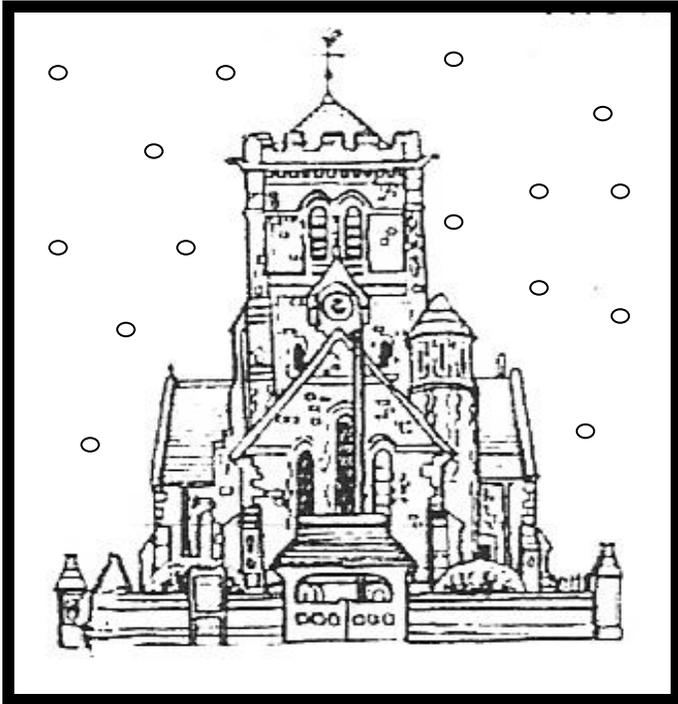


*St Giles and Shipbourne*  
**NEWSLETTER**



*December 2016*

# OFFICERS OF ST GILES AND VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

## ST GILES

Churchwardens: Viv Packer 810035  
Paul Britton 365794

## PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Secretary: Mary Perry 810797  
Children's Rep: Glynis Coates 811432  
Treasurer: Martyn Williams 833751  
Choirmaster: John Young 810289  
Flowers: Felicity Ward 810525  
Bellringing: Bob Taylor 833976

## SHIPBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk: Sarah Huseyin 886402  
shipbourneparishcouncil@gmail.com  
Chair: Libby Cohen 07949 591716  
Vice Chair: Nick Tyler 811079  
Councillors: D Pettengell, V Redman  
J Sheldrick, K Wallington  
R Wright

VILLAGE WEBSITE [www.shipbourne.com](http://www.shipbourne.com)

## SHIPBOURNE VILLAGE HALL

Chairman: Curtis Galbraith 763637  
Bookings: Helen Leach 07762 241720

## SHIPBOURNE FARMERS' MARKET

Organiser: Bob Taylor 833976

## SHIPBOURNE WI

President: Margaret Thompson 810789

## SHIPBOURNE CRICKET CLUB

Secretary: Mark Fenton 811067

## PLAXTOL & SHIPBOURNE TENNIS CLUB

Membership: Cilla Langdon-Down 810338

## ST GILES' AND SHIPBOURNE NEWSLETTER

Editor: Lindsay Miles 810439  
lindsay\_miles@btinternet.com  
Advertising: Tish Gourmelon 07966 035492  
Copying: Mary Perry 810797

## USEFUL POLICE CONTACT NUMBERS

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01622 690690 For Maidstone office  
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(12/16)

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(tbc)

## PARISH DIARY – DECEMBER 2016

Except where indicated below, the main morning service at ST GILES SHIPBOURNE is at 9.30am.

<b>Thursday</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>9-11am</b>	<b>Farmers' Market at St Giles Shipbourne</b>
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	8.00am	Holy Communion at Plaxtol Church
		<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Parish Communion at St Giles Shipbourne using traditional language</b>
		11.00am	Family Toy Service followed by short Communion at Plaxtol Church
		Readings:	Isaiah 11 vv 1-10 Romans 15 vv 4-13 Matthew 3 vv 1-12
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9-11am</b>	<b>Farmers' Market at St Giles Shipbourne</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Rehearsal for Nativity Family Service at St Giles Shipbourne</b>
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>8.00am</b>	<b>Holy Communion at St Giles Shipbourne</b>
		<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Matins at St Giles Shipbourne</b>
		11.00am	Parish Communion at Plaxtol Church
		Readings:	Isaiah 35 vv 1-10 James 5 vv 7-10 Matthew 11 vv 2-11
<b>Monday</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>Shipbourne Parish Council meeting, Village Hall</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9-11am</b>	<b>Farmers' Market at St Giles Shipbourne</b>
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup></b>	8.00am	Holy Communion at Plaxtol Church
		<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Nativity Family Service at St Giles Shipbourne</b>
		11.00am	Bethlehem Live at Plaxtol Church (no short Communion)
		5.00pm	Carol Service at Plaxtol Church
		Readings:	Isaiah 7 vv 10-16 Romans 1 vv 1-7 Matthew 1 vv 18-end
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>9-11.30am</b>	<b>Farmers' Market at St Giles Shipbourne</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>8-9am</b>	<b>Bulk Refuse Collection outside Village Hall</b>
		<b>5.00pm</b>	<b>Carol Service at St Giles Shipbourne</b>
		11.30pm	Benefice Midnight Choral Communion at Plaxtol Church
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>25<sup>th</sup></b>		<b>NO</b> 8am Holy Communion at Plaxtol Church
		<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Short Family Service followed by shortened Holy Communion at St Giles Shipbourne</b>
		11.00am	Family Communion at Plaxtol Church
		Readings:	Isaiah 9 vv 2-7 Titus 2 vv 11-14 Luke 2 vv 1-20
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>29<sup>th</sup></b>		<b>There will be NO Farmers' Market at Shipbourne. Weekly Markets resume on 21 January 2017</b>

