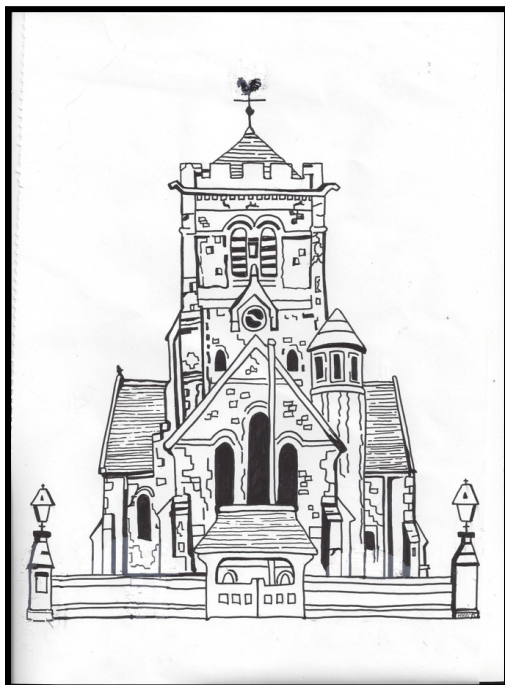


St Giles' and Shipbourne **NEWSLETTER**



**ST GILES' CHURCH NEEDS
YOUR HELP**
*Restoration Fundraising Appeal
- full details inside*

March 2023

OFFICERS OF ST GILES' AND VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

ST GILES

Rector of Shipbourne with Plaxtol:	811081
Rev Dr Peter Hayler	Email: RectorSwP@gmail.com
The Rectory, The Street, Plaxtol TN15 0QG	http://shipbourne.com/st-giles-church/
Curate	Mr Mark Packer 07970-709006
Lay Reader	Mr P Brewin 810361
Churchwardens:	Ms C Jackson 07729814798
	Mr A Boorman 352597

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Secretary:	Mrs C Chambers	382228
Treasurer:	Mr P Sandland	07866 588856
Deanery Synod Rep:	Mr N Ward	810525

CHURCH OFFICERS

Parish Safeguarding Officers:	Ms C Jackson	07729814798
	Miss G Coates (children)	811432
Choirmaster:	Mr J Young	810289
Electoral Roll:	Mrs H Leach	811144

Flower Guild:	Mrs F Ward	810525
Bell Ringing:	Graham Edwards	07487 729549

SHIPBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk:	Sarah Huseyin	886402	shipbourneparishcouncil@gmail.com
Chair:	Nick Tyler	811079	
Councillors:	S Oram	V Redman	P Leach
	J Sheldrick,	J Bate	A Dagger

VILLAGE WEBSITE www.shipbourne.com

SHIPBOURNE SCHOOL

Head:	Mrs Terri Daters	TDaters@bournepartnership.org
-------	------------------	--

SHIPBOURNE VILLAGE HALL

Chairman:	Curtis Galbraith	763115	shipbourne.villagehall@gmail.com
Bookings:	Helen Leach	811144	

SHIPBOURNE FARMERS' MARKET

Manager:	Bob Taylor	833976
----------	------------	--------

SHIPBOURNE WI

President	Barbara Jones	420285	b.jones162@btinternet.com
-----------	---------------	--------	--

SHIPBOURNE CRICKET CLUB

Secretary:	Mark Fenton
------------	-------------

PLAXTOL & SHIPBOURNE TENNIS CLUB

Membership:	Cilla Langdon-Down	810338
-------------	--------------------	--------

SHIPBOURNE HOUSING TRUST LTD

Chairman:	Alan Bristow		
Hon Secretary	John Playle	810562	johndanjanetp@gmail.com

ST GILES' AND SHIPBOURNE NEWSLETTER

Editor/Adverts:	Lindsay Miles	810439	lindsay_miles@btinternet.com
Copying:	Mary Perry	810797	

ST GILES' NEEDS YOUR HELP

St Giles' church is ever-present in Shipbourne, the centrepiece of a picture-postcard view over the green, its prominent tower visible from much of the village. It would be easy to take the building for granted. However, it needs your help if it is to go on being a focus of our community's life.

The church needs major restoration. The tiled roof of the Vane Chapel is failing and the tiles need to be replaced: it is not leaking yet but it will do so soon if nothing is done. The stonework of the stair turret to the tower is very decayed both outside and within, the latter the result of water penetration through open joints in the masonry: an extensive programme of stone replacement and repointing is needed to the turret and elsewhere on the exterior of the building. The gutters leak badly and need to be re-sealed. The crypt is often flooded in winter because the drainage has collapsed deep beneath the churchyard and we need to install an alternative system for getting rid of the rainwater.

