

St Giles and Shipbourne
NEWSLETTER



April 2018

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 Razaq

VILLAGE WEBSITE www.shipbourne.com

SHIPBOURNE SCHOOL

Headmistress Mrs K Dodd 810344
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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USEFUL POLICE CONTACT NUMBERS

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(12/16)

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Stone Cottage Roughway TN11 9SH

(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 – APRIL 2018

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 Church and every weekday evening (except Friday and Saturday) at 4.30pm Evening Prayer will be said at St Giles Shipbourne.

SUNDAY EASTER DAY	1st	8.00am	Holy Communion at Plaxtol Church
		9.30am	Parish Communion at St Giles Shipbourne
		11.00am	Family Communion at Plaxtol Church (with no interval)
		Readings:	Isaiah 25vv 6-9 Acts 10 vv 34-43 Mark 16 vv 1-8
Thursday	5th	9-11am	Farmers' Market at Shipbourne
Saturday	7th	9am-12pm	Spring cleaning the church at St Giles Shipbourne (see advert)
SUNDAY	8th	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Giles Shipbourne
		9.30am	Matins at St Giles Shipbourne
		11.00am	Parish Communion at Plaxtol Church
		Readings:	Exodus 14 vv 10-end 15 vv 20-21 Acts 4 vv 32-35 John 20 vv 19-end
Monday	9th	8.00pm	Shipbourne Parish Council meeting, Village Hall
Thursday	12th	9-11am	Farmers' Market at Shipbourne
			Final day for Roux Two Dinner Applications
SUNDAY	15th	8.00am	Holy Communion at Plaxtol Church
		9.30am	Parish Communion at St Giles Shipbourne
		12.00pm	Short Communion at Plaxtol Church
		4.00pm	Benefice Community@4 picnic (please check Plaxtol Parish website for venue)
		Readings:	Zephaniah 3 vv 14-end Acts 3 vv 12-19 Luke 24 vv 36b-48
Thursday	19th	9-11am	Farmers' Market at St Giles Shipbourne
SUNDAY	22nd	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Giles Shipbourne
		9.30am	Family Service at St Giles Shipbourne
		11.00am	Parish Communion at Plaxtol Church
		Readings:	Gen 7 vv 1-5, 11-18; 8vv 6-18; 9 vv 8-13 Acts 4 vv 5-12 John 10 vv 11-18

THURSDAY	26th	9-11am	Farmers' Market at St Giles Shipbourne
		10.30am	Benefice Playchurch at Plaxtol Church
SATURDAY	28TH	9.30-11AM	Community Bread Basket (a café-style breakfast drop-in) at Plaxtol Church
SUNDAY	29th	8.00am	Holy Communion at Plaxtol Church
		9.30am	Holy Communion (1662) at St Giles Shipbourne
		11am	Morning Worship at Plaxtol Church
		6pm	Joint Choral Evensong at St Giles Shipbourne
		Readings:	Genesis 22 vv 1-18 Acts 8 vv 26-end John 15 vv 1-8
MONDAY	30th	8.00pm	Shipbourne Annual Parochial Church Meeting at the Village Hall

**Community
Bread
Basket**



Saturday 28th April
9:30 - 11:30 Plaxtol Parish Church

Café style Breakfast
All welcome

PASTORAL LETTER

HAPPY EASTER!

In popular culture, April 1st is 'April Fool's Day'. It carries with it a sense of permission for all sorts of pranks and spoofs... or 'Fake News' as we might call it these days. All this originates from a much older calendar in which the New Year came in March, rather than in January. If you count from March you'll realise why September, October, November and December are so called. In this era, the 'April Fool' was one who was whole month late celebrating New Year's day.

This year, April 1st is Easter day, the day on which the Christian Church celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. The resurrection is a staggering claim, and one that asks to be taken seriously. If it's true, then not only is Easter an important day, it is the epicentre of human history. There is no lasting grave, and no remains or relics of the man Jesus, and those who had followed him were transformed within weeks by their meetings with the risen Jesus: from being frightened fisherman, to being courageous witnesses and martyrs, powerful healers and preachers, and avid missionaries. You can read all about it in the sequel to Luke's Gospel, the 'The Acts of the Apostles'. Within five centuries the Roman Empire and much of Europe was converted.

