

St Giles and Shipbourne
NEWSLETTER



February 2017

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: | Paul Britton | 365794 |

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 |

VILLAGE WEBSITE 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

| | |
|-----|--|
| 101 | For non-urgent police attendance, passing useful information and 24 hour crime reporting |
|-----|--|

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|--------------|---|
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(12/16)

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(tbc)

PARISH DIARY – FEBRUARY 2017

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

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|---------------|--|
| Thursday | 2nd | 9-11am | Farmers' Market at St Giles Shipbourne |
| SUNDAY | 5th | 8.00am | Holy Communion at Plaxtol Church |
| | | 9.30am | Parish Communion at St Giles Shipbourne |
| | | 11.00am | Family Service followed by short Communion at Plaxtol Church |
| | | Readings: | Isaiah 58 vv 1-9a 1 Corinthians 2 vv 1-12 Matthews 5 vv 13-20 |
| Thursday | 9th | 9-11am | Farmers' Market at St Giles Shipbourne |
| Saturday | 11th | 9.30am | Playchurch at St Giles, Shipbourne |
| SUNDAY | 12th | 8.00am | Holy Communion at St Giles Shipbourne |
| | | 9.30am | Matins at St Giles Shipbourne |
| | | 11.00am | Parish Communion at Plaxtol Church |
| | | Readings: | Deuteronomy 30 vv 15-end 1 Corinthians 3 vv 1-9 Matthew 5 vv 21-37 |
| Monday | 13th | 7.30pm | Shipbourne Parish Council meeting, Village Hall |
| Thursday | 16th | 9-11am | Farmers' Market at St Giles Shipbourne |
| SUNDAY | 19th | 8.00am | Holy Communion at Plaxtol Church |
| | | 9.30am | Parish Communion at St Giles Shipbourne |
| | | 12.00pm | Short Communion service at Plaxtol Church |
| | | 4.00pm | Community@4 at Plaxtol Church |
| | | Readings: | Genesis 1.1-2.3 Romans 8 vv 18-25 Matthew 6 vv 25-end |
| Thursday | 23rd | 9-11am | Farmers' Market at St Giles Shipbourne |
| Saturday | 25th | 7.30pm | St Giles' Quiz Evening at Plaxtol Memorial Hall |
| SUNDAY | 26th | 8.00am | Holy Communion at St Giles Shipbourne |
| | | 9.30am | Family Service at St Giles Shipbourne |
| | | 11.00am | Parish Communion at Plaxtol Church |
| | | Readings: | Exodus 24 vv 12-end 2 Peter 1 vv 16-end Matthew 17 vv 1-9 |



FROM THE REGISTER:

16 December 2016: Funeral of Lilian Lawson, Lady Vane Close

3 January 2017: Interment of ashes – Dorothy Hockley

PLAYCHURCH

Playchurch is for pre-schoolers, primary school children and parents and takes place on the second Saturday of every month from 9.30–10.30am at St Giles Shipbourne.

Come along to hear fuzzy-felt bible stories, singing and craft activities.

Next meeting: Saturday 11 February 2017

For further information please contact:
Mary Perry Tel: 01732 810797

PASTORAL LETTER

From The Rev'd Peter Flynn

When I last visited my dentist, the consultation developed into a discussion about the genetic origin of my dental problem. I commented that it was a bit too late to complain to my parents about it. They both died more than ten years ago. My dentist simply replied “oh well, you’ll just have to wait until you get “up there and then you can have a go at them about it!”

The notion that our departed loved ones are in some sense “up there” is not at all uncommon. People frequently speak in such terms; how often I have heard comments after funeral services like “If old Fred is looking down on us now ...” The implication associated with such expressions is that heaven is an objective reality located somewhere above the skies. That was the biblical interpretation which led people to believe in a three tier universe with a flat earth, heaven above the dome of the sky and hell beneath the earth. The earth was also believed to be the centre of the universe. That understanding was proved wrong in the early years of the seventeenth century by Galileo, building on the work of the Polish astronomer Copernicus. But the church never accepted Galileo’s findings, which challenged the whole biblical frame of reference. The Vatican coerced Galileo to choose between recanting or death. He recanted in order to save his life and the Church claimed the victory. It was not until 1991 that the Vatican admitted that Galileo had been correct and that the Church and the Bible had been wrong. The admission was 350 years too late!

