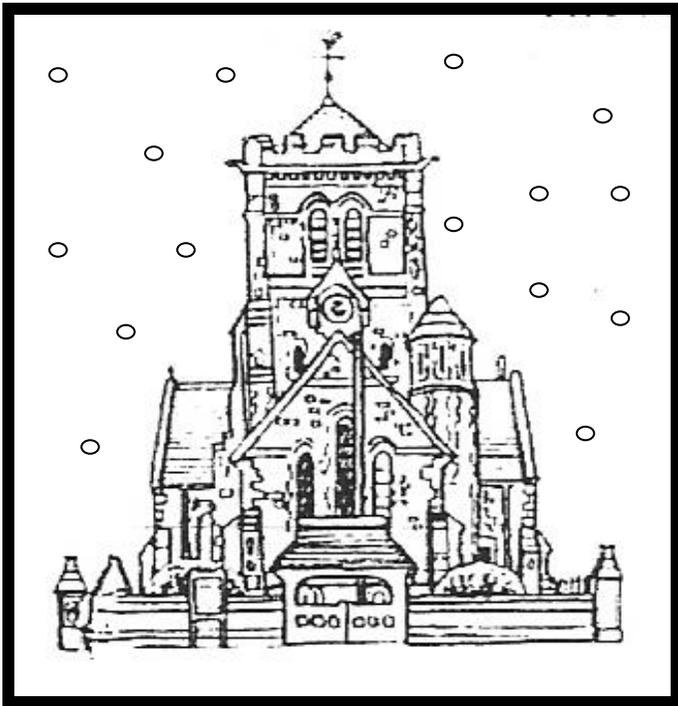


*St Giles and Shipbourne*  
**NEWSLETTER**



*December 2017*

# OFFICERS OF ST GILES AND VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

## ST GILES

Rector of Shipbourne with Plaxtol: 811081  
Rev Dr Peter Hayler  
The Rectory, The Street, Plaxtol  
TN15 0QG  
Email: RectorSwP@gmail.com  
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, J Bate  
A Razak

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

## SHIPBOURNE SCHOOL

Headmistress Mrs K Dodd 810344  
[www.shipbourne.kent.sch.uk](http://www.shipbourne.kent.sch.uk)

## 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

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[lindsay\\_miles@btinternet.com](mailto:lindsay_miles@btinternet.com)  
Advertising: Tish Gourmelon 07966 035492  
Copying: Mary Perry 810797

## USEFUL POLICE CONTACT NUMBERS

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

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(12/16)

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(tbc)

**Rector of Shipbourne with Plaxtol**  
 Rev Dr Peter Hayler  
 The Rectory, The Street, Plaxtol TN15 0QG  
 Tel: 01732-811081  
 E-mail: RectorSwP@gmail.com

## PARISH DIARY – DECEMBER 2017

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

**Every weekday at 8.00am Morning Prayer will be said at Plaxtol and every weekday evening (except Friday and Saturday) at 4.30pm Evening Prayer will be said at St Giles Shipbourne.**

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	8.00am	Holy Communion at Plaxtol Church
		<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Parish Communion at St Giles Shipbourne</b>
		11.00am	Family “Toy” Service with Communion at Plaxtol Church
		<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Advent Carol Service at St Giles Shipbourne</b>
		Readings:	Isaiah 64 vv 1-9 1 Corinthians 1 vv 3-9 Mark 13 vv 24-end
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9-11am</b>	<b>Farmers’ Market at St Giles Shipbourne</b>
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>10<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
		2.30-4.30pm	Table Top Sale at Plaxtol Memorial Hall (see advert)
		Readings:	Isaiah 40 vv 1-11 2 Peter 3 vv 8-15 Mark 1 vv 1-8
<b>Monday</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>Shipbourne Parish Council meeting at Shipbourne Village Hall</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9-11am</b>	<b>Farmers’ Market at St Giles Shipbourne</b>
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup></b>	8.00am	Holy Communion at Plaxtol Church
		<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Nativity Family Service at St Giles Shipbourne</b>
		11.00am	Parish Communion at Plaxtol Church
			<b>NO 12pm Holy Communion at Plaxtol Church</b>
			<b>NO Community@4 at Plaxtol Church</b>
		5.00pm	Carol Service at Plaxtol Church
Readings:	Isaiah 61 vv 1-4; 8-end 1 Thessalonians 5 vv 16-24 John 1 vv 6-8, 19-28		
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>9-11am</b>	<b>Farmers’ Market at St Giles Shipbourne</b>
		10.30am	United Benefice Christmas Playchurch at Plaxtol Church
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>9-11am</b>	<b>Special Shipbourne Farmers’ Market: * collection of pre-ordered meats *purchase of fresh fruit and veg</b>
		3.15pm	Bethlehem Live in Plaxtol Street and Rectory: see Plaxtol Herald for details