But the resurrection of Christ is more than just a historical event. It signifies that death is not the end! Yet so many people still live in fear of their own mortality. It signifies that God has the power to help us towards a better future. Yet so many so many people get depressed and can't see beyond the end of the next dreary hour or day or week. Christianity is certainly based in historical claims, but it is also an offer hope for a brighter future. With our celebration beginning on 1st April... and I've got to say this... you'd be a fool not to give these claims another good look.

In the same way that Christmas begins with midnight Mass, we begin Easter at 8pm on Saturday (31st) at Plaxtol Church with the lighting of the Easter fire and the Easter candle, an abiding symbol of the presence of the risen Jesus. Then we will affirm our Baptismal vows, turning once again to Jesus as the 'author and perfecter' of our faith (Hebrews 12). Our celebrations continue on Sunday morning with lots of Hallelujahs and Communion Services at 8.00 (Plaxtol), 9.30 (Shipbourne) and 11.00 (Plaxtol). The communion service can be understood as an encounter with the risen Lord Jesus. On 15th April, our Community@4 service will be

taking an outing, to re-enact one of the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus to his disciples. We need a lakeside, some fish and some flatbread. Watch the village Facebook page for details.

Happy Easter! Christ is risen!! Hallelujah!!!

Peter Hayler
Rector

DONALD FORBES – 1926-2018

Tessa and her family wish to thank all those who joined them in celebrating Donald's life. They would especially like to thank the many members of the Plaxtol W.I. who did the excellent catering and made it such a welcoming and successful occasion.

Donald spent 55 active and happy years in Plaxtol, joining in many of the villages clubs and activities, which were so well illustrated by Peter Crossley's appreciation of him.

USED STAMPS

I would like to say "thank you" to all who have left the used postage stamps in the box at the back of the Church for me to collect. The collection continues and is going well, so if any of you have any more used stamps it would be appreciated.

Jenny Porter

WHO WOULD LIKE A PIANO?

Last December I put notes in the Shipbourne Newsletter and Plaxtol Herald, asking if anyone knew of a piano which might replace the existing piano in Shipbourne Church. Valerie Dagger responded and very generously donated her piano which now sits below the pulpit in St Giles.

Temporary shelter for the previous piano is kindly being provided in a building on the Fairlawne estate. Given a little attention, the piano should still offer some good service. A small donation to the church, and the piano could be yours. If you or anyone you know might be interested, please get in touch with Viv Packer on 810822 or viv.packer@thepackerpartnership.com, or with me on 810289 or jyoung@waitrose.com.

John Young

It is Spring Cleaning Time at St. Giles once again

Saturday 7th April

9.00-12noon

If you can spare some time to help give the Church its annual makeover please join us at any time during the morning. If you can bring brushes, polish long handled brooms etc. that would be wonderful, although we do have the basics! Tea and coffee will be available throughout the morning .

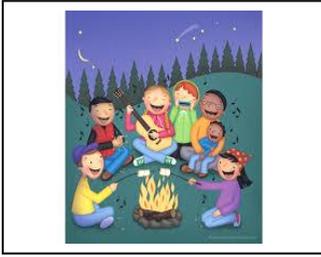


THE WEATHER IN FEBRUARY

Rainfall for February was 53mm + 138mm of snow. Average day temp 7.4°C average night temp. -1.5°C, highest day temp 12°C, lowest night temp -10.5°C. Average rainfall for February over the last 10 years was 61mm.

Lionel Stielow

Thank you to Lionel who has taken over the monthly weather



SUMMER CAMPS



To: Youngsters
Parents

NOW is the time to register for Christian adventure holidays for this summer! Why not register with your friends and go as a party?

For 8-11 year olds

Scripture Union Long Barn Camps each a week long Sunday-Saturday weeks starting 22 and 29 July, 5 and 12 Aug.

Plaxtol has had a long association with these camps and in past years many from Plaxtol have enjoyed the excitement.

"Long Barn is a magical time. The camps are held in a meadow between Plaxtol and Hadlow. The youngsters sleep in tents. Besides Christian teaching they learn woodland crafts, outdoor games, log fires, songs – it's "Swallows and Amazons" personified."