When I was a child, I was taught that good people would go up to heaven when they died and bad people would go down to hell. Such teaching reflected the way in which the Church in the past used the distant prospect of heaven and hell as a behaviour control mechanism. In some of its more fundamental, literalist manifestations the Church still upholds that belief.

Heaven and hell as objective realities located somewhere above and beneath the earth coupled to a reward or punishment aspect in our afterlife have no meaning for me, any more than does an objective personal God, who sits on a throne somewhere above the skies, meting out reward or punishment according to divine observation of our behaviour.

I no longer look for God or the ultimate meaning of death in some distant place beyond this world. I seek these realities here and now

in the midst of life. Heaven and hell are present realities. We each make our own heaven or hell, and not just for ourselves, but for other people too. Eternal life for all of us begins in the here and now and at the appropriate moment for each of us, it will transcend the limits of our finitude and pass into the timelessness which lies in the depths beyond. None of us can see into those timeless, immeasurable depths. I have no words to describe them anymore than I have words to describe the event which we Christians call Easter. I can describe what happened at Easter, the effects it had, the power it produced, the changes it wrought, the context in which it was experienced and the results it created. But, as to the moment itself? I stand before that transcendent moment, which the Church calls the Resurrection of Jesus, reduced to a profound reverential silence, just as I stand before the awesome mystery of death. These moments are beyond time and space and therefore beyond the capacity of our language to capture, or our minds to understand.

The paradox of God is that he is transcendent, high and lifted up and unknowable, but at the same time he is imminent and available to us in and through the revelation of his being in Jesus the Christ. The here and now is our point of entry into heaven and hell and into the life of our holy God. The task of the Church is to assist all who choose to do so, to pass through that point of entry to meet the God we see in Jesus, the life of God being lived in our midst, a life not bound by any human limits.

For us the impediment to entry into that life is succinctly summed up for us by St Paul in his letter to the Galatians where he writes "Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. Then he adds; "I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the Kingdom of the God." That is the recipe for a hellish life and we are not consigned to that by some external, judge-mental God who lives above the skies. We exercise our own freedom of choice as to whether we lower ourselves into that kind of existence and drag others down with us or not.

Paul goes on to compare that with the qualities which will ensure that we can and will enter into the life of God and therefore a heavenly existence. He calls those qualities the fruit of the spirit. He says "By contrast the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self control."

As Christian people we are called into that lifestyle here and now, to live and love and enjoy our being extravagantly and unconditionally in the joyful hope of that which is to come and has already come for those whom we love, but see no more. We are also called to open before all those who do not know God, a vision of the possibility and potential of an eternal heavenly life with God, beginning in the here and now. Most of us can talk about it, but the best way for us to open up that vision is to walk the talk in our daily lives in the hope that the lifestyle observed might just catch on.

I did say to my dentist that her comment could produce a lively discussion. The time then was obviously not appropriate, but what I have written is the product of my thoughts on the drive back home. Visits to the dentist are now always full of pain and discomfort. The can be quite productive!

Shalom

Peter Flynn



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References and photo gallery available at

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CHURCH NOTICES

FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS

Following the interviews for a new Rector of Shipbourne with Plaxtol held on 13 January we are delighted to be able to announce that the post has been offered to the **Reverend Peter Hayler**. Peter and his wife Donna have confirmed that they are pleased to accept and we hope that they will be able to start with us at the beginning of May.

Peter has provided the following profiles of himself and Donna:

Peter was born in Nottingham and grew up as a chorister on a traditional diet of chanted Matins and Evensong. A keen musician, he learnt to play the violin from the age of six, spending many years playing in youth orchestras. He studied Chemistry at Royal Holloway College and went on to work for Astra Pharmaceuticals in London, whilst experiencing the renewal of his faith as a member of St James the Less, Bethnal Green.

Donna grew up near Esher in Surrey, and worked for the Church Missionary Society in London before moving to Yorkshire as a member of the Scargill House Community.

Peter and Donna met in college, in Blackheath, as they trained to be Church Army Evangelists. They were married in 1992 and have two children who have recently flown the nest: Oliver (22) and Nat (18). Their work for the church took them first to Cambridge, then onto South Wales ('95-'09), during which time Peter was ordained and served as Curate and Team Vicar in Magor, Monmouthshire, before returning to Cambridge.