## **SOME THOUGHTS FROM RETIREMENT**

**By The Rev'd Peter Flynn**

What do you want for Christmas? That is a question many of us are asked at this time of year. I don't know how you respond, but when members of my family ask me that question my usual response is to say "peace and quiet!" "Yes, we know that – that's what you say every year," they inevitably reply with a sign of frustration, "but what do you really want?"

At my stage in life I am fortunate enough to be able to say that I want for nothing in a material sense. I just want to love my family and know that they love me, but most of all I want peace for the people of God's world, healing of all the hurt that exists between and within the nations, freedom from poverty, hunger and homelessness which afflicts so many people across the world, medical intervention to stop the spread of HIV/Aids and ebola in Africa. That's what I do really want for God's sake. That would be the very best Christmas present for all of us.

In the weeks leading up to Christmas when we celebrate the birthday of Jesus, we pass through a period of four weeks which the Church calls Advent. Many people mistakenly regard Advent as a period of preparation for Christmas. It is in fact a time during which we look forward with eager expectation to the "Second Coming of Christ". It was the expectation of the early church that it would not be long before Jesus would return to be "Emmanuel" – "God is with us" once more. Clearly we are a people who still wait for the Eternal to break in to the reality of our time. So, we wait and we listen and we look for a sign. But God is still and silent and we continue to wait in the darkness for the coming of God's light.

Although the human race has made phenomenal progress in understanding the world and its place in the cosmos and in developing amazing, but in some ways frightening technology, human behaviour has not changed. Right now there is a real sense in which we all live in the darkness of our time. War is being fought still in Iraq. The crisis in Syria shows no real sign of abating and enormous tension continues to prevail in the Middle East. Anxiety about industrial pollution and global warming must concern all of us. Deeply divisive issues of social and economic justice are a reality we must face. Many of the world's people are oppressed, exploited and diminished under brutal dictatorships and illegal occupation by hostile regimes. All of us live under the threat of acts of terrorism at home, abroad and as we travel. This is the reality of

our time. This is the darkness in which we live today. Surely all of us must long for this darkness to be dispelled.

The scale of our darkness today is much greater and more widespread in its effect than the darkness of the time in which Jesus was born, but in other ways, the darkness of the time of Jesus was very similar. He lived in an occupied country under the domination of the Roman Empire. His time was plagued with corruption, poverty, sickness, terrorism, injustice, hunger and homelessness. He was a refugee taking shelter in a foreign land. In and through his life then, God embraced that human predicament. At the cost of his own life Jesus tackled that situation head-on. He showed us a better way to live our lives. He told us that he had come that we might have life and have it abundantly. He taught us that our first duty is to love one another. "I am the light of the world," he said. He brought the light of God into people's lives.

It continues to be our hope and expectation that God will come amongst us again to lighten our darkness. How and where and when he will do that we simply don't know. We wait in his stillness and his silence. We listen and we look for him. If it's anything like last time we might expect to hear him and find him amongst the HIV/Aids and ebola sufferers in Africa, meeting with the Palistinians, sympathising with the terrified families in the midst of fighting in Iraq and Syria, comforting the family of another sectarian killing, feeding the starving people in Sudan and Ethiopia, throwing over the tables of those who promote monetarism, who trade unjustly, who withhold the availability of medicines to third world countries, chastising those who deny justice and calling to account those who wage war illegally. He won't be able to do all that on his own. As last time, he will need some help and as before he will probably look at very ordinary people and say, "follow me." That's how the Church came into being. It has a chequered history. It's far from perfect and it needs renewal, reinvigorating, re-focusing, re-empowering in order that it might address the real and highly critical issues which lurk in the darkness of our present time. The shocking realisation that we must face is that WE ARE THAT CHURCH. It is us that need to experience renewal, reinvigorating, re-focusing, re-empowering. It is US who plead "O come, O come Emmanuel" at this Advent time. Are we ready for the experience? Are we capable of bringing the light of God to the darkness of our time?

Shalom,  
**Peter Flynn**

## CHURCH NOTICES

### FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS

The process for appointing a new Rector for the benefice of Shipbourne with Plaxtol is well underway. The vacancy was advertised in the Church Times for successive weeks late in November and we have prepared and printed a handsomely illustrated parish profile which will be sent to those interested in the post to tell them about the benefice and the sort of person we hope to appoint. We now wait to see who applies.

We are planning to interview candidates in mid-January: the interview panel will be chaired by the Venerable Clive Mansell, Archdeacon of Tonbridge, and its members will be Sir Edward Cazalet, who is Patron of the living of Shipbourne and the four churchwardens. Candidates will be shown around the benefice and there will be a social event to enable members of the two PCCs and others closely connected to our two churches to meet them.

