

*St Giles and Shipbourne*  
**NEWSLETTER**



*May 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](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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## USEFUL POLICE CONTACT NUMBERS

101 For non-urgent police attendance,  
passing useful information and 24 hour  
crime reporting  
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 – MAY 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.**

<b>Thursday</b>	<b>3rd</b>	<b>9-11am</b>	<b>Farmers' Market at St Giles Shipbourne</b>
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	8.00am	Holy Communion at Plaxtol Church
		<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Parish Communion at St Giles Shipbourne</b>
		11.00am	Family Communion at Plaxtol Church
		Readings:	Isaiah 55 vv 1-11 Acts 10 vv 44-end John 15 vv 9-17
<b>Thursday ASCENSION DAY</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9-11am</b>	<b>Farmers' Market at St Giles Shipbourne</b>
		8.00pm	Sung Holy Communion at Plaxtol Church
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>13<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
		<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Shoreham Deanery Evensong at Kemsing Parish Church</b>
		Readings:	Ezekiel 36 vv 24-28 Acts 1 vv 15-17, 21-end John 17 vv 6-19
<b>Monday</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>8.00pm</b>	<b>Shipbourne Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9-11am</b>	<b>Farmers' Market at St Giles Shipbourne</b>
		<b>10-11.30am</b>	<b>Christian Aid Week Coffee Morning at Shipbourne Village Hall</b>
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup></b>	8.00am	Holy Communion at Plaxtol Church
		<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Parish Communion at St Giles Shipbourne</b>
		12.00pm	Short Communion at Plaxtol Church
		<b>4.00pm</b>	<b>Benefice Community@4 at Plaxtol Church</b>
		Readings:	Ezekiel 37 vv 1-14 Acts 2 vv 1-21 John 15 vv 26-27, 16 vv 4b-15
<b>Monday</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>8.00pm</b>	<b>PCC meeting at Shipbourne Village Hall</b>
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9-11am</b>	<b>Farmers' Market at St Giles Shipbourne</b>
		<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Benefice Playchurch at St Giles Shipbourne</b>
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>26<sup>th</sup></b>	9.30-11AM	Community Bread Basket (a café-style breakfast drop-in) at Plaxtol Church – including cake sale for Christian Aid Week

<b>TRINITY SUNDAY</b>	27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>8.00am</b>	<b>Holy Communion at St Giles Shipbourne</b>
		<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Family Service at St Giles Shipbourne</b>
		11am	Parish Communion at Plaxtol Church
		Readings:	Isaiah 6 vv 1-8 Romans 8 vv 12-17 John 3 vv 1-17
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>9-11am</b>	<b>Farmers' Market at St Giles Shipbourne</b>



### **KAREN CHAPMAN 1957-2018**

Karen was born at Hookwood Cottage in Shipbourne, and came back to the village with her husband Peter to live at Lady Vane Close in 2012. She was a familiar face to many, helping her aunt Dawn Levett run the Bric a Brac stall at St Giles' Fair for many years.

### **Community Bread Basket**



**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> May**

**9:30 - 11:30 Plaxtol Parish Church**

**Café style Breakfast**

**All welcome**

**This month's Bread Basket will also include a cake sale in aid of Christian Aid week. If you would like to contribute a cake for the sale, please drop one in to Donna Hayler at The Rectory o Friday 25 May.**

## **PASTORAL LETTER**

### **“SHINE OUT FAIR SUN!”**

These words are from W. H. Auden, and feature at the beginning of Benjamin Britten’s ‘Spring Symphony’. Like this first movement, the Spring of 2018 seems to be emerging at a painfully slow rate... reflected again in some very odd words from the same work: “The boneless fish close quaking lies and eats for cold his aching feet”

As we reach the month of May, colours and all sorts of energy will be changing; something far more akin to this traditional May-Day madrigal, (sung with lots of ‘fa-la-las’ inbetween the lines):

*Now is the month of Maying when merry lads are playing!  
Each with his bonny lass upon the greeny grass!*

*The Spring, clad all in gladness, doth laugh at Winter’s sadness!  
And to the bagpipes’ sound the nymphs tread out their ground!*

*Fie, then, why sit we musing, youth’s sweet delight refusing?  
Say, dainty nymphs, and speak! Shall we play barley break?*

In the Christian calendar this year May includes the last throes of Easter, Ascension Day (Thursday 10<sup>th</sup>), Pentecost (Sunday 20<sup>th</sup>) and Trinity (Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>). In this transition we remember how the disciples, still confused and frightened after the death and resurrection of Jesus, were transformed by the power of God’s Holy Spirit and became powerful witnesses to God’s saving power as well the founding pioneers of the worldwide church.

