

*St Giles and Shipbourne*  
**NEWSLETTER**



*May 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](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

101 For non-urgent police attendance,  
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hour crime reporting

999 For emergencies  
01622 690690 For Maidstone office  
07772 226006 Mark Thomas, Police Community Support Officer

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(tbc)

## PARISH DIARY – MAY 2017

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

<b>Thursday</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9-11am</b>	<b>Farmers' Market at St Giles Shipbourne</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>3.00pm</b>	<b>Institution by the Bishop of Rochester of the Reverend Dr Peter Hayler as Rector of Shipbourne with Plaxtol at St Giles, Shipbourne, followed by refreshments in the Village Hall</b>
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>8.00am</b>	Holy Communion at Plaxtol Church
		<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Parish Communion at St Giles Shipbourne</b>
		11.00am	Family Service followed by short Communion at Plaxtol Church
		Readings:	Genesis 7 Acts 2 vv 42-end John 10 vv 1-10
<b>Monday</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7.00pm</b>	<b>Annual Parish Meeting (further details in Parish Council article), followed by Shipbourne Parish Council meeting at Village Hall</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9-11am</b>	<b>Farmers' Market at St Giles Shipbourne</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Playchurch at St Giles Shipbourne</b>
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>14<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:	Genesis 8 vv 1-19 Acts 7 vv 55-end John 14 vv 1-14
<b>Monday</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>8.00pm</b>	<b>Parochial Church Council meeting, Shipbourne Village Hall</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10-11.30am</b>	<b>Christian Aid Coffee Morning, Shipbourne Village Hall</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9-11am</b>	<b>Farmers' Market at St Giles Shipbourne</b>
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>8.00am</b>	Holy Communion at Plaxtol Church
		<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Parish Communion at St Giles Shipbourne</b>
		12.00pm	Short Communion at Plaxtol Church
		4.00pm	Community@4 at Plaxtol Church
		Readings:	Genesis 8.20-9.17 Acts 17 vv 22-31 John 14 vv 15-21

<b>Thursday ASCENSION DAY</b>	<b>25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9-11am</b>	<b>Farmers' Market at St Giles Shipbourne</b>
		<b>8.00pm</b>	<b>Sung Communion at St Giles Shipbourne</b>
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>8.00am</b>	<b>Holy Communion at St Giles Shipbourne</b>
		<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Family Service at St Giles Shipbourne</b>
		11.00am	Parish Communion at Plaxtol Church
		Readings:	Ezekiel 36 vv 24-28 Acts 1 vv 6-14 John 17 vv 1-11

## **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 13 May 2017

For further information please contact:

Mary Perry Tel: 01732 810797

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

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

**Saturday 27 May 2017**

## **PASTORAL LETTER**

### **MAY, MINISTRY, MERCURY AND MESSAGE**

May is my favourite month. The light and warmth of Spring have arrived and the shades of green in all the newly opened leaves are at their most brilliant. The trials of Lent and pain of Passiontide have passed, and the joy and hope of Eastertide are with us, leading us to Ascensiontide and Pentecost/Whitsun. By the time May arrives this year, Donna and I will have moved into the Rectory in Plaxtol in readiness for my installation as Rector of the United Benefice of Shipbourne and Plaxtol. On Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> at 3pm in St Giles' church, the Bishop of Rochester will invite everyone present to enter into the challenges and opportunities of new ministry and new life together in the supernatural family of the church.

What do we really mean when we use the word 'ministry'? When the Apostles were formed into the Church by the Holy Spirit at Pentecost they would have had no prior experience of being the church, and no words with which to describe the key tasks of organising their new community. One of the key words that seems to have been chosen and which we now translate as 'ministry' was primarily associated with Hermes/Mercury, the messenger of the Greek/Roman gods, with the associated sense of speed, urgency, mandate and, quite literally, 'through-the-dust'. From the same family of words came the title Deacon, having the sense of servant, minister, go-between or special agent.

