

St Giles and Shipbourne
NEWSLETTER



April 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

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(tbc)

PARISH DIARY – APRIL 2017

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

SUNDAY	2nd	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:	Ezekiel 37 vv 1-14 Romans 8 vv 6-11 John 11 vv 1-45
Wednesday	5th	8.00pm	Final meeting of Lenten Group, Plantation House, Reeds Lane, Shipbourne
Thursday	6th	9-11am	Farmers' Market at St Giles Shipbourne
Saturday	8th	9.30am	Playchurch at St Giles, Shipbourne
PALM SUNDAY	9th	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Giles Shipbourne
		9.30am	Matins at St Giles Shipbourne
		11.00am	Parish Communion at Plaxtol Church
		Readings:	Isiah 50 vv 4-9a Philippians 2 vv 5-11 Matthew 21 vv 1-11
Monday	10th	7.30pm	Shipbourne Parish Council meeting, Village Hall
		9.00pm	Compline at Plaxtol Church
Tuesday	11 th	9.00pm	Compline at Plaxtol Church
Wednesday	12 th	9.00pm	Compline at Plaxtol Church
Thursday	13th	9-11am	Farmers' Market at St Giles Shipbourne
		8.00pm	Choral Holy Communion at St Giles Shipbourne
GOOD FRIDAY	14th	12.00pm	Choral Meditative Service at St Giles Shipbourne
		1.00pm	Walking with the Cross to Plaxtol
		2.00pm	Meditative service with hymns at Plaxtol Church
		9.00pm	Compline at Plaxtol Church
		Readings:	Isaiah 52.13-53 end Hebrews 10 vv 16-25 John 18.1-end
Saturday	15th	8.00pm	Service of Light at St Giles Shipbourne
SUNDAY EASTER DAY	16th	8.00am	Holy Communion at Plaxtol Church
		9.30am	Parish Communion at St Giles Shipbourne
		12.00pm	Family Communion service at Plaxtol Church
		Readings:	Jeremiah 31 vv 1-6 Acts 10 vv 34-43 John 20 vv 1-18
Thursday	20th	9-11am	Farmers' Market at St Giles Shipbourne
SUNDAY	23rd	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Giles Shipbourne
		9.30am	Family Service at St Giles Shipbourne
		11.00am	Parish Communion at Plaxtol Church
		Readings:	Acts 2 vv 14a, 22-32 1 Peter 1 vv 3-9 John 20 vv 19-end

Thursday	27th	9-11am	Farmers' Market at St Giles Shipbourne
SUNDAY	30th	8.00am	Holy Communion at Plaxtol Church
		9.30am	Parish Communion at St Giles Shipbourne
		11.00am	Morning Worship Songs of Praise at Plaxtol Church
		6.00pm	Choral Evensong at St Giles Shipbourne
		Readings:	Zephaniah 3 vv 14-end Acts 2 vv 14a, 36-41 Luke 24 vv 13-35

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 8 April 2017

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

BULK REFUSE SERVICE (4th Saturday of month)

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

Saturday 29 April 2017

Saturday 27 May 2017

PASTORAL LETTER

From The Rev'd Peter Flynn

I write as we approach Mothering Sunday and look forward to the dawning of Easter Day in mid-April. How, might we ask, are these two events connected?

Mothering Sunday has its roots in times now long past when people lived their lives in residential communities gathered around their parish church, experiencing their working days within an agricultural economy. Lack of work locally obliged many of them, mainly young men, to leave home and seek employment elsewhere. Halfway through Lent they returned home to visit their mothers, bringing gifts of flowers and mothers traditionally baked Simnel cakes to welcome their sons. This custom gave families a chance to relax their Lenten discipline, which often involved some degree of fasting, and have a bit of a party. Hence Mothering Sunday was sometimes called Refreshment Sunday.

In our time we continue to celebrate Mothering Sunday which has become more of a cultural event promoted by the greeting card industry, florists and confectioners than as a Christian celebration. But, for those of us who still go to church, we take this mid-Lenten opportunity to give thanks to God for our own mothers, living or departed, for Mother Church and for Mary the Mother of Jesus.