Like this spring, the disciples were slow to emerge from the cold, damp gloom of what they had experienced. For Thomas, faith was born out of doubt rather than certainty; through encounter rather than absence. Yet, through faith, he pioneered his way to be the first missionary to India. named after him, the Mar Thoma Church exists to this day as an Indian Orthodox tradition within worldwide Christianity, and there is a local congregation in Medway.

Give thanks for the promise of Spring, however slowly it seems to be coming; and give thanks for the power of God at work in his church.

**Peter Hayler**  
**Rector**

## **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK: TOGETHER WE'RE STRONGER THAN THE STORMS**

Christian Aid Week will take place from 13 - 19 May and the aim, this year, is to raise money to build homes that will survive natural disasters such as hurricanes and typhoons. Every £210 raised will train a builder in places such as Haiti to build houses strong enough to weather the next disaster.

To raise money we are holding a couple of events locally. A coffee morning at Shipbourne Village Hall on Thursday 17th May 10am - 11.30am and a cake sale at the Community Bread Basket Cafe at Plaxtol Church on Saturday 26th May from 9.30am - 11.30am. (If you would like to contribute a cake for the sale, please drop one in to Donna Hayler at the Rectory on Friday 25th May).

All are very welcome at these events. If you can't join us but would like to make a donation, please contact Sally Bryden on 01732 810935 for a donation envelope.

## **SAVE THE DATE**

**St Giles' Summer Fete  
Bank Holiday Monday  
27 August 2017**

**12.30pm - 3.30pm**

A SUMMER NIGHT'S

7<sup>th</sup>  
JULY 

# QUIZ

AND SUPPER

PLAXTOL MEMORIAL HALL, 7 FOR 7:30

Questions presented in Performance, in Song,  
on Paper and any necessary means to get  
your undivided attention!

**BOOKINGS**

01732 811494 or sandy.oram@sky.com

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Ten tables of 8  
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## THE WEATHER IN MARCH

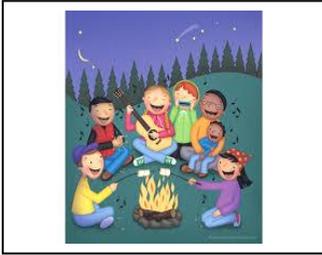
The average day temp. was 10.6°C, average night was 2.5°C, highest day temp was 17°C and the lowest night was -3.0°C. total rainfall was 84.5<sub>mm</sub> with 1" (25<sub>mm</sub>) of snow, the average rainfall for March over the last 20 years was 55<sub>mm</sub>, with a max. March 2001 130.5<sub>mm</sub> and lowest march 2011 17.5<sub>mm</sub>, there was only 6 days this month when the barometric pressure was above 1000<sub>mbs</sub>.

**Lionel Stielow**

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

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

**Saturday 26 May 2018**



## 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](mailto: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](mailto:Bramblewood@Ventures.org.uk)

For 14+

Scripture Union run holidays for all ages; these will be published shortly at [www.scriptureunion.org.uk](http://www.scriptureunion.org.uk) see under Scripture Union Holidays

For more information contact Peter Brewin T. 810 361 [pbrewin@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:helen.steeden@gmail.com)



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Contact Peter Leach

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

References and photo gallery available at

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

10/16



## **The Kentish Rifleman**

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**Bookings always advisable on 01732 810727**

(12/16)

## **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**

Thank you to everyone who applied for a ticket to the dinner. Happily, we were able to allocate tickets to everyone who applied and the dinner is now sold out. A waiting list is running for anyone who missed the application window - please email [rouxdinner@gmail.com](mailto:rouxdinner@gmail.com) if you would like to be added to the waiting list. Details of where and when to collect tickets, together with logistical details for the evening, will be emailed to individuals a little nearer the date.