One of the most important words that is coupled with the word 'ministry' in the church of the twenty-first century is 'collaborative'. The church (and the world!) has changed rapidly and sufficiently enough that a parish priest is no longer the only minister, but rather the one who leads a team of those who share in the tasks of ministry. If the church is to be the supernatural family it is called to be, it will need the gifts of all its members, and for these gifts to be ordered and sustained prayerfully and purposefully around carefully discerned goals.

Jesus the Good Shepherd (another great image for Spring!) said 'I have come that you might have life, and have it abundantly' (John 10:10). So the purpose of our pastoral care is to support the wellbeing of the whole community. The pattern of the Good Shepherd is based upon recognition of voices and relationships; 'the sheep hear his voice, he calls his own sheep by name and leads

them out' (John 10:3-4). So, most of all, I look forward to meeting you, getting to know you, hearing your story, the story of the parishes where you 'live and move and have your being,' and even the stories of your lives in the world beyond the parishes.

***Peter Hayler***

*Rector*

## **CHURCH NOTICES**

### **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK - 14-20 MAY**

This month, Christian Aid Week will take place starting on Sunday 14 May and will focus on raising money to support refugees across the world. Christian Aid Week started 60 years ago to help refugees from the Second World War. Unfortunately, it is still needed today as millions of people flee their homes because of war, conflict and disaster.

In Shipbourne and Plaxtol we shall be raising money. We will be holding a fundraising coffee morning at Shipbourne Village Hall on Wednesday 17 May from 10-11.30am and collections will also take place at Church services and at the Farmers' Market on Thursday 18 May where Viv Packer will be manning a dedicated collection stall.

If you would like to make a donation, please contact Sally Bryden on 01732 810935 or visit the Christian Aid website at [www.caid.org.uk](http://www.caid.org.uk)

Thank you

***Sally Bryden***

### **JUNE NEWSLETTER**

Please send any articles and adverts for the June newsletter by **17 May 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](mailto:lindsay_miles@btinternet.com) or call 01732 810439.



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**Tel: 01732 811144 Mob: 07889 362462**

References and photo gallery available at

<http://www.checkatrade.com/InscopeManagement Services/>

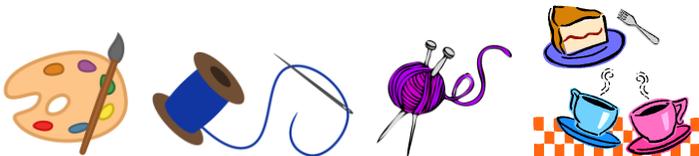
10/16

**SAVE THE DATE**

**SHIPBOURNE CRAFT FAIR**

**SATURDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2017**

**SHIPBOURNE VILLAGE HALL**



## **SCOTTISH DANCING IN SHIPBOURNE VILLAGE HALL**

Held fortnightly on Tuesday evenings from 7.15-9.00pm, it's good exercise and great fun. Next sessions are 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> May. 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.



**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](mailto:shipbourne.villagehall@gmail.com)

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



## **The Kentish Rifleman**

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**Bookings always advisable on 01732 810727**

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**Friday, May 19 2017**

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BAR 6:45

SHOW 7:30

DINNER IN INTERVAL

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**Table Info/Reservations:**  
**Gill French 07932 050622**  
*/info@plaxtolplayers.co.uk*

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**

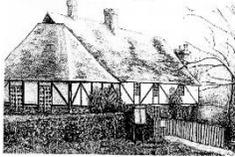
Your decorated duck can be from the world  
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## SHIPBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

# NOTICE



You are invited as an Elector of Shipbourne to attend  
the

## **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING Monday 8 MAY 2016, 7.00 p.m. SHIPBOURNE VILLAGE HALL**

### **Parish Councillor Vacancy**

The Parish Council are still looking for a Parish Councillor, if you are interested in applying, please contact the Parish Clerk – [shipbourneparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:shipbourneparishcouncil@gmail.com) or telephone 01732 886402.

### **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.

### **Finance**

You should have all received the Council Tax bills for 2017/8 and will notice that the Parish element has increased.

