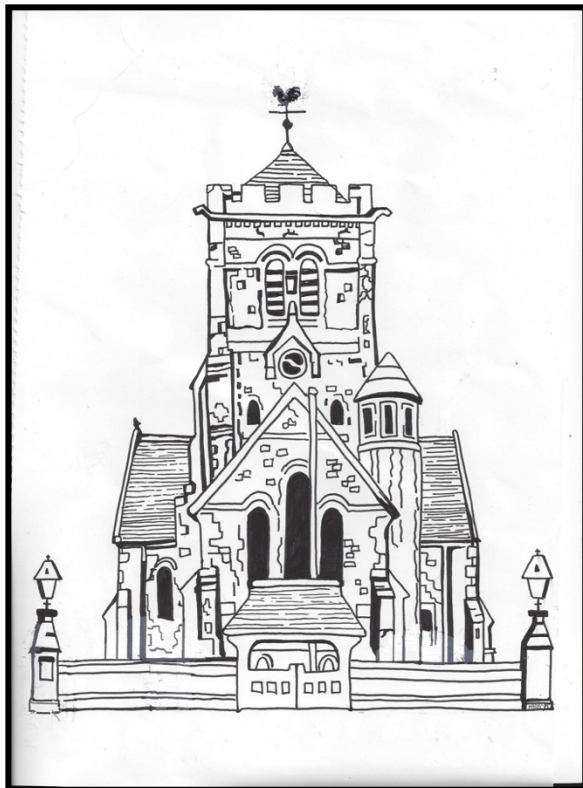


St Giles' and Shipbourne **NEWSLETTER**



April 2024

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 07795 182966

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Secretary:	Mrs C Chambers	382228
Treasurer:	Mr C Keeling	07825 139046
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:	V Redman		
Vice Chair:	J Sheldrick		
Councillors	P Leach, S Oram, A Dagger, S Davis		

VILLAGE WEBSITE

www.shipbourne.com

SHIPBOURNE SCHOOL

Head:	Mrs Terri Daters	TDaters@bournepartnership.org
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SHIPBOURNE VILLAGE HALL

Chairman:	TBC AFTER RESTRUCTURE	shipbourne.villagehall@gmail.com
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Bookings:	Helen Leach	811144
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SHIPBOURNE FARMERS' MARKET

Manager:	Bob Taylor	833976
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SHIPBOURNE WI

President	Barbara Jones	420285	b.jones162@btinternet.com
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SHIPBOURNE CRICKET CLUB

Secretary:	Mark Fenton
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PLAXTOL & SHIPBOURNE TENNIS CLUB

Membership:	Cilla Langdon-Down	810338
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POLICE

Emergency: 999 Non-urgent: 01622 690690

ST GILES' AND SHIPBOURNE NEWSLETTER

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

Rector of Shipbourne with Plaxtol
 Rev Dr Peter Hayler
 The Rectory, The Street, Plaxtol TN15 0QG

PARISH DIARY – APRIL 2024

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	4th	9-11am	Farmers' Market at St Giles, Shipbourne
SUNDAY <i>2nd Sunday of Easter</i>	7th	8.00am	Holy Communion at Plaxtol Church
		9.30am	Parish Communion at St Giles, Shipbourne
		11.00am	Family Service with Communion at Plaxtol Church
		Readings:	Acts 4: 32-35; 1 John 1: 1-22; John 20: 19-end
Tuesday	9th	10-11.30am	Plaxtol Playtime at Plaxtol Church (see advert)
Thursday	11th	9-11am	Farmers' Market at St Giles, Shipbourne
SUNDAY <i>3rd Sunday of Easter</i>	14th	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Giles, Shipbourne
		9.30am	Matins at St Giles, Shipbourne
		11.00am	Parish Communion at Plaxtol Church
		Readings	Acts 3: 12-19; 1 John 3: 1-7; Luke. 24: 36b-48
Thursday	18th	9-11am	Farmers Market at St Giles, Shipbourne
SUNDAY <i>4th Sunday of Easter</i>	21st	8.00am	Holy Communion at Plaxtol Church
		9.30am	Parish Communion at St Giles, Shipbourne
		11am	Community@11 at Plaxtol Church (Refreshments from 10.30am)
		Readings:	Acts 4: 5-12, 1 John 3: 16-end; John 10: 11-18
Tuesday	23rd	8pm	APCM at St Giles, Shipbourne
Wednesday	24th	8pm	APCM at Plaxtol Church
Thursday	25th	9-11am	Farmers' Market at St Giles, Shipbourne
Saturday	27th	9.30-11am	Community Bread Basket at Plaxtol Church
SUNDAY	28th	8.00am	Holy Communion at St Giles, Shipbourne