During his twenty-four years in ministry, Peter has served many years as a chaplain; first pioneering a chaplaincy to the hi-tech companies of the Cambridge Science Park, then in traditional manufacturing and the local voluntary sector, latterly bringing his experience and the insights of Industrial Mission to the developing 'Chaplaincy to University Staff' in Cambridge.

His recent work has focused on the multi-faith aspects of the complex University Community, together with issues of staff wellbeing, while also have a full share of the liturgical work as Associate Vicar at Great St Mary's. The challenges of this work caused him to take on the Professional Doctorate in Practical Theology as a way of deepening his pastoral engagement with reflective practice.

Whilst in Wales, Donna re-trained in Counselling and Psychotherapy, completing her Master's, practicing in the voluntary, public and private sectors, and teaching to Diploma level. Although no longer practising, Donna continues to use her skills in the area of creative spirituality and spiritual direction .

Together, Peter and Donna have a young Miniature Schnauzer, Alfie. They enjoy walking, fresh coffee and caravanning, and are looking forward very much to getting to know Kent better.'

Meanwhile the normal pattern of services continues at St Giles'. Ash Wednesday falls this year on 1st March and you may like to note that there will be a sung communion service with ashing at the church at 8pm on that day.

Also please note that we are planning to hold a St Giles' quiz evening at Plaxtol Memorial Hall on Saturday 25th February to raise funds for the church. These occasions have proved popular in the past and we hope for a good turn-out this year.

Paul Britton and Viv Packer

CAN YOU HELP US PAINT/DECORATE PLEASE?

As a Benefice, we are responsible for helping keep the Rectory decorated. We would like to give the rooms a coat of paint before Peter + Donna move in, probably painting in early March. If you think you could offer some hours/days to help paint, it would be wonderful. You bring the brushes, rollers and paint trays and the paint will be supplied. Please phone Adrienne on 810361 or email abrewin2@gmail.com if you are able to help.

Thank you so much

BULK REFUSE SERVICE (4th Saturday of month)

Upper Green Road (opposite Village Hall) 8am - 9am on
Saturday 25 February 2017

LENTEN GROUPS

We plan to hold these on the 5 Wednesday evenings in Lent. Although we have yet to finalise content, we are hoping to use them to discuss issues of Faith raised in rather a useful DVD.

We plan to hold these in different homes in the benefice, discussions to be taken by volunteers so we have variety.

Ash Wednesday is 1st March, so the dates thereafter would be 8,15,22,29 March ending with 5th April.

Most grateful you put these dates in your diaries!

We hope that you will join us at our next joint benefice service

‘Community @ 4’

**On Sunday 19th February from 4-5pm
at Plaxtol Church**

- suitable for all ages
- worship songs with a band
- discussions for different age groups
- craft and play time for children

Please bring food and drink for our

“Bring &Share” refreshments after the service

ST GILES' QUIZ NIGHT

SATURDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2017

7.30pm

PLAXTOL MEMORIAL HALL

For tickets and further information please call
Mary Perry on 01732 810797

All Saints Community Project Trust Chatham

The link between the Trust and Plaxtol and Shipbourne churches is now up and running. We are looking to support the Project by providing financial support, donating food, household goods and toys and by offering voluntary support.

If you have any 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 –

leach_helen@yahoo.co.uk

07762 241720

01732 811144

Any such items will be advertised, and if required, then collected and distributed by Chatham.

Just 30 minutes drive away, it is one of the poorest wards in the country and any help you are able to offer will be very gratefully received. Thank you.



Shipbourne Village Hall
Registered Charity No 1074519

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

Further details can be found on the Shipbourne website
www.shipbourne.com



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EDNA HILLS

The relations of Edna Hills would like to thank the many friends of hers from Shipbourne and the neighbouring areas who have been so good to her, both when she was at home and since she was admitted to Harpwood Care Home at Wrotham Heath.

Many of you sent Christmas cards for which she is most grateful but unfortunately she is unable to remember all of you.

She is physically well and still anxious to walk but regrettably no longer able to comprehend much that happens.

SHIPBOURNE WI

Shipbourne WI held its first meeting of the New Year on 11th January. Following the business meeting, we were let into the dark world of smuggling on Romney Marsh. The speaker, Sue Duckworth, a former librarian, has retrained as a Blue Badge Guide. She shared her wide knowledge of the history of smuggling from the 1200's through to 1845, when a reduction in custom and excise duties made smuggling unprofitable.

