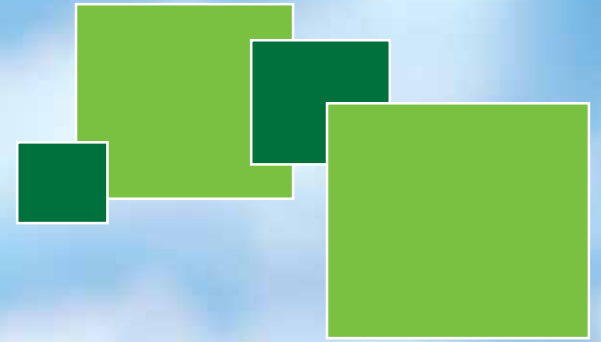




SHIPSTONLINK

bringing **Shipston** and the **rural community together**

The first twenty five years

The operation of Shipston Link over the past 25 years would not have been possible without the generous financial and practical support of Warwickshire County Council.



We would also like to thank the following organisations for their help, support and assistance:

- Stratford-upon-Avon District Council
- Stratford Rural Transport Partnership
- Rural Development Commission
- The Countryside Agency
- Warwickshire Rural Community Council
- The Development Commission for Rural England

The Link's first 25 years story is one of success. All involved should feel proud. We hope you will enjoy reading this commemorative publication.

Looking to the future however, please spread the word about the Link so that we can continue to flourish.

SHIPSTONLINK

THE BEGINNING

In early 1983 Shipston Town Council called a meeting of all local Parishes to discuss self-help schemes which the Parishes could consider regarding rural transportation. That meeting decided to set up a Community Transport Working Party.

Later the name was changed to the Transportation Co-ordination Group and was chaired by Dr Theo Schofield.

A working party survey showed that many communities were poorly served by public transportation (does that not sound familiar now in 2011?) and many households had only one car which departs daily with the wage earner.

It was important that if Shipston-on-Stour was to remain a focal point for the outlying area (with its Medical Centre, Post Office, Social Service Office, Council Office, Hospital and Shopping Centre), the residents of the local villages would need to be able to get to Shipston on a regular basis.

Although one-off journeys were being provided by the Volunteer Bureau, it was decided that a minibus similar to the 'Villager' in Stow-on-the-Wold could be the answer.

Dr Schofield informed the group that Warwickshire County Council was willing to supply funding for a pilot year and was also willing to provide a minibus.

It was agreed that a trial scheme would be launched and Anne Sankey, at that time Shipston Deputy Mayor, agreed to become Chairman, Pat Braddell the Secretary and Ken Cutler, a member of the Transportation Co-ordination Group, hoped to find a Treasurer.

As Dr Schofield had suggested that Harry Graham might act as Co-ordinator, Anne Sankey contacted him and he agreed to do the job for one year. Doug Birnie accepted the job of Treasurer.

Routes were worked out, stops were agreed and timetables published with the aid of John Hodgkin, County Engineers Dept, who also road tested volunteer drivers. A vehicle was purchased and converted to a minibus.

Our first trial run was made in December 1985 and service on Scheduled Routes began on the 7th January 1986.

SHIPSTONLINK

THUS BEGAN THE SHIPSTON LINK STORY

THE VILLAGES

The following villages were to have at least one service per week. The agreed price was 25 pence per journey (Happy Days!).

Halford	Ilmington
Tysoe	Armscote
Idlicote	Cherington
Crimscote	Great Wolford
Blackwell	Ettington
Stourton	Whatcote
Little Wolford	Admington
Stretton-on-Fosse	Darlingstons
Tredington	Whichford
Oxhill	Sutton-under-Brailes
Honington	Todenham

Later Admington was deleted and Pillerton Hersey, Pillerton Priors, Long Compton, Over Norton and Chipping Norton were added to the service.

A further route was added in 1999, to Banbury which took in Barton-on-the-Heath, Little Compton, Long Compton, Whichford, Cherington, Stourton, Sutton-under-Brailes and Brailes as pick-up points.

These routes remained initially unchanged until early 2011, when the UK economic crisis brought about severe cuts in County Council spending country wide. In Warwickshire these cuts appeared initially to threaten the existence of the Shipston Link as it seemed that the various grants and subsidies which helped to keep the Link afloat, would be cut. In fact the Link benefitted because the County Council cuts resulted in the cancellation of several village bus routes run by the larger bus operators which had been supported by the County. Consequently the Link was requested to extend several routes to include villages which were now without bus services. The Working Group were happy to comply with this request from the County and our Tuesday and Friday routes were adapted to include these additional requirements.