We cannot put all of this right in one project – it will take more than one phase over quite a few years; but we must make a start and deal with the major problems soon if the condition of the church is not to deteriorate seriously. So, we are launching an appeal and have set up an appeal committee to lead it: the members are Viv Packer, Lindsay Miles, Andrew Boorman, Nick Ward and Paul Britton.

The first phase of repairs will cost about £280,000, of which we can provide about £150,000 from our reserves and a government grant to cover the cost of VAT on the works but still leaves £130,000 to be raised. We are applying for grants towards this sum and have just received our first grant offer, of £10,000 from the Friends of Kent Churches; but we think it likely that we will need to find about half of the £130,000 ourselves, from the congregation and community.

Will you help, please? You can do this in two ways, first by supporting the programme of events which we will be arranging this year, starting with the Roux dinner in May, and, second, by donating whatever you can afford towards the restoration. If you are willing to donate, you can do so as follows:

- *by bank transfer (sort code 09-01-51, account number 74188307), or*
- *by cheque made out to 'St Giles Church Shipbourne', or*
- *by placing cash or cheques in the yellow envelopes in Church, or*
- *by placing cash or cheques in the wall safe in the Church porch entrance.*

Please include a reference '**Appeal**' on bank transfer donations, on the back of cheques and on yellow envelopes so that we can track progress. If you are a UK taxpayer, you can take advantage of Gift Aid and boost your donation by an extra 25%. To do this simply ask for a gift aid form from the Treasurer, Peter Sandland, or any of the Appeal Committee.

We intend to set up a CAF electronic donation page but this will take a while to do: we will give details in next month's newsletter.

If you are willing to support the appeal but would prefer to give later, once we are nearer the point of starting the works, we would be very grateful for an indication now of any amount you feel able to pledge – please speak to a member of the appeal committee.

Thank you. We will keep you updated about our progress.

Peter Hayler
Rector

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 – MARCH 2023

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.

St Giles Shipbourne is open for organ practice and private prayer daily except Mondays from 9.00am to 3.00pm <http://shipbourne.com/st-giles-church/>

Thursday	2 nd	9-11am	Farmers Market at St Giles, Shipbourne
		12.30pm	Lent Lunch at Plaxtol Church
SUNDAY	5 th	8.00am	Holy Communion at Plaxtol Church
2 nd Sunday of Lent		9.30am	Parish Communion at St Giles, Shipbourne
		11.00am	Family Service with Communion at Plaxtol Church
		Readings:	Genesis 12: 1-4; Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17; John 3: 1-17
	Thursday	9 th	9-11am Farmers Market at St Giles, Shipbourne 12.30pm Lent Lunch at St Giles, Shipbourne
SUNDAY	12 th	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Giles, Shipbourne
3 rd Sunday of Lent		9.30am	Matins at St Giles, Shipbourne
		10.00am	“Still Small Voice” at Plaxtol Church
		11.00am	“Still Small Voice” at St Giles, Shipbourne
		11.00am	Parish Communion at Plaxtol Church
		Readings	Exodus 17: 1-7; Romans 5: 1-11; John 4: 5-42
Monday	13 th		Lent Lecture No.2 at Plaxtol Church
Thursday	16 th	9-11am	Farmers Market at St Giles, Shipbourne
		12.30pm	Lent Lunch at Plaxtol Church
SUNDAY	19 th	8.00am	Holy Communion at Plaxtol Church
4 th Sunday of Lent		9.30am	Mothering Sunday Family Service at St Giles, Shipbourne
		10.30 for 11.00am	Refreshments followed by Mothering Sunday “Community@11” at Plaxtol Church
		Readings:	Coolossian 3: 12-17

Thursday	23 rd	9-11am	Farmers Market at St Giles, Shipbourne
		12.30pm	Lent Lunch at St Giles, Shipbourne
Saturday	25 th	9.30-11am	Community Bread Basket at Plaxtol Church
REMEMBER CLOCKS GO FORWARD			
SUNDAY	26 th	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Giles, Shipbourne
5 th Sunday of Lent Passion Sunday		9.30am	Parrish Communion at St Giles, Shipbourne
		11.00am	Parish Communion at Plaxtol Church
		Readings:	Ezekiel 37: 1-14; Romans 8: 6-11; John 11: 1-45
Thursday	30 th	9-11am	Farmers Market at St Giles, Shipbourne
		12.30pm	Lent Lunch at Plaxtol Church