<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b>	<b>24th</b>	<b>8.00am</b>	<b>Holy Communion at St Giles Shipbourne</b>
		<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Parish Communion (said service) at St Giles Shipbourne</b>
		11.00am	Parish Communion (said service) at Plaxtol Church
		<b>5.00pm</b>	<b>Carol Service at St Giles Shipbourne</b>
		11.30pm	Benefice Choral Communion at Plaxtol Church
		Readings:	2 Samuel 7 vv 1-11, 16 Romans 16 vv 25-end Luke 1 vv 26-38
<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>	<b>25<sup>th</sup></b>		<b>NO 8.00am Communion in the Benefice</b>
		<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Family Communion at St Giles Shipbourne</b>
		11.00am	Family Communion at Plaxtol Church
		Readings:	Isaiah 52 vv 7-10 Hebrews 1 vv 1-4 John 1 vv 1-14
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup></b>		<b>NO Farmers' Market at St Giles Shipbourne</b> <b>The Farmers' Market returns on 18 January 2018</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>31<sup>st</sup></b>	8.00am	Holy Communion at Plaxtol Church
		<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Parish Communion at St Giles Shipbourne</b>
		11.00am	Morning Worship at Plaxtol Church
		<b>11.30pm</b>	<b>New Year's Eve Vigil, "Ring-in" the New Year and midnight supper at St Giles Shipbourne</b>
		Readings:	Isaiah 61.10-62.3 Galatians 4 vv 4-7 Luke 2 vv 15-21

To all MUM's with babes-in-arms,  
toddlers and pre-school children!!  
Please come to our new United Benefice  
**"CHRISTMAS PLAYCHURCH"**

Everyone welcome! Come and join us!

On Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December 10.30am  
at Plaxtol Church

A Bible story, creative fun followed by drinks and biscuits!



## **FROM THE REGISTER**

*Death:* **Ted Summerhayes** died on 4 October 2017 aged 81

*Death:* **Richard Wright** died on 11 October aged 76  
Richard had lived in Shipbourne for over 30 years and loved living in such beautiful surroundings

*Death:* **Arthur Green** died on 14 October aged 84  
Sadly one of Shipbourne's longest residents, Mr Arthur Green, 84, passed away on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at The Tunbridge Wells Hospital. He originally came to the area as a foundling child and had lived in Back Lane for many years. Before his ill health, Arthur was a well-known figure with his walking stick and cap, walking round the village with one of his dogs by his side. He was a village character and will be missed by all who knew him. Donations in his memory if so desired, to Thomas Coram School and Shipbourne School, c/o Abbey Funeral Services, Tonbridge.

*Christening:* **Layla Johnston** christened on 22 October 2017

# PASTORAL LETTER

## ADVENT ANTICIPATION

This year, Advent is the shortest it can be. It always consists of four Sundays, the three weeks in between, plus any spare days after the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day. This year, the fourth Sunday of Advent is Christmas Eve. In church, we use the colour purple for the season of Advent. I will wear a purple stole and chasuble, and there will be purple frontals on the altar and pulpit. This is the same colour that we use for Lent, because both seasons provide a time of preparation before the major festival that follows. We also light Advent candles, one week at a time, to remember in turn the Patriarchs, the Prophets, John the Baptist and the Blessed Virgin Mary, all of who point us towards the birth of Christ.