The parish precept is the money that a parish raises each year to fund its work. It is billed to the ratepayers of the parish as a separate item in their annual Council Tax bill.

For a number of years The Parish Council hasn't increased the parish precept which raised about £8,600 p.a., a relatively small precept compared with that of neighbouring parishes. However in your 2017/18 Council Tax Bill you will notice that the Tonbridge & Malling District charge element has reduced by 5.7% % whilst the Shipbourne Parish Council precept has increased.

In previous years Shipbourne Parish Council also received funds of about £4,200 p.a. from the District Council. The major part of this District funding was to cover the cost of local activities, e.g. churchyard maintenance and hedge/grass cutting, undertaken by the parishes but in the Borough of Tonbridge undertaken by the District Council. This was at no extra cost to ratepayers in the Borough as they did not have to pay a parish precept. The balance of about £550 p.a was a subsidy that the District Council volunteered to make available to parishes to ease the financial pressures experienced by parish councils in recent years.

For the new financial year Tonbridge & Malling has tightened its belt and has withdrawn this subsidy. It has also rejigged the arrangements for funding the local activities referred to above. The District Council has removed all such local activities from its element of Council Tax. Ratepayers in Tonbridge Borough will have to make an additional payment for these services as they receive them from the District Council whereas the services provided by the parishes will now have to be funded directly from the parish precept.

After a full budget review and careful consideration of its reserves and contingency requirements Shipbourne Parish Council has decided to limit the parish precept to £10,200 for 2017/18, an increase of only £1,600 despite losing £4,200 from District Council funding.

### **Dog Training on the Common**

We have received a number of reports of a number of dog trainers using the common, whilst everyone is free to use the common it should not be used to the exclusion of others. Dogs must also be under the control of their owners at all times.

### **Litter & Saturday Waste Service**

The next 2 dates for the bulk refuse freighter are: 29<sup>th</sup> April, 27<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.littergram.co.uk)

### **Defibrillator**

A new defibrillator has recently been installed on the back wall of the Chaser and we are looking for more 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](mailto: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/17/00665/FL** - Old Stables, Upper Green Road, Shipbourne, Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 9PL. Loft conversion. Applicant: Mr & Mrs Clews Old Stables Upper Green Road Shipbourne Tonbridge, Kent TN11 9PL.

**TM/17/00703/FL** - 1 And 2 Martins Cottages, Back Lane, Shipbourne, Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 9PP. Change of use of land from agricultural to residential curtilage, construction of a detached three bay garage and two storey side extensions, single storey rear extensions and rear dormers to 1 Martins Cottages and Crockwell. Applicant: Fairlawne Estate Co. Ltd

**TM/17/00784/FL** - Kingswood Training Services, Back Lane, Shipbourne, Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 9PP. Proposed double garage and new vehicular access to dwelling.

**TM/17/00833/PDVAR** - The Barn, Tinley Lodge Farm, Hildenborough Road, Shipbourne Tonbridge, Kent TN11 9QB. Prior Notification: Change of use of agricultural building to a dwelling house and associated building operations (part 3 class Q).

You can view and comment on planning applications and decisions at [www.tmbc.gov.uk](http://www.tmbc.gov.uk)

Our next Parish Council meeting is at 7.30pm on 8 May 2017 which will be preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.00pm. All members of public are welcome to attend.

***Mrs Sarah Huseyin***

Parish Clerk

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

Telephone: 01732 886402

## **SHIPBOURNE WI**

Dog -loving members were waiting eagerly for the talk at the meeting held this month. Sandra Furness, who is a volunteer for Canine Partners, did not disappoint, as she brought Kimber, a labrador / golden retriever cross puppy to join us.

Canine Partners is a charity which trains dogs to assist people with disabilities, people who are usually in wheelchairs.

Over one hundred puppies a year are trained by volunteers, who have the dogs when they are about eight weeks old, until approximately fourteen months. The early training socialises the puppies in preparation for advanced training at one of two training centres, where they are then assessed for suitability. A successful puppy will be matched with a person at the beginning of the advanced training so that the person's specific needs are addressed, such as taking off shoes and items of clothing, helping to use a cash machine and other tasks, in order for the person to become more independent.