It promises to be a great evening. As well as the cuisine, we have some excellent lots for the silent auction and, hot off the press, we are delighted to announce **Hal and Lara Cazalet** will be providing post-dinner musical entertainment.

Should you have any questions regarding the dinner, please email [rouxdinner@gmail.com](mailto:rouxdinner@gmail.com)

***Viv, Bob and Lindsay***  
***Enquiries: [rouxdinner@gmail.com](mailto:rouxdinner@gmail.com)***

### **SHIPBOURNE SCHOOL NEWS**

Children and staff at Shipbourne School always look forward to the Summer Term and started it by welcoming back headteacher, Karen Dodd. The term began with a creative day where children created and performed poetry, and a trip for Tinley class to Home Farm to see the new lambs.

Later in the term, Fairlawne class will visit Horton Kirby to immerse themselves in the history of World War II. Throughout the term, the older children have been visiting Poulton Wood for golf coaching, a new addition to the PE curriculum, and will later continue to develop their tennis skills when a tennis coach visits school. May also brings with it key stage assessments for children in year 2 and 6, a week that will finish with a celebratory Royal Wedding tea party.

***Brenda Mullinger***

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

At the Spoute Recreation Ground

2.30pm Monday 7 May 2018

It's the 250<sup>th</sup> 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

## **FROM YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

In company with one of my Councillor colleagues from the Ashford area I was, last month (March), given a detailed briefing by KCC's Transport Strategy Manager, on the improvements that the County Council are seeking in connection with problems caused by Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) overnight 'fly parking' at inappropriate locations. This problem is especially prevalent on midweek evenings and nights, along the M20/A20 corridor and some adjacent trunk roads. It is a significant cause, in my view fully justified, of residents' complaints. Successful trial action on this problem has now been underway in the Ashford area over recent months, with HGV parking enforcement being undertaken by Ashford Borough Council in cooperation with KCC and others.

It is now clear, that as a consequence of these parking enforcement trials, HGV's are being displaced from Ashford, under pressure of overnight parking enforcement, to other areas including the M20/A20 corridor through Tonbridge & Malling. I am pressing KCC to encourage HGV parking operators to bring forward plans for overnight lorry parks in suitable locations (not in or adjacent to Metropolitan Green Belt or Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty). This is to prevent HGV parking enforcement in Ashford, or elsewhere, leading to the displacement of HGV 'fly parking' to Tonbridge and Malling.

On a related, but different issue, I see from recent media reports that French trade unions are now taking up cudgels against various proposed economic measures by the recently elected French President. Specifically, SNCF the French Rail Company is, as I write, about to suffer intermittent strike action from some of its key employees.

From past experience, it would come as a surprise to no one in Kent, if one French trade union group, or another, decide to disrupt either Channel Tunnel rail operations and or ferry moorings in Calais. If this should come about, can Operation Stack with HGV's 'stacked' on the M20, be far behind? I well remember the sheer misery this brought in summer 2015. I am pleased to say that better arrangements are now in hand to avoid the worst of the serious disruption that occurred in 2015. The arrangements for the dispersal of HGV's from Manston do not appear to me as robust they could be. I am also not fully convinced that Kent Police have the power to order drivers of foreign registered HGV's to proceed to an off route location.

I have read various reports in the shipping trade press that new vessel operations are opening and new and increased capacity is being added to direct sailings between Ireland and various continental ports, including Santander, Cherbourg, Zeebrugge and Rotterdam. This increased capacity is intended to reduce the amount of Irish HGV's travelling through Kent and as such, is to be welcomed as a reduction of HGV's to be accommodated either overnight, or as a result of Operation Stack.

We hope for a smooth summer - but are prepared for the alternative.