It is interesting to note that the gospel reading set for Mothering Sunday (Joh 19 v 25b-27) is about Mary the Mother of Jesus standing at the foot of the Cross as her dying son commends her into the care of his disciple John. That speaks to us about the love Jesus has for his mother but, perhaps in an even more powerful way, it speaks to us about the costliness of motherhood. It is a terrible and agonising experience for any mother to watch her child die. It seems very important to me that we should not forget in the midst of our Mothering Sunday celebrations that, mingled with the obvious joys of motherhood, there is also significant pain, a fact that every mother experiences at the moment of giving birth. Let us also remember and try to feel in ourselves the pain of mothers who today watch their children die of hunger and disease as a result of neglect and cruelty.

It is a strange paradox that pain always precedes the birth of a new life. For Jesus the agony of crucifixion preceded his new, resurrected life. His mother, who had experienced the pain of his birth, stood at the foot of the Cross to feel her own soul pierced with

grief, as Simeon had prophesied when she presented Jesus in the Temple in Jerusalem as a new-born son, before she too knew the joy of his resurrection.

There is an interconnectedness between pain and new life, between death and resurrection, between Mothering Sunday and the event we call Easter.

In our world today, we see a huge amount of pain which represents the struggle of the oppressed, the under privileged, the disadvantaged people and nations, whose cry for a better deal, a fairer share of all that we take for granted and a voice which will be heard, goes unheeded. Right now, sixteen million people, including eight hundred thousand children are starving to death in East Africa as a result of drought and conflict. In Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan mothers watch their children die from malnutrition and terrible injuries inflicted by warfare. These people and nations long for an opportunity to achieve a new and better standard of life. They seek a resurrection from the tragedy of their present lives into new life, new hope and new opportunity. When that moment dawns we will be able to say to Our Father in heaven “your Kingdom has come”.

May God bless us all as we try to present to the world through the conduct of our own lives, that new life, new hope and new opportunity to which the Easter Moment calls us.

Shalom

Peter Flynn

CHURCH NOTICES

FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS

The installation of our new rector, Dr Peter Hayler, by the Bishop of Rochester will take place at St Giles', Shipbourne at 3pm on Saturday 6 May. We hope that as many people as possible from Shipbourne and Plaxtol will attend in order to welcome Peter and to make it a memorable occasion for him and his wife Donna. We expect the church to be very full and would be grateful if those intending to come would let us know in order to enable us to gauge numbers and ensure that we have enough seating. Our telephone numbers are at the front of this newsletter; alternatively please e-mail Mary Perry (perry6869@btinternet.com).

We have a full programme of services at St Giles' at Easter, including a choral holy communion at 8pm on Maundy Thursday (13 April), the usual Good Friday services and a candle-lit Service of Light at 8pm on Saturday 15 April. On Easter Sunday morning, 16 April, there is parish communion at 9.30am. We hope that as many of you as possible will come to at least one service in Holy Week, one of the great festivals of the church year.

Finally, we would like to draw your attention to the special choral evensong at St Giles' at 6pm on Sunday 30 April.

Paul Britton and Viv Packer

REMINDER: COME TO HELP TIDY UP THE CHURCHYARD

The next **CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY** will be on **Saturday 22nd April 9.30.am--11.30.am**

We need lots of volunteers for this morning to spread the load! Please bring your own tools, and if using power tools please check the manufacturer's safety guidance. Also don't forget to wear suitable protective clothing (e.g. gloves, stout shoes, protective glasses). In this way we can keep everyone safe, whilst working together.

Break for coffee and chocolate biscuits at 10.30.

Jeff King



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10/16

MAY NEWSLETTER

Please send any articles and adverts for the May newsletter by **17 April 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.



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO GIVE A LILY IN MEMORY OF SOMEONE AT EASTER ...

Just fill in the name on one of the slips of paper at the back of the church, and put it with your donation in one of the envelopes marked "Easter Lilies" and give it to one of the Churchwardens. Alternatively you can send your donation to Felicity Ward at Hookwood House, Shipbourne, Kent TN11 9RJ.

There will be a list in church at Easter in memoriam of all the people who are being remembered.

We shall also use daffodils for the church at Easter, so if you would like to give some to the church please bring them to St Giles between 9 and 10 am on Saturday 15 April, when we shall be decorating the church. If the weather warms up, we shall use yellow and white tulips on the windowsills, as the daffodils may be going over by then.

If you would like to help with the church flowers at Easter, please contact Felicity Ward (810525).

