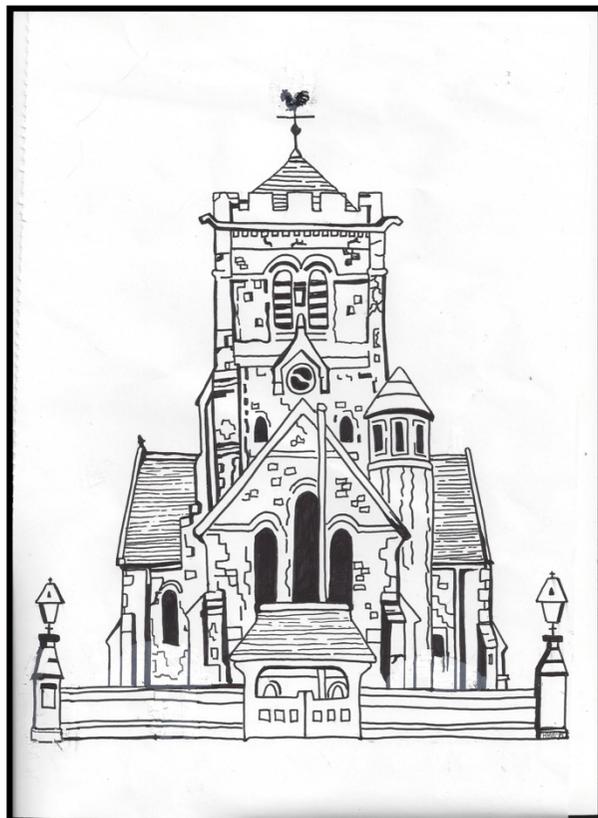


# St Giles and Shipbourne NEWSLETTER



**April 2022**

## OFFICERS OF ST GILES AND VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

### ST GILES

Rector of Shipbourne with Plaxtol:	811081
Rev Dr Peter Hayler	Email: <a href="mailto:RectorSwP@gmail.com">RectorSwP@gmail.com</a>
The Rectory, The Street, Plaxtol TN15 0QG	<a href="http://shipbourne.com/st-giles-church/">http://shipbourne.com/st-giles-church/</a>
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:	Graeme Edwards	07487 729549

### SHIPBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk:	Sarah Huseyin	886402	<a href="mailto:shipbourneparishcouncil@gmail.com">shipbourneparishcouncil@gmail.com</a>
Chair:	Nick Tyler	811079	
Councillors:	S Oram	V Redman	P Leach
	J Sheldrick,	J Bate	A Dagger

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

### SHIPBOURNE SCHOOL

Head:	Mrs Terri Daters	<a href="mailto:TDaters@bournepartnership.org">TDaters@bournepartnership.org</a>
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### SHIPBOURNE VILLAGE HALL

Chairman:	Curtis Galbraith	763115	<a href="mailto:shipbourne.villagehall@gmail.com">shipbourne.villagehall@gmail.com</a>
Bookings:	Helen Leach	811144	

### SHIPBOURNE FARMERS' MARKET

Manager:	Bob Taylor	833976
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### SHIPBOURNE WI

President	Barbara Jones	811152	<a href="mailto:b.jones162@btinternet.com">b.jones162@btinternet.com</a>
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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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### SHIPBOURNE HOUSING TRUST LTD

Chairman:	Alan Bristow		
Hon Secretary	John Playle	810562	<a href="mailto:johndanjanetp@gmail.com">johndanjanetp@gmail.com</a>

### ST GILES' AND SHIPBOURNE NEWSLETTER

Editor/Adverts:	Lindsay Miles	810439	<a href="mailto:lindsay_miles@btinternet.com">lindsay_miles@btinternet.com</a>
Copying:	Mary Perry	810797	