Sandra has had eight puppies over time, and is clearly doing such a valuable and worthwhile job, for a charity which relies totally on volunteers and fundraising, such as the Bluebell Walks.

The committee meeting will be held on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at Popes Villa Farm, and the monthly meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> May will be the Annual Meeting, followed by a talk by Dale Thomas on Jewellery, the first of our programme of speakers for the coming year.

***Glynis Coates***

## **THE WEATHER IN MARCH**

The rainfall recorded in March was 66.5 mm. (2.6 in.) compared with an average of 66.5 mm. (2.6 in.) over the last thirty two years. The average maximum temperature was 7.5<sup>0</sup> C, compared with an average of 10.7<sup>0</sup>C over the last twenty six years and the average minimum temperature was 0.6<sup>0</sup>C compared with an average of 2.0<sup>0</sup>C over the last twelve years.

***Donald Forbes***

## **HEARING DOGS FOR DEAF PEOPLE**

Hearing Dogs for Deaf People provide life changing partnerships by providing a hearing dog for deaf adults and children. There are over 70 of these partnerships in Kent and the surrounding area. Each year 20 Great British Dog Walks take place across the UK to help raise funds to create more partnerships and for the first time one of these walks is taking place at Ightham Mote on Saturday 13th May.

Registration opens at 1000am and there will be 2 walks - a 3km and an 8km walk through the stunning ancient woodland. The Hearing Dog demonstration team and a number of working partnerships will be there for you to meet, as well as stalls and refreshments. For more information and to pre-register for the walk please go to [www.hearingdogs.org.uk/support/events/gbdw-ightham-mote](http://www.hearingdogs.org.uk/support/events/gbdw-ightham-mote) or contact Davina at [davina.morgans@hearingdogs.org.uk](mailto:davina.morgans@hearingdogs.org.uk) or on 07435 964466.



**CHRISTIAN AID WEEK**  
**FUNDRAISING COFFEE MORNING**  
**Wednesday 17 May 2017**  
**10-11.30am**  
**Shipbourne Village Hall**

## **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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## SHIPBOURNE FARMERS' MARKET

It always amazes me how many small producers there are in Kent (we have on the Kent Farmers Market web site [www.kfma.org.uk](http://www.kfma.org.uk) over 600 producers!). These comprise small farmers and producers who use Farmers Markets as a way to grow their businesses, others use the markets to trial their food and drink added value ideas and then there are those who use the markets as an outlet for their talents.

One of the problems of running a relatively small weekly market is to keep customer interested from week to week and so we shall experiment with the idea of guest stalls and sales of locally produced alcoholic drinks such as Greensand Gin (produced less than a mile for the market), local wines and beer.

May is always an exciting month at the Farmers' Market, the Asparagus season heralds the start of the new vegetable growing season and is now in full swing. Asparagus is at its sublime best when picked and cooked within hours, something easily achievable when bought locally at the market unlike offerings from the supermarket. Make the most of the distinctive flavour by serving simply steamed with melted butter, griddled with shaved Parmesan or toss with crumbled local **goats' cheese** and a simple vinaigrette. It also pairs well with bacon and ham products, mint, new potatoes, and toasted almonds

Look out for are tender little early English **new potatoes** giving the Jerseys a run for their money and early summer leaves such as **spinach, watercress** and **lettuces** are starting to appear. The wealth of summer berries is still ahead of us but do make the most of green **outdoor rhubarb** this month in crumbles, pies and fools.

Wild **sea trout** is one of the season's great treats – smaller fish make a lovely meal for one. **Lemon sole, cod, halibut and sea bass** are all good at this time of year as are **cockles**. For meat eaters spring **lamb** will start to appear during the month and should not to be missed, whilst local reared beef and pork will be at its most succulent as the grazing starts to green up.

