date contributed opinions, ideas and offers of help with the plan-making work.

The priority is to get together enough active support so that the so far identified main topics for the plan can be carefully assessed. Additional issues can still be considered: indeed it is really important that community views are made known. Information about the town such as population trends, employment, travel-to-work, is being collected together as a resource for the plan-making team. Much already exists but comprehensive new surveys of housing needs and businesses are planned.

A communications plan has been put together. A dedicated website, plus Twitter and Facebook, is being set up to hold the plan information, share the various inputs, and record the progress.

We will apply for further Government funding to support the plan-making process, and are getting welcome support from the District Council.

Effective community engagement is at the heart of the work. We need further contributions, opinions about the town now and in the future as well as more people who are able to help generate ideas for and deliver some of the community engagement activities. All offers of help would be gratefully received. Please email np@shipstononline.org to register your interest.

Neighbourhood Plan Update – at a glance

Neighbourhood Plan Launch Event (Oct 2012)	✓
Advertised intention to proceed with NP	✓
Guide to the NP produced (Shipston Forum Jan 2013)	✓
Public drop-in meeting (9 March 2013)	✓
Formal approval to proceed by SDC	✓
Communications plan developed	✓

Next steps

Re-launch website (www.shipstonnp.org)	May
Contact volunteers to begin plan-making	May
Engage with clubs, societies and schools	May/June
Stall at Wool Fair to promote awareness	27/5

Readers' Letters

Letter from James Law

Shipston Town Council held their monthly general meeting on 11th March 2013. The Agenda included the planning application for the proposed development on Stratford Road adjacent to River Way. Several residents of River Way attended the meeting and voiced their objections, which were:

- 1 The Councillors appeared to be under the impression that the proposed site was "within the boundary of Shipston". Even the original application clearly states that "the land is outside the built up area of Shipston".
- 2 The layout plan showed the houses fronting the river had been repositioned up to 10 metres nearer the river. Furthermore, a decking terrace had been added to the riverside of these houses so that the residents of the new houses will have a grandstand view over the River Way gardens.

- 3 The footpath shown on the plans runs along the River Way boundary, and if used to the extent anticipated by the application will become a continuing nuisance to River Way residents.

The Councillors were not inclined to reconsider any matter in respect of this planning application. The reason soon became clear, as apparently the Council had already sent their approval to SDC!

Furthermore, the Applicant was present at the meeting and was allowed to speak, even though he is a resident in the Brailes parish and NOT Shipston. Surely this was totally improper and contrary to standard procedure.

The Council's consideration of this Application requires the detailed scrutiny of the appropriate committee of the Stratford District Council.

Shipston Medical Centre

Bobby the Cat

Bobby the cat, who belongs to a neighbour, can often be seen in and around the Medical Centre. The automatic doors mean he can sneak in without any assistance, and the attention he receives from patients ensures he continues to visit.

Whilst we appreciate that many of our patients enjoy Bobby's company, and find his presence soothing, many other patients dislike cats, or are allergic to them, which can make a visit to the GP surgery more stressful than it might otherwise be. Bobby's presence was the greatest cause of concern from patients in our recent patient survey.

We therefore ask all our patients to help us prevent any distress or harm to visitors to the Medical Centre that may

occur as a result of Bobby's presence. We have already tried a number of methods to prevent Bobby entering the premises, such as strategic placement of plants that cats are supposed to dislike, use of a formulated spray to deter Bobby and staff members moving him outside the building when their workload allows them to do so. Please assist us in our efforts by not petting Bobby and taking him out of the building when he comes in. A clinical environment really isn't the right place for pets.



Thank you

Medical Centre – t: 01608 661845

Website: www.shipstonmc.warwickshire.nhs.uk

Twitter - @ShipstonMC

Your Town Councillors



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Proud Campaign chair
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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 01865 600262 or email: forum@shipstononline.org

Copy deadline: First Wednesday of every month

– but the sooner you can notify the editor of a potential story the better.

The Shipston Forum is produced monthly by the Town Council to support the community and is distributed to all households. If you don't receive a copy, please contact the Town Clerk. The Forum can also be downloaded from www.shipstononline.org

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

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

While every effort is made to ensure information is accurate, the Town Council does not accept responsibility for material submitted by readers or third parties and does not endorse any organisation or event publicised. Contributions may be edited to fit available space.



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Jackie Warner
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Mark Wildish
 t: 07969 375613
 e: mark.wildish@talktalk.net

Useful Contacts

Community Links Transport	01789 264491
Shipston Library:	01608 661255
- 24/7 renewal line	01926 499273
Highways customer services	01926 412515
Shipston Volunteer Transport Scheme	01608 663122
Shipston Forum	01865 600262
Shipston Leisure Centre	01608 662354
Shipston Medical Centre	01608 661845
- Out of hours	03001 303040
Shipston Post Office	01608 661465
Shipston Town Council	01608 662180
Shipston Recycling Centre	01608 663560
Stratford District Council	01789 267575
Warwickshire County Council	01926 410410
Local police (non emergency)	101
PC Richard Grove (Beat Manager)	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	01295 688193
Methodist Church	01608 661843

**BANK HOLIDAY
MONDAY**

**SHIPSTON
WOOL
FAIR**



27TH

MAY *from 10am - 4pm*