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

### PARISH DIARY – APRIL 2022

**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/>*

<b>SUNDAY</b>  <i>5th Sunday of Lent Passion</i>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	8.00am	Holy Communion at Plaxtol Church
		<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Parish Communion at St Giles, Shipbourne</b>
		11.00am Readings:	Family Service with Communion at Plaxtol Church Isaiah 43: 16-21; Philippians 3: 4b-14; John 12: 1-8
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9-11am</b>	<b>Farmers Market at St Giles, Shipbourne</b>
<b>SUNDAY</b>  <i>Palm Sunday</i>	<b>10th</b>	<b>8.00am</b>	<b>Holy Communion at St Giles, Shipbourne</b>
		<b>9.15am</b>	<b>Procession of Palms at St Giles, Shipbourne</b>
		10.45am	Procession of Palms
		11.00am	Parish Communion at Plaxtol Church
		Readings:	Luke 19: 28-40
<b>Monday</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.00pm</b>	<b>Compline at St Giles, Shipbourne</b>
Tuesday	12 <sup>th</sup>	9.00pm	Compline at Plaxtol Church
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.00pm</b>	<b>Compline at St Giles, Shipbourne</b>
<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	<b>14th</b>	<b>9-11am</b>	<b>Farmers Market at St Giles, Shipbourne</b>
		8.00pm	Holy Communion and Gethsemane Narrative at Plaxtol Church
<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12-1pm</b>	<b>Choral Meditative Service at St Giles, Shipbourne</b>
		<b>1-2pm</b>	<b>Walking with the cross to Plaxtol Church</b>
		2-3pm	Choral Meditative Service with Hymns at Plaxtol Church
Saturday	16 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Easter Vigil with Renewal of Vows at Plaxtol Church

<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>  <i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent</i>	<b>17<sup>th</sup></b>	8.00am	Holy Communion at Plaxtol Church
		<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Parish Family Communion at St Giles, Shipbourne</b>
		11.00am	Family Communion at Plaxtol Church
		Readings:	Acts 10: 34-43; 1 Corinthians 15: 19-26; Luke 24: 1-12
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>9-11am</b>	<b>Farmers Market at St Giles, Shipbourne</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>9.30-11.30am</b>	<b>Community Bread Basket at Plaxtol Church</b>
<b>SUNDAY</b>  <i>Easter 2 Low Sunday</i>	<b>24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>8.00am</b>	<b>Holy Communion at St Giles, Shipbourne</b>
		<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Family Service at St Giles, Shipbourne</b>
		11.00am	Parish Communion at Plaxtol Church
		Readings:	Exodus 14: 10-end; Acts 5: 27-32; John 20: 19-end
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9-11am</b>	<b>Farmers Market at St Giles, Shipbourne</b>

*Note from the Rector:*

*We are pleased to be back to a full programme of services in church on Sundays. These gatherings remain subject to Government restrictions and the Church of England's "Recovery Group" guidelines. Any events that we have planned in anticipation of new freedoms remain provisional.*

## SHIPBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL COVID-19 HELPLINE

**Telephone: 01732 886402**  
**Mobile: 07733 250185**  
**Email: [shipbourneparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:shipbourneparishcouncil@gmail.com)**

## PASTORAL LETTER

### PASSIONTIDE AND EASTER

As March becomes into April, so Lent becomes Passiontide – the season in which we focus most intensely on the suffering and death of Christ. It is only through suffering and death that we are led to Easter and the Resurrection.



What could be a more poignant and painful reminder than the terrible developing situation, which is without doubt invasion and war. I know, and you know, and God knows that it is not just a 'special military operation'.

How do we hold the two things together without tripping up big-time and ending up asking the wrong questions such as, 'Why does God let it happen?'

If God is love, then he didn't create war, and neither does he condone it. Out of his love he first gave us rules to protect our peace, only our ancestors chose to disobey and snatched at the knowledge of good and evil, gaining with all the responsibility that comes with the exercise of free-will. The tragedy of this is seen all too soon in the murder of Abel by Cain, out of sheer jealousy and envy over the difference between goods – meat or veg. In this we can see the tragic position that Putin has put himself into, and the consequences of his action. The Classical meaning of 'tragedy' is the consequence of wrong action; violence alienates us from God and each other.