5th Sunday. Of Easter

9.30am	Family Service at St Giles, Shipbourne
11am	Parish Communion at Plaxtol Church
Readings:	Acts 8: 26-end; 1 John 4: 7-end; John 15: 1-8

Community Bread Basket

9:30 - 11:00 on Saturday 27th April 2024



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.



Wasp Treatment

Taking the sting out of summer

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Wasp & Wasp nest treatment

Fast, Efficient and Reliable

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Email: andy.wasp@yahoo.co.uk

TN9, TN10, TN11

THE GREAT FIFTY DAYS OF EASTER

Everybody knows there's twelve days of Christmas, and no doubt the song with the partridge in a pear tree helps, but the Great Fifty Days of Easter are less well known. And it's a good job that Easter really isn't all about chocolate – no, really, it isn't – because we'd likely be pretty sick of it after 50 days!



Easter is the greatest Festival of the Christian Year, and it's a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. There are no pilgrimage sites to visit in order to see the grave or the relics of Jesus, only the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, built over the supposed sight of the empty tomb. But what do the claims of Easter really mean? Death is not the end! There is new life after death, life in a beautiful new intimacy with God. How does one join in? Through faith, signified through baptism.

The resurrection, we're told, happened on 'the first day of the week.' Within the Jewish context, the Sabbath (Saturday) was the seventh day of the week, and that's how come we now have Sunday as the Christian day of worship; still a 'sabbath' (one day in seven, to reflect the day of rest in the creation stories (Genesis 1&2), but also the day of resurrection. Every Sunday is a little Easter!

The fifty days of Easter take us through to Pentecost, which was the Jewish festival of first fruits. But on the first Pentecost after Easter, the gift of the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles, transforming them into fearless witnesses to all that had happened in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, and giving birth to the Church. We celebrate Pentecost on May 19th this year – which means all of April is Easter. Happy Easter! Christ is risen! Hallelujah!

Peter Hayler, Rector

SHIPBOURNE BELLS

A new set of bell-ropes was dedicated by Peter Hayler during the family service at St Giles' on Sunday 25th February. The new ropes will be installed shortly, replacing the existing set which are now over 30 years old and very worn. The practice of dedicating bell-ropes and anointing bells goes back to the Middle Ages.

The new ropes were made-to-measure by Avon Ropes of Bristol, one of a handful of makers still producing bell-ropes in England. Each rope is more than 40 feet long and consists of an upper part of synthetic material which is hard-wearing, a wool-fleece 'sally' in bright colours on which the bell-ringer pulls and a tail of hemp, a softer, natural rope which is less abrasive and therefore kinder to the hands than synthetic materials.

There are 6 bells at St Giles', hung in a massive wooden frame at the top of the tower and rung from a room on the floor below. The heaviest – the tenor which is also the chiming bell for the clock – weighs almost half a ton. The bells were cast in 1881 by a bell-founder called TC Lewis, who is better known as an organ-builder (he built the fine organ in St Giles'). They were re-hung on new, steel headstocks in 1993.

If anyone reading this would like to learn to ring and join our enthusiastic band of ringers, they should contact Graham Edwards, the tower captain, on 07487 729549. Practice is on Wednesday evenings at 8pm. All are welcome.

**VOCE SACRI SUMMER RECITAL AT ST MARY'S HADLOW
22ND JUNE AT 6.30PM**

Voce Sacri, the smaller arm of the Plaxtol Scholars, are giving a recital in St Mary's Hadlow on Saturday 22nd June. Bar available from 6pm: concert 6.30pm - 8pm including a short interval.