In popular culture Advent seems all but lost. Advent calendars seem to be more about chocolate and they are all standardised to begin on Dec 1st regardless of whether or not that is the date of Advent Sunday. Popular culture and retail culture certainly do not believe in delaying gratification or, as Veruca Salt sang in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, “I want it now!” Ever since I was ordained, Advent has seemed to be more and more a task of trying to hold back the incoming tide. There is a sense in which the over-anticipation of Christmas almost inevitably leads to anti-climax and disappointment. It places clergy in the role of either King Knute or the humbugging Ebenezer Scrooge, or both! Yes, Christmas is as inevitable as it is wonderful, but it’s also worth waiting for. So why not have a think about how you can embrace the spirit of Advent: enjoy the preparation, and even the waiting!

A question for Christmas - when it comes: How far is it to Bethlehem? I bet that Siri knows, and I’m sure Google-maps can work it out. There is a traditional carol that gives the answer, “Not very far!” Taken literally, it’s about 3500 miles; taken spiritually, it’s about 18” - the same distance from your head to your heart. Very few people are altogether ignorant of the Christmas story, but what matters most is how you respond to it. Cold indifference would be a good match with the innkeepers in the story; jealousy and rage would be a good match with King Herod, who was swift to commission genocide in response to the birth of Jesus; the Shepherds left what they were doing to go and see, and rejoiced with exceeding great joy; the Magi (literally astrologers, wizards and sorcerers of different beliefs) travelled a long way to worship, pay homage and give expensive symbolic gifts. What will be your response this Christmas?

Donna and I send every blessing for a peaceful Christmas

**Peter Hayler**  
**Rector**



# Community Bread Basket



## Benefice Community Bread Basket

I would like to work with a team of volunteers to explore starting up a 'café' style event called Community Bread Basket. It would be based in Plaxtol Church, using the new flexible space and kitchen facilities, and run on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month between 9.30am - 11.30am.

The aims of Community Bread Basket would be:

- to welcome the community into our Church building
- to offer hospitality and an opportunity for people to meet new friends
- to provide information on community activities, events and services

A team of volunteers would be needed to run the event each month. The bigger the team the more flexible we can be. My hope is to draw on people from the Church and community - male and female, young and mature - who would be willing to work with me organising this fun event for the community!

Please contact me if you are interested.

Donna Hayler  
The Rectory - 811081  
donnaHayler64@gmail.com

## **CHURCH NOTICES**

### **ANY SPARE PIANOS?**

The piano in St Giles is showing its age and should be pensioned off. Does anyone know of a piano in reasonable condition which is looking for a good home? If so, I would be delighted to hear about it. Space dictates that it would have to be an upright. The organ is fine but we need a piano as well, especially for the carol service and family services.

***John Young***

01732 810289

[jyoung@waitrose.com](mailto:jyoung@waitrose.com)

### **USED POSTAGE STAMPS**

A local charity for a childrens' hospice is collecting used postage stamps in order to raise funds. There is a box at the back of the Church "marked for Jenny Porter" for any donations.

Many thanks to all who are able to help.

***Jenny Porter***

## **ROUX TWO**

Albert Roux and Michel Roux Jr will return to Shipbourne in June 2018 for another amazing dinner to mark the 15th anniversary of the Shipbourne Farmers' Market. Further details to follow in the Newsletter in the new year ...

***Having a pre-Christmas clear-out?***



**Where:** Plaxtol Memorial Hall

**When:** Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2.30 – 4.30pm

**Sellers:** Tables are limited so please book and pay in advance £7.00 (arrive 1.50pm)

**Contact:** Donna Hayler  
The Rectory, The Street, Plaxtol.  
Tel: 01732 811081  
Email: [donnahayler64@gmail.com](mailto:donnahayler64@gmail.com)

**Buyers:** £1 entrance fee (to go to Community Bread Basket charity)



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10/16



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**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)

**Beware of a Stab in the Tinsel!**  
**The Plaxtol Players are presenting**



# **A Christmas Murder Mystery Dinner**

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> and Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December  
7:00 for 7:30pm. Plaxtol Memorial Hall  
Two evenings – Two endings



Tickets: £20 to include a festive supper.