But Christians believe that Christ died for all – to bring us back to God. He took on the sin of the world and bore the suffering of it in his own body on the cross. When we accept this by faith, we become beneficiaries of a new peace, and peace makers for the world. We then need to embrace the way of suffering, trusting that it is God's pattern for peace. None of this excuses the acts of the Russian president. He will have to answer to God for those one day, but each of us must decide for ourselves whether, and in what strength, to enter the way of peace. I hope that our keeping of the holy season of Passiontide will be worthwhile contribution to this. We look forward to welcoming you, particularly on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter; please see the parish diary and webpage for details.

**Peter Hayler, Rector**

RectorSwP@gmail.com

## Opportunities for Lent

### Benefice Lent Book: Women of Holy Week

*An Easter Journey in Nine Stories by Paula Gooder and Ally Barrett*  
Discounted copies available in Church or from the Rector: £8

### Study & Reflection: Women of Holy Week

*based on the Benefice Lent Book.*

*Tuesday mornings from 8<sup>th</sup> March at The Rectory.*

*Led by Donna Hayler: 10.45am coffee for 11.00am start.*  
*donnahayler64@gmail.com*

### Bible Study: The Letter to the Hebrews

*Wednesday mornings from 9<sup>th</sup> March at The Rectory.*

*Led by Peter Hayler: 10.45am coffee for 11.00am start.*  
*rectorswp@gmail.com*

### The Easter Story. Any Questions? Back to Basics!

*Time together to think, ask and pray...*

*Wednesday evenings from 9<sup>th</sup> March at North Lodge, Plaxtol Lane.*

*Led by Janet Phythian: 7.45pm coffee for 8.00pm start.*  
*janetsphythian@gmail.com*

### Alive in Christ.

*Thursday evenings from 10<sup>th</sup> March.*

*Venue tbc. Offers of hosting/hospitality welcome.*

*Led by Mark Packer: 7.30pm coffee for 7.45pm start.*  
*curateswp@gmail.com*

### Living in Love and Faith: The C of E's consultation on Identity, Sexuality, Relationships and Marriage

*Thursday evenings from 10<sup>th</sup> March on Zoom.*

*Led by Tim Hatwell (Area Dean): 8.00pm revtim.hatwell@gmail.com*

**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](http://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**

**Community Bread Basket**

9:30 - 11:30 on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April

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.*

**Next Community Bread Basket dates: 28<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

**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 10am on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> 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).

**MAY NEWSLETTER**

Please send any articles and adverts for the May Newsletter by **15<sup>th</sup> April 2022.**

A digital version of the Newsletter is also uploaded on [www.shipbourne.com](http://www.shipbourne.com).

Please email articles to [lindsay\\_miles@btinternet.com](mailto:lindsay_miles@btinternet.com) or call 01732 810439.



# THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE JUNE 2022

## Outline of Shipbourne Events

### Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June

- 9-11am - Special Platinum Jubilee Farmers' Market at St Giles
- 4pm onwards - Fun and games, BBQ, Bar, Picnic and Beacon Lighting at Shipbourne Cricket Club (Beacon to be lit at 9.45pm)

### Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June

- 10am-12 midday - Bring your Queen's Posy to display at St Giles (please see Felicity's article on the next page)

### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June

- 10am - Benefice Altogether "Open Air Praise" on Shipbourne Green

Further events to be confirmed.

There will also be competitions for the **best decorated house** in the village and **best decorated crown** at Thursday's event at the Cricket Club.

More details to follow in next month's newsletter and updates will be posted to Shipbourne's Facebook page [@shipbournevillage](#). It will be great to see as many of you as possible at these events to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

**HELP is still needed to run these events!** Please contact Viv Packer 07768 397936 / [viv.packer@outlook.com](mailto:viv.packer@outlook.com) or Lindsay Miles 07932 746002 [lindsay\\_miles@btinternet.com](mailto:lindsay_miles@btinternet.com) to become involved.