The back cover of this commemorative publication shows our current routes and villages served.

THE FARES

When the Link started in 1986 the single fare was 25p, this increased to 30p, then 35p and has progressively increased to the present single fare of £1.40 (2011).

For some considerable time the fares could be paid in cash or by special tokens issued to Senior Citizens by the County Council. The tokens were ultimately withdrawn but now of course we have the Senior Citizen's Bus Pass which is used by the majority of our passengers. Non Pass holders must still pay cash however.

SHIPSTONLINK

THE PEOPLE

DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT

The Shipston Link would not exist were it not for the dedication and the commitment of its many volunteers over the years.

Theo Schofield, Anne Sankey, Harry Graham, Pat Braddell, Ken Cutler and Doug Birnie were responsible for getting the project off the ground. Anne Sankey, in particular, is remembered for her dedicated services as Shipston Link Chairman for over ten years. Sadly Anne died in June 1999. An inscription to her memory 'Anne Sankey – A Great Lady' was placed on the bonnet of the Mercedes Benz Sprinter which operated from September 1999 to December 2005.

Harry Graham, who became the Link Co-ordinator served from the start of the Link in 1986 until 2001. In 1995 Harry was made an Honorary Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for his services to the community and to the Shipston Link. He now resides in his native America.

MIKE KELLY

Mike Kelly, serving as Co-ordinator until his untimely death on 22nd August 2008, is sorely missed. He was truly dedicated to the Shipston Link, knowing and able to drive all the scheduled routes, organising driver rotas and taking care of the various buses. He was certainly our 'General Factotum'. Since he died the various Co-ordinator tasks have been spread amongst the Working Group members.

The Shipston Link of course, could not survive without the many volunteer drivers, over 60 of whom have given their time to this worthy cause.

A list of all these drivers can be found on later pages.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Since its inception the Shipston Link has benefitted from the support of various committee members. Listed below are Chairmen, Treasurers, Secretaries and Co-ordinators who have served since the start.

Chairmen:

Mrs Anne Sankey	Start - 1998
Gerry Howell	1998 - 2001
Richard Adams	2001 - Present

Treasurers:

Doug Birnie	Start - 1990
Dick Dellow	1990 -2001
George Houghton	2001 - 2008
Tim Walker	2008 - Present

Secretaries:

Pat Bradell	Start - 2000
David Gardner	2000 - Present

Co-ordinators:

Harry Graham	Start - 2001
Mike Kelly	2001 - 2008

SHIPSTONLINK

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS OVER THE YEARS

ACQUISITION OF OUR SECOND BUS

In 1988 the Link acquired its second bus as demand was so great that the original 13 seater bus was too small. The second bus, a Leyland DAF 400 with 16 seats, was funded by grants from the Development Commission for Rural England, Stratford District Council and Warwickshire County Council.



Mrs Anne Sankey receiving the new bus from Warwickshire County Councillor William Watson.

OUR 30,000th PASSENGER



Peggy with Cllr Gordon Collett, Cllr Anne Sankey and Shipston Link Treasurer, Doug Birnie after the presentation.

In September 1990 the Link carried its 30,000th passenger, Mrs Peggy Drake from Crimscote. To celebrate the occasion Warwickshire County Council awarded Peggy free travel for one year.

LINK DRIVERS AWARDED WITH CERTIFICATES

In 1996, when the Link had carried its 100,000th passenger, seventeen volunteer drivers of the Link were given certificates to thank them for their hard work.



The volunteer drivers with their certificates

ORGANISER AWARDED MBE

On the Queen's Birthday Honours List of 1995 Mr Harry E Graham was made an Honorary Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire. The presentation was made at the Judges House, Warwick by The Right Honorable, The Viscount Daventry.



Harry Graham with colleagues after the presentation

RURAL BUS SERVICE GETS NEW WHEELS



The old and new buses with the commemoration to Anne Sankey on the front of the new bus.