Cheques payable to Mrs F. L. B. Ward please
Felicity Ward

SCOTTISH DANCING IN SHIPBOURNE VILLAGE HALL

Held fortnightly on Tuesday evenings from 7.15-9.00pm, it's good exercise and great fun. Next two sessions are 4 and 18 April. 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

All Saints Community Project Trust Chatham

Plaxtol and Shipbourne churches look to support All Saints Trust by providing financial support, donations of 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.

NOTES FROM A RETIRED RECTOR ...

The editor has kindly asked me to do a final piece for the newsletter now I have been retired about 6 months to tell you how it is with Elizabeth and me.

We moved to our present home on the last day of November and are now happily settled in. It's a former council semi which we have had extended. We hope to be content here well into our dotage. Now the spring is here we are busy landscaping its surprising large garden and we have an allotment. So, lots to do there. When we restock our garden we hope to use the very generous cheque we were given as a leaving gift from St Giles.

We have enjoyed having more time for our grandchildren, all six of them.

Elizabeth is a bit ahead of me in terms of setting up retirement interests. She has joined an art group, a fitness group and Platt WI. We both go to the Platt Society meetings and Margaret Thompson's fierce Scottish Country dancing classes. (Both Margaret and the dancing are fierce, Margaret in the right way, the dancing in the wrong way.) There's a Platt Old Farts group for retired men whose members have said I am just the sort to join them (!) and there's some pub golf but I have yet to make these.

In terms of church we have been made very welcome at St Mary's Platt church. We have gone on the readers and intercessors and cleaning rotas. We are going to the Lent groups currently running. I was on the church roof with a few others last Friday clearing off moss and leaves. It's a friendly, well-attended church and we hope to settle there.

I have increased my hours at Sevenoaks Counselling which I continue to find fulfilling work and is my serious calling at the moment.

I am just finishing the 6 month lay-off from licensed ministry which the Bishop wisely insists his clergy take upon retirement. It's been really refreshing just to be an ordinary congregation member with Elizabeth and I shan't be rushing to refill my diary with lots of services and sermons once I gain my official Permission to Officiate from the Bishop. But I'm sure I will return to some public ministry at some stage.

For all this, we have missed you all a lot. We both regard our time at St Giles Shipbourne as one of unalloyed pleasure. It was a privilege to be your Rector for those years. We shall always remember you in our prayers.

Best wishes

Andrew



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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

Further details can be found on the Shipbourne website
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Bluebell Walk through Riverhill Himalayan Gardens in aid of Canine Partners.

Friday 28th April 2017. Arrive 9.15am. Walk finishes 10.30am.

Cost to pay on arrival is £10 which includes tea or coffee and homemade biscuits.

Come and join us to help fundraise for Canine Partners by joining a walk through the beautiful Himalayan Gardens at Riverhill House, Sevenoaks, TN15 ORR. Dogs on leads are welcome.

The walk is hilly, through woods, across fields and country paths, and does involve a few stiles.

Wheelchair uses are welcome to enjoy the gardens and join for refreshments.

Contact: Sarah on 07803 231723.

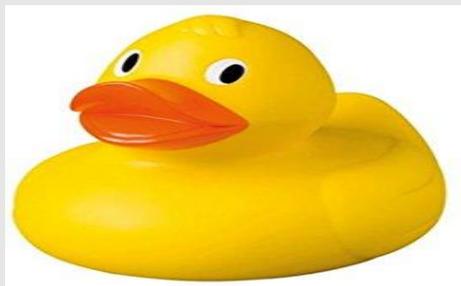


The Friends of Plaxtol Church Present
"The 2017 Duck Race"

At the Spoute Recreation Ground
2.30pm Monday 1 May 2017

Best Dress Duck Competition:
HEROES AND VILLAINS

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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

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.

Litter & Saturday Waste Service

The next 3 dates for the bulk refuse freighter are: 25th March, 29th April, 27th May

The freighter visits Upper Green Road between 8-9am. The service is provided for disposal of general household waste only. Commercial or trade waste will not be accepted. The following items cannot be collected: builders' waste, concrete and similar waste, vehicle parts, oil, paint or other chemicals, asbestos, plasterboard, soil, rubble or bricks, glazed windows or toughened glass, water tanks, boilers, iron/steel baths. Large items such as bed bases and wardrobes should be broken down in advance. Please stay with your items until they are on the freighter otherwise they will not be collected.