Meanwhile, the normal pattern of services continues at St Giles', with the help of different clergy who are helping us out during the interregnum, including Clive Mansell, Peter Flynn and Adie McCall. There will be a Nativity Family Service at 9.30am on Sunday 18 December (with a practice in the church at 9.30am on Saturday 10 December). Our Carol Service will be at 5pm on Christmas Eve - arrive early to get a seat! This year it is the turn of Plaxtol Church to host the benefice Midnight Choral Communion at 11.30pm that evening. The service will be taken by Clive Mansell. At 9.30am on Christmas Day there will be a short Family Service at St Giles', followed immediately by a shortened Holy Communion. Needless to say everyone is most welcome at all of our services.

### JANUARY NEWSLETTER

Please send any articles and adverts for the January newsletter by the slightly earlier date of **12 December 2016 (earlier deadline than usual due to the Christmas/New Year break)**. Please note any articles received after this date will be held over to the next issue as the Newsletter has a tight deadline for printing. Please email articles to [lindsay\\_miles@btinternet.com](mailto:lindsay_miles@btinternet.com) or call 01732 810439.

# **St Giles, Shipbourne Children's Nativity**

**Please come and join the children in the celebration  
of  
The Nativity  
Sunday 18 December 2016 at 9.30am**



**Everyone is most welcome**

**If you are new to the village or haven't taken part before and  
would like to participate, please call Mary Perry on 01732  
810797 or Lindsay Miles on 01732 810439**

**Rehearsal: Saturday 10 December at 9.30am at St Giles**

## **THE REVD JOHN LEE**

Many will be saddened to learn that John Lee died on 27 September at the early age of 68. He became a friend and took occasional services for us during some of the years while he and his family were living in what had been the Shipbourne Vicarage. He was an enthusiastic cross-country runner; it was while running that he was knocked down by a motorist driving through the village at high speed.

The breadth of John's experience is illustrated by the facts that he served as a marine scientist in the Royal Australian Navy and after ordination trained as a psychotherapist. To quote from the obituary in the Church Times:

*"In 1998, he was appointed Clergy Appointments Adviser to the Archbishops of Canterbury and York.....He saw this as an opportunity to combine his skills as counsellor and listener with his deeply held convictions about the privilege and responsibility inherent in the call to ordination. He was assiduous in travelling the country, and writing careful, detailed and honest accounts of his interviews with the clergy. These came to be highly valued by bishops, who felt that they summarised accurately and incisively the strengths and weaknesses of the clergy."*

After leaving us, John spent the rest of his life in Brede in Sussex. He attended the wedding of one of daughters two days before he died. He is survived by Sue, his wife of 36 years, and by a son, another daughter and two grandchildren.

**John Young**

## ALL SAINTS COMMUNITY PROJECT TRUST CHATHAM

The link between the Trust and Plaxtol and Shipbourne churches is now up and running and to enable us to find the items they are needing – a list of which is sent to us every Monday – it would be really helpful to have email addresses for all those in and around Shipbourne and Plaxtol who think they may be able to help so that we can send out a weekly update.

If you are happy to do so, would you please email me at:  
[leach\\_helen@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:leach_helen@yahoo.co.uk)

Specific items on the list received Monday 10 October are:

Portable radio  
Cookery books  
Fridge freezer  
Double bedding

There are, however, many other things which, although not on a list, will always be appreciated so if you have any items (unwanted food, household goods – eg furniture, soft furnishings, or toys) that you are willing to give away, please let me know by email or by phone as we may be able to store them temporarily. Any such items will be advertised, and if required, then collected and distributed by Chatham. Thank you.

Helen Leach  
01732 811144  
07762 241720

### **BULK REFUSE SERVICE (4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of month)**

Upper Green Road (opposite Village Hall) 8am - 9am on

**Saturday 24 December 2016**

**Saturday 28 January 2017**

## **SHIPBOURNE WI**

Demelza Hospice, a much loved charity for children, and most deserving of support, was the subject of the talk at the recent meeting of the WI. Members were fortunate to hear from a Demelza Community Fundraiser, Debra Elliott. Debra explained how, in her area, there are six fundraisers and three hospice sites, in addition to a Hospice – at – Home service.

The emphasis for Demelza is on whole family care for a child. They include children with a variety of illnesses, and offer respite care, as well as end of life care, working alongside the NHS in hospitals and with GP's.

Members were deeply impressed by the commitment of the staff and volunteers to caring for families at such poignant times.

The next Committee Meeting is on December 7<sup>th</sup>, and the next main meeting which is the Christmas Party on December 14<sup>th</sup>. Members are also involved in a WI Carols Evening at St Peter's Church, Ightham on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December.

***Glynis Coates***



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The Hall can be hired for £12.50 per hour with a minimum of 4 hours (£50.00). It has an attractive secure garden with a good gate that can be closed. Inside there is wheelchair access through the rear door, a well-appointed kitchen, the main hall and an adjoining side room plus all usual facilities.

For Village Hall **enquiries and bookings** please call 07762 241720 or email [shipbourne.villagehall@gmail.com](mailto:shipbourne.villagehall@gmail.com)

Further details can be found on the Shipbourne website  
[www.shipbourne.com](http://www.shipbourne.com)



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**Bookings always advisable on 01732 810727**

# **SHIPBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL**

## **New Clerk**

The Councillors welcome our new Clerk, Sarah Huseyin, to the Parish Council and would like to thank Phil Codling for his time with us as our Locum Parish Clerk.