Members were amused to learn that The Walnut Tree in Aldington, once the headquarters of the notorious Aldington Gang, has now become the venue for a newly established WI! The talk was followed by another of our delicious teas.

Members of Shipbourne WI are very warm and welcoming, and are always pleased to receive visitors and new members. Meetings are held at the Village Hall at 2pm on the second Wednesday of each month. Come and join us!

The next meeting is on 8th February, when the speaker will be Bob Ogley who will relate the story of RAF Biggin Hill.

Glynis Coates

SHIPBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

The contact details for the Parish Council are:

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

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

Highways Matters

Temporary Road Closure – Dunk's Green Road, Shipbourne – from 30 January 2017 for up to 1 day between 09.30hrs and 15.30hrs

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Hamptons Road and Long Mill Lane. The alternative route is via Long Mill Lane, The Street, School Lane, Hamptons Road and vice versa. The closure is to enable works to a carriageway box to be carried out by BT Openreach.

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.

Defibrillator

A defibrillator has recently been 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

shipbourneparishcouncil@gmail.com. The defibrillator is in the process of being registered with the Ambulance Service, once registered, if anyone requires the defibrillator the code for the cabinet will be given over the phone on calling 999.

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

TM/16/03581/FL Church House – Demolition of existing dwelling and construction of new two storey dwelling and detached double garage. (Resubmission of TM/16/02494/FL). Church House, Stumble Hill, Shipbourne, Tonbridge, TN11 9PE.

TM/16/03659/FL (TM/16/03660 LB) Shipbourne House – Erection of 2 No. Single storey rear extension to the north and south of the kitchen. Shipbourne House, Stumble Hill, Shipbourne, Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 9PE.

You can view and comment on planning applications and decisions at 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.

Further information on the Local Plan, can be accessed from the www.tmbc.gov.uk

Our next Parish Council meeting is 7.30pm 6 February 2017. All public are welcome to attend.

Mrs Sarah Huseyin

Parish Clerk

e-mail: shipbourneparishcouncil@gmail.com

Telephone: 01732 886402

FROM YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR

A new five-year strategy is set to be launched, bringing together agencies across Kent to tackle drug and alcohol abuse.

It's estimated that nearly 264,000 Kent people are drinking at increasing and high risk levels. It is believed that of the 53,000 alcohol-dependent individuals in the county who require treatment services, only around half (50%) were in treatment services in 2014/15.

Although there has been a long-term decline in the use of drugs and use is now at its lowest figure for ten years, those aged 16 to 24 years are more likely to use drugs compared with any other age group. The decline in the use of drugs has not been seen in older adults who have maintained their drug use into older age and this group has the highest level of drug-related mortality

Treatment services in Kent currently perform well overall and often exceed national performance benchmarks. Future planned work includes partnerships with schools to provide good quality drug and alcohol education, particularly around New Psychoactive substances (NSPs).

Protecting children and young people from alcohol harm was one of the key pledges from the last alcohol strategy and figures show that hospital admissions for children and young people have declined across Kent and for the first time are better than the South East regional rate (and similar to the national one). Kent Police have led work that targeted and specified operations to address identified issues in licensed premises, supporting Trading Standards with test purchasing operations and supporting other licensing initiatives. Local housing authorities will support vulnerable people in housing with strategies to address housing need and homelessness.

With best wishes,

Valerie Dagger, Kent County Councillor.

Tel. 01732 810222

E-mail: valerie.dagger@kent.gov.uk

NEW ONLINE COUNCIL TAX BILLING SERVICE LAUNCHED IN TONBRIDGE AND MALLING

A new online council tax billing service has been launched by Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council to speed up services and save taxpayers' time and money.

The new e-billing service is part of a bespoke online service called My Account, which offers a whole range of benefits to account holders. My Account is a FREE online service portal and more than 10,000 people have already registered. It's particularly useful for Tonbridge and Malling residents although people living outside the borough can also benefit from signing up.

My Account is a personal, interactive and safe account. It's easy to use and each person who signs up will be able to:

- Request online notification of their annual council tax bill
- Check their council tax balance online
- Ask for services through the website with no waiting or queuing on the telephone or at the Council's offices
- Benefit from online services request forms, which are pre-populated with their personal details
- Receive updates on topics of interest
- Receive urgent public health and safety messages

Setting up an account takes about two minutes, just go to www.tmbc.gov.uk/my-account and fill in the brief registration form. A video explaining how to set up an account is also available at www.tmbc.gov.uk/my-accountvideo.