Celebrating a golden era of late 19th century English music including works by Stanford, Bridge, Vaughan Williams and Parry. Free entry, retiring collection.

Further info from Marius Carboni:
mcmarius5@gmail.com: 07885 753272

PLAXTOL PLAYTIME

A group for Babies, Toddlers, Pre-schoolers and their parents, grandparents and carers

Meeting in Plaxtol Church on the 2nd Tuesday of the month

Join us for a coffee/tea - some play activities and to meet

other local parents, carers and little ones in the community

£2.00 per family

Next meeting -9th April 2024

In Plaxtol Church from 10.00 to 11.30

THE ST GILES' CHURCH RESTORATION APPEAL

If you have not yet made a donation or pledge and are able to do so, please consider donating:

- by bank transfer (sort code 09-01-51, account number 74188307),
- by cheque made out to 'St Giles Church Shipbourne',
- by placing cash or cheques in the yellow envelopes in church,
- 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 or use one of the yellow envelopes in the church.

If you wish, you can use our CAF Donate page:

URL: <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/23053>

which can be quickly accessed using the QR code below:



Thank you for your support.

Paul Britton, Chair, Appeal Committee

Tel 01732 365794; email pauljbritton@live.co.uk

MAY NEWSLETTER

Please send any articles and adverts for the May Newsletter by **15th April 2024.**

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.

LAUNCH OF THE ARTS SOCIETY HERITAGE TRAIL:

St Giles' Shipbourne and the Cazalets: Six Portraits by Six Artists, created by members of the Arts Society - Sevenoaks, was launched in the church on Mothering Sunday, 10 March, after the family service. The Cazalet family owned Fairlawne from the 1870s to the 1970s. Edward Cazalet built the church in 1881 and the trail explores the lives of Edward's son, William, his wife Maud and their four children, Edward, Victor, Thelma and Peter through six portraits by major artists from the 1900s, including John Singer Sargent. The nave was hung with poster sized colour reproductions of the six portraits of the Cazalets and there was a small exhibition telling more about the family's involvement in the community in the Vane Chape. The portraits and exhibition will be taken down for Holy Week and Easter, but a full colour leaflet, including the portraits, is available in the church. Next the Arts Society's Trails of Discovery volunteers are planning a similar style exhibition investigating the lives of members of the Vane family, who lived at Fairlawne from the 1630 until the 1790s, including Sir Henry Vane the elder, secretary of state to Charles I, Sir Henry Vane the younger, executed on the orders of Charles II and Lady Fanny Vane, the finest minuet dancer of her day - and a very saucy lady! If you would like to help put the exhibition together, carry out research or help in the design of a leaflet, then please contact Gordon Wright, Arts Society Kent Area Trails of Discovery Representative, gordon.mcrae.wright@gmail.com.

The **Arts Society Sevenoaks** holds lectures on the 2nd Thursday of each month except August & September at Walthamstow Hall Senior School, Holly Bush Lane, Sevenoaks, TN13 3UL. Drinks served from 7:30pm, lecture begins 8.00pm. Visitors welcome, donation appreciated. Also visits, study days and arts volunteering. Contact secretary.sevenoaksartsociety@gmail.com or visit www.theartssocietysevenoaks.org.uk

Next Lecture: Thursday 11 April: *Art Behind Bars: The Role of the Arts in Breaking the Circle of Crime, Prison and Re-offending*: In 2016 Angela Findlay was invited by the Ministry of Justice to support the case for the arts to be included in prisoner rehabilitation. In this moving and thought-provoking lecture, she shows how creating art can provide vital opportunities for offenders to confront their crimes and learn to develop key skills so they can lead a more positive and productive life. Not to be missed.

Gordon Wright

SHIPBOURNE WI

As last month, the meeting in March was very well supported with the majority of members present. After a very brisk business meeting, the speaker gave an erudite and enthusiastic guide to "How Big Is The Universe". Eddie Asquith, with the aid of slides, described the geography of the known Universe and the discoveries that have led to our understanding of the phenomenon. What really hit home was the comparison of how small we are as people of our Earth, our solar system and our galaxy, in terms of the known Universe with its billions of galaxies. A challenging but fascinating talk.