To book contact Tess Shewell email tess.shewell@gmail.com

For 10-13 year olds

Bramblewood Venture at Brambletye School, East Grinstead, West Sussex Sat 28 July to 4 August.

This is held in a lovely large country house with fantastic facilities including comfortable dormitories, chill out space, table tennis, crafts and activities. The huge grounds have extensive playing fields, tennis court, an assault course, a great sports hall, squash & badminton courts, heated indoor swimming pool, an excellent new theatre. . .

For more information contact Bramblewood@Ventures.org.uk

For 14+

Scripture Union run holidays for all ages; these will be published shortly at www.scriptureunion.org.uk see under Scripture Union Holidays

For more information contact Peter Brewin T. 810 361 pbrewin@gmail.com

Leap of Faith 2018

Women's Retreat Weekend

When is it? From 4:30pm on Friday 15 June until lunch on Sunday 17 June

How much is it? £180-£220 (depending on room occupancy and final numbers – see below) for all accommodation, food and in-house activities

Where is it? DeVere Beaumont Estate Hotel, Burfield Road, Old Windsor, SL4 2JJ

Leap of Faith is an invitation to all women over the age of 18 who want a weekend away to take time out and come closer to God whilst having a bit of fun in the process. This will be "Leap of Faith's" fifth year and it's a chance for women from across the whole Diocese to come together in fellowship, faith, fun and friendship. The event has always been a resounding success where many were truly inspired to seek a deeper relationship with God.

Living life to the full is at the heart of God's will for us and this weekend is a little bit of luxury for you all. The Rev Canon Jean Kerr will be leading the worship and there will be times of prayer, worship and teaching.

The hotel is set in stunning grounds. The rooms are beautiful, and each room will be a twin room so no bunk beds or sharing! You also have the chance to get a single room all to yourself for a small additional charge. We are very close to Windsor, and there will be the opportunity to explore the town during the day on Saturday. We are also hoping to arrange for beauty treatments to be available, such as massage and facials (there will be additional charges for these).

The cost for the weekend is between £180- £185 per person for twin occupancy and between £215-£220 for single occupancy, depending on final numbers. This figure includes accommodation and all meals, plus unlimited tea and coffee, and access to the facilities, including their new gym and heated swimming pool.

Arrival is from 4.30pm on Friday 15 June with a hot meal being served in the evening and we finish after lunch on Sunday 17 June.

So come on – decide to make your **Leap of Faith** – and discover more about yourself!

For booking details, please email helen.steeden@gmail.com



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References and photo gallery available at
<http://www.checkatrade.com/InscopeManagement Services/>

10/16

MAY NEWSLETTER

Please send any articles and adverts for the May newsletter by **17 April 2018**. 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.

ROUX TWO – TUESDAY 5 JUNE 2018

SPECIAL FUNDRAISING DINNER TO MARK THE 15th ANNIVERSARY OF SHIPBOURNE FARMERS' MARKET AND THE CREATION OF THE FIRST WHITING AND HAMMOND GROUP PUB, THE CHASER INN

Ticket Applications

Thank you for all of the ticket applications received to date. As expected, we have received a high demand for tickets for the dinner. The application window remains open until the end of Thursday **12 April 2018** and we will then be in contact with all applicants to confirm final ticket allocation.

How to Apply

Please provide ***your name, email address, telephone number, post code and number of tickets you are applying for*** (ticket price: £125 per person) and submit these details via one of the following methods:

- (1) ***Shipbourne Farmers' Market:*** by posting your completed Shipbourne Farmers' Market loyalty card in the special Roux Two post box at the Market. Please indicate on your loyalty card how many tickets you are applying for
- (2) ***Email:*** by emailing rouxdinner@gmail.com
- (3) ***Telephone:*** by calling Lindsay Miles on 01732 810439
- (4) ***Post:*** to Lindsay Miles, The Stables, Back Lane, Shipbourne, Kent TN11 9PP

Where the money will go ...

All profits made from the Roux Two Dinner will be split between the following good causes:

- St Giles Church, Shipbourne: the restoration of the wall paintings in the church (please see note below from Paul Britton, Church Warden)
- The Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institute (R.A.B.I.), supporting farmers in England and Wales who are struggling financially
- Shipbourne Farmers' Market Click and Collect project
- Nourish Community Foodbank

Silent Auction

As in 2013, there will be a chance to bid for some excellent lots in the silent auction which will run throughout the dinner. Should you wish to donate any items for the auction, please contact Viv, Bob or Lindsay.