Licensed Bar

Contact: [info@plaxtolplayers.co.uk](mailto:info@plaxtolplayers.co.uk) or Sandy Oram 01732 811494

Tables of 8 or individuals welcome.

## **CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR AT SHIPBOURNE VILLAGE HALL**

An enormous thank you to all our stallholders, helpers and customers who came out on quite a cold and damp day to make this year's Craft Fair not only a success financially, but a fun and rewarding day for all involved. I have to thank a few people individually without whose help, generosity and winter woollies, we couldn't have gone ahead. The raffle alone raised £430. This was due to the number and quality of the prizes donated and the team of sales personnel – Lindsay C, Lindsay M and Libby – impressive! What can I say to the stallholders who had to endure the cold of the garden? Sue, Gwen and all the ladies of the WI – I salute you! Rose (Alpaca), Marie (scented candles) and our rector (jams and jellies) – not a moan between you, thank you! To those who set up the pop-ups and took them down again - Bob, Andrew, Curtis, Peter; to Kathy, Mary Ann and Debbie preparing, selling and clearing away the teas; to Felicity baking so many wonderful cakes; and to Peter L for the sterling job of advertising – thank you. In total we raised nearly £800 for the Village Hall.

***Helen Leach***

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

Just one date in December to enjoy some light exercise in the Village Hall and that's Tuesday 5 December. We'll recommence in the New Year with renewed vigour after a short festive break!

***Helen Leach***

**01732 811144**

## **YOGA AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

A new yoga class is starting up on a Wednesday night from 7.30 until 8.45pm - Bittersweet Flow Yoga.

Beginners are very welcome. £10 or 6 classes for £50.

Please contact Valerie on 07590 278884 or [vsdawson@mac.com](mailto:vsdawson@mac.com)

## **SHIPBOURNE SCHOOL NEWS**

This year's Bonfire and Fireworks event was very enjoyable and a great success, thanks to the hard work and dedication of the PTA. It raised in excess of £3000, an impressive amount to help improve opportunities for learning at Shipbourne School.

Several parents and carers came along to the 'open classroom' event during the Design Technology week and from the looks of concentration on pupils' faces some high quality projects were produced.

A Religious Education day in mid-November saw all three classes going on trips. Fairlawne had fun going by train to Canterbury Cathedral where they learnt about pilgrimage and the significance of the cathedral as a place of worship. Hampton Class had the privilege of visiting the ornate Chatham Memorial Synagogue where they had a very informative morning, while Tinley Class were able to learn more about St. Giles's Church.

The netball team goes from strength to strength achieving an impressive 22-1 win against a very much larger local school.

During December there is, of course, much anticipation of Christmas, with the choir rehearsing for carol singing at the Farmers' Market on December 14th. The younger classes will be putting on a nativity play and the whole school is looking forward to a visit to the pantomime. A busy term indeed!

***Brenda Mullinger***

### **JANUARY NEWSLETTER**

Please send any articles and adverts for the January newsletter by the slightly earlier date of **12 December 2017 (earlier deadline than usual due to the Christmas/New Year break)**. Please note any articles received after this date will be held over to the next issue as the Newsletter has a tight deadline for printing. Please email articles to [lindsay\\_miles@btinternet.com](mailto:lindsay_miles@btinternet.com) or call 01732 810439.



## **The Kentish Rifleman**

**Dunk's Green, TN11 9RU**

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**Bookings always advisable on 01732 810727**

(12/16)



## **The Kentish Rifleman Voucher for Shipbourne Residents**

**Between 28 August and Christmas 2017, The Kentish Rifleman will donate 10% of all food bills from Shipbourne diners to St Giles Shipbourne**

**Please bring this voucher with you to show your link to Shipbourne.**

## **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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

Shipbourne Parish Council have recently commissioned a radar survey on Stumble Hill with a view to getting another speed indication device near to the school. We will update you once we have analysed the results with Kent Highways

### **Kent Police**

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

### **Planning**

***TM/17/02885/TNCA - Butchers Cottage, Stumble Hill, Shipbourne, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 9PE***

T1 - Twin stem Eucalyptus to fell to ground level. SPC has no objection on condition that it is replaced with a standard deciduous native species.