## **MAKE A POSY OF FLOWERS FOR THE QUEEN**

Wherever the Queen visits, somebody gives her a little posy of flowers to welcome her. The posies are made to complement her outfit, so each is a special gift to her. She is lucky to be able to wear any colour!

We want everyone to have the chance to make a posy for the Queen for her Platinum Jubilee – whether you are at school, a friend of the Church, or a member of the Flower Guild, a stallholder or a visitor at the Farmers' Market, a member of the PCC or the Parish Council, a member of the WI, the Cricket Club or the Tennis Club, or just love Shipbourne.

We shall have photos of the Queen in some of the outfits she has worn over the years of her reign and they will be in the Church. The colours of the outfits will be pink, pale blue, green, yellow, mauve, cream or crimson. You can make your own choice of flowers and greenery to complement one of these colours. The posy should be suitable for her to hold in her hand if she came to the village – so no bigger than 23 cms (9 inches) in diameter – and tied with a ribbon. Attach a label with your name, telephone number and email address. We shall give a prize for the best posy made by an adult and the best made by a child (14 years old or less). Please note on the label if a posy has been made by a child. We shall announce the winners at the Morning Service on Sunday 5 June and in the Parish Newsletter in July.

Please bring your posy to the Church on Friday 3 June between 10am and 12pm and we shall display them all in the Church in celebration of H.M. the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

**Felicity Ward**  
**07768 814 375**

## 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

### 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](mailto:shipbourneparishcouncil@gmail.com). Please visit our website [www.shipbourne.com](http://www.shipbourne.com) for further details

For information on planning applications, in Shipbourne, you can sign up for an alert with TMBC. You can also access all details pertaining to planning: <https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/planning-applications-appeals/planning-view-comment-planning-applications>

### BIODIVERSITY AT DUNKS GREEN

The Parish Council has been discussing the grass cutting schedule at Dunks Green and are seeking opinions on whether to have less cuts to help with biodiversity.

Cutting longer grass and collecting it at the same time will help to create the right conditions for wild flowers to flourish. This will create a greater overall diversity of plant species, which in turn will provide a wider range of habitat and food source for bees, butterflies and other insects.

Please email the Parish Clerk at [shipbourneparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:shipbourneparishcouncil@gmail.com) with your opinion on how this area should be managed.

## BUS FUNDING REDUCTION - LET'S TALK KENT



If you use the local buses, please look at the consultation and give your views. **There are proposals to reduce the 222 route which goes through Shipbourne.**

<https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/bus-funding-reductions>

### CLIMATE CHANGE

Shipbourne Parish Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and are working towards net Zero by 2030. The Parish Council are putting together an audit and have found that our carbon footprint is low. Milage for Parish business is minimal as most Councillors walk to the meetings or only travel a short distance. Many external meeting and training sessions are now held virtually which had reduced the milage considerably. We only meet 11 times a year so use a minimal amount of electricity in the village hall. Councillors have been encouraged to view meeting papers online so we have also reduced the amount of paper and printing ink that we use. If you want to work out your carbon footprint, there are many resources online.

***If you would like to become a Climate Change Champion and help lead change in the community, please contact the Parish Clerk at [shipbourneparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:shipbourneparishcouncil@gmail.com)***

## NEWS FROM SHIPBOURNE SCHOOL

It is hard to believe that it is already April – the school year is whizzing by so fast, and we are already thinking ahead to our new entrants who will be offered a place with us this month. It has been lovely to welcome back the sunshine and the children have certainly been making the most of it by spending as much time as possible outside. Our netball team played successfully in a number of matches, and we even sent a small hockey team to play at their very first tournament. We welcomed in the Spring by planting oak trees next to the Cricket Pitch to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Great thanks must go to the team at Fairlawne for providing us with this opportunity and making us feel so welcome. Our Spring Term ended with a family service led by Rev Hayler at St Giles's Church and an Easter Egg Hunt and disco back in school.