Should you have any questions regarding the Dinner, please do contact one of us. Roll on June and another amazing evening in Shipbourne!

Viv, Bob and Lindsay

Enquiries: rouxdinner@gmail.com

RESTORATION OF THE WALL PAINTINGS AT ST GILES'

The Cazalets rebuilt St Giles' church in 1881. The old church of the 1720s was too small and had become dilapidated. The Cazalets spent a lot of money on their new church, not just on the structure but also on the furnishings and decoration. Most of this was provided by a German firm, Mayer of Munich. Mayer's covered the whole of the interior of the chancel with stencilled wall paintings, mostly of foliage and architectural decoration but including also the Commandments and the Creed. These have now become very dirty and faded. They have suffered badly from damp and from water damage caused by leaks in the chancel roof in the past. In their present state they rather let the interior of the church down. But they are important because much Victorian wall-painting was lost in the last century when it was deeply unfashionable and was often painted over: not many large-scale schemes like that at St Giles' survive. The aim, if sufficient funds can be raised, is therefore to clean and conserve the paintings, including repainting those areas where there has been paint-loss. This will return the interior of the church, which is largely unaltered, to the splendour of 1881.

Paul Britton

PLAXTOL SCHOLARS TO SING AT ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

The Plaxtol Scholars are singing Evensong at St Paul's Cathedral on Friday 13th April at 5pm. The service will last around 40 minutes. Do come and join us and enjoy the marvellous acoustic this wonderful building has.

Marius Carboni

mcmarius5@gmail.com

SHIPBOURNE SCHOOL NEWS

By the time you read this, the children will be enjoying their Easter break with little thought to the snow that disrupted school life in March. The school succeeded in staying open for one snowy day, unlike many locally, but shut for 3 days after that, as the local road and path conditions were not deemed safe. The children were given tasks to complete at home and no doubt enjoyed extra family time.

March also saw the Big Read for World Book Day where the focus was on reading, and sharing with friends, favourite books. Also, Hampton and Tinley classes were fortunate to attend the Kidenza concert at New Beacon School. Later in the term and a piano concert was given to parents by Shipbourne pupils who take piano lessons at school.

The term ended with a service in St Giles and an Easter egg hunt.

Brenda Mullinger

BULK REFUSE SERVICE (4th Saturday of month)

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

Saturday 28 April 2018

Saturday 26 May 2018

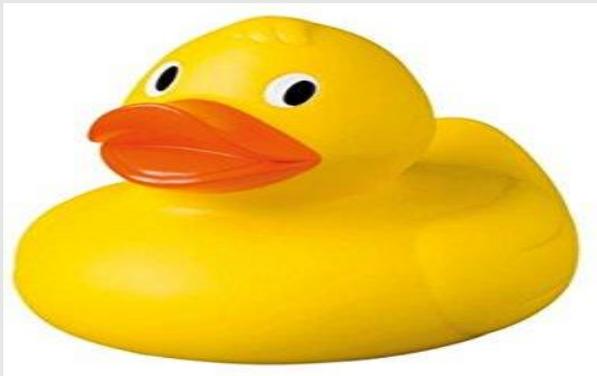
The Friends of Plaxtol Church Present
"The 2018 Duck Race"

At the Spoute Recreation Ground

2.30pm Monday 7 May 2018

It's the 250th anniversary of the circus so
let's celebrate!

Best Dress Duck Competition:
CIRCUS DUCKS



Drinks & BBQ
Buy your ducks from end of March at Plaxtol Stores
£3.00 per duck

Prizes for adults and children



Shipbourne Village Hall
Registered Charity No 1074519

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

For Village Hall **enquiries and bookings** please call 07762 241720 or email shipbourne.villagehall@gmail.com

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

FROM YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR

KCC is facing the start of another financial year with immense challenges in setting the budget. Savings in the order of £50 million are needed as government funding has been reduced by £45 million and service demands on the Council continue to rise. To date, and unlike many councils, KCC has avoided making significant cuts in frontline services. It continues to make savings through efficiencies and service transformation, but is fast reaching the point where frontline services are now threatened. KCC has therefore joined county councils across the country in increasing council tax by the maximum allowed at its budget meeting on 20th February.