**Harry Rayner, Kent County Councillor**

**Tel 01732 780078**

**Email: [harry.rayner@kent.gov.uk](mailto:harry.rayner@kent.gov.uk)**



**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)

## 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).

### NOTICE



You are invited as an Elector of Shipbourne to attend the

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
**Monday 14 MAY 2018, 7.00 p.m.**  
**SHIPBOURNE VILLAGE HALL**

### **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](http://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**

Full responses are available on the TMBC website at [www.tmbc.gov.uk/planning](http://www.tmbc.gov.uk/planning)

**TM/18/00700/FL** – Kingswood Training Services, Back Lane, Shipbourne, TN11 9PP. Single detached garage.

### **Planning Decisions from TMBC**

**TM/17/03379/TPOC**- 10 Horse Chestnut Trees - Remove lower hanging branches only (no large boughs) to a height of up to 4m. Approved with conditions.

## **Consultations**

**Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty** Management plan consultation – Deadline 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018  
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RCJVRDC>

**Consultation** - Refresh of Kent Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy - deadline 27 April  
[http://www.kent.gov.uk/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0005/79358/Kent-Joint-Municipal-Waste-Management-strategy-consultation.pdf](http://www.kent.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/79358/Kent-Joint-Municipal-Waste-Management-strategy-consultation.pdf)

Our next Parish Council meeting is at 7.30pm on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018 following the Annual Parish Meeting at 7pm. 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**

The April meeting returned to the newly refurbished Village Hall. The speaker was Michael Corrigan on The Harsh Life in Post War Britain. This brought back a lot of memories for our older members, particularly memories of the winter of 1947 with vast quantities of snow freezing temperatures and very little coal available. For the younger members it showed us how far we have come in one generation with indoor toilets, bathrooms, central heating and as many clothes as you want being taken for granted.

Our visit to the V&A jewellery section, guided by Dale Thomas was "dazzling" and we were lucky enough to choose between the Liner Exhibition and the Winnie the Pooh Exhibition as well, both of which were much enjoyed as was lunch in the restaurant. The visit to the E M Forster Theatre to see Singing in the Rain was also very much enjoyed by those who went.. A very busy month.

***Sue Streeter***

### **PLAXTOL WI PLANTS and PRODUCE SALE**

**Saturday May 12<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 12.30pm**

**Daltons Farm (opposite The Papermakers)  
by kind permission of Katherine and James Barden**



**Coffee and Refreshments**



**Homegrown Plants**



**Stalls from Local Nurseries**

**Claire Murray from The Modern Botanist**

**Homemade Produce – Marmalade, Jams,**



**Pickles, Chutneys etc**



**Cake Stall**



**Accessories and Jewellery Stall**



**Hats, Scarves, Belts, Shoes and Jewellery**

**On Site Parking**

**Regret – Assistance Dogs Only Please**

**All Welcome – The More The Merrier!**

## **AN EXPLOSION OF ART IN TONBRIDGE**

### **Tonbridge Art Fair**

June is going to be an exciting month in Tonbridge for art lovers. The first ever Tonbridge Art Fair is coming to the newly refurbished River Walk on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10am-6pm. There will be paintings, drawings, sculpture, jewellery, glass, ceramics and more on show from many artists, some local and some not so local, with demonstrations and a chance to chat with the artists themselves. Visitors will also have the opportunity to have their portrait drawn by caricaturist Paul Gurney, so you could say it will be reminiscent of being in Montmartre or on the Left Bank in Paris! The fair is free to visitors and promises an enjoyable day out by the River Medway.  
<https://www.facebook.com/Tonbridge-Art-Fair>

### **Artists' Open Studios**

The Art Fair will be the opening event for Artists' Open Studios, when 35 local artists will be showing work in 14 locations in Tonbridge, Hildenborough, Hadlow and Yalding. This event has been organised by Tonbridge area artists to fill the gap in the annual art calendar left by the South East Open Studios taking a year out and not running in 2018. Visitors will have the chance to meet, talk to and see the artists at work. You're guaranteed a warm and friendly welcome – and it's all completely free! Art trail leaflets are widely available at local libraries, shops, galleries, tourist information sites and more. The event runs every weekend in June, from 11am-6pm on each Saturday and Sunday. Not all artists exhibit every weekend, so check our trail or visit [www.artistsopenstudios.co.uk](http://www.artistsopenstudios.co.uk) for more info and a downloadable copy of the art trail and map.