Wasp Treatment

Taking the sting out of summer

andy.wasp
Wasp & Wasp nest treatment

Fast, Efficient and Reliable
Tonbridge & surrounding area
TN9. TN10. TN11

Mobile: **07833558773**
Email: andy.wasp@yahoo.co.uk

PASTORAL LETTER

CREEDS – AND MAKING MEANING

As March begins, we are already in the season of Lent. In response to a request, I'm going to be presenting something on the Christian Creeds as a Lenten Study, in the form of two lectures. This is not an area that was well taught when I was training for ministry, or that I particularly enjoyed, so it's been a case of 'back to the drawing board'. Our word 'Creed' comes from a Latin word, so *Credo in Unum Deum* = I believe in one God. But this verb has something provisional about it... almost the sense of 'I *make-believe*'. The creeds were forged out of the life and times of the early church, when it was growing rapidly in numbers and slowly being established as an institution. But all this was happening in the context of the Roman Empire, a brutal power that reckoned on their Emperor as being God, and which was beginning to crumble by the time the text of the Nicene Creed was being shaped. There were distinct contrasts between the way some early witnesses of the life, death and resurrection of Christ told the stories of Jesus, and the way in which others began to conceptualise what it all meant in more philosophical language. Was Jesus just a man, or was he the Son of God, or was he both, how? As people sought to make sense of their own experience, and of the life of the early church, they made choices. The Greek word for 'choice' is what lies behind our word 'heresy', and the processes of refining the creeds as orthodox statements of faith was also enmeshed with the emergence of different heresies that arose in these early centuries. This is a fascinating area of study.

But as I come to giving these lectures, I want them to be so much more than a history lesson. I believe that the same processes that helped forge the creeds can still be meaningful today. None of us live in a cultural vacuum, very few of us believe in absolutely nothing but our own animal existence, and all of us make choices (heresies!) on a day-to-day basis. But what does it all add up to? How do we make meaning for ourselves in the twentieth century. Having meaning and purpose behind our choices can bring a source of fulfilment and happiness; conversely, having no sense of purpose can lead to despair. Please know you're welcome to join us for these sessions.

Peter Hayler
Rector

Lent Lunches 2023

Simple Soup Lunch and Midday Prayers

with donations towards Bibles for School Leavers (Yr 6)

@Shipbourne

@Plaxtol

February 23rd

March 9th

March 23rd

12.30pm

March 2nd

March 16th

March 30th



Lent Lectures 2023

Historic Formularies or Contemporary Conundrums?

@ Shipbourne

@ Plaxtol

February 28th

8pm

March 13th

*Making believe; ancient creeds
and faith in the 21st century.*

*Making choices;
heresies old and new.*

to be given by Rev Dr Peter Hayler, Rector

*Credo in unum Deum, Factorum Coeli et
Terra, Visibilium...*

Community Bread Basket

9:30 - 11:00 on Saturday 25th March 2023



In Plaxtol Parish Church
Café style Breakfast

All welcome

United Benefice of Shipbourne with Plaxtol
Collections for Chatham Foodbank

Boxes will be placed in both our churches over the fourth weekend of each month for donations of food and toiletries, to coincide with our Community Bread Basket event.

FOODBANK COLLECTIONS FOR ALL SAINTS' COMMUNITY PROJECT, CHATHAM

Due to lockdown restrictions it has been difficult to support our link church All Saints', Chatham with food products. However, we are now able to resume our support and, now more than ever, our help is needed.

The All Saints' Community Project helps individuals and families who have an urgent need for food. They also have ongoing projects, groups and a café through which they support people. For more information on the project please visit their website: www.allsaintscommunityproject.org.uk

Here's how we can help:

- Each month: with Community Bread Basket (CBB), we will have boxes out in both Shipbourne and Plaxtol Churches for the collection of food items.
- The money raised by the sale of books at CBB will go into a fund that provides a free hot breakfast to those who otherwise couldn't afford it.

Thank you for your help
Donna Hayler

SHIPBOURNE WI

At the February meeting we welcomed Judy Anderson of the Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) Charity, who described A Remarkable Story of Care and Hope. The hospital originally relied on donations, gifts and wills, which even today with the work of the charity enables the now NHS hospital to be world-class, where the "Child, First and Always" is the motto. Research is crucial to GOSH, and other hospitals here and across the world. With the videos of children's stories, it was a very moving talk.

The discussion at Book Club was about "The Glass House" by Eve Chase. The book was enjoyed by most members, with the numerous twists and turns needing some concentration! Our next book is rather different - "Persuasion" by Jane Austen.

A walk from Plaxtol to Ightham, through woods and orchards was very invigorating, and we celebrated our efforts by finishing at The George and Dragon for lunch. A further lunch has been arranged for members at the Rifleman, no walking involved!

The next Committee Meeting will be on March 1st, and the main meeting on March 8th, when Julia Davies will be explaining "Rattling my Family's Bones - Family History Findings".

Glynis Coates

THE WEATHER IN JANUARY

The average day temp. was 11^oc, the average night temp was 1.6^oc, the highest day was Thursday 5th with 16^oc, the lowest night was Tuesday 17th with -7^oc, the total rainfall was 92mm, the average rainfall over the last 30 years was 85mm, the highest year was January 2014 with 182mm and the lowest year was January 1997 with 20mm.