The walk from Godden Green was very enjoyable, although very squelchy! This month there is a walk at Haysden, but also a London Walk on 22nd March, when we shall be guided around the Fleet Street area by a specialist guide.

Last month's book was "The Hand That First Held Mine", by Maggie O'Farrell, a very moving story, was popular with members. This month we have been reading "The Secret Life of Bees", by Sue Monk Kidd.

Lunches are very popular with members, and this month The Bush, Blackbird and Thrush, at East Peckham is the venue.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 10th April, when the speaker will be Julia Davies on the subject of "Rattling Family History Bones". Sounds promising! We hope with the clocks having gone forward we shall be feeling spring-like, and enjoying lighter evenings.

Glynis Coates



SAVE THE DATE:
SHIPBOURNE INFORMAL OPEN GARDENS
SATURDAY 22 JUNE 2024

As part of the St Giles' Church Fundraising Appeal, Shipbourne will be hosting informal "Open Gardens" (not linked to the National Open Garden Scheme) on **Saturday 22nd June 2024**. Residents are invited to open their gardens for others to view with a purchased ticket giving entry to all gardens. Teas and cakes will be available to purchase in the Village Hall during the afternoon.

Further details will follow but, to assist with planning, it would be helpful to know who may be willing to open their garden. If you are **within walking distance** to the main Shipbourne "block" and would like your garden to be included – whether large, small, a few pots, a courtyard, just a space you are proud of - please email lindsay_miles@btinternet.com or call on 01732 810439.



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 the Parish Clerk.

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 on Monday 15th April 2024 at 7pm.***

We currently have a vacancy, if you are interested in becoming a Councillor, please contact the Parish Clerk

PLANNING APPLICATIONS –

24/00188/PA - *Brambleside, Upper Green Road, Shipbourne, Tonbridge, TN11 9PH.* Remove a Birch Tree (noted Birch B on plan drawing attached to application) - originally an ornamental Rubra variety now turned common green and getting too high with regard to proximity to house. Ash tree (noted Ash Tree on plan drawing attached to application) cut back a number of branches of up to approximately 15cm diameter to beyond the east garden boundary hedge / fence; cut out dead / mis-shapen wood and shape on that fence side.

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

TMBC has just launched a new planning portal and planning applications are now sent to us when they are validated rather than via a weekly list. If you would like to receive planning applications for Shipbourne, please sign up to alerts on the TMBC website.

SPEEDWATCH

If you are interested in setting up a Community Speedwatch Group, please contact shipboureparishcouncil@gmail.com

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Our Annual Parish Meeting will be held at Shipbourne Village Hall on Monday 13th May 2024 at 7pm-7.30pm. All welcome!

TONBRIDGE AND MALLING RAMBLERS GROUP WALKS

APRIL 2024



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. Most walks are dog-friendly (see website).

You don't have to be a Ramblers member to try up to three 'taster' walks with us, to help you decide if you'd like to join. If you're new to our walks, it's a good idea to contact the walk leader beforehand to check that their walk will suit you.

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

Sunday 7 April	Circular walk from Wateringbury along the Medway Valley then up over the hill past Roydon Hall and back down via Pizien Wells. Moderate difficulty.	6 miles
Sunday 14 April	Circular walk through parts of the Leeds Castle estate, across farmland and woodland paths through King's Wood and Broomfield. Return alongside the River Len, close to the moated Castle. Gentle ascent; two stiles and short sections of wet mud are likely. Moderate difficulty.	5.5 miles or 2.5 miles (see website)

Thursday 18 April	A circular walk up the North Downs from Kemsing. Moderate difficulty	5.5 miles
Sunday 21 April	Leisurely walk from Five Oak Green climbing gently up through hop fields and orchards to a ridge looking over a valley. After Spring Grove Farm we make our way through more orchards at Amherst Bank and fields. A lovely Spring walk.	5 miles
Thursday 25 April	Circular walk from Barming passing through Oakham Woods and the East Malling Horticultural Research Station. Return through fields and ancient woodland taking in some fine views of the Kent countryside. Mainly flat but there may be some mud. Moderate difficulty.	6 miles
Sunday 28 April	Circular walk from Plaxtol Spout; moderate difficulty.	5 miles