[www.artistsopenstudios.co.uk](http://www.artistsopenstudios.co.uk)

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

Following the refurbishment of the main hall, we have now resumed our Scottish Dancing on alternate Tuesday evenings from 7.15 until 9pm.

Dates for May are 1st, 15th and 29th - please come and join us - just turn up or give me a call on 01732 811144. Truly - no experience is necessary!!

***Helen Leach***



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(04/16)

## SHIPBOURNE FARMERS' MARKET

So far this year we have broken two records re number of visitors attending the market. Not surprisingly we experienced the lowest attendance at the market for the first quarter since we started (all down to the weather but we thank all our loyal customers for attending every week !) but then we experienced the highest attendance ever for an Easter market over 200 visitors in 2 hours !

This winter must be behind us now !! The longer days and the warmer spring sunshine has given us a sense of anticipation and as May progresses the first signs of our food bounty is starting to appear. The real harbinger of the new season is **asparagus**. The cold early months has kept the spears waiting in the ground but they will be pushing through the earth now ready for harvesting. Asparagus is at its best when picked and cooked within hours, something easily achievable when bought locally at the market. Make the most of the delicate **flavour** by serving simply steamed with melted butter or hollandaise, or toss with crumbled local **goat's cheese**, some toasted pine nuts and a simple rapeseed oil and lemon vinaigrette. As the season progresses use it in risottos, tarts, salads and soups.

Lemon sole, cod, halibut and sea bass are all good at this time of year. Have you tried samphire with fish? Just rinse and boil in water briefly – don't add any more salt – then toss in a little local butter. The texture should be still crisp.

Local reared beef and pork will be at their most succulent as the grazing starts to green up. Now is the time to splash out on steaks, chops and fillets and use them simply cooked – grilled, stir fried or griddle cooked for lighter meals.

Alongside asparagus other spring vegetables are also starting to appear after the cold of the winter. Look out for are tender little early English **new potatoes**, giving the Jerseys a run for their money. Gary managed to keep his amazing salad leave bags throughout the winter and they are now joined by **spinach, watercress, rocket** and **lettuces** sitting alongside the last of this year's main vegetable crop of purple sprouting broccoli, spring cabbage, cauliflower, spring greens, spring onions and radishes.

The wealth of summer fruit is still ahead of us but you can make the most of green **outdoor rhubarb** this month in lighter dishes such as homemade ice creams and fools. Or try making your own rhubarb jams and chutneys – the tart flavour of the fruit makes a

lovely preserve to spread on scones, fill sponge cakes and enjoy simply on buttered toast, particularly if you add ginger as a flavouring.

By the end of the month the earliest **gooseberries** should be available, ready to pair up with their perfect partner – delicate fragrant elderflowers. Just add a head or two of creamy white flowers (pick away from roads or sprayed fields and shake to remove bugs) to the gooseberries for a few minutes as they cook then lift out and discard. The distinctive flavour will remain for crumbles, cakes, fools or creamy desserts such as crème brûlés and panna cotta.

We would like to thank Albert and Michel Roux (Jnr) who are giving up their time on June 5<sup>th</sup> to help us celebrate our 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary. They will be using Farmers Market produce to cook a fantastic meal for all. The proceeds of the evening will be going to help the Nourish Food Bank, The Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution, All Saints Parish Chatham, St Giles' Church Restoration fund and the Farmers Market



Every Thursday 9-11am

To find out more about Shipbourne Farmers Market go to [www shipbournefm.co.uk](http://www.shipbournefm.co.uk)

## **JUNE NEWSLETTER**

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

## **COOKERY CORNER**

### **GOOSEBERRY AND ELDERFLOWER CRUMBLE**

This is one of our favourite puddings. Its secret lies in its simplicity – wonderful seasonal ingredients that work in perfect harmony cooked to enhance their flavour with no fuss. Serve with really good vanilla ice cream, hot or cold, and there really is no better way to round off a May meal.

Pick the elderflowers on a dry day away from roadsides while the flowers are just coming out and creamy white. Shake out the sprigs to get rid of any bugs then rinse under cold water and lay on kitchen paper to dry.