Lionel Stielow

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

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

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

We shall also use daffodils or tulips for the church at Easter, so if you would like to give some to the church please bring them to St Giles between 9 and 10 am on Saturday 8 April, when we shall be decorating the church. If the weather warms up, we shall use yellow and white tulips on the windowsills, as the daffodils may be going over by then.

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

USED STAMPS FOR THE R.N.I.B

I would like to thank everyone who has left used postage stamps at the back of the Church. It has taken over a year to collect sufficient stamps to weigh a total in excess of 1 kilo, but I have now managed to achieve this. 1 kilo of stamps should raise £20 for the RNIB, so I think it is a worthwhile thing to do.

So please keep collecting for me.

Jenny Porter

**Remember to put clocks
forward on Sunday 26th March**



Plaxtol Players

Question: Who said this? "The Pub Quiz is a uniquely British invention. It combines our two great loves: drinking and being right"

Answer: James Graham in the 2018 West End play "Quiz"

Question: Which of the following statements are true?

- (a) The Plaxtol Players are once again producing a fun-filled Quiz Night
- (b) Date is Saturday March 18th 2023
- (c) Venue is the Memorial Hall
- (d) Doors and Bar open at 7.30pm
- (e) Tickets, including Cheese Board: £10

Answer: All of the above!

Question: How can I get more information and reserve tickets and/or tables?

Answer: Contact info@plaxtolplayers.co.uk
or Sandy Oram on 01732 811494

APRIL NEWSLETTER

Please send any articles and adverts for the April Newsletter by **15th March 2023**.

A digital version of the Newsletter is also uploaded on www.shipbourne.com.

Please email articles to lindsay_miles@btinternet.com or call 01732 810439.



Springtime at Ightham Mote

The House at Ightham Mote is reopening to welcome guests on the 27th of February and there's so much to see and do this Spring.

Ightham Mote will be hosting Compton Verney's touring exhibition **The Lost Words** from Monday 27th February to Monday 29th May 2023, featuring poems and original art.

Little ones can get involved too with our FREE outdoor eye-spy trail, help to discover The Lost Words by finding the missing words in five poems hidden around the garden.

Until March, your four legged friends can also join you in the garden on leads. If you need some replenishment, enjoy a coffee and light bite in the café, dogs can join you on the covered veranda too.

If you are looking for a new challenge for the new year, we're looking for volunteers to help us bring the magic of Ightham Mote to our visitors. If you are interested in volunteering, please email: IghthamMoteVolunteering@nationaltrust.org.uk

To see what else we have going on, please visit: nationaltrust.org.uk/ightham-mote/whats-on



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

PARISH MEETINGS

The Parish Council meetings usually take place on the second Monday of each month (except August) at 7pm and the agenda will be posted a few days beforehand on the noticeboard in the bus shelter opposite The Chaser and on the Parish website. If you have anything that you would like to raise or would like to join the meeting, please email the Parish Clerk shipbourneparishcouncil@gmail.com. Please visit our website www.shipbourne.com for further details. **Our next meeting will be held on Monday 13 March at 7pm at Shipbourne Village Hall**

CLIMATE CHANGE

Update from Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan Launch

Shipbourne Parish Council officially launched their *Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan* at the Parish Council meeting on Monday 6th February. Cllr Bate gave a short presentation which was very well attended by around 25 members of the public and representatives from Shipbourne, Plaxtol and Platt Parish Councils.

The Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan is now available on our website under Policy or via the Parish Clerk at shipbourneparishcouncil@gmail.com

If you would like to be involved in a Climate Change Action Group, please contact the Parish Clerk. Our first meeting will be on Thursday 16th March at 7.30pm at the Chaser.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS – MARCH

<https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/planning-applications-appeals/planning-view-comment-planning-applications>

LOCAL ELECTIONS MAY 2023
"BECOMING A LOCAL COUNCILLOR"

EVENTS: Tuesday 21 February 2023 & Tuesday 21 March 2023

Do you know of individuals in your parish who have expressed an interest in becoming a Councillor or that you feel would make an excellent Local Councillor? The Kent Association of Local Councils will be providing online awareness raising events about becoming a Local Councillor once a month, starting from January. These one-hour evening events will be ideal for individuals who want to know more about what being a local councillor entails. These events will take place at 7pm on: Residents can register to attend these events via the KALC Training & Events web pages: www.kentalc.gov.uk

If you are interested in becoming a councillor, please contact the Parish Clerk Shipbourneparishcouncil@gmail.com

VOTER ID

As you are probably aware Voter ID is being introduced at the Local elections in May this year. This means **all electors have to bring suitable photographic identification in enable them to vote in a Polling station.**

Please see below a link and www address to resources supplied by the Electoral Commission.