CLIMATE ACTION SHIPBOURNE AND PLAXTOL (CASP)

Our local Climate Change Group has around 20 members from Shipbourne and Plaxtol, including Parish Councillors, local volunteers and experts and has been meeting regularly. Our aim is for our local Parishes to be **carbon neutral by 2030**. We are exploring ways of helping us all do our bit to achieve this by making choices that have a smaller energy impact such as:

- **How we heat our homes**
- **How we insulate our homes**
- **How we fuel our cars**
- **How we travel**
- **What we eat**
- **Our choices as consumers whenever we make a purchase**

What is CASP Doing to help achieve this?

Many homes in Shipbourne and Plaxtol are reliant on oil or LPG boilers for heating. Currently the government is proposing to phase out the installation of these boilers by 2035 and are offering incentives to change to other types of heating. CASP are therefore looking at other means of generating energy to heat our homes and methods of make this more affordable. Cutting out the use of oil would considerably lower the carbon footprint of our homes to match or even be lower than those currently using electricity or gas, and if used with a SMART system of PV panels would lower costs. The Group, with the help of energy experts, and consultants has been researching photovoltaic (PV) panels on rooftops as a means of generating electricity. We are currently looking at ways to set up a

community project and have made a pre-application for a grant from the Community Energy Fund to help us to do this. If this is successful, we will make a full application for funding this spring and will then approach other community groups and work with our local Borough and Council to investigate schemes and engage with the community. As part of this we will be hosting some public information meetings at Plaxtol Village Hall in late Spring/Early summer.

FAIRLAWNE ESTATE CARBON FOOTPRINT

At our last meeting James Sheldrick gave an overview of a carbon audit carried out by the Fairlawne Estate. Although the Fairlawne Estate has a lot of emissions being a large estate, the woodlands and **cover crops** offset this and there is an overall carbon negative balance (-850 tonnes carbon per annum). The Estate covers 7 Parishes and James would like to see a separate audit for Shipbourne only, however, would need other landowners to participate. It shouldn't be too difficult; the same calculator can be used and James would be happy to share the technique. Lots of generic figures are available on the calculator.

Interesting Points to note:

- Cover crops aren't harvested, they are good nutritionally for the land and increase organic matter. Farmers are paid for putting them in.
- Calculating carbon on land is easier than in houses
- Mature woodlands absorb less carbon than younger woodland
- Cutting timber releases carbon

Climate Action Shipbourne and Plaxtol (CASP): Info Sheet

Solar (PV) Panels – FAQ's



What are PV Panels?

Solar electricity panels, also known as photovoltaics (PV), capture the sun's energy and convert it into electricity that you can use in your home. By installing solar panels, you can generate your own pure renewable electricity.

PV panels produce energy on sunny **and** cloudy days (but the output is higher when there is greater irradiance). PV is not the same as (but complements) "Solar thermal" technology that produces hot water.

What are the benefits of PV Panels?

- Cut your carbon footprint and reduce your energy bills
- Increased resilience - limit your reliance on energy suppliers
- PV panels are low maintenance and have a long product lifetime
- PV panels are a 'tried and tested' option
- PV panel owners have the possibility of receiving payments from their electricity suppliers for exporting their excess energy back to the grid.

Are there any disadvantages to PV panels?

- Upfront costs (but grants are available – CASP is exploring this)
- Space constraints (where to put the panel? South-facing roofs are best, but East- and West-facing roofs do also capture enough light for PV panels to be effective). Panels can also be ground mounted in gardens.
- Manufacturing panels requires raw materials and emits greenhouse gases (but this is dwarfed by the energy saved)

How do I find out if my roof is suitable?

You will need to consider how strong your roof is. Installers should assess whether your roof may require strengthening.