The new contact details for the Parish Council from 1 November 2016 are:

Shipbourne Parish Council  
Clerk – Mrs Sarah Huseyin  
Gable Cottage  
Ismays Road  
Ightham  
TN15 9BE  
e-mail: [shipbourneparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:shipbourneparishcouncil@gmail.com)  
Telephone: 01732 886402

## **Shipbourne Website**

The updated Shipbourne website (<http://www.shipbourne.com/>) is now up and running. Please visit the website for Shipbourne Parish Council Meeting Agenda's, Minutes and News. If you have any ideas or would like something added, such as a news item, please email [web@shipbourne.com](mailto:web@shipbourne.com).

## **Shipbourne Parish Council – Notice of Casual Vacancy**

Notice is hereby given that a vacancy has occurred among the members of the Parish Council. Any person willing to fill this vacancy by being co-opted should apply to the Clerk (above) in writing on or before Monday 5th December 2016. The applicant's name should appear on the current register of voters list or the applicant should during the whole of the 12 months preceding the relevant date, resided in or within three miles of the parish or the applicant's only place of work during the whole of the twelve months preceding the relevant date is in the parish. The applicant must not be debarred from standing as a Councillor. Public elections cannot be held until the year 2019. For the interim period election to the aforesaid Council will be voted for by the present sitting number of Councillors.

## **Temporary Road Closure – Reeds Lane, Shipbourne – from 21 November 2016 for up to 5 days**

Kent County Council advise that the road will be closed between “Old Woodcocks” and “Martins”.

The alternative route is via Back Lane, A227 Tonbridge Road/Shipbourne Road, Puttenden Road and Hamptons Road and vice versa.

The closure is to enable the installation of a high voltage cable to be carried out by UK Power Networks.

If you notice any potholes, broken or missing signs or blocked gullies, please report them to the Parish Clerk so that she can notify Kent Highways.

### **Kent Police**

To report a non-urgent crime, call 101. Kent Police will be launching a new online reporting service later this year. Look out for details in forthcoming newsletters or on the Shipbourne Parish website.

### **Planning**

There were no new planning Applications in November. You can view and comment on planning applications and decisions at [www.tmbc.gov.uk](http://www.tmbc.gov.uk)

### **Local Plan - The Way Forward**

The Borough Council has published the first stage of the new Local Plan - The Way Forward - for public consultation.

This draft plan sets out the challenges that need to be addressed, including the need for new homes, jobs etc, and a potential strategy for responding to the issues.

The documents available for public comment are:

- Local Plan: The Way Forward (September 2016)
- Appendix F: Potential Development Strategy Map
- Interim Sustainability Appraisal Report (September 2016)
- Habitats Regulations Assessment: Screening Report (September 2016)

There are many ways that you can take part in this consultation but responses must be made in writing:

- Online questionnaire - complete the electronic form with your responses
- E-mail - download the questionnaire form, complete it offline and e-mail it to the Local Plan Team
- By post - submit responses to the questionnaire to:  
Planning Policy Manager, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4LZ

The documents are available to view at the Council's offices at Kings Hill and Tonbridge Castle and at libraries throughout the borough.

The deadline for comments is 5pm on Friday 25 November 2016.

Further information on the Local Plan, including the timetable for its production, can be accessed from the [www.tmbc.gov.uk](http://www.tmbc.gov.uk)

The Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to wish all our residents a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Our next Parish Council meeting is 7.30pm 12 December 2016. All public are welcome to attend.

***Mrs Sarah Huseyin***

Parish Clerk

e-mail: [shipbourneparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:shipbourneparishcouncil@gmail.com)

Telephone: 01732 886402

Our next Parish Council meeting is 7.30pm 14 November 2016. Members of public are welcome to attend.



## **SHIPBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL DEFIBRILLATOR**

A new Defibrillator is being installed on the back wall of The Chaser and we are looking for Volunteers who would be willing to be part of a Village Emergency Telephone System (VETS). It is a Community Scheme to summon assistance in the case of an emergency and ONLY after 999 has been called. VETS does not replace 999. Volunteers can collect and bring the defibrillator to the patient and assist in CPR whilst the ambulance is on its way.

If you are interested in participating please email the Parish Clerk at [shipbourneparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:shipbourneparishcouncil@gmail.com) for further details.

**Registered**

# **OSTEOPATH**

## **Kay Lilley**

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[enquiry@osteopathinsevenoaks.co.uk](mailto:enquiry@osteopathinsevenoaks.co.uk)

(05/16)

## **EDNA HILLS**

Edna Hills has now been moved from Pembury hospital where she was recovering from a fall and is living at:

### ***Harpwood Residential Home***

Seven Mile Lane

Sevenoaks

Kent TN15 7RL

Tel :01732 882282

It is situated right at the end of Seven Mile Lane – the very last driveway before the junction with the A25 at Wrotham Heath.

I am sure she would love any visitors as she is definitely missing Shipbourne.

***Sarah Tyler***



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**W:** [www.theprivategpclinic.co.uk](http://www.theprivategpclinic.co.uk)

(04/16)

## **FROM YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

As of 25<sup>th</sup> October 2016, Kent County Council is currently looking after (under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989) 726 children under the age of 18 who are seeking asylum, or have already been granted Leave to Remain in the United Kingdom by the Home Office. We are also supporting 602 care- leaving young people (aged 18+), who are seeking asylum, or have already been granted Leave to Remain in the United Kingdom by the Home Office.