Voter ID Resource - Partner Pack - Group 1 | Electoral Commission
<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/media/9632>

For those that do not have Photo ID, they can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate on the Government online Portal, Apply for photo ID to vote (called a 'Voter Authority Certificate') - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).

TONBRIDGE AND MALLING RAMBLERS

Our friendly group is one of 13 Ramblers groups in Kent and part of the national Ramblers walking organisation. We explore the beautiful countryside of Tonbridge and Malling and surrounding areas.

Walks usually start mid-morning. There's a short break half-way through (bring refreshments) and we usually finish near a pub.

For details of all our mid-week and Sunday walks, start times and locations, and walk leader contacts, see www.tonbridgeandmallingeramblers.org.uk.

Sunday 5 March	A circular walk from Sevenoaks Weald across fields and lanes and passing Bore Place. Moderate difficulty.	5.5 miles
Wednesday 8 March	Figure of 8 walk from Shipbourne towards Underriver and then climbing 100m to join the Greensand Way. Coffee stop at Ightham Mote before returning to Shipbourne Common and continuing on to Dunks Green. Moderate difficulty. <i>There is an option to do a shorter route of 4.5 miles, finishing before the Dunks Green loop.</i>	7.5 miles
Wednesday 15 March	A leisurely walk around Capel parish, taking in Capel and Tudeley churches, Amhurst Bank, Kent College and Knowles Bank. We will use tracks, fields, woods, orchards and some quiet lanes. Some hills and stiles included.	5 miles
Sunday 19 March	A leisurely walk from Tonbridge Castle along the Medway to Haysden.	4.3 miles
Sunday 19 March	A leisurely walk from Tonbridge Castle towards Leigh, along the Medway Valley and Wealdway paths.	6.2 miles

Sunday 26 March	Circular walk from Plaxtol. Moderate difficulty.	5 miles
Thursday 30 March	Circular walk from Kemsing through the St Clere estate and up a steep slope to the Pilgrim's Way. May be slippery if wet: bring walking poles if you need them. Moderate difficulty.	5 miles

**REPAIR
CAFE** Tonbridge



What to do with a broken household item?

BRING IT TO THE REPAIR CAFE

where we will be repairing broken items together, giving professional advice and inspiring you to learn new skills

FREE Voluntary contribution welcome

ENJOY Refreshments at the St Stephen's Cafe

REPAIRS OFFERED :

Electrical : Electronics : Mechanical : Wood : Clothing

Textiles : China repair : Knife & Scissor sharpening

2023 Dates:

Saturday 28 January

Saturday 25 February

Saturday 25 March

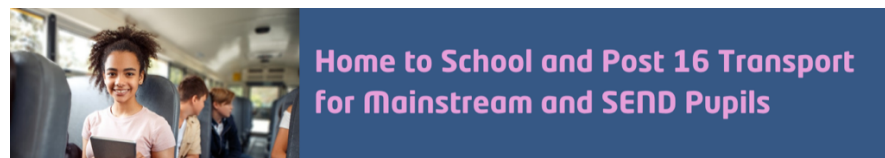
Saturday 22 April

10am - 12:30pm

Last repair accepted at 12:00pm
or when capacity has been reached

St Stephen's Church
Waterloo Road, Tonbridge TN9 2SW

tonbridgerepaircafe.uk FB: @tonbridgerepaircafe IG: @tonbridge.repaircafe
Email: tonbridgerepaircafe@gmail.com Tel: 07470 141035



KCC has launched a new eight-week consultation on:

- a draft Home to School Transport Policy for children and young people aged 4 to 16, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), to come into effect from the 2024-25 academic year, and
- Post 16 Transport Policy Statements for 2023-24 and 2024-25, which includes support for 19+ learners with an Education, Health and Care Plan

More information, including proposed changes to the support we provide, is available from the consultation webpage www.kent.gov.uk/schooltransportpolicy. Visit before the 21 March 2023 to have your say.

Kent County Council (KCC) has launched a public consultation on its Community Services which runs from 17 January to 26 March 2023

The consultation proposes changes to the way we use our buildings to deliver some of our community services. We invite your feedback on our proposals as part of this consultation.

Why are we proposing changes?

The Council has experienced big increases in costs and has less money to spend. So we need to look ahead and do things differently to make sure we can still help residents in the years to come. Whilst ensuring effective support for residents who need our services, we need to:

- tackle the rising costs of maintaining our many buildings
- find savings, so we can balance the budget
- reduce our carbon footprint to meet our Net-Zero ambitions.

What services are included in the proposals?

Children's Centres and Youth Hubs, Public Health Services for Children and Families, Community Services for Adults with Learning Disabilities, Community Learning and Skills, and Gateways.

What are we proposing?

- Having fewer permanent buildings, meaning that some of our buildings would close - we want to keep buildings in areas where they are needed the most
- Co-locating more of our services, meaning more than one service would be available from some of the buildings you might visit
- Continuing to deliver some services by outreach, which means they do not take place in a dedicated or permanent space, but move around to when and where they are needed
- Ensuring residents can continue to access services and information online.