Most UK homes have roofs with a pitch between 30-50° which is suitable.

For listed properties, 'listed building consent' is required in order to install solar panels on the roof. The local conservation officer will take into consideration aesthetics and potential damage to the building.

Planning permission is not required for other homes even in Conservation Areas, provided certain conditions are complied with.

Will it increase the value of my house if I get a PV panel?

Solar panels certainly won't detract from a property's value, and may well increase a property's saleability.

While some experts say that solar panels can add between 4% and 14% to a house's value, other estate agents believe that solar panels won't add any value in the immediate future.

Where PV panels do save money is by reducing energy bills.

How much does it cost to buy a PV panel?

Of course it depends on the size of the house, quality of panels, and the amount of electricity used, but, very roughly, solar panels plus battery are likely to cost in the region of £10,000 to £12,000.

CASP is currently exploring options for community grants to help make PV panels as affordable as possible for the community.

What is the advantage of buying a battery for my PV panel?

Batteries allow you to store any surplus electricity generated from your solar PV system, and "time shift" it to a time when you need it. This is particularly helpful at night-time when there's no sunlight, e.g. for charging an electric vehicle.

You can also take energy FROM the grid when the tariff is lowest. Currently some suppliers even pay you to do this.

How much energy will one PV panel generate?

A 4kWp system in Cornwall on an unshaded south facing roof can generate over 4000 units (kWh) per year. If your roof is East or West facing you're still likely to generate 3400 units (kWh) per year. The average household in the UK uses around 3200 units per year.

How long do PV panels last?

Solar PV panels gradually degrade very slightly over time. Typically they will be guaranteed to lose no more than 15% of their power over 25 years, with high quality panels degrading far less (around 2.5% over 25 years). They will often operate for longer but with some components may need

How easy are PV panels to recycle?

Recycling solar panels is completely free for UK homeowners and manufacturers are required by law to dispose of the panels.

Solar panel manufacturers and importers are required to join a Producer Compliance Scheme (PCS) – this ensures solar panels are recycled properly. The majority of solar panels materials can be reused and repurposed as new solar panels.

Is it worth waiting until the PV panel technology has advanced?

No. It is advisable to start making your savings soonest! The technology has advanced and whilst there may be incremental advances in technology, these are aimed more at using different materials, e.g. hiding PV technology in glass. These advances do not show significant progress in efficiency so are unlikely to become mainstream.

More Questions? Contact the CASP Committee on shipbourneparishcouncil@gmail.com. We'd love to hear from you!



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

02/25

HELP NEEDED FOR THE MAGPIE CENTRE, CHATHAM

We are committed to helping the Magpie Centre connected to our link parish – All Saint's Church, Chatham. They need the following:

Small kitchen equipment including:

- Settings for 4 people – plates and cutlery etc.
- Small pots and pans

Clothes, towels and curtains

**Collection points will be in both churches
on the 4th Saturday of each month**

Thank you for your support

Any queries ring Carol Crossley on 810801



The Swan Community Project

Update on The Swan Community Project

We want to thank everyone who attended our update meeting in February at West Peckham Village Hall, we were overwhelmed by the turnout and the positive feedback we received post-event. The meeting focused on talking through the work done to-date for the project, including submitting our application for the Community Ownership Fund, a grant that if successful will add £250,000 to our fundraising.

As part of the application, a business plan and share prospectus have been put together, which includes an outline for the financial and operational plans for the Swan, which we plan to share with the public. On April the 18th, we will be holding an event at the Swan on the Green where the team will talk through these plans and answer all of your questions. As this next part of the project is the most important yet - as we officially launch the fundraising phase to make all of this a reality - we're planning to make this event the biggest one yet!

Please email

theswancommunityproject@gmail.com
to book your place.



theswancommunityproject.co.uk



The Swan
Community Project
A BOND.....A PLEDGE.....A COMMITMENT

SAVE the SWAN

7.00^{pm} 18 APRIL
West Peckham

Launch Offer

SCAN QR
CODE FOR MORE
INFORMATION

Be a Part of a
Community Owned Pub

Easter Egg Hunt at Ightham Mote



23 March
14 April

Rabbits are loose at Ightham Mote!