<p>If you have marketing ideas, keen to use social media, knowledge of food retailing, administration experience or just willing to give us a few hours a month, we are always looking for help please contact Bob on 01732 833976</p>
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## **COOKERY CORNER**

### **ASPARAGUS, RADISH AND BLUE CHEESE SALAD**

Serves 2 -3/ Prep 10 mins/ Cook 8 mins

- 1 small bunch fresh asparagus, trimmed
- 2 large free range eggs
- 8 radishes, trimmed and sliced
- large handful fresh rocket
- 25g pine nuts, toasted
- 50g Blue cheese, crumbled
- For the dressing:
- 2 tbsp rapeseed oil
- 1 tbsp lemon juice
- 2 tbsp natural yogurt
- 2 tbsp chopped fresh mint
- salt and freshly ground black pepper

1 Cook the asparagus spears in simmering water for 4 -5 minutes until just tender. Drain and run under cold water to stop them cooking any more and keep the fresh colour. Pat dry with kitchen paper. Cover the eggs with cold water, bring to the boil and simmer for 8 minutes. Cool under cold running water then shell and cut into wedges.

2 Whisk the dressing ingredients together in a large bowl and add the asparagus. Toss to coat in the dressing then add the radishes, rocket, pine nuts and cheese and toss again.

3 Pile the salad onto two serving plates and top with the egg. Serve with sourdough bread to mop up the dressing.

## **SHIPBOURNE SCHOOL NEWS**

All the children had a busy couple of months before breaking up for Easter at the end of March. Fairlawne and Hampton classes had a visit to Lullingstone Roman Villa and Eagle Heights. Some Year 5 children also went to the Schools at Somerhill for a maths challenge. The annual World Book day generated some interesting activities and costumes. The netball team completed an amazing season, winning all of its scheduled matches, and coming third in a Tonbridge and Malling tournament; the school community is very proud of all the players.

Finally, all the children thoroughly enjoyed their Easter Egg Hunt, and the end of term service at the church, with its Mother's Day theme, was very popular and appreciated by parents, grandparents and carers. The school resumed on April 18th to begin another busy term.

***Brenda Mullinger***

## **Mote Farm Open Farm Sunday**

Mote Farm Open Farm Sunday will be taking place on 11th June at Mote Farm, Ivy Hatch, Sevenoaks, TN15 0NT from 10am until 4pm.

Tractor & trailer rides, working machinery displays and static displays.

RSPB bird walks.

Farm trail and children's activities.

BBQ and tea & cakes.

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**£1.00 entry fee for over 12's will be donated to Marie Curie.**

Dogs on leads only permitted in farm yard due to livestock.



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(10/16)

## **THE GARDEN SHED**

What a wonderful spring we have been having! The blossom on trees and shrubs has been amazing and for once all the Magnolias have given a glorious frost free display, and this has been accompanied by a beautiful flowering of daffodils and all the other spring bulbs.

This is the month when the brilliant displays of the summer are put into place. These are the half hardy bedding plants and they can be used as massed bedding, as bright patches within borders of other plants, or in containers or hanging baskets. Although they can be grown at home from seeds or cuttings, they do require the use of a greenhouse to get them growing early enough to be ready to plant outside in late May or early June. These plants can be bought ready to put into the soil but they need to be hardened, stocky and not showing too much flower. To do this it is vital to wait until the third or fourth week of May when the risk of frost is over.

Nearly all annuals prefer to grow in a sunny area, but Busy Lizzies (*Impatiens* varieties), *Mimulus* and bedding *Lobelia* will do well in light shade.

The soil for annuals needs to be good but not too rich, and any fertiliser added wants to have a high potash content, in other words a specialised fertiliser that is recommended for flower and fruit production – too much nitrogen encourages leaf growth at the expense of the flowers. If a water retaining gel is added to the compost for the containers and hanging baskets, it will make watering a lot easier. To keep the display going throughout the season, regular removal of dead heads and feeding with a liquid fertiliser is all that is needed.

Hanging baskets and containers can be planted early in the month providing they can be protected from the cold. If there is no room to hang the baskets, they can be placed on top of a bucket or large flower pot until they are ready to be put outside. In the case of both hanging baskets and containers the larger they are, the easier it is to look after them.