Our proposals have been designed by considering where there is greatest need for our services.

Find out more and share your views

Please visit www.kent.gov.uk/communityservicesconsultation to find out about the proposals for your area. You can respond to the consultation by using the online questionnaire (or download the Word version).

On our website you will also find a list of our drop-in events where you can come along to talk about the proposals and ask your questions.

KCC's Kent Communities Programme Team

communityservicesfeedback@kent.gov.uk

English National Concessionary Travel Scheme (ENCTS) Bulk Renewals March 2023

Is your bus pass expiring in March 2023? Don't worry we'll be in touch



Background:

Kent County Council (KCC) manages the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme (often also referred to as the Older People's Bus Pass) for Kent residents on behalf of central government. There are currently approximately 250,000 ENCTS pass-holders in Kent, who qualify either on the basis of age or disability

Passes are issued for five years with an expiry date at the end of March, regardless of which month in the year the pass was originally issued. As a legacy of the commencement of the scheme, every five years there is a significant peak in renewals.

2023 renewals

In March 2023 there are 140,000 passes that reach their natural expiry.

The approach KCC takes is *'Intelligent Auto-Renewals'* i.e. not asking all pass holders re-apply but re-issuing a pass automatically if it has been used in the year before expiry.

Where passes have not been used, we write to the pass holder offering them the opportunity to renew their pass through a simple online or free post process.

Passholders who qualify on grounds of disability are asked to re-evidence their entitlement. This is because some passes are issued on the grounds of temporary disability. However, we are updating the process after this renewal so that those with permanent disabilities will not need to do this again once they have re-evidenced this time.

In all cases we will contact passholders directly either with their new pass or with instructions on how to renew. Passholders do not need to do anything prior to receiving their new pass or letter **unless** they have moved since they received their existing pass. In this case, they need to let us know their new address. Details of how to do this can be found at www.kent.gov.uk/buspass. The scheme is a statutory scheme which gives eligible passholders access to services across the UK, not just in Kent. As such, the issue of a pass does not take account of changes to local bus services.

Process and timelines

Letters for those whose pass will not automatically renew will be sent in late January and February.

Passes will be sent out in batches by District in February and early March.

Passholders do not need to contact us **unless** they have moved since they received their existing pass. Details of how to let us know they have moved can be found at www.kent.gov.uk/buspass.

Older person passes used within the previous year:

Automatically renewed – the pass will be sent by post.

Older person passes not used within the previous year:

Passholders will be sent a letter inviting them to renew and giving them a choice of doing so online or by free post.

Disabled person's passes:

All disabled person passholders with March 2023 expiry will be sent a letter inviting them to renew and giving them a choice of doing so via online or free post.

The approach adopted is well established, understood and well-rehearsed between ourselves and our delivery partners and as such no operational issues are expected.

More information and contact details

For more information about renewals please contact myself or jean.molloy@kent.gov.uk or see the ENCTS web page at www.kent.gov.uk/buspass.

Tonbridge & Malling Corporate Strategy - 2023-2025

Just wanted to send a friendly reminder that if you haven't filled in the survey about the draft Tonbridge & Malling Corporate Strategy, then there is still time – the deadline is **Friday 10 February 2023**.

Simply go to <https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/council/draft-corporate-strategy-2023-2025-consultation> and press the 'Take Part Now' button. It should only take around 5 minutes to complete.

Almost 200 responses have been received so far, but it would be great to hear as many views as possible, so do feel free to share this email with anyone who might be interested in getting involved.

Sign up for news from Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council

Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council is launching an email newsletter to help keep residents and partner organisations up to date with important news from around the borough. The newsletter will cover things like:

- Local Plan updates and consultations
- Information about leisure, parks and open spaces
- Community events
- Finance and policy changes, including council tax

We'd be very grateful if you could share this information with residents in your parish by whatever channels are available to you. Copies of the newsletter will be automatically sent to your parish council inbox – do let me know if for any reason you'd prefer not to receive it that way.

The sign up process is very quick and easy (we just ask for your name and email address) and you can unsubscribe at any time.

Residents wishing to register to receive the newsletter should visit <https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/council/newsletter>

And a reminder that you can also get real time updates to your phone on issues with bin collections and other important news by signing up for our app and clicking yes to notifications.

Further details on the app here:

<https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/council/download-app>

MARCH AT SHIPBOURNE FARMERS MARKET

Farmers Markets are the key outlets for finding **local food**. Almost all the produce comes from an area 30 miles away.

Why buy locally? Because it's fresh, lacks all types of preservatives and colourings plus you can actually "talk to the Producer"!