Should you have any queries please contact 01732 876147 or visit <http://www.tmbc.gov.uk/services/environment-and-planning/recycling,-rubbish-and-waste/household-waste-special-collections-for-large-items/saturday-household-waste-service>

Litter Picking

We have noticed a recent increase in the amount of litter in our village. Please look out for litter and litter pick when you are out walking. Tonbridge and Malling have just advertised a 'litter app'. Littergram is a free app solution that allows users to take a picture of litter, flytipping or overflowing litter bins that need emptying. GPS then pinpoints the location of the problem and the photo is sent automatically to the relevant local council authority.

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council worked with littergram to develop the app, which will help the Council to respond even more quickly when rubbish is spotted and reported by app users. As well as pinpointing the exact location of the rubbish and sending a photo, the app also gives the Council the opportunity to reply to the sender to let them know what action is being taken. For more information visit www.littergram.co.uk

Defibrillator

A new 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 registered with the Ambulance Service, if anyone requires the defibrillator the code for the cabinet will be given over the phone on calling 999. The Chaser has the code for the cabinet. Please notify the Parish Clerk if you notice any problems with the defibrillator or cabinet.

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, Stumble Hill – Demolition of existing dwelling and construction of new two storey dwelling and detached double garage (resubmission of TM/16/02494/FL)
Comments have been submitted and are available on TMBC's website.

TM/16/00417/FL – Yew Tree Cottage, Upper Green Road – Erection of Greenhouse/potting shed combination and the like for like replacement of a shed.

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

Charity Event – The Greensand Scramble

Event for The Simon Trust on Thursday 27th April to support housing for autistic young adults

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-greensand-scramble-tickets-31783491278>. Please note that people participating in the event will be walking along the Greensand Way through Shipbourne village on that day.

Our next Parish Council meeting is at 7.30pm on 10 April 2017. All members of public are welcome to attend.

Mrs Sarah Huseyin

Parish Clerk

e-mail: shipbourneparishcouncil@gmail.com

Telephone: 01732 886402

SHIPBOURNE WI

The talk at the March meeting was, 'I was a 1960's Dior model'. Diane Kenyon gave an amusing account of her modelling career in London in the late 1950's and early 60's. She evoked a lively impression of the excitement and glamour of the time, and displayed photographs of herself modelling on the catwalks, reminding us of the fashions and hairstyles. She worked for Dior, Hardy Amies and Fortnum and Mason.

A lunch for members has been planned at the Chaser, and the next meeting takes place on Wednesday 12th April, when the talk will be "Assistance Dogs".

There will be no Book Club meeting in April, owing to the usual Monday date being Bank Holiday Monday. A new date will be arranged at the 12th April main meeting.

Glynis Coates

FAREWELL FROM OUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR

As you can imagine, I have very mixed feelings about giving up my role as County Councillor at the next election. It has been a wonderful experience for me – and good, I hope for you. The beautiful villages I have served in this Division exhibit the best of English rural life, and I am honestly grateful to you, their residents, for having elected me on four occasions, over sixteen years.

I hope that your next County Councillor, whoever that may be, will reflect the virtues of commitment and accessibility, as well as the unimpeachable integrity, that the role requires. Good, honest local government really matters!

With all good wishes and my warmest thanks,

Valerie Dagger, Kent County Councillor.

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



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CANINE PARTNERS SPONSORED ABSEIL

Tita Kindersley has bravely (some might say, foolishly) accepted a challenge to raise funds for the wonderful charity Canine Partners. On Thursday 18th May she will be abseiling the ArcelorMitta Orbit in the world renowned Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in London. This is the UK's tallest sculpture, measuring 114.5m in height. TITA!! DON'T LOOK DOWN!!

Canine Partners is a registered charity that transforms the lives of people with physical disabilities by partnering them with assistance dogs. The dogs give greater independence and quality of life to their partners, offering security, companionship and practical help with everyday household tasks.

If you would like to sponsor Tita, please go to the Canine Partners page on the Justgiving website, or call Tita on 810293.

Jacs Raven

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(04/16)

SHIPBOURNE FARMERS' MARKET

Although Shipbourne failed to win the Taste of Kent Awards for Best Farmers Market (it was won by Tonbridge) we once again made the finals. Thanks to all who voted for us.