Join them on a Tudor themed adventure, complete ten activities and claim your chocolate egg as a reward.

From hopping like a bunny to spotting the odd egg out there's so many fun things to do at Ightham Mote this Easter

To discover more about what we have on this Spring, please visit nationaltrust.org.uk/ightham-mote/whats-on or call 01732 810378





Shipbourne Village Hall
Registered Charity No 1074519

The Hall can be hired for £20 per hour with a minimum of 4 hours (£80.00).

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

Natalie's Cleaning Services

Your Local helping hand

We Offer a range of cleaning services catered to you.

-Full house cleans weekly, bi-weekly, monthly

-basic and deep cleaning

-end of tenancy cleaning

-oven cleaning

-washing up

-dusting, polishing

-brass & silver cleaning

-ironing

Call or text: 07999039451

Email: natalieyoungcleaning@gmail.com



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

THE WEATHER IN FEBRUARY

The average day temp. was 14.0°C, the average night temp. was 5.5°C, the highest day was Thursday 15th with 19.0°C, the lowest night temp. was Friday 23rd with -2.5°C, the total rainfall was 171.5mm, the highest for 30 years (my records) with an average of 68.3mm over the last 30 years, the highest year was this year with 171.5mm (Feb 2024) the lowest year was last year (2023) with 5.0mm, there was 11 days without rain in Feb 2024.

Lionel Stielow

PLAXTOL PEST AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Ciaran Payne
07368 605762

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

FROM YOUR LOCAL MP

For many of us in Shipbourne we use the facilities in Tonbridge as one of our nearest town. It is a wonderful town with plenty of facilities and a High Street that continues to look well, despite the challenges of larger towns including Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells.

Sainsbury's store in Tonbridge is central to the town. You may have heard over the last few weeks that Sainsbury's have committed to renovating the former Beales site, next door to their current store. Their plans include developing a much larger store which will see an investment of up to £20 million into the town which I know so many of us travel to on a regular basis.

Due to scale of this investment its impact will no doubt be felt far and wide across our community. The re-development of the former Beales unit is something that I have been calling for ever since it was left empty, some four years ago. Last year I supported the '3 Years Empty Is Plenty' campaign which was backed by nearly 2,000 people and helped prompt Sainsbury's into taking action. Thank you to everyone across Shipbourne who signed this.

The new development will take place over the next two years, with an intended opening date being around Christmas 2025. The new store will see improved ranges across groceries, homeware clothing, and Argos and will also go a long way to improving the look of the largest town across Tonbridge and Malling. It will also help to create up to 50 new jobs in the local community and help to regenerate a key central location while installing important amenities such as 6 ultra-rapid electric charging points for electric cars. Sainsbury's also plan on the store being entirely net-zero.

If you would like to find out more about Sainsbury's plans please let me know using the contact details below and I would be pleased to send details to you

As always, you can let me know what you think about this, or anything that may matter to you. You can get in touch with me via the information below.

Tom Tugendhat

E-mail – tom.tugendhat.mp@parliament.uk Phone – 01732 441563

Facebook, Twitter and Instagram - @TomTugendhat

Address – 130 Vale Road, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 1SP

APRIL AT SHIPBOURNE FARMERS MARKET

(Local produce made/grown by Local producers)

Although numbers attending the market are impacted by the weather, it does not always follow this 'rule'. February this year was the wettest February on record, however during the month, two markets had just over 160 visitors !



This year, Easter arrived early with Good Friday on March 29th and Easter Day on March 31st which coincided with the start of 'Summer Time'. The arrival of April sees spring really starting to get into gear as the longer days stimulates growth and make us all feel better after a long grey winter.

However, April is the 'Hungry month', as it comes with a rather restricted choice of fresh seasonal produce to choose from, so it makes it the perfect month to try some of the prepared products such as quiches and pies available at the market. Produce in season in April include: oysters, venison, crab and early salads such as rocket (which are at their peak). See the 'In Season' section of the www.kfma.org.uk web site which also gives you hints as to how to cook and store the produce .