Cllr Martin Coffin, Deputy Leader of Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council and Cabinet Member for Finance, Innovation and Property, says: "We've had very positive feedback from many residents who have already signed up to My Account and we are continuing to add to the benefits of this innovative and bespoke online service. We estimate that every 10,000 letters we can send to residents by email will save approximately £10,000 in printing and postage - these will be vital savings that we can use to preserve services for our residents.

THE WEATHER IN DECEMBER

The rainfall recorded in December was only 10.8 mm. (0.4 in.) compared with an average of 69 mm. (2.7 in.) over the last thirty one years. The average maximum temperature was 9.8⁰ C, compared with an average of 7.0⁰C over the last twenty six years and the average minimum temperature was 0.2⁰C compared with an average of 0.9⁰C over the last eleven years. The total rainfall for the year was 542.6mm (21.4 in.) compared with an average of 694mm (27.3 in.)

Donald Forbes

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(05/16)

SCOTTISH DANCING IN SHIPBOURNE

Held fortnightly on Tuesday evenings from 7.15-9.00pm, it's good exercise and great fun. Next two sessions are 7 and 21 February. Please come along if you'd like to give it a try or phone Helen Leach (811144) or Margaret Thompson (810789) for more information.

Helen Leach

01732 811144

MARCH NEWSLETTER

Please send any articles and adverts for the March newsletter by **17 February 2017**. 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 or call 01732 810439.



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(04/16)

SHIPBOURNE SCHOOL NEWS

Shipbourne School has already had a busy few weeks. Year 6 now regularly visit the impressive library at Hugh Christie and are enjoying the old fashioned method of reference, books! Gymnastics has started across the school, and the netball team has several matches coming up. We're hoping to continue our winning streak.

On 18th January the school choir sang at the Young Voices concert at the O2. They had a wonderful time. Mrs Dodd took Year 5 pupils to the Farmers' Market to plan the breakfast they will cook at The Chaser on 26th January. A theatre group will be visiting Fairlawne Class as part of their Romans topic and Chinese New Year will also be celebrated

There may even be time for the PTA to fit in a Valentines Disco before half term!

SHIPBOURNE FARMERS' MARKET

We had a great Christmas at the market, the best in terms of footfall since 2011, with 862 visiting the market in December as compared to 720 last year and 550 in 2013 (our worst year). Even taking into account June 2016, the lowest spring/summer month we have ever had at the market, the overall number of visitors for the year was just under 7500 (the best since 2012). By linking the numbers to an average spend of say £15 -£20 per prime spender you can get an idea of the market's impact on the local economy. The main reasons for the increase in 2016 were a combination of lack of rain plus additional marketing and delivery of fliers in different areas, thus attracting new visitors. Our biggest problems as usual, is parking. However, looking to the future, we are lacking volunteers both to help on the day and in developing modern marketing material. If you could offer us some help and expertise please contact Bob on 01732 833976 or bob@lodgeoast.co.uk

The days are starting to lengthen and a trip to the market is a great way to get out and about and shake off the winter gloom. Then it's back home with all your goodies for some serious comfort eating, or maybe you plan to boost your immune system with plenty of locally grown produce and lean meat and fish.

Lemon sole, halibut, skate and turbot are all good at this time of year. Shellfish fans should keep an eye out for **clams, mussels,**

oysters, cockles and scallops. For meat eaters, game is an excellent choice for seasonal healthy eating – game is lean and full of flavour so cook it simply on the griddle or quickly stir-fried, rather than the long stewing dishes our grandparents favoured. Venison, guinea fowl, wood pigeon and partridge are all good in February, while for real comfort eaters try mutton for its rich flavour.

Serve your meat with the best of all the cabbages and brassicas that are around now. Savoy cabbage, cauliflower, sprouts and purple sprouting broccoli all work perfectly in stir fries, soups and curries, or serve them simply shredded and steamed tossed with a little seasoning plus a dash of rapeseed oil. Main crop potatoes, Jerusalem artichokes, parsnips and turnips provide the starch that keeps us going in the cold so mash them together to go with your game dishes.