As part of our project to increase shoppers at Farmers Markets we have just launched a Seasonal magazine called Eat, Drink Kent. You should find a hard copy of the Magazine at your local market and an e-version on our upgraded web site www.kfma.org.uk. The objective is to offer you some interesting reading about the benefits of eating local produce and where to find it but also to help introduce new shoppers to our markets (this is where you come in!)

As March progresses the daylight increases by a wonderful two hours so that, by the end of the month, we will once again be enjoying days that are longer than nights. Once the clocks go forward on 29th March, it really feels like spring is properly underway and we can hope for a summer of sunshine to make up a bit for the wet of the winter now past.

For market visitors this month, what's on offer can seem rather restricted as we wait for kinder weather conditions for animals and crops, which will respond to the increasing light and warmth with bounty to come. That's why March is traditionally known as the hunger gap or famine month. But it's really a great opportunity to make most of the last of the winter and enjoy all those wonderful comfort foods and warming treats before they disappear again till the last quarter of the year.

Fruit and veg

Beautiful pink forced **rhubarb** is really the only locally grown fruit around now but the season for the fine 'champagne' season is short so make the most of it. Use in fools, ice creams and sauces – it goes particularly well with a large pinch or two of ginger. Or make up batches of rhubarb compote and freeze in pots for later in the year. And don't forget it makes wonderful cakes – crumble topped, or upside down, with almonds or ginger. Serve as a pud with ice cream or keep for the tea tray. Don't forget that local apples are still good as the storing varieties go on delivering flavour and texture until April.

And don't forget....

to stock up on the jams, jellies and chutneys made using this winter's produce to keep you going over the next few months. Why not try a locally baked cake or sweet tart this month when the range of seasonal fruit is limited?

Meat and game

For meat eaters, **pork** is an excellent choice this month and it's still ideal weather to enjoy a hearty roast on Sunday with all the family. Try a shoulder joint for the best combination of flavour and texture. The cheaper cuts are worth trying in slow cooked stews –pork belly, breast of **lamb**, shin of beef – all great value and superb eating when the weather is still holding onto winter. Or what about that family favourite – a (free range) roast **chicken**? These slow grown birds have far more flavour and better texture and goes really well with roast wedges of sweet potato tossed in cold pressed rapeseed oil and a sprinkling of ground ginger before cooking. Serve with purple sprouting broccoli. Simple cooking works best with a really good bird as the flavour is enhanced rather than masked.

Rough shooting takes over as the end of the season has arrived for many game birds so **rabbit** and **wood pigeon** are both good eating now.

Fish and seafood

For fish lovers, **sea bass** is a good choice this month or try a wonderful warming fish stew as a superb way of enjoying superb local fish and seafood.. **Scallops** are at their finest now so enjoy one of the great pleasures of the season. Sea Trout or **Salmon** is also an excellent choice in March.

COOKERY CORNER

BRAISED CHICKEN WITH SAFFRON AND GARLIC MAYO

This chicken cooks in its own juices in a sealed pot so remains moist and full of flavour. The rich sauce is thickened at the end of cooking with the addition of garlicky mayonnaise. Serve with plenty of mashed potato to soak up the lovely sauce.

Serves 4/Prep 20 minutes/Cook 2 hours

- 1.3kg free-range chicken
- 300ml white wine
- 1 medium onion, peeled and halved
- 3 large leeks, thickly sliced
- 4 medium carrots, cut into chunks
- a bouquet garni of bay leaf, sprigs of fresh thyme, celery leaves,
- ¼ tsp saffron strands
- salt and freshly ground black pepper

1 Preheat the oven to 180C gas mark 4. Place the chicken in a casserole with wine, onion, one carrot, one leek, bouquet garni, saffron, seasoning and add 300ml cold water. Bring to the boil then cover tightly and then cook in the oven for 1¼ hours.

2 Add the rest of the vegetables to the pan and return to the oven for a further 25 minutes until the vegetables are tender. Remove the casserole from the oven, carve the chicken into thick slices and place on a warm platter with the vegetables.

3. Serve the rest of the cooking juices in a jug as a gravy. Serve with lots of creamy mashed potato to sop up the juices.



Grumpy Painters
Painter & Decorators
PM Gladman & Son

March House
Five Oak Green Road
Five Oak Green
Tonbridge, Kent
TN12 6TJ
07885 201765 / 01892 834507

grumpypainter@hotmail.co.uk

Fully Insured with Public Liability
Over 30 Years of Experience

02/24)



PLAXTOL PEST AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Ciaran Payne
07368 605762

INFO@PLAXTOLPEST.CO.UK
WWW.PLAXTOLPEST.CO.UK

02/24)



Shipbourne Village Hall
Registered Charity No 1074519

The Hall can be hired for £15 per hour with a minimum of 4 hours (£60.00).