In terms of number of visitors to the market we are on a par with last year i.e. better than the previous 2 years but not really improving. Hopefully Easter will provide the stimulus for a better market year. We do not wish to lose such a local community asset and are investigating ideas as to what we could do to increase the viability of the market. All ideas are welcome. (Please contact Bob on bob@lodgeoast.co.uk)

April arrives and spring gets into gear as longer days with more light stimulate growth and make us all feel better after a long winter. Lambs are gamboling in the fields, wild garlic is sprouting near streams and rivers and it's the perfect time to try some seasonal treats.

Fish lovers will find sea bass, cod, halibut, crab, mussels and scallops all at their finest now. A whole salmon is a good choice for an Easter celebration - bake whole wrapped in foil with butter and herbs and serve simply with hollandaise sauce. It is still too early for local lambs, so how about a wonderful joint of fine beef or pork. For poultry look out for guinea fowl – perfect for lighter eating.

Lettuces, spinach, watercress, cucumber and spring onions are starting to arrive, taking over from the winter brassicas so make the most of them in fresh salads and soups to give a welcome boost of easily absorbed vitamins and minerals we all need after the long winter. Gary's fresh leaves have proved to be a great favourite and they last so long !

NOTICE:

Licensing Act 2003

Notice of Application for a Premises Licence

Notice is hereby given that Mr Robert Taylor has applied to Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council for the Grant of The Sale of Alcohol for the Premises of St Giles Church (Farmers Market), situated at Stumble Hill, Shipbourne, Kent TN11 9PF.

Any person wishing to submit representations about the proposal should make them in writing to: Licensing Services, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4LZ or by email to licensing.services@tmbc.gov.uk, giving in detail, the grounds of object by Midnight on 20th April 2017.

COOKERY CORNER

RHUBARB CRUMBLE

Keep on cooking with rhubarb, now moving from the bright pink early forced variety into the darker outdoor version. Rhubarb is a versatile fruit that works in both sweet and savoury dishes but do make sure you add the right amount of sugar to balances the sour.

- 500g sliced rhubarb
- 75g caster sugar
- 75g plain flour
- 25g ground almonds
- 50 g sugar
- 75g butter
- Flaked almonds (for topping)

A simple Rhubarb and almond crumble is a true seasonal pleasure, especially when served warm with thick local cream.

1. Scatter the sliced rhubarb with the caster sugar in a baking dish, then top with a crumble made with the plain flour, ground almonds, sugar and butter.
2. Scatter with flaked almonds and bake for 40 minutes in a medium oven until golden. Serve warm.



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(10/16)

THE GARDEN SHED

The arrival of the month of April also brings the arrival of spring - and a sudden upsurge in the work that has to be done in the garden. Providing the jobs are tackled in order (the most important first) sanity can take over from desperation. This is a lovely month when the warmer sun and longer days produce a burst of growth and a wonderful display of flowers.

In the vegetable garden, seeds of the hardier plants can be sown. If the sowing of peas, broad beans, carrots, onions and parsnips has been delayed, getting them sown into the warmer soil will not leave them far behind an earlier sowing. It is still too early to sow or plant anything that may be harmed by frost; this also applies to half hardy flowering plants.

Main crop potatoes need to be planted in the first half of this month, but the early varieties can be planted in late March. If frost threatens after the young shoots have appeared through the soil, a layer of earth can be pulled over them to protect them from damage.

In the fruit garden, autumn fruiting raspberries need last year's canes cut down to ground level, but that does not apply to those fruiting in June and July. There are several good varieties of autumn fruiting raspberries, 'Autumn Bliss', 'Joan J', 'Autumn Treasure' and 'Polka'. Although the cropping is not as heavy as that produced by the summer varieties, their fruiting begins in late July and carries on until end of October. Luckily it is too late in the season for the grubs of the raspberry beetle to be around, so the fruit is grub free. If a bed of these late fruiting raspberries is planned for this year it would be best to purchase pot grown plants rather than bare root ones.

The fruiting of strawberries can last from early June until late July, but the season can be extended with the use of plants that have been held in a cold store. These 'Super Crowns' can be bought from March until early July and will fruit 60-90 days after planting. They can be grown either in pots, grow-bags or in the ground and they will extend the fruiting season until the early autumn.

All soft fruit plants will benefit from a dressing of fertiliser and compost which can be lightly forked into the surface of the soil; the whole area can then be covered with an 8-10cms (3-4ins) mulch of bark or wood chippings, which will suppress the weeds and keep in the moisture.