These instructions for the planting of the half hardy bedding plants also apply to the half hardy vegetable plants, such as runner and French beans, marrows and courgettes, tomatoes and cucumbers.

Pruning is a job that can crop up at any month of the year, and May is no exception. Many of the early flowering shrubs all bloom best on the growth of the previous summer. To ensure a repeat for next year the spent flowered portion needs to be pruned to a non flowering bud or shoot at the base of the flowered growth, This treatment applies to early flowering *Spiraeas*, flowering currant (*Ribes*), winter jasmine (*Jasminum*) and *Exochorda x macrantha* 'The Bride', and the brooms (*Cytisus*). The winter flowering heathers (*Erica*) will stay more compact and flower better if they have the spent flower heads removed by the middle of the month; this task is best done with shears rather than secateurs.

Enjoy your gardening.

**Tessa Forbes**



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## **LOCAL HISTORY**

### **MAY DAY IN RURAL SHIPBOURNE**

May Day celebrations go back to Anglo- Saxon times when the event was deemed a day of earth-bound joy. Unfortunately, as it became increasingly bawdy, the Commonwealth frowned on the celebration and in 1644 May Day it was abolished and the setting up of maypoles - painted in spirals of red and white - was banned. Many May poles were put up again with the Restoration of King Charles when the practice of decorating them with flowers, flying ribbons and flags on May Day was reinstated and celebrated once more.

After the Industrial Revolution had seen so many agricultural workers move to the cities, the practice declined and the day of the people was adopted as Labour Day, whilst in countries such as Russia it became the day to display their military might. At the same time Ruskin, a contemporary of William Morris, interested as the pre-Raphaelites were in rustic traditions and festivals, did his best to revive the May Day customs of dancing, old May carols, floral decorations, ribbons on horse harnesses, floral bowers and bonfires.

“Sunrise at Easter, but on May Day earliest dawn. To be out of doors, even once in the country childhood, at the dark hour when the birds reopen the Spring is a memorable experience. According to ancient belief – a superstition, but a harmless one – nothing makes beautiful like kissing a dew on May morning”.

“There are no oxen with flower-tipped horns (as in Pepys time) but there are still cowslips and lilac, apple blossom and bluebells to bring into the house, and in some families the children have brought their parents a May bunch on this morning,” writes Laurence Whistler in 1947 when Shipbourne villagers would surely have celebrated these age-old customs, before May Day celebrations became less widespread again.

May blossom – the flower of the hawthorn - is already out in a warm year such as this and there appears to be nothing historically superstitious about having any in the house except that it was believed that the tree was sacred and should not be cut down. However, branches of May blossom were cut and put in houses on May Day as it was believed that they kept ghosts away. It was also used to decorate not only the doors and windows of the houses but of the church too.

May garlands were made like wreaths from wands of willow or along the lines of a crown, a cushion or a globe - symbolising the sun or moon - using freshly picked spring flowers and coloured ribbons. The ancient wooden May Pole - once a fixture in every village and town - was topped by a crown and royal arms and decorated with flowers.

Shipbourne families such as the Collins and the Heskettts remember their parents telling them when, as elementary school children in the 1950's and 1960's, a wooden May pole was erected in the village and a May Queen crowned. The schoolchildren, both boys and girls, danced around it in formation interweaving the coloured ribbons until they were plaited around the pole. The last time the maypole was danced around in Shipbourne was on the village green during the First World War Event in 2014.

The Green Man - Jack-in-the Green, completely covered from head to foot in leaves and flowers - still appears on May Day in some parts of the country to welcome the summer. And both he and Morris Men still visit villages like ours in Kent flourishing their coloured handkerchiefs whilst they make merry with noise, music, dancing and drinking ale in order to chase winter away and welcome summer.

***Libby Cohen***

## SHIPBOURNE CLASSIFIEDS

### Shipbourne Classifieds –Contact Details:

**Tish Gourmelon**

**Tel: 07966 035492 / Email: [tishgo@hotmail.com](mailto: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.***

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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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**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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