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 01732 811144 or

07762 241720 or email shipbourne.villagehall@gmail.com

Further details can be found on the Shipbourne website

www.shipbourne.com



The Kentish Rifleman
Dunk's Green, TN11 9RU 01732 810727

Born in the 1500s, our traditional family run pub is open daily from 11.30am. By the cosy fire or out in the beer garden, we offer home-made food, local beers, a lovely selection of wines and spirits and a friendly atmosphere. Please book your table on 01732 810727 or on our website.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

www.thekentishrifleman.co.uk

02/24)

FROM YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

With 2023 well under way it won't be long until we can enjoy those long summer evenings in the Garden of England. Before we get there, there are local elections taking place in May for Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council and I've been spending a fair bit of time speaking to people about these recently.

It is fair to say that I value the support from Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council in helping make Shipbourne a great place to live. This is certainly the feedback coming through the Residents Survey that I have recently undertaken. Some of you may have received one recently and given feedback on national and local issues, which help me represent you best. They are sent to a sample of people and I try and do a survey each and every year.

If you have received a survey but have not yet shared your views with me, please do so. They help me understand your priorities. Even if you haven't received one, please drop me an e-mail to office@tomtugendhat.uk if you have any thoughts you would like to share.

This May we will all have to produce ID if we want to vote at the Polling Station. This must be a form of Photo ID and the following are all acceptable:

- UK Passport
- Driving Licence
- Blue Badge
- Older Persons Bus Pass
- Disabled Person's Bus Pass
- Biometric Immigration Document

You can also apply for a free voter ID document, known as a Voter Authority Certificate, if you don't have an accepted form of ID or even if you are concerned your picture on an acceptable ID no longer looks like you. You can register for this online or if you will be in touch with me using the details below, I would be happy to send you details on how you can apply for one.

Best wishes
Tom

Tom Tugendhat
Member of Parliament for Tonbridge and Malling

SHIPBOURNE CLASSIFIEDS

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 domestic/personal advertisement will be published in the Newsletter for three months and then removed unless requested otherwise.**

Business Advertisements up to four lines are charged at £1 per monthly issue or £10 for a whole year of 12 issues Also available are up to half-page display advertisements, charged at £10 per monthly issue, or £100 for a full year of 12 issues.

All revenue raised from Shipbourne Classifieds goes towards St Giles and 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.

FOOT CARE PODIATRIST/CHIROPODIST at my clinic in central Hildenborough. Gentle and effective care for your feet. Alice Neale MRCPod BSC Hons HCPC registered. Contact telephone 01732 832524 or text 07951949015 (01/24)

VANGUARD PHOTO TRIPOD; three sections with sturdy tubular legs, max height 1400mm, min height 560mm weight 1000g. Has a three way panning head and a quick release shoe that securely locks your camera to the tripod. Little used. £10.00. Please contact Clive on 07773 151796 (04/23)

ACORN SUPAGLIDE 130 STAIRLIFT Will fit straight stairs on the right hand side; the rack is 3785mm long, which will fit a standard-sized 13 tread staircase. The stairlift was installed for my father-in-law in August 2020, is in immaculate condition and has been regularly serviced. You will need to arrange collection from North Tonbridge and for installation in your home. £350.00. Please contact Clive on 07773 151796 for full details, to arrange a viewing and a test run! (04/23)

ORIGINALS IN PENCIL: Local artist applying bespoke art to interior design for homes and businesses. I love to create the unique, the unusual, the talking piece of any room and the best gifts. Visit www.originalsinpencil.co.uk to see a selection of my recent projects or contact me on victoria@originalsinpencil.co.uk or 07711 038484. (02/24)

MARVELLOUS MEN BUILDING AND PROPERTY MAINTENANCE: We do all types of building work and construction and refurbishment kitchens, bathrooms, extensions, loft conversions, painting and decorating, plumbing, electrics to garden and landscape work and much more. Please don't hesitate to contact us on 07887 511411 or 07478 739947 (02/24)

GARDENING SERVICES: Hadlow College and National Trust trained. Regular or one off jobs available. Please call Peter Zoephel on 01892 836866 or 07845 174936 (02/24)

HAIR BY SHARON - Mobile hairdresser, for prices or to make an appointment please call 01732 773043 (02/24)

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 (02/24)

DAVID ROWE Plumbing & Heating, a reliable engineer for all your domestic requirements including: boiler installation, servicing and repairs, full heating systems, radiators, hot water cylinders, power-flushing, gas fires, gas cookers, bathrooms. Please contact David, 07715266311 or email droweph@virginmedia.com (02/24)

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

LOCAL WASP NEST TREATMENT: Fast, efficient, reliable. Andy Wasp 07833 558773 (02/24)



**FOLLOW SHIPBOURNE ON FACEBOOK FOR VILLAGE NEWS,
INFORMATION AND EVENTS @shipbournevillage**