Local fruit is sparse but there are still apples to be enjoyed – the storing varieties keep well until April so make sure to buy when you see them, their flavour is still sweet and fragrant. Early forced rhubarb is the cook's friend now – wonderful in traditional crumbles, compotes and pies, it also goes well with rich flavoured meat and fish so serve a rhubarb sauce with grilled mackerel

STOP PRESS: A Big Thank you to all who voted for us. The market has reached the final of the Taste of Kent Awards! The next step is a visit from 'a Mystery Shopper' and interviews!

COOKERY CORNER

The Spanish know a thing or two about serving wonderful winter veg. Here's a recipe from Mary Gwynn's book, The Busy Mum's Vegetarian Cookbook

SPANISH GREENS AND RICE STEW WITH GARLIC CHILLI MAYO

There is something indulgent and comforting about stirring a spoonful of garlicky mayo into the green depths of this stew. All the flavours meld and it smells heavenly

Serves 4 – 6 Preparation time 10 minutes

Cooking time 30 minutes

- 2 tbsp olive oil
 - 2 large onions, finely chopped
 - 3 small turnips, peeled and diced
 - 3 medium carrots, peeled and diced
 - 500g (1lb 2oz) spring greens, shredded
 - 1litre (2.2pints) hot vegetable stock
 - ¼ tsp saffron strands
 - 150g (5oz) risotto or paella rice
 - salt and freshly ground black pepper
-
- **For the mayo**
 - 2 -3 cloves garlic
 - 1 tsp smoked sweet paprika
 - 1 small red chilli, seeded and chopped
 - 6 tbsp mayonnaise, ideally home made with olive oil
 - juice of ½ lemon
-
- 1 Heat the oil in a large heavy-based pan and add the onion. Fry over a low heat for 3 - 5 minutes, stirring frequently until soft but not browned. Add the remaining vegetables and cook for a further 3 -4 minutes until the greens wilt.
 - 2 Mix the saffron strands with a couple of tablespoons of the hot stock then add the vegetables with the remaining stock and seasoning. Bring to the boil and add the rice. Lower the heat and simmer for 15 – 20 minutes until the rice is tender.
 - 3 While the stew is cooking, pound the garlic in a pestle and mortar with the paprika and chilli to a paste. Gradually work in the mayonnaise and add lemon juice and seasoning to taste. Serve the stew in warm bowls with the mayo to stir in and bread for mopping

Mary Gwynn, who writes these articles and provides the recipes, was the editor of the M&S Food magazine and consultant editor of Waitrose. She now concentrates her time on writing recipe books 'WI Cookery Book, the first 100 years', 'The Busy Mums Cook Book'(both can be purchased at the market)



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THE GARDEN SHED

As the days get longer and the sun begins to feel a bit warmer, the pleasure of getting out into the garden seems to have a stronger appeal. February is a fickle month and there will be chilly periods when indoors is more attractive. However, on the better days there is plenty to do. Any digging can be done providing the ground is not frozen or too wet. Any pruning of deciduous trees or fruit bushes can be finished in the early part of the month – but not if frost is present.

Some clematis need to be pruned this month – but which ones? The group which flower in the winter and early spring, includes *C. Cirrhosa* (which blooms from December to March), the evergreen *C. Armandii* (February), and *C. Montana* and *C. macropetala* (late spring) do not need pruning at all, but if they need tidying up or have outgrown their allotted space, this should be done as soon as their flowering period is over.

The next group, the early large-flowering varieties should be pruned to just above the highest pair of plump buds, this month.

The last group, the late large-flowering species, the herbaceous types and the small-flowered *C. Texensis* and *C. Viticella* (and any other late-flowering varieties) should be hard-pruned. Trace the stems back to where they emerge from the ground and remove all old growth from just above the first pair of strong buds. This may leave only a very short piece of stem showing, but the plant will still grow away happily in the spring.

All clematis require heavy feeding, so a dressing of fertiliser and the addition of compost now will help them thrive through the summer. The ground is still too cold for any seed-sowing. Once the weed seeds germinate and begin to show themselves, they can be hoed away and early seeds can be put in their place. If seeds have not been bought for the coming season, it is vital to sit down and decide what you will be wanting, as the popular varieties may soon be sold out. As an alternative to growing from seed, there is an ever-increasing range of both vegetables and flowers now for sale as young plants. Any such plants should be short and sturdy and suitable for planting at that time.