***TM/17/02705/FL - Butchers Cottage, Stumble Hill, Shipbourne, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 9PE***

New hard standing in front garden with low brick wall and picket fence to perimeter. Existing parking area to be returned to domestic

garden and front wall picket fence to be reinstated. SPC object on the grounds that it will, inter alia, have a negative impact on the street scene and the Conservation area.

***TM/17/02900/FL & TM/17/02901/FL - Hookwood Farm, Puttenden Road, Shipbourne, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 9QY***

Construction of a swimming pool, fishpond, pump house and associated Landscaping. Erection of agricultural shelter. SPC object on the grounds of over development, visibility from Shipbourne Woods and the existing footprint being utilised when re building the house.

***TM/17/03150/TNCA – The Lee, Upper Green Road, Shipbourne, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 9PH***

G1 to crown lift 2 Oaks and Horse Chestnut to give 6m clearance. SPC have no objection.

**Planning Approvals from TMBC**

***TM/17/02552/TNCA - 1 Grange Cottages, Upper Green Road, Shipbourne, Tonbridge Kent TN11 9PJ***

T1 Acer - reduce by 1 metre all over and reshape to keep a balanced crown, T2 Gleditsia - reduce lateral spread over clients garden by 0.5 metre and neighbours garden by 1 metre and T5 Leyland Cypress - cut back lateral spread on the left side of the tree by 1-2 metres to allow room for neighbouring tree to develop, trim face back as hard as possible and remove low limb that is growing over neighbours garden.

***TM/17/01887/LB - Claygate House, Claygate Lane, Shipbourne, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 9RL***

Listed Building Application: Internal alterations to include removal of stud wall to study and formation of new opening in dining room, installation of partition wall to study, replacement of window with door and replacement of window to rear elevation and minor excavation to rear.

Our next Parish Council meeting is at 7.30pm on 8 January 2018. All members of public are welcome to attend. Please check the website for the venue as it may be changed due to work at the Village Hall.

***Mrs Sarah Huseyin***, Parish Clerk  
e-mail: [shipbourneparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:shipbourneparishcouncil@gmail.com)  
Telephone: 01732 886402

## **SHIPBOURNE WI**

This month's meeting was preceded by a group photography, causing some hilarity, but a very satisfactory result.

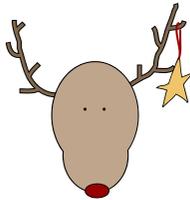
Members were then entertained by Denis chambers, a retired policeman, who gave us a talk on Supernatural Incidents, his specialty being The Ghosts of Pluckley. Denis gave us many interesting examples and stories of what may have been "supernormal" happenings.

Arrangements for our popular Christmas events are well under way, and include a lunch at the White Rock Inn, a party in place of the monthly meeting and Carols at St Giles on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December, for the local WI's.

On behalf of our members, may I wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

***Glynis Coates***

The Newsletter Team send all our  
readers and contributors warm wishes  
for Christmas and 2018



## THE GOLDING HOP

The Golding Hop on Sheet Hill which was previously a country pub believed to be several hundred years old and full of character has been sensitively transformed into The Golding Hop Tea House.

Offering Artisan teas from T2 made with spring water taken direct from our own spring, filtered and purified and filtered again all leading to clearer Tea flavours. For the coffee lovers we have Artisan specialised hand-roasted coffee, normally from a named plantation of the day and ground to your order.

Secluded in our exclusive little valley, The Golding Hop is a mindful place, where you leave the sound of traffic behind; a destination where you breathe in the apple blossom in the spring from the surrounding Orchards and listen to the babbling stream whilst you sit sipping tea with friends in beautiful surroundings of the green belt area of outstanding natural beauty.

Teas here can be enjoyed inside or in our large Tea Garden as well as on the veranda.

Surrounded by far reaching views and copious footpaths, we welcome ramblers, cyclists, dog walkers and riders to make this refreshing stop. Motorised vehicles are fine too with spacious free parking.

We are a dog-friendly Tea House and as far as we know, the only horse "ride-through". You are welcome to dismount and pass some time if you prefer, or take a fluffy hot chocolate direct on horseback from the veranda.