I am personally greatly disappointed at the further delays announced by Govia Thameslink Railways in the provision of the planned new Thameslink service through Borough Green Station to

London and Maidstone East. The new service is now due to start in December 2019 rather than 12 months earlier as originally intended. I will be pressing for a robust response by KCC to the Department for Transport to try to ensure that the franchisee delivers the new service timely.

At this time of year and as I write this, there is thick snow on the ground - potholes in roads become prevalent - KCC has designed a fault reporting tool so that residents can quickly and easily report problems on roads and foot ways; www.kent.gov.uk/highway faults.

KCC is offering 0% loans between £50,000 and £500,000 to small and medium sized businesses throughout Kent. The scheme aims to deliver investment to business across the county which is funded by loan repayments from previous Regional Growth Fund schemes. Pre applications are now open for the Kent and Medway Business Fund. Follow the link to find out more on who can apply and how to apply to the Kent and Medway Business Fund.

Harry Rayner, Kent County Councillor
Tel 01732 780078
Email: harry.rayner@kent.gov.uk



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Bookings always advisable on 01732 810727

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.

Dear Residents – Unfortunately, due to the snow the litter pick on the weekend of 2-4 March was unable to take place so we suggest the Easter weekend as an alternative.



Great British Spring Clean

You can create change

The Great British Spring Clean is a campaign with a simple aim: to bring people across the country together to clear up the litter that blights our towns, villages, countryside and beaches.

We want to inspire 500,000 people to get outdoors, get active and help clear up the rubbish that lies around us. Join our growing army of #LitterHeroes who have had enough of other people's litter and are willing to do something about it. Together we can make a difference and clean up the environment on our doorstep.

Rather than organise a **Shipbourne Village litter pick** day which ties everyone down to a date and time we hope that this will inspire everyone to make a difference. It would be great if every householder

could take a carrier bag outside and clear the rubbish that they find lying on the verge or stuck in the hedge around their own home and along their local stretch of road over the **Easter weekend and throughout the spring.**

Litter attracts more litter: if there is none lying about thoughtless throwers think twice before chucking their rubbish in the road.

Thank you all for helping to keep Shipbourne beautiful.

Please remember to wear protective clothing and be visible!
<http://www.keepbritaintidy.org>

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 the Parish Clerk.

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.

Kent Police

To report a non-urgent crime, call 101. Kent Police have launched a new online reporting service:

The public can now **report crimes and incidents** as well as **non-injury road traffic collisions** ONLINE directly to us through the website (www.kent.police.uk). Once a report is made online, the user will receive a unique reference number and a return email confirming receipt.

We are promoting both as a **test/pilot** at this stage. At the end of each form is the opportunity for the public making a report to give us feedback on using the forms.

The overall aim is to provide another choice for how the public can report crime or incidents as well as try to reduce the number of people calling 101 on non-urgent issues that could easily be dealt with through digital contact (which increasingly a lot of people prefer and have asked us to provide).

Planning Applications for Discussion at the March Meeting

There were no new planning applications in March.

Full responses are available on the TMBC website at www.tmbc/gov.uk/planning

Planning Decisions from TMBC

TM/17/03263/FL- Proposed double garage and new vehicular access. Kingswood Training Services, Back Lane, Shipbourne, Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 9PP – REFUSED

TM/18/00234/NMA - Non Material Amendment to planning permission TM/17/01554/FL: Minor changes to the window layouts on all 4 elevations, compared to the plans that were approved. Dynes Cottage, Long Mill Lane, Dunks Green, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 9SD - APPROVED

Kent Concessionary Travel Passes

195,000 English National Concessionary Travel Scheme passes in Kent will expire on 31 March 2018 and cannot be used on buses after that date.

If you have used your bus pass on a Kent bus in the past year, KCC will send you your new bus pass by the middle of March 2018. If you haven't been able to use your bus pass in the past year, you will receive a letter during January or February 2018 explaining how you can renew your bus pass if you still want it. **Visit www.kent.gov.uk/buspasses** or your nearest library for more information.