In 1999, after five years of service and with 100,000 miles on the clock our fourth bus, Reg. No. L157 BNX, was retired and replaced by a new Mercedes Benz Sprinter, bought with funding from the Countryside Agency and had a low entry step, shoppers pen for bags, tail lift and secure anchors for two wheelchairs.

25th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

In 2011 the Shipston Link celebrated 25 years of service to the local community. To mark the occasion many drivers, both past and present, the current working group committee members and their partners sat down to a celebratory dinner together with special guests Dr Theo Schofield and Mr Dick Dellow (both founding members of the Shipston Link), Councillor Chris Saint (Warwickshire County Council) and Shipston Town Mayor, Mr Paul Rathkey.



Guests at the 25th Anniversary Dinner

SHIPSTONLINK

OUR BUSES

1



STATISTICS		
Type:	Ford Transit (13 passengers)	
Reg. No:	SOP 447Y	
Operated:	07/01/1986 - 31/12/1987	
SCHEDULED TRIPS		
Year	Miles/Km	Pax
1986	9422/15075	3676
1987	13531/21650	6261
TOTAL MILES/KM		
31061/49698		
RENTAL TRIPS		
Year	Miles/Km	Pax
1986	4000/6400	4258
1987	4108/6573	3318
TOTAL PASSENGERS		
17513		

The original Ford Transit bus which started the service on 7th January 1986 and ran until 31st December 1987.

2



STATISTICS		
Type:	Leyland DAF 400 (16 passengers)	
Reg. No:	K150 XUK	
Operated:	01/1988 - 06/1990	

SCHEDULED TRIPS		
Year	Miles/Km	Pax
1988	12341/19746	7259
1989	12353/19765	7309
1990	6241/9986	3869

RENTAL TRIPS		
Year	Miles/Km	Pax
1988	4019/6430	4989
1989	4259/6814	4286
1990	2423/3877	1733

TOTAL MILES/KM	
41636/66618	

TOTAL PASSENGERS	
25587	

3



STATISTICS		
Type:	Freight Rover Sherpa (20 passengers)	
Reg. No:	F419 BOP	
Operated:	07/1990 - 04/1994	
SCHEDULED TRIPS		
Year	Miles/Km	Pax
1990	6231/9967	4189
1991	12513/20021	8593
1992	12743/20374	9109
1993	13208/21133	9629
1994	4684/7782	3001
TOTAL MILES/KM		
61752/98803		
RENTAL TRIPS		
Year	Miles/Km	Pax
1990	2460/3936	2369
1991	3554/5686	3416
1992	1975/3160	1445
1993	3296/5274	2046
1994	1067/1707	858
TOTAL PASSENGERS		
44655		

4



STATISTICS

Type: Leyland DAF 400 (16 passengers)
 Reg. No: L157 BNX
 Operated: 05/1994 - 09/1999

No information available on mileage figures or passenger numbers for the individual years. However for the period 1994 - 1999:

TOTAL MILES/KM

57302/61683

TOTAL PASSENGERS

34751

5



STATISTICS

Type: Mercedes Benz Sprinter (16 passengers)
 Reg. No: V362 HKG
 Operated: 09/1999 - 12/2005

SCHEDULED TRIPS

Year	Miles/Km	Pax
1999	Unknown	
2000	15144/24231	9102
2001	14774/23659	9068
2002	14588/23340	8882
2003	14413/23061	8723
2004	15022/24035	8029
2005	14843/23748	7579

RENTAL TRIPS

Year	Miles/Km	Pax
1999	Unknown	
2000	1768/2828	610
2001	1528/2444	630
2002	1448/2316	612
2003	1281/2040	604
2004	1123/1796	662
2005	886/1418	603

TOTAL MILES/KM

106275/170040

TOTAL PASSENGERS

55104

6



STATISTICS

Type: Mercedes Benz Vario 0813 (20 passengers)
 Reg. No: VX56 LCE
 Operated: 01/2006 - present

SCHEDULED TRIPS

Year	Miles/Km	Pax
2006	14484/23175	7547
2007	14156/22649	7502
2008	15173/24277	7071
2009	14728/23564	7583
2010	14424/22759	6624
2011	16008/25613	6758

RENTAL TRIPS

Year	Miles/Km	Pax
2006	996/1596	651
2007	998/1596	601
2008	708/1134	622
2009	694/1110	534
2010	802/1283	602
2011	797/1276	660

TOTAL MILES/KM

93968/150032

TOTAL PASSENGERS

46750

SHIPSTONLINK

OUR NEW BUS FOR 2012

OUR NEW BUS

As we go to print with this publication we have the exciting news that we are to have a new bus.