We also offer the best cakes, hot panini, cream teas and afternoon teas, cold drinks and most of all wonderful headspace.

We are now running on our winter opening times. **Opening 2:00-5:30 Monday, Friday. Closed Thursday, Saturday 9:30-5:30, and Sunday 10:30- 5:30.**

Please see [www.facebook.com/thegoldinghop](http://www.facebook.com/thegoldinghop) for photos and special events or ring us on 01732 887162.



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(04/16)

## **SHIPBOURNE FARMERS' MARKET**

### **Make Yours a LOCAL Christmas this year**

We have an amazing number of artisan food producers on our doorstep and many of them attend local Farmers Markets. In Shipbourne we have 15 of them. When we add our local drink producers and local artists we will have a full house every Thursdays in December. *(Note: we will run a special pick up market for meat on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Gary and Lorraine will be there selling fresh vegetables).*

Christmas items to look out for are handmade wreaths (made by one of the Fairlawne Estate gardeners), local artist Amanda paintings of local views, Bekky's amazing glass sculptures and Rosemary's woollen toys, scarfs, gloves and hats courtesy of wool from her herd of alpacas. Local nuts and tracklements made from nuts make unique presents and now we now have more Shipbourne FM shopping bags, the perfect Christmas gift!

For gifts of a more liquid nature there is Greensand Gin, wine (red, white and bubbly) from Redhill Farm Estate, Toffee Vodka and sambuca (Gorgeous George) and beer (Hepworths Brewery).

As all our food producers make everything themselves there is a limit as to the number of items they can provide so it is essential to ORDER to avoid disappointment. We have Christmas cakes and Christmas puddings, mince pies, lots of Christmas biscuits (made to various European recipes), plus salad dressings, chutneys and mustards to go with cold cuts.

On the meat side don't leave it too late to order your turkey. Annabelle also has all types of larger cuts of beef and pork plus all the trimmings. How about a leg of venison for something different? This takes far less time to cook than your normal Christmas meal and nothing goes to waste. Kieron can offer you many other local game whilst Wendy has wild duck from the Medway and Swale marshes. If you want sides of smoked salmon and any large fish requirements add it to Mickey's order list.

As usual Gary and Lorraine will be able to supply all your vegetable requirements. If you have an especially big requirement again please ORDER ahead.

This year we shall be able to offer more cheeses than normal. We have both Traditional Cheese (David) who will be coming to the

market once per month in future and the award winning Winterdale Cheese (Carla) from Wrotham will be at the market other weeks.

How about making a local cheeseboard this Christmas to round off the big meal but also to bring out over the holiday period. And if you are visiting friends for the holiday period and not cooking this year why not suggest you bring along the cheeseboard as a very welcome gift.

With so many wonderful local cheeses to choose from selecting for a board can be confusing. The answer is to keep it simple, just serve two or three cheeses as any more can overwhelm the palate when there is so much else going on food-wise. Serve generous wedges that look appealing on the board rather than little slices. Any leftovers that aren't eaten later will be used for cooking - just crumble up the cheeses and freeze in airtight containers.

### **PUTTING TOGETHER A FESTIVE CHEESEBOARD**

Pick a firm variety, such as a cheddar-style cheese, a soft cheese and a blue-veined one to offer a variety of tastes and textures. Allow about 75g of cheese per person for a cheeseboard at the end of a meal, or 100 – 150g for a supper or in a ploughman's.

A firm, tangy cheese such as **Winterdale Shaw** which is an outstanding unpasteurised cheddar-style cheese that has been winning awards around the world. It's intense, creamy and beautifully balanced, matured for 10 months in a cave set in the chalk hills of the North Downs outside Wrotham.

Winterdale's also sell a blue-vein cheese **Stichelton**. Although made on the Woollbeck Estate at the North tip of Sherwood Forest, Robin matures this blue cheese in their cave. As it uses unpasteurised milk it is not permitted to be called a Stilton though it is the correct location! Try using it in a soup with celeriac or serve in a winter salad with sliced pears, walnuts and watercress.