Talks are continuing with the Immigration Minister, Robert Goodwill, to try to resolve this significant financial burden for Kent County Council. We currently are predicting a budget gap on £2.8 million for 2016/17 for the 18+ Care Leavers. Kent County Council is also currently assisting the Home Office by providing managers and social workers to assess children and young people in Calais who may be brought to the UK under the "Dubs amendment".

The Government has set each local authority a threshold of how many unaccompanied asylum seeking children they can reasonably look after, proportionate to 0.07% of their resident population of children. This is to ensure everywhere in the country plays their part in looking after children at risk and requiring international protection.

With my best wishes to you for Christmas and the New Year.

***Valerie Dagger, Kent County Councillor.***

***Tel. 01732 810222***

***E-mail: Valerie.dagger@kent.gov.uk***

## **THE WEATHER IN OCTOBER**

The rainfall recorded in October was 12.6 mm. (0.5 in.) compared with an average of 86.9 mm. (3.4 in.) over the last thirty one years. This is the third successive month in which the rainfall has been at or below half the thirty one year average, yet we have heard no official warnings of drought! I regret that my highly technical weather station has ceased recording temperatures for some reason and latterly has ceased recording rainfall. I am reverting to manual methods for the foreseeable future.

***Donald Forbes***

## **SHIPBOURNE FARMERS' MARKET**

Just like stir-up Sunday and opening the first door on the advent calendar, a visit to the local Farmers' market is the perfect way to get into the true spirit of Christmas. Whether it's shopping for tried and trusted old favourites, getting advice on the best way to cook your carefully selected produce from those most qualified to offer it or maybe trying something new for the first time – it's all a world away from pushing an overloaded trolley round an overcrowded supermarket.

### **What's On in December?**

This year we are pulling out all the stops to help you complete both your food and present shopping. However, in order not to be disappointed there are various items you **MUST order in advance**:- i.e. turkey, beef and sausage meat from Annabelle, haunches of venison and shoulders (on the bone) from Keiron, a bird in a bird or wild goose order from Wendy and Christmas cake from Debra.

Not only will we have 20 regular food and craft stallholders but we have some extra stalls. November 24<sup>th</sup> and December 8<sup>th</sup> Adrian Phillips will be signing his new book **'The King who had to go'** (.A fascinating behind the scenes account of the royal abdication with stories of the hidden political machinations and insidious battles in Westminster and Whitehall). We will have **Greensand (i.e. Shipbourne) gin** (made less than a mile from the market) , **Redhill Estate wines** from Watringbury and beer from the **Hepworth brewery**. the first two markets in December.

The choir from **Shipbourne school** will once again be signing carols to welcome the start of the Christmas festivities (10.15 **December 1<sup>st</sup>**)

A gardener from the Fairlawne Estate will be there with his fantastic **Christmas wreaths**. Other gifts include: silverware, pictures, glass designs, soaps, wooden coffee tables, candles, scarves, hats even toys all knitted with alpaca wool.

Many of our food items will also make ideal presents such as hand made chocolates, Christmas (and many other ) cakes, pies, biscuits, mince pies as well as jams, chutneys, quince jellies, oils and dips

Our 'Knife Ninja Warrior' will be at the market throughout December to sharpen all your carving knives for Christmas as well as secateurs, loppers etc for winter pruning.

Check on line at the Kent Farmers Market Association website [www.kfma.org.uk](http://www.kfma.org.uk) (and then click on 'Shipbourne') for more details.

You will also find contact details of all our stallholders on the web site so can order ready to pick up at the market.

Some of our producers now accept cards for payment. If not you can always visit the Chaser for 'cash back'.

### **Winners of the Loyalty card monthly draw**

Shelley Cox won first prize and Russell Long won second prize in last month's draw. Don't forget your cards go both into the Shipbourne draw and then into the Tonbridge Loyalty card draw so you have 2 chances of winning!

### **What to choose this month...**

The wet June, followed by a warm late summer sunny autumn have been good for many growers and producers which means there is a wealth of great produce out there. Cranberries, turkey and pumpkins may have come to us from the new world but we can more than match these imports with celeriac, parsnips, Brussels sprouts, goose, pheasant, partridge, venison, wild duck, oyster, mussels and sea bass. Plan your menu around these and you won't go far wrong. Don't forget the extras such as sausage meat and bacon for the trimmings, maybe a smoked salmon to serve as a starter and to round up, traditional Christmas pudding served with thick cream or ice cream, warmed mince pies and a platter of carefully selected local cheeses.

As well as all the traditional festive produce, there are plenty of speciality foods and dishes at the market to help save time and feed crowds over the holiday. A cooked gammon or ham, game and meat pies, tongue, soups and curries, all are worth finding a space for in the fridge or freezer to bring out for unexpected guests or when you are just too overwhelmed to prepare yet another meal. Also don't forget to stock up on chutneys, preserves and relishes to go with your cold cuts. A few extra loaves of good bread tucked in the freezer for turkey sandwiches or to go with a bowl of soup, will always come in handy.

### **Market times**

Have a mince pie and a glass of mulled wine on us and then pick up all your orders on December 22<sup>nd</sup> The market will also stay open for an extra half hour.

Stock up as we will then re-open on **January 19<sup>th</sup>**

## **COOKERY CORNER**

### **SPICED PUMPKIN AND SWEET POTATO GRATIN**

*(From The Busy Mum's Vegetarian Cookbook by Mary Gwynn published by Simon & Schuster)*

This satisfying bake goes perfectly with meat left overs, so much so that I find all the non-veggies want it too, so make a huge one for the table.