Great British Dog Walk

Ightham Mote on Saturday the 21st of April 2018. Fundraising for Hearing Dogs for Deaf People in Kent. Walk starts at 9.30am. Bring your family, friends, dog and picnic to help change deaf people's lives Hearing Dogs for Deaf. Sign up today at www.greatbritishdogwalk.org

Consultations

- **Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty** Management plan consultation – Deadline 30th April 2018 <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RCJVRDC>
- **Kent Mineral Sites Plan Options – Consultation & Early Partial Review of Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan Consultation** <http://consult.kent.gov.uk/portal/>. Concerning the site areas of the following Minerals Site Options: West

Malling Sandpit, Ryarsh, Chapel Farm, Lenham, Lydd Quarry Extensions, Lydd. Deadline 29th March 2018.

Our next Parish Council meeting is at 7.30pm on Monday 9th April 2018. All members of public are welcome to attend. Please note that due to the building works March Parish Meeting will be held at an alternative venue. Please check the website for further details or email the Parish Clerk for details.

Mrs Sarah Huseyin, Parish Clerk
E-mail: shipbourneparishcouncil@gmail.com
Telephone: 01732 886402

SHIPBOURNE WI

This month's meeting took place in a very different venue from the Village Hall. We were made very welcome by the staff at the Kentish Rifleman in Dunks Green, where we also enjoyed a good lunch prior to our meeting.

The speaker was Charles Neve who spoke about Rudyard Kipling. Charles, who is a room guide at Bateman, Kipling's last home, has a wide knowledge of Kipling's life, and of his poetry and stories. We are planning to read one of his works in our Book Club. Members very much enjoyed the talk and our visit to the Rifleman.

Before the next meeting, which is on 11th April, we have two visits planned. One is to the V&A Museum, where Dale Thomas is to guide us around the jewellery section, and on 4th April a group is going to the production of *Singing in the Rain* at Tonbridge School.

A busy few weeks!
Glynis Coates



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(04/16)

SHIPBOURNE FARMERS' MARKET

At last spring is really starting to get into gear as the longer days stimulates growth and make us all feel better after a real hard winter. Lambs may be out gambolling in the fields however the month still comes with a rather restricted selection of fresh seasonal produce to choose from. It's the perfect time to try some of the wonderful array of prepared and preserved products from talented producers found in your local Farmers Markets.

So what is there available this April? Seafood lovers will find **sea bass, cod, halibut, cockles, mussels** and **scallops** all at their finest now. A whole **salmon** is an excellent choice for a spring celebration and well worth the extra expense for a special occasion. Bake whole wrapped in foil with butter and herbs and serve simply with a homemade hollandaise sauce.

For meat eaters, the earliest **spring lamb** may be starting to make an appearance towards the end of the month. If not enjoy a wonderful joint of fine rare-breed **beef or pork** for a family Sunday roast, or try game such as **venison, rabbit or wood pigeon**. Instead of chicken look out for **guinea fowl** which makes a really interesting change. You might want to try a fine game pie, heat it up and add plenty of savoury gravy. If you don't want to make your own pie, there are plenty of beautiful ready-made versions on offer.

As the palette turns to lighter foods with the longer days, **lettuces, spinach, watercress, cucumber and spring onions** are starting to arrive, taking over from the brassicas such as **cauliflower, purple sprouting broccoli, cabbages** and **kale**, for those yearning to satisfy the desire for salads. Foragers are out after **wild garlic** so buy it if you see it – the white flowers should still be in bud for the best flavour. Wrap the leaves around fish before baking, or shred the leaves and use in soups, pasta dishes and risottos.

Local apples are still good as the storing varieties keep well into this month. But the star of the show is still **rhubarb**, now moving from the bright pink early forced variety marketed as *champagne rhubarb* into the darker and more sour 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. A really good rhubarb fool is a seasonal pleasure, especially when made with local cream as the new grass is starting to add richness to the dairy produce, maybe flavoured with ginger.

For more information about Shipbourne Farmers Market our stallholders, our Loyalty card and our 15th anniversary dinner go to:
- www.shipbournefm.co.uk



Every Thursday 9-11am

COOKERY CORNER

RHUBARB AND ALMOND CRUMBLE

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

Ingredients:

- 500g rhubarb
 - 75g caster sugar
 - 75g plain flour
 - 25g ground almonds
 - 50g sugar
 - 75g butter
 - Flaked almonds
1. Slice the rhubarb and mix with the caster sugar in a baking dish.
 2. Top with the crumble mixture made with the flour, ground almonds sugar and butter.
 3. Scatter the top with flaked almonds and bake for 40 minutes in a medium oven until golden.
 4. Served warm with thick local cream.