Tessa Forbes

LOCAL HISTORY

THE SYMONDS OF HOOKWOOD, SHIPBOURNE

John Symonds, son of Barnabas and Sarah, was born in Islington, London, in 1810. He worked as an Ironmonger in Clerkenwell and he and his wife, Maria, had six children: William, Ellen, twins Frederick and Marianne, Jonathan and Frank. Two servants completed the household. Maria Symonds died in 1846 – probably when Frank was born.

John remarried Martha Sarah Cork who came from Headcorn in Kent. In 1851 Sarah, as she was known, aged 41, gave birth to a son, Alfred, who sadly died within the year. In 1861, at the ripe age of 50, she gave birth to another son, Herbert James. When he was one year old she came to live with him in the fresh air of Shipbourne at Simmons Cottage leaving John to continue his business in London. One of John's daughters met and married a Drury in Shipbourne and in 1869 gave birth to a daughter, Ellen.

By 1871, John had joined his wife and son and they lived at Claygate, a Shipbourne hall house, which the family later bought. Ten years later the census shows that they were 'farmers', living along the road at Hookwood House with their son, Herbert, aged 20, and unmarried cousin Ann Symonds, 72, plus one servant.

Hookwood was made up of three properties in 1881, Hookwood House and two semi-attached cottages. John's son, Frank, a saddler, his wife, Mary Treadwell, and her parents lived in one cottage. In the other cottage lived Walter and Jane Inkpen with their son and daughter. Ann Symonds died in 1883 and her gravestone in the churchyard of St Giles Shipbourne, reads, 'In memory of Ann Symonds who died at Hookwood in this parish May 29 1883 aged 75 years.'

John Symonds, aged 81, described himself as a 'Retired Ironmonger' in the census of 1891, living at Hookwood House with his wife, Sarah, 74, and their 22 year old grand-daughter Ellen M Drury. James Cork (Sarah's brother) aged 71, carpenter, lived in one of the cottages with his wife Philadelphia, and James Carter, a farm labourer, and his wife Mary, lived in the other.

By this time Herbert James, aged 30, was a corn merchant married to Edith Nancy and living in Mill House, West Peckham with their

one year old twin daughters, Gladys and Irenie, and a new baby, Marjorie. In 1893, Herbert's father, John Symonds died, the same year that Herbert's son, Harold John, was born. Another daughter, Emily, was born in 1894. In 1896, John's widow, Herbert's mother, Sarah, died.

In 1901 Frank Symonds, aged 55, Herbert's half-brother, was once more living at Hookwood with his (new?) wife, Jane, along with 2 servants. Horace Cripps, a domestic groom-gardener, his wife, Agnes, and their three daughters and three sons lived in one of the cottages.

Herbert James, his wife and Gladys, Irenie, Marjorie and Harold (no Emily) still lived at Mill House in 1911 along with his uncle, William James, aged 74. On the 16th October 1913, Gladys aged 23, Marjorie, 22, and Harold John, aged 20, were all baptized in St Giles Church, Shipbourne. Their father, Herbert, aged 52, described himself a 'Gentleman' which would indicate he owned a property.

He certainly inherited the Hookwood property at some time as old deeds from Hookwood House, dated 1918, state that Hookwood comprised, *'All those two pieces or parcels of wood and meadowland called respectively Hookwood and Hook Meadow containing in the whole by estimation sixteen acresformerly in the occupation of William Golding or his undertenants then of John Symonds deceased and late of Herbert James Symonds and also all that messuage or tenement with the two cottages and outbuildings erected on a portion of the said land by the said John Symonds.'*

At some time after 1911 – possibly in 1914 - young Harold enlisted in Maidstone as a Trooper in the West Kent Yeomanry (Number 1626) later transferring to the 10th Battalion Queen's Own, Royal West Kent Regiment, (G/7723).

One hundred years ago, on the 8th February, 1917, Harold John Symonds, aged 24, Private, Queen's Own, Royal West Kent Regiment, was killed in action in France & Flanders, the Western European Theatre of War.

The grandson of John Symonds, and *'The son of Mr. and Mrs. H.J (James).Symonds of Hookwood, Near Tonbridge, Kent is commemorated in Wimereaux Com. Cemetery, France: Plot 2, Row C, Grave 17'* and his name appears on the Shipbourne First World War memorial in St Giles Churchyard.

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.

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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.

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

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

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PRIVATE TUTOR: Matthew Worby, 3rd 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 (07/17)

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