'**Lord of the Hundreds**' from Traditional Cheese is a hard vegetarian sheep cheese which can be used as an alternative to parmesan. They also make **Burwash Rose**, a creamy cheese with a pungent aroma. (Try it baked in the oven) and **Goodweald** a smoked a rich creamy cheese.

Take cheese out of the fridge two to three hours before serving to allow it to come up to room temperature so the flavours can develop. If cheese is too chilly, its flavour won't come through. Remove all

wrapping before serving but leave on rinds to preserve the shape of the cheese and ensure it looks its best. A cheese's flavour develops from the outside in, so the rind is there to help it develop this fully. Rinds can be safely eaten on most cheeses (not waxed ones!) but it's a question of personal preference.

Accompany your cheeses with walnut bread or a sour dough bread or a selection of biscuits together with locally made chutney. Serve on a large wooden cheese board and add grapes, apple, or celery to your cheeseboard – they provide colour and freshness, complement the cheeses and clean the palate between each one.

Store your cheeses in their original wrappers in the fridge or a cool larder if you have one. Once opened, wrap any leftovers loosely in plastic film or waxed paper and store back in the fridge for 5 to 8 days. You can freeze any bits and pieces for cooking with later but remember delicate cheeses will lose their flavour after a month in the freezer, stronger cheeses will last for up to 3 months.



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## COOKERY CORNER

### KENTISH BEER FONDUE

A fondue makes a great family supper or party dish over the Christmas period and is a great way to use up leftovers. Make this one with a well flavoured, locally-made beer and cheeses for a perfect partnering of classic flavours.

***Serves 4 - 6/Prep 10 mins/Cook 5 mins***

- 1 clove garlic
  - 400ml local premium pale ale
  - 1 tbsp lemon juice
  - 1 tsp English mustard powder
  - 500g mature cheddar style cheese such as Winterdale Shaw, grated
  - 250g creamy cow's milk cheese such as The Traditional Cheese Dairy's Buttercup, grated
  - 1 tbsp cornflour
  - salt and freshly ground black pepper
  - cubed brown bread to serve
1. Rub the inside of a cast iron or earthenware fondue pan with the cut side of a clove of garlic then chop up the garlic and add to the pan with the beer, lemon juice and mustard. Bring to simmering point.
  2. Add the grated cheese and stir over a low heat until melted but **don't** allow to boil. Mix the cornflour to a paste with a little water or beer and add to the mixture. Heat it gently on the hob, stirring all the time, until it starts to bubble and all the cheese is melted and silky smooth.
  3. If the fondue is runny, dissolve another teaspoon of cornflour in a little beer or water and add, stirring continuously until the mixture thickens. If it's too thick, add a splash of beer and stir. Season and serve with plenty of bread to dip into the hot cheese.



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## THE GARDEN SHED

As the year draws to a close and Christmas and its activities occupy much of our time, it is fortunate that the garden no longer demands our attention.

But there is one task that needs to be attended to before any really cold weather arrives, and that is to drain any water from outside hosepipes and taps to prevent the frost damaging them, if the taps cannot be drained they need to be wrapped in waterproof, insulating material to protect them from the freezing weather.

Nothing looks worse than empty pots and containers just sitting on the terrace or patio throughout the winter months. If a large flower pot is filled with a mixture of small evergreen shrubs and winter/spring flowering bulbs and inserted into the more ornamental containers, then a dull area will be instantly transformed. Some of the plants can be variegated, others can have foliage of a contrasting texture, (such as winter flowering heathers), small bulbs and even coloured twigs can make a really interesting display. Nearer to Christmas a few brightly coloured baubles can be added to give a festive feel. The combinations are endless!

If foliage is wanted to decorate the house it can be cut several days before it is needed and placed into buckets of water, these can be left outside or put in a cool building. If there are berries on the foliage it would be wise to cover them with some netting to prevent the birds from having an early Christmas dinner.

There are a surprising number of interesting plants that not only add beauty to the winter garden but also make ideal cutting material for the house. *Garrya elliptica*, an evergreen shrub produces soft grey/green catkins that grow 15-20cms (6-8ins) long, they flower from Christmas onwards. Male and female catkins are borne on separate plants (the male has the longest catkins), G. e. 'James Roof' is one of the best varieties to grow.