With thanks to Warwickshire County Council for their financial support we are acquiring a 16 seat Peugeot Boxer with front wheel drive, low floor and ramp for wheelchair access as opposed to the hydro/electric tail lift currently in use on our existing bus.

The new bus will hopefully be delivered in late 2012 (actual bus will have the same livery as our present Mercedes).



SHIPSTONLINK

THE DRIVERS

THE FIRST TWENTY FIVE YEARS

Total mileage to the end of 2011, scheduled and rental trips combined.

Total Miles/Km

391,994 / 596,873

Total number of passengers carried to the end of 2011, scheduled and rental trips combined.

Total Passengers

224,360

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS OVER THE YEARS (listed alphabetically by family name)

Richard Adams*	Cyril Cunnington	Christopher Jordan*	James Robertson-Dunn*
Michael Appleton	Simon Dare	Mike Kelly	Pam Roebuck*
Roy Arkell*	Alastair Davidson	Ron Keyte	David Rowen
Peter Banton*	Shaun De Wolf*	Michael Kirk*	Di Russell
George Barkes*	John Dougall	Frank Lax	Richard Sampson
Colin Beatty	Tony Easthaugh	Peter Le Breuilly	Anne Sankey
Gerald Beckwith	Alan Ede	William Longford	Basil Scarff
Hugh Beer	David Evans	Sandy Mackay	Ann Simpson
Doug Birnie	Geoff Foster	Rebecca Mawle	Tom Smith
Pat Braddell	Peter Gallard	John Melville*	Alan Stacey
Michael Britten	David Gardner*	David Monnington*	Heather Sutherland
Sue Britton	Harry Graham	John Morel	Philip Tabinor*
John Clark	John Hall	John Morgan	David Thacker
Eric Clubley*	Graham Harvey	Alan Palmer	Ray Walker
Roy Creswell	Rodney Hersey*	Jim Phillips	Tim Walker*
David Coplestone	Gerry Howell	John Pierce	Diana Ward
Peter Cornthwaite*	John Hutton	Philip Randall*	David Willatts*
		Richard Roadnight	Philip Wreford*

Drivers shown with an * are currently driving

SHIPSTONLINK

BUS ROUTES

The Shipston Link operates scheduled routes on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays serving the following villages.

TUESDAYS

ROUTE 1

Shipston, Tredington, Halford, Ettington,
Halford, Tredington, Shipston Medical Centre,
Shipston (and return).

ROUTE 4

Shipston, Tredington, Armscote, Blackwell,
Ilmington, Darlingscott, Shipston Medical
Centre, Shipston (and return).

ROUTE 6

Shipston, Stretton-on-Fosse, Todenham,
Moreton-in-Marsh, Shipston (and return).

ROUTE 9 (Shipston Town Run)

Market Square, Campden Road, Furzehill Road,
Callaways Road, Market Square, Medical
Centre, Driftway, Berry Avenue, Sadlers Road,
Market Square, Medical Centre (and return).

WEDNESDAYS

ROUTE 2

Shipston, Upper Tysoe, Oxhill, Whatcote,
Idlicote, Honington, Shipston Medical Centre,
Shipston (and return).

ROUTE 3

Shipston, Burmington, Wolford Fields,
Cherington, Sutton-under-Brailes, Stourton,
Cherington, Whichford, Long Compton,
Chipping Norton (and return).

THURSDAYS

ROUTE 5

Barton-on-the-Heath, Little Compton,
Long Compton, Whichford, Cherington,
Stourton, Sutton-under-Brailes, Lower Brailes,
Banbury High Street, Banbury Morrisons
(and return).

FRIDAYS

ROUTE 7

Shipston, Wolford Fields, Long Compton,
Whichford, Cherington, Stourton,
Sutton-under-Brailes, Lower Brailes, Upper
Brailes, Shipston Medical Centre, Shipston
(and return).

ROUTE 8

Shipston, Burmington, Little Wolford,
Great Wolford, Todenham, Stretton-on-Fosse,
Shipston Medical Centre, Shipston (and
return).