Serves 4 – 6

Preparation 15 minutes. Cooking time 1 hour

- 500g pumpkin, peeled, deseeded and cubed
- 500g sweet potatoes, peeled and cubed
- 2 cloves garlic, roughly chopped
- 2 tbsp chopped fresh sage, 1 tsp ground ginger, 1 tsp ground cumin
- 150ml vegetable stock (or white wine)
- 150ml single cream
- 25g seed mix
- 25g white breadcrumbs
- 50g hard goat's cheese, grated
- salt and freshly ground black pepper

1 Preheat the oven to 180C/fan oven 170C Gas 4.

2 Place the pumpkin and sweet potato in a shallow 2litre ovenproof dish or roasting tin. Scatter over the garlic, sage, ginger, cumin and seasoning. Pour over the stock, cover loosely with foil and bake in the oven for 40 - 45 minutes until the squash is almost tender.

3 Increase the oven temperature to 200C/fan oven 190C/ Gas k 6. Pour the cream over the vegetables and scatter with the seed mix, breadcrumbs and goat's cheese. Return to the oven for a further 12 - 15 minutes until the top is bubbling and golden.

4 Serve with bread and a green salad.

**Mary Gwynn:- Food Writer and author (WI Cookery Book The First 100 years, The Busy Mum's vegetarian Cook Book)**

## **SHIPBOURNE SCHOOL NEWS**

We are soon going to be entering into our Christmas period which is always very busy. We have several activities coming up such as:

- Hampton class are becoming archaeologists for the day- visiting Kent Life Museum for a day of Stone Age adventures.
- On Friday 2nd December the Christmas lights will be turned on and the children will sing their Christmas songs in the company of Mr Swartz, from Fairlawne Estate, who has kindly agreed to turn on our lights again.
- On Tuesday 6th December, the children who have been taking piano lessons will be performing.
- Nativity performances are due to take place on 13th and 14th of December together with a Christmas dinner

In addition, the school will travel to Sevenoaks to enjoy the pantomime Sleeping Beauty, organise a Christmas Jumper Day to donate to Save the Children and finish off the year with a Christmas party.

We had a very successful Bonfire Night with lovely fireworks and dry weather! Thank you to everyone who came along and to those who volunteered helping making this a success.

Finally, we have lost our caretaker. Whilst we have a contractor to perform the main tasks, there are a number of odd jobs that need attending to (such as keeping the grounds tidy, clearing the gutters from leaves etc.). If anyone in the village is willing to assist, please contact the school on 01732 810344.

***Stavros Martis***

## **EXPERIENCE TONBRIDGE IN A WHOLE NEW LIGHT FIRST THURSDAYS**

There will be live music at Artspring Gallery on the First Thursday of December. The gallery at 167 High Street will stay open late until 8pm so come and enjoy a free glass of Prosecco, browse the winter exhibition of beautiful paintings, jewellery, glass and pottery as well as a range of exciting artist-made Christmas gifts.

First Thursdays is when a number of High Street shops and businesses north of the Big Bridge stay open late.

[www.artspringgallery.co.uk](http://www.artspringgallery.co.uk)

For more information contact: **Jill Goldsworthy** 07799741406

## **MARIE CURIE – WALK ON FIRE**

The wood blazed in the dark of an October evening, sparking the curiosity of the onlookers and igniting the enthusiasm of the 37 challengers, from teenager to septuagenarian, who realized their burning ambition to WALK ON FIRE. Not one person hesitated before stepping out onto the smouldering embers and striding out across the fiery furnace, to the warm applause of friends and family.

It was a great night, and thanks to the incredibly generous support of so many of you, the courageous walkers have raised the magnificent sum of £12,500 in support of Marie Curie nurses in Kent.

So, a huge thank you to everybody who took part in the challenge and to everybody else who supported us. What a difference a night makes!

***Carole Howlett***

***Chair Marie Curie Sevenoaks Fund Raising Group***



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## **THE GARDEN SHED**

It has been forecast that we could have a much harder winter than we have experienced in the last few years. If it does materialise then a few precautions taken now can prevent damage and loss, if it does not then no harm is done.

If the outside water system can be drained and it is done now, then that problem can be forgotten. If draining is not possible, then insulating any exposed piping and taps is very important.

Plants in pots and containers need to be raised off the ground with either terracotta feet or slats of wood to ensure that any excess water can drain away. The plants (even if they are hardy) can have their roots damaged by bitter weather, so wrapping agricultural fleece, Hessian sacking or bubble film round the pots (making sure that the protecting material reaches ground level) can make all the difference to the plants' survival.

Any plants of dubious hardiness can either be moved into a frost free area. If they are evergreen they will need to receive a reasonable amount of light but, if they are deciduous no light is necessary until they begin to grow in the spring.

The care of indoor plants is often a matter of concern but if a few rules are followed their chances of survival are greatly improved. The first rule is not to over-water; only add water when the plants in the pots feel light, or the pots sound hollow when they are tapped. Pots should be stood in a shallow dish of water for a couple of hours, after this time the surplus water can be thrown away and the plant replaced (this method is essential for cyclamen). The water used for indoor azaleas and citrus fruits should be rainwater (rather than tap water) as they are acid loving plants; the water should stand in the room for a while to warm up. Put the water into the plant's shallow dish and treat in the same way as before. The second rule is to keep the plants in as even a temperature as possible, cool rather than hot. Thirdly, plants should be moved off the windowsills and into the room when the curtains are drawn at night because the air between the glass and curtain will be very cold.