We now look ahead to a Summer Term full of active learning and trips further afield, including to Canterbury Cathedral and Wingham Wildlife Park, plus reward trips to Gravity trampolining for each of our house teams. Our PTA is busy planning our **Summer Fair**, taking place on **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June** – do come along if you are free. Our families are also taking part in a 'London to Paris' bike ride, cycling at weekends and sending their mileage to school. Our target is 600 miles and we have already covered 120 miles together. If you would like to support this event which is raising vital funds for our school reading and ICT supplies, please visit <https://gofund.me/e99b00df>

**Terri Daters**  
**Head of School**  
**Shipbourne School**

## THE WEATHER IN FEBRUARY

The average day temp was 14.8<sup>o</sup>c, the average night temp was 4.1<sup>o</sup>c, the highest day was Monday 28<sup>th</sup> with 19.5<sup>o</sup>c, and the lowest night was Friday 11<sup>th</sup> with -2.5<sup>o</sup>c, the total rainfall was 66mm with an average over the last 30 years of 63.86mm, the highest year was February 2020 with 137mm and the lowest year was February 1993 with 12mm.

**Lionel Stielow**

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# The Salty Flowers

By Stephen Klain

*An Irreverent Parody About a Seaside Hotel & its Very Odd Inhabitants*



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**Plaxtol Memorial Hall**

7:00 – Doors and Bar Open  
7:30 – The Curtain Rises

Intermission Bar and Raffle

Tickets: £12

Early booking highly recommended

Info/Booking: Sandy Oram 01732 811494 [info@plaxtolplayers.co.uk](mailto:info@plaxtolplayers.co.uk)



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## APRIL IN SHIPBOURNE VILLAGE HALL

Monday	4th	19:00-21:00	Parish Council Meeting
Thursday	7th	10:30-12:30	Scent Training Class
Tuesday	12th	11:00-13:00	Scent Training Class
Wednesday	13th	11:00-12:00	Pilates
Wednesday	13th	14:00-16:00	Shipbourne WI
Wednesday	13th	19:30-20:30	Pilates
Thursday	14th	10:30-12:30	Scent Training Class
Thursday	14th	19:30-20:30	Pilates
Tuesday	19th	11:00-13:00	Scent Training Class
Wednesday	20th	09:30-10:30	Hatha Yoga
Thursday	21st	10:30-12:30	Scent Training Class
Saturday	24th	12:30-16:30	Private Hire
Wednesday	27th	09:30-10:30	Hatha Yoga
Wednesday	27th	11:00-12:00	Pilates
Wednesday	27th	19:30-20:30	Pilates
Thursday	28th	10:30-12:30	Scent Training Class
Thursday	28th	19:30-20:30	Pilates

If anyone is interested in joining the Pilates or Yoga classes, please contact:

- Pilates: Emma Foyle at [emma.foyle@sky.com](mailto:emma.foyle@sky.com) / 07967 645695
- Yoga: Alison French at [fitalison1@googlemail.com](mailto:fitalison1@googlemail.com) / 07966 257027
- 

Please see separate advertisement for general hall hire enquiries

**Helen Leach**  
**01732 811144**



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Email: [andy.wasp@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:andy.wasp@yahoo.co.uk)



**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](mailto:shipbourne.villagehall@gmail.com) Further details can be found on the Shipbourne website [www.shipbourne.com](http://www.shipbourne.com)



**PLAXTOL PEST AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT**

**Ciaran Payne**  
**07368 605762**

[INFO@PLAXTOLPEST.CO.UK](mailto:INFO@PLAXTOLPEST.CO.UK)  
[WWW.PLAXTOLPEST.CO.UK](http://WWW.PLAXTOLPEST.CO.UK)



**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](http://www.thekentishrifleman.co.uk)

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[www.gardens-of-england.co.uk](http://www.gardens-of-england.co.uk)



Every Thursday 9-11am

Every Thursday  
9am-11am  
for  
local,  
fresh &  
quality produce

## APRIL AT SHIPBOURNE FARMERS MARKET

The arrival of April sees spring really starting to get into gear as the longer days with more light stimulates growth. Celebrate the Easter break with local produce (Easter falls on Sunday, April 17, Good Friday on the 15<sup>th</sup> and the Easter Bank holiday on April 18<sup>th</sup>). However, as April is still part of the 'Hungry Gap' there is still a rather restricted choice of fresh seasonal products.