Another shrub, *Skimmia japonica* is evergreen, and like the *Garrya* is either male or female. During the late autumn and early winter the female plant will have terminal heads of bright scarlet berries and some heads of green flower buds, whereas the male carries just heads of flower buds. One very striking male variety – on *Skimmia japonica* 'Rubella' the buds are a deep magenta red. The flowers on all *Skimmias* are very sweetly scented.

There are many more attractive winter flowering plants, but there is no more space to describe them here. I will do so next month.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas.

***Tessa Forbes***

## **LOCAL HISTORY**

### **SHIPBOURNE HISTORY ARCHIVE**

Pushed for time, apologies for not having written a local history piece for the December issue of the Shipbourne Newsletter. Volunteering to do local history articles for a year, by popular request it has now been five years and it is time to give others the opportunity to contribute. Trying to design the contributions to reflect the seasons or annual events and to keep them specific to Shipbourne has been my aim but there is scope for anything: stories of family members, recollections of walks and ways of life, local historical facts, details of local employment or skills. Every detail no matter how small helps to create a patchwork of collective memory so it is important to record these for posterity: please have a go!

Stored in the Shipbourne History Archive in the village hall is the research done for the Shipbourne Design Statement. Started in 2000, it was the first village design statement in West Kent and used by the Borough Council as the blueprint for all those that followed. Conceived and created to describe and conserve the distinctive character of the village it is hoped that it helps preserve our natural regional diversity so that our rural landscape does not become suburban or homogenous in style and that everything possible is done to preserve our local flora and fauna.

Within the Design Statement and the research documents in the archive are details of our built environment: village properties, conservation areas, listed buildings, the church, the school, historical building styles, materials and boundary treatments. There is also information on our treasured natural environment: the landscape setting, footpaths, agriculture, hedges, commons, woods and wildlife.

Whilst planning and researching the WW1 Shipbourne exhibition and living history event for the summer of 2014 an enormous amount of local historical information was also amassed by the

team of volunteers. All of this information is deposited in the archive too. Covered are details of the Shipbourne men who fought in WW1, the battles they fought in, their families, the work of local women, the life of pupils at the village school, horses and transport locally, the choirs and clubs and role of the church.

Finally, researching those who served, or who may have served in WW1, I have obtained dates and details of most individuals and their families that lived in Shipbourne, some going back to 1600. All of this historical information, which covers census records to 1911 and the period up until the end of WW1, will soon be deposited in the archive and may possibly – in time - be available on our village website for anyone to access remotely. Until then do contact me if you would like details of your forbears emailed to you.

In the archive there are also several photographs and a few artefacts and books generously donated by residents. Anything anyone has that they think would add to the collection would be very much appreciated. The archive is modest – we are after all only a village of roughly 400 persons - but over time an expanding archive organised by kind volunteers could offer residents or researchers even more interesting information or fascinating glimpses of times past in this beautiful, small, rural parish of Shipbourne.

Happy Christmas

***Libby Cohen***

*NB: If you have an interesting local history article for the January newsletter – or further months - please contact Lindsay Miles on 810439 or send it to [lindsay\\_miles@btinternet.com](mailto:lindsay_miles@btinternet.com) before the 17<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.*

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

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

**Saturday 23 December 2017**

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## 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.***

**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: CHIROPODIST/PODIATRIST** Alice Neale BScHons MChS, HCPC registered. Effective and caring foot care provided at my clinic in Hildenborough or home visits by arrangement. Established 10 years +. Please call 01732 832524

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**LOCAL BABYSITTER:** My name is Alice Tyler, I am 17 years old and live on the Shipbourne green. I am an experienced babysitter and am free most weekends and also some weekdays. I am fun and responsible and am very happy to cook, play games and read stories. I am also able to drive. Please contact on: 07521832752 or 01732811079

**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.

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

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[gary.foard@projectbroadband.co.uk](mailto:gary.foard@projectbroadband.co.uk) Broadband optimisation. Wired Ethernet extensions & more. (03/17)

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

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