If snow does arrive, especially if any quantity falls, its weight can damage evergreen shrubs and trees by bending them out of shape. To prevent this becoming permanent damage it is advisable to regularly knock the snow off the plants, best done with a long

handled broom or pole. The shrub or tree can be shaken but then the snow gets transferred on and around you instead !!!

The article on growing other types of fruit in your garden will appear in next month's magazine.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas.

**Tessa Forbes**

## **LOCAL HISTORY**

### **SHIPBOURNE SCHOOL 1915-1916**

The Vicar of St. Giles Church visited Shipbourne Boys & Girls School nearly every day and the school governor visited very regularly. The pupils were mostly the children of farm workers and yet they managed to give to the war effort – comforts for the troops and money for war savings - when asked.

Pupils could leave school aged thirteen and many were exempt for periods when they were needed either for seasonal agricultural work or to help with farm work as their fathers were away at the Front.

School attendance was measured in separate morning and afternoon sessions: 10 sessions per week. The 3Rs had to be achieved but other school subjects were pragmatically vocational (gardening and cookery) as most boys would find employment on the land and most girls would work in domestic service.

**27th Aug. 1915** The Kent Education Committee Horticultural Superintendent reports on the school gardens for 1914-1915 as follows:- *"The school garden is composed of fourteen plots of about 1 sq. rod each, and all are well furnished with excellent vegetables, while the condition is exemplary. The produce is given to the boys. The tools are stored in a shed on the school premises. The indoor work comprises crops with practical sketches; plans of the plots; coloured figures of important vegetables; and Nature study with colour. A good scheme well carried out."*

**3rd Sept.** School opens eight times this week, now closes till 11th Oct. for annual hop-picking vacation.

**15th Oct.** The Vicar visited etc. The reading has deteriorated during the holidays.

**29th Oct.** Admitted two Barker children very backward from Oxenhoath now resident here. Visits etc. Medical inspection on Wednesday.

**12th Nov.** Return of attendance of Gardening Class sent to the Local Educ. Authority for year ended 31st October 1915. Archibald J Everard removed to Tonbridge.

**26th Nov.** Ivy Fielder reproved and warned for bad conduct at Cookery centre on Monday afternoon. Reported Ernest Durrant absent for past fortnight to attendance officer. Attendance otherwise satisfactory. The children contributed half a guinea for Xmas comforts for the troops through overseas Club Scheme.

**23rd Dec.** The school closed today for Christmas vacation resuming on 10th approx.

**14th Jan 1916** The scholars returned well on Monday. Reuben Roland Bates produced medical certificates of fitness & was granted a licence to work. Average 95.6.

**18th Feb.** Mr Rogers Temperance & Probate Officer for West Kent District addressed the children on temperance at close of Thursday afternoon session. The scholars contributed 3/6 to the local V.A.D. Hospital.

**25th Feb.** The Vicar gave religious instruction of upper class. Sophie Peacock left school qualified by age. Snowy weather yesterday & today.

**3rd March** Three licences granted for agricultural employment.

**31st March** Sylvia Martin qualified by age has left school for mill work. Alice V. Tapp who has served as Monitress with Infants since 10th Nov.1914 terminated her engagement having obtained more lucrative employment. Average for week 85.

**14th April** Mrs Franks of 'Loampits' Tonbridge called inviting the interest of the children in the collection and provision of newly laid eggs for the wounded soldiers.

### **200,000 NEW LAID EGGS**

Local Press May 1916

*"The wounded soldiers and sailors in our hospitals are greatly in need of new laid eggs. A minimum of 200,000 eggs per week is absolutely necessary. There is no more valuable nutrient or recuperative food than a fresh egg, and, unfortunately, at the present time, there is hardly an article of food as difficult to obtain.*

*It is within the power of every person who keeps fowls to place a small portion of their supply at the disposal of their wounded countrymen who have risked their lives in defending our homes  
.....With the full approval and grateful appreciation of the War Office,*

*the 'National Egg Collection' for the wounded has been established and is now in active operation. .... "*

- 19th April** No visitors. School closed from today till 1st May for the usual Easter vacation...
- 5th May** School resumed ....Miss Eckford visited on Monday morning respecting the Cookery Course.
- 10th May** The Managers meet on Friday morning to grant licences to children over 12 years & to sign forms.
- 26th May** Wednesday was observed as Empire Day; today as Q.Mary's birthday. The annual reunion of old scholars took place on Monday, 55 present. W.P.Wright Esq. having suggested application of artificial manure to garden requisition mats for same to K&G.
- 2nd June** The medical inspection took place on 24th May.
- 9th June** Labour licence granted to Edward Parks.
- 7th July** School closes this afternoon for usual fruit-gathering vacation.
- 28th July** Organised and commenced War Savings Association for parish and district.
- 4th August** Admitted an Infant girl under five years of age.
- 31st Aug.** Ernest Durrant left school, qualifying by age. School closed until 9th October.
- 13th Oct.** School resumed on Monday with good attendance. No visitors during the week. List of absentees and children who had licences of exemption and have returned to school, forwarded to the Attendance Officer. Two boys, Pope and Durrant qualified by age left & Edy Hyder for County Secondary School Tonbridge.
- 27th Oct.** Three boys over 13 years of age applied for exemption for agricultural pursuits.
- 3rd Nov.** One infant left and one admitted. Work rather careless & untidy. Ordered a ton of Coals.
- 17th Nov.** The licences for agricultural employment confirmed and issued to the boys.
- 24th Nov.** Received new sets of temperature charts. Part of classroom ceiling fell during the night.
- 1st Dec.** Chimneys swept as Infants' store seemed choked. Received supply of Nature Note Books.
- 8th Dec.** Commenced Examining scholars on the work of the first term of the school year.
- 22nd Dec.** Christmas vacation commences and lasts till 8<sup>th</sup> January 1917.