Fish and seafood lovers will find **sea bass, cod, halibut, cockles, mussels** and **scallops** all at their finest now. However, it is always a good plan to contact Mike (our fishmonger) the Saturday before the market to order special items. For meat eaters enjoy a wonderful joint of **beef, pork or 'lamb'** for a family Sunday roast. (Note: Annabelle's Spring lamb is not available until June/July when they have had time to graze and live a natural free range life, but hogget, born in last years spring, is available and all the tastier for an extra year's grazing. Again contact Annabelle directly to order specific cuts and sizes. For poultry look out for **guinea fowl**, chicken with extra taste! On the game front **venison, rabbit** and **wood pigeon** are available. With the longer days, **lettuces, spinach, cucumber and spring onions** are starting to arrive, taking over from the brassicas such as **cauliflower, purple sprouting broccoli, cabbages** and **kale**.

Keep on cooking with **rhubarb**, now moving from the bright pink early forced variety known 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 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 flavoured with ginger. And local apples are still good as the storing varieties keep well into this month.

Halstead Bakery will hopefully be 'firing' on all cylinders having moved into their new premises with larger ovens to increase their production volume of both bread and patisseries.

To order please contact the Producers directly. You will find their contact details on our web site www.kfma.org.uk then click on **Shipbourne**. You will also find lots of other information on the web site about local produce grown in Kent.

SEASONAL COOKERY CORNER

RHUBARB AND ORANGE POLENTA CAKE

With both oranges and rhubarb at their sweetest and best now, bring them together for this simple versatile cake recipe, which works well as a pud with ice cream or in slices with tea or coffee.

Makes one 20cm cake/Prep: 15 minutes/Cook: 1-1 ¼ hours

- 150g butter
- 200g caster sugar
- grated rind and juice of 1 large orange
- 3 medium eggs, beaten
- 150g polenta
- 1 ½ tsp baking powder
- 75g ground almonds
- 400g forced rhubarb, trimmed and thickly sliced
- 1 tbsp granulated sugar

1. Preheat oven to 180C/ Gas Mark 3. Butter and base-line a loose-bottomed deep 20cm cake tin.
2. Cream the butter until soft then beat in the caster sugar and orange rind and continue beating until pale and fluffy. Beat in the eggs a spoonful at a time. Fold in the polenta, baking powder and ground almonds to give a soft mixture that drops easily off a wooden spoon. Spoon half the mixture over the base of the cake tin.

3. Arrange rhubarb over the cake base. Drop the rest of the mixture over the rhubarb, leaving gaps.
4. Bake in preheated oven for 1-1 ¼ hours until well-risen and golden and a skewer inserted into the centre emerges clean and dry. Make holes in the surface of the cake with a skewer then scatter the granulated sugar over the top of the cake and sprinkle with the orange juice.
5. Cool in the tin for 15 minutes then remove and leave on a wire rack to cool. Serve warm with crème fraiche or vanilla ice cream or cool completely and serve sliced with coffee.

Recipe taken from 'The Busy Mums Cook Book', written by Mary Gwynne (Manager of Penshurst Farmers Market)



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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.

JOANNE LOUISE BEAUTY - Offering Gel Nails, builder gel, ELIM pedicures and LVL lashes from my home studio in Shipbourne. I am fully insured and accredited, offering evening and Sunday appointments. Keep an eye on my Instagram for updates @joannelouisebeauty_ For any questions or to book an appointment I can be contacted on 07894054015 or email joanne@joannelouisebeauty.co.uk (02/25)

MULTIPLE ITEMS:

AIDAPT height adjustable bed cradle, to keep weight off injured foot or lower leg £15

BEKO SMALL LARDER FRIDGE UL584APS, excellent condition, H84xW54xD59 silver £40

2 DRAW FILING CABINET with key, black, foolscap size, some hangers included £30

ALLUMINIUM EXTENSION LADDER, 360cm closed £30

All proceeds for above items to St Giles Restoration Appeal. Please contact John Thompson, Shipbourne 07973 539472

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 (02/25)

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. (02/25)

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