This month we are delighted to welcome Jonathan Sanchez as the new gardening columnist. Jonathan moved to Shipbourne last year and is a keen gardener and writer.

SPILLING THE BEANS

When I opened the curtains on March 1st and was greeted by a thick carpet of snow and 4 inches of ice in my pond, I was reminded of how unpredictable our weather can be, and how every year in the garden is different. But I was also reminded of how resilient plants are. The daffodils that have collapsed and turned black under the weight of the cold snow will be looking fresh and flowering in a couple of weeks, and the smell of freshly cut grass will be filling the Shipbourne air before Easter.

Jonny's Jobs

For many, April marks the beginning of the gardening year in earnest. Seasonal tasks include weeding beds, feeding roses and lawns, and sowing vegetable and annual seeds. Young tomato plants can become leggy at this stage of the season, but this can be remedied by burying the stems deeply into their new, larger pots. This stimulates new roots to grow which anchor the plant and take up more water and nutrients. The days of tomatoes still warm from the summer sun are every Gardener's delight, and will be with us sooner than we realise (as will the sight of my 2 year old launching them with unerring accuracy into the fish pond). The warmth of the sun also encourages us to put our energies into gardening projects that have been imagined through the winter window; the patio, the pergola, the pizza oven...

Plants of the month

Whilst gardening graft is an important aspect of this month, we should also try and make time for some gardening leisure. Brogdale farm in Kent holds a festival on April 14, displaying their collection of 350 flowering Cherries to the public. *Prunus "Shogetsu"* is a firm favourite, with a mass of large double flowers that turn from pink to white. The flowers are often so prolific that it can be a struggle to see the branches that are supporting them. *Amelanchier lamarckii* catches the eye this month, with its delicate white star-shaped flowers. It is often grown as a specimen tree for a smaller garden, but is also an interesting and unusual choice for a garden hedge. Wild garlic will now be in abundance on the riverbanks, and the leaves add a mellow flavour to omelettes, soups or pesto.

Jonny's Jumper

April 14 also marks one of the great events of the sporting calendar, the Grand National. Employing a highly scientific approach, each year I try to find a horse with a horticultural connection. This year I came across Chase the Spud, although I'm reliably informed that it would need to have started yesterday to win!

A very happy Easter to you all.

Jonny Sanchez



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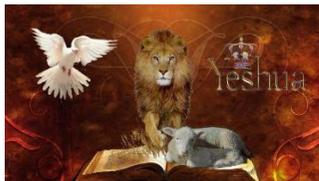


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The King is coming is a new multi-media musical staged by the award-winning Absolute Gospel Company. The musical is written by Roy and Jenny Etherton: together they have written 23 musicals. The work of the Company has been performed locally, nationally and internationally in Israel and the United States. Their work has also been broadcast on radio and television. They have also performed in large shopping malls, open air concerts and on the street.

The Company seek to present work of the highest standard using amateur and professional personnel: the musicals are supported by professionally recorded CDs and DVDs.

The musical will use the elements of drama, narration, visuals, sound effects, dance as well as choir and solo singing. The musical is planned to last 2 hours maximum: this includes an interval.

The musical is planned for performance in May 2018. All performances start at 7:30 p.m.

Venues are

May 5th Tonbridge Parish Church

May 12th St Luke's Maidstone

May 19th St John's URC Sevenoaks

Details regarding booking tickets can be found at our website
www.absolutegospel.org

Or contact telephone:01732364517 mobile:07549830906



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- **Minimising the Inheritance Tax (IHT) liability** of an investment
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- **Negotiating** on your behalf with a difficult neighbour
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- Advising on a property with **planning and structural problems**
- Implementing **cost efficiencies** for managing an investment

These are just a few examples – if your query or issue relates to residential property, we can help!

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.

RUSTIC BIRD BOXES FOR SALE. £8.00 each or two for £15.00. All proceeds go to charity. (www.aquinoe.org).Telephone 01732 365879

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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. Please call 01732 811023 (01/17)

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