*Extracts above from Shipbourne School Log Books.*

***Libby Cohen***

## SHIPBOURNE CLASSIFIEDS

### Shipbourne Classifieds –Contact Details:

**Tish Gourmelon**

**Tel: 07966 035492 / Email: tishgo@hotmail.com**

**Simple Domestic and Personal Advertisements**, up to four lines, are free to Newsletter readers. This free category includes items for sale or wanted, baby-sitting, dog walking, domestic needs etc.

***To ensure Shipbourne Classifieds is kept up to date, each advertisement will be published in the Newsletter for three months and then removed unless requested otherwise.***

**Business Advertisements** are charged at £1 per monthly issue or £10 for a whole year of 12 issues Also available are quarter-page display advertisements, charged at £10 per monthly issue, or £100 for a full year of 12 issues. Business advertisements must be booked and paid for in advance – please see contact details for Tish Gourmelon at the top of this page.

All revenue raised from Shipbourne Classifieds goes towards the printing costs of the Newsletter.

**Disclaimer:** Please note that the St Giles and Shipbourne Newsletter cannot be held responsible for the quality of the goods or services advertised in the Newsletter.

**UPDATED: EXPERIENCED LOCAL BABYSITTER** with own transport. 20 years old, has been babysitting for several years and is confident and good with children of all ages. References available. Available during the University holidays from 5th December. Please phone Amy Wadsworth on 07514819430

**NEW: BABYSITTER.** I am eighteen years old and live in Shipbourne. Available for babysitting most weekends. Contact Philippa Wadsworth 01732 810488 or 07752304272.

**BAKING AND CAKES** How about a bespoke, unique-to-you cake or sweet? If you're tired of the half-baked flavours available in shops, then design your own! It's easy, just email or call Meg so we can get to know you a bit. Whether you want an occasion cake based on your favourite movie or candy bar, or a delicious pud for Sunday lunch, Little Leo Cakery can help with one of a kind confection perfection. Please get in touch via my website ([www.littleleocakery.com](http://www.littleleocakery.com)) or call me for a chat on 07734659175 (03/16)

**LOCAL MUSIC LESSONS:** Experienced and enthusiastic violin, piano and music theory teacher now teaching lessons in Shipbourne. Beginners as well as advanced students. Excellent exam results track record. Contact: 01732 810984 or 077898 33740 (05/16)

**FREE DELIVERY OF PRESCRIPTIONS** - Thompson's Chemist on Riding Lane, Hildenborough offer free delivery of prescriptions in Shipbourne and the surrounding area. Once your doctor has sent us the prescription, we take care of the rest. Call 833433 for details.

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**LOCAL BABYSITTER;** My name is Alice Tyler. I am 15 years old and live in Shipbourne on the green. I am available to do babysitting and am free most weekends and also some weekdays. I am responsible and experienced with young children and very happy to cook, play games and read stories. If interested please call: 07521832952 or 01732811079

**DOG GROOMING KENT** - Sue Angliss your local pet groomer based in Plaxtol both Salon Details Certified and City & Guilds qualified. Find me on FB or [www.doggroomingkent.co.uk](http://www.doggroomingkent.co.uk). Please call 01732 811023 (01/17)

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**MULTI-SKILLED TRADESPERSON, SHIPBOURNE BASED,** with over 30 years' experience. References available. Animal Enclosures, Carpentry, Disabled Adaptations, Fencing, Floor Laying, Plumbing, Tiling, Tree Surgery, no job too small, Free estimates. Please contact Martin on 01732 811397 or 07851105739 Email: [martincruise4@gmail.com](mailto:martincruise4@gmail.com) (12/16)

**SALLY OSBORNE - ELECTRICIAN:** NAPIT Part P approved. All domestic electrical work undertaken. To arrange a free quote please contact me on 07710 443079 or email [salvioz@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:salvioz@blueyonder.co.uk) (03/17)

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**PRIVATE TUTOR:** Matthew Worby, 3<sup>rd</sup> year Neuroscience BSc undergraduate at Bristol Uni. Will provide Biology and Chemistry revision/prep support up to GCSE level. Shipbourne based. Please call 07885730031 or email [matthewworby1@gmail.com](mailto:matthewworby1@gmail.com) (07/17)

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**FLORIDA:** 4 miles from Disney Parks. Beautiful newly-furnished town house in gated community with clubhouse and pool. Sleeps 6. Available Christmas and New Year, Easter and throughout the summer. Phone John Boyd on 07831 401111 nor 01732 810750

The Newsletter Team send all our  
readers and contributors warm wishes  
for Christmas and 2017