Daffodils are one of the joys of springtime - the earliest bloom in February and other varieties will continue the display until the end of April. Removing the spent flowers will not only keep the show looking its best but will ensure it is repeated the following year. If the daffodils are grown in grass it is advisable to leave the area uncut for about 6 weeks after they flower; this will allow the leaves time to build up the bulbs to produce next year's blooms.

I wish you all a very happy Easter.

Tessa Forbes

THE WEATHER IN FEBRUARY

The rainfall recorded in February was 46.3 mm. (1.8 in.) compared with an average of 55.3 mm. (2.2 in.) over the last thirty two years. The average maximum temperature was 10.1⁰ C, compared with an average of 7.4⁰C over the past twenty seven years. The average minimum temperature was 3.1⁰C, compared with an average of 0.8⁰C over the last twelve years.

Donald Forbes

LOCAL HISTORY

THE BEAUTIFUL WOODS OF SHIPBOURNE

As car drivers, we tend to know the names of the roads on our patch whereas, when travelling by foot was the norm in Shipbourne, residents knew the names of all the woods, fields and hills. Every change in the terrain - whether an incline, an obstacle, a short cut or change in surface or surroundings - was of much greater importance than we imagine as we travel in our comfortable and fast modes of transport. Woods, and therefore their names, were of particular importance because not only did they indicate location but they were also the site of employment, fuel or shelter.

Dene Park, on Puttenden Road, was originally known as Shipbourne Forest before it was taken over by the Forestry Commission and conifers planted along with the existing native deciduous oaks and hornbeam. Within the forest, wooded areas were known by individual names: Claygate Wood, north of Dene Park car park, is actually in the Parish of Hadlow; to the west of it in Shipbourne parish Woodcock Bottom, Scambles, and Point Wood were also distinct areas.

Along the northern edge of these woodlands can still be seen the ancient hornbeams that mark the parish boundary. The western edge of Kiln Wood shares a boundary (footpath MR397) with Hoad Common, the heath now a wooded area too, which is dissected by the A227 road between Tonbridge and Shipbourne.

Kiln Wood is situated north of Kilnwood Reservoir just to the east of The Hoad. This area was known as Stone Gate where the historical toll road through Shipbourne started. Knight's Wood is the area east of Kiln Wood and the "Union Boundary" separated them: Kiln Wood is in Shipbourne whilst Knight's Wood is in Hadlow Parish.

West through Hoad Common, and south of the Hildenborough Road, lies Peacock Wood and Barr Wood: north of the road, on the Fairlawne Estate, are Long Slope Wood, Callis Wood and Kilnfield Wood.

In this woodland near the junction with Riding Lane bluebells blossom under the open canopy, a wonderful welcome to the parish in springtime. More bluebells cheer those travelling north up Mote Road: Cold Blows is the large wood on the right whilst, before reaching the Mote, are Crane Shaw, South Seer Wood, Alders Shaw and Orchard Shaw. Adjacent to them, between South Seers Shaw

and Fattening Pen, runs the footpath (MR394 and the Greensand Way) from Ightham Mote downhill towards the church where it continues (as MR392) towards St Giles and Shipbourne common.

Shaws are small groups of trees - often separating fields - that have been allowed to remain by the landowner not only to shelter crops but historically, and specifically, to shelter the game birds reared by the large surrounding estates and the foxes that prey on the game. Within the private grounds of Fairlawne itself, Round Shaw, Well Shaw, Home Coverts and Brakybank Wood are testament to this. Many of the beauties and distinguishing features of our landscape are due to the rural sporting traditions of shooting and hunting.

Shipbourne Wood at Puttenden crossroad dissects Hamptons Road and is designated 'ancient woodland'. An ancient wood has sufficient indicator species present to prove it is medieval in origin. These will not be the showy plants we know in our gardens but native trees, hedgerow species, fungi, lichen, ferns, mosses, delicate wild flowers and herbs. The wildlife may be rarely glimpsed small mammals, birds, butterflies, insects, snakes or newts.

Many of us imagine that the great forests of the past are populated by large majestic trees of the sort featured in fairy tales but this is often not so. It is just as likely that other ancient sites are like Shipbourne Wood which has few mature specimens being mostly comprised of slim coppiced trees cut down in rotation - and regenerated - over hundreds of years to produce charcoal and farm implements.