Serves 4/Prepare 10 minutes/Cook 30 minutes

- 500g fresh gooseberries, topped and tailed
- 3 -4 sprigs elderflowers
- 150g caster sugar
- 125g plain flour
- 85g butter, cubed
- 50g ground almonds
- 25g flaked almonds to finish

1 Preheat the oven to 190C/fan oven 170C/ Gas mark 5. Arrange the gooseberries in a 1.5 litre shallow ovenproof dish. Sprinkle with half the sugar.

2 Sift the flour into a mixing bowl and rub in the butter until the mixture looks like coarse breadcrumbs. Stir in the remaining sugar and ground almonds. Scatter over the fruit and top with the flaked almonds.

3 Cook in the oven for 40 – 45 minutes until the top is golden and the fruit tender. Serve warm or chilled with ice cream, custard or pouring cream.

Recipe by Mary Gwynn (local food writer and champion of Farmers Markets)

## **SPILLING THE BEANS**

May is my wife's favourite month of the gardening year. Not because of the bluebells carpeting the woods near Dunk's Green, or because of the blossom on the apple trees in our own garden. No, she particularly enjoys May because it is the month when she gets her kitchen back. The scores of plants that have taken over the kitchen during the winter are finally consigned to their fate outside, in the great British outdoors.

### **Jonny's Jobs**

Young plants, cuttings and robust seedlings can now be placed outside to acclimatise. If a frost is forecast, it is best to put them inside at night, or protect them as best you can. These young plants can be planted out at the end of the month, but remember to water well.

Any shrubs that have already flowered (Sarcococca, Forsythia) can now be pruned. As a rule of thumb, cut back to just above the old wood. Another technique is to grab a handful of branches and cut where you can feel them flexing/bending in your hand. New shoots will soon sprout which will produce flowers next year.

Now is the time to draw the soil over your potato shoots. This keeps moisture in and prevents the potatoes near the surface from turning green. Another simple but important task is to pinch out the side-shoots on your tomato plants. This prevents more thick stems developing which draw energy away from the main stem you are trying to train up your cane, wire or string.

Any clumps of bulbs that seem overcrowded can now be lifted, divided and replanted. This will improve flowering the following year and increase your stock. A sure sign that your bulbs are too tightly packed is poor flowering, or bulbs coming up "blind".

### **Plants of the Month**

May is the month of Poppies, Peonies and Pelargoniums. The last-named will be flying off the garden centre shelves this month. Poppies come in all shapes, sizes and colours. A particular favourite is the dwarf Icelandic Poppy, which flowers freely from May to September, and seeds itself with great ease to provide free plants for the future. Peonies can be tricky. If planted too deeply, the buds will stubbornly refuse to open, turn brown, and then drop off. But don't let that put you off trying!

At the Kent Garden Show (May 26-28), some of the Chelsea Medal winners will be showing off their displays, alongside local growers. If you decide to go along, remember the old saying "Ne'er cast a clout till May is out!"

**Jonny Sanchez**



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- 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](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: LEATHER CORNER SOFA:** chocolate brown leather, approx. dimensions: 240cm x 215cm x 100cm Perfect for a snug, games room, TV room etc. Available early June once replacement sofa arrives. In exchange for small donation to [www.breastcancercare.org.uk](http://www.breastcancercare.org.uk). Call Lindsay on 810439 or email [lindsay\\_miles@btinternet.com](mailto:lindsay_miles@btinternet.com) for photos.

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

**BAKING AND CAKES** How about a bespoke, unique-to-you cake or sweet? If you're tired of the half-baked flavours available in shops, then design your own! It's easy, just email or call Meg so we can get to know you a bit. Whether you want an occasion cake based on your favourite movie or candy bar, or a delicious pud for Sunday lunch, Little Leo Cakery can help with one of a kind confection perfection. Please get in touch via my website ([www.littleleocakery.com](http://www.littleleocakery.com)) or call me for a chat on 07734659175 (03/16)

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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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**PRIVATE TUTOR:** Matthew Worby, 3<sup>rd</sup> year Neuroscience BSc undergraduate at Bristol Uni. Will provide Biology and Chemistry revision/prep support up to GCSE level. Shipbourne based. Please call 07885730031 or email [matthewworby1@gmail.com](mailto:matthewworby1@gmail.com) (07/17)

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