Puttenden Road, as Mote Road, is a sunken drove way where the pigs were driven in medieval times to fatten them on the acorns and beech mast found in the surrounding woodlands. At Hookwood, further down Puttenden Road opposite Dene Park, a footpath ((MT113) follows the parish boundary eastwards to Clearhedges Wood, absolute bluebell heaven in May time.

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.

NEW: TWO TRADITIONAL DECKCHAIRS in stripy fabric. One blue and one red. Fabric a bit dirty but still serviceable. £5.00 each. Tel: 01732 365879. (06/17)

CHILDCARE/HOUSEKEEPER WANTED: Housekeeping and after school care for 16, 15 and 11 year old children, 4 - 8.30 pm (hours flexible, and additional hours available, if wanted), Monday to Friday, in Shipbourne village. Duties to include preparing dinner, washing and ironing, homework and music practice assistance, with general housekeeping duties (but not full cleaning) and occasional drop offs and collections (driving licence necessary, and own car preferred but not essential). Please call Naomi on 07802 784999. (04/17)

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) 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.

DOMESTIC GODDESS is a family run business offering cleaning, ironing and housekeeping support. We provide a professional, experienced, reliable and fully insured service and are committed to delivering the highest standard of work. We'd be happy to hear from you on 07746 488449 or see our website www.domesticgoddessuk.co.uk (04/16)

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

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

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. Please call 01732 811023 (01/17)

HAIR BY SHARON - Mobile hairdresser, for prices or to make an appointment please call 01732 773043 (05/16)

TONBRIDGE OSTEOPATHIC CLINIC AT PEAK FITNESS GYM. Osteopathy for all ages and all problems. www.tonbridgeosteopathicclinic.co.uk / 01732 369928 £10 discount off 1st appointment when you mention this newsletter!

BROADBAND: www.TheBroadbandEngineer.co.uk 07504 170 951
gary.foard@projectbroadband.co.uk Broadband optimisation. Wired Ethernet extensions & more. (03/17)

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: martincruse4@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 (03/17)

DAVID ROWE Plumbing & Heating, a reliable engineer for all your domestic requirements including: boiler installation, servicing and repairs, full heating systems, radiators, hot water cylinders, power-flushing, gas fires, gas cookers, bathrooms. Please contact David, 07715266311 or email droweph@virginmedia.com (03/17)

YEW TREE & GARDEN SERVICES provide a complete solution to all your tree and gardening needs. Please visit us at www.yewtreeandgarden.co.uk. For garden enquiries please call Simon on 07864 829587, for tree work please call Christian on 07711 783580. NPTC Qualified & Public Liability insured. (12/16)

GARDENING SERVICES: RHS Certificate. Hadlow College Trained. Established 1993. Weeding, mowing, edging, pruning and planting. Please call Charles Zoepfel on 01892 836866 or 07762 069675 (05/16)

KINDLING: Split softwood quality kindling sticks, neatly cut and bagged in large green or orange nets. These barn stored seasoned sticks are ideal for lighting woodburners, log fires or barbeques. £5 each or 3 nets for £12. C.O.D. Free delivery in Shipbourne. Ring Cilla on 810338

LOCAL WASP NEST TREATMENT: Fast, efficient, reliable. Andy Wasp 07833 558773

PRIVATE TUTOR – Supported study available with a qualified and experienced local village based tutor. GCSE prep and revision available, A level and dissertation support. History, English, Ancient History, Classical Civilizations, Media Studies. Please ring to discuss your requirements. 01732 810053 or 07999826289 (01/17)

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)

VEHICLE REPAIRS and maintenance. Local mechanic with 30 years experience. No job too large or too small on any make of vehicle, lawn mowers etc I have a fully-equipped van so can offer a mobile service. Call Fred on 07714749754 (12/16)

NEED ASSISTANCE with your tax return? Worried about tax? Let me help. Friendly and personal assistance from a specialist. Call John Foster-Powell FCCA on 01732 810661 or 07914 855035 to arrange a meeting to suit you. Free initial consultation. (tbc)

NEW FOREST, Holiday Cottage, near Lymington, sleeps eight, fenced garden, WiFi, view details at www.brackencottage.com or call 07711 054103 (05/16)

B AND B holiday accommodation in self-contained oast house in the heart of Shipbourne village. Visit www.bearmanoroast.co.uk For further details phone 01732 811256 or e-mail [BearManorOast@hotmail.co.uk](mailto: BearManorOast@hotmail.co.uk)

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



Happy Easter to all our readers!