The market is finally 'back to normal' (whatever that is!) and the number of visitors are creeping up. Apart from our regulars stalls we now have now acquired a really good vegetable stall, an amazing pastry chef, producing mouth-watering pastries, a cut flower stall (coming every other week) and an artist, who not only draws and paints her cards, but also prints them herself.

So what should you be buying and eating this April? Fish and seafood lovers will find **sea bass, cod, halibut, cockles, mussels** and **scallops** all at their finest now. Meat eaters can enjoy a wonderful joint of **beef pork or mutton** for a family Sunday roast and those who enjoy Game should look out for **guinea fowl, venison** and **rabbit**.

As the palette turns to lighter foods, **lettuces, spinach, watercress, cucumber and spring onions** are starting to arrive, taking over from the brassica (**cauliflower, purple sprouting broccoli, cabbages** and **kale**). For those yearning to satisfy the desire for salads, try foraged **wild garlic** (the white flowers should still be in bud for the best flavour). Wrap the leaves around fish before baking, or shred the leaves and use in soups, pasta dishes and risottos.

Keep on cooking with **rhubarb**, which has now moved from the bright pink early forced variety into the darker and more sour outdoor version. Rhubarb is a versatile fruit that works in both

sweet and savoury dishes but do make sure you add the right amount of sugar to balances the sour. Local apples are still good as the storing varieties keep well into this month.

## COOKERY CORNER

### SMOKED HADDOCK FISHCAKES WITH WILD GARLIC BUTTER SAUCE

*Prepare 25 minutes / Cook 30 minutes / Serves 4*

- 600g old potatoes, peeled and cut into small cubes
- 2 medium eggs
- 30g butter
- 450g smoked haddock
- 2 small leeks, finely sliced
- juice of ½ lemon
- 1 tbsp capers, finely chopped
- 2 tbsp seasoned flour
- 2 tbsp rapeseed oil

For the sauce:

- 50g butter
- 2 finely chopped shallots
- 100ml white wine; 75ml double cream
- 3-4 tbsp shredded wild garlic leaves

1. Cook the potatoes for until tender, drain and mash. Cook the eggs for 8 minutes in boiling water, run under cold water, peel and chop. While the potatoes are cooking poach the smoked haddock in a shallow pan, for 8 – 10 minutes until just cooked through (the flesh will be opaque). Drain off the liquid and flake ..
2. Cook the leeks in the butter for 4 – 5 minutes until soft. Stir into the potato mixture with the lemon juice and fold through the flaked fish, eggs and chopped capers. Season to taste. Shape the mixture into eight patties, dip the fishcakes in flour and coat lightly. Chill until needed.

3. **Sauce:** Cook shallots gently with a small piece of butter until soft (but not golden). Add white wine and boil until reduced by half. Add cream and bring to simmering point. Gradually whisk in the butter in small pieces to give a smooth sauce. Check seasoning and add the wild garlic. Keep warm while you cook the fish cakes but don't boil.
4. Heat the oil in a shallow non-stick frying pan and fry the fishcakes for 6-8 minutes until golden brown and cooked through, turning occasionally. Drain on kitchen paper and serve with the sauce and steamed shredded spring cabbage.

### **SHIPBOURNE WI**

This month we welcomed Dee Larcombe to talk to us about her "Four Years as a child in a Japanese Prisoner of War Camp". Dee and her family were living in Hong Kong when the Japanese invaded and they were all transferred to the camp with nothing but the clothes they stood in. Even with the distance of history the story was very emotional and at times hard to listen to but there were also incidents restoring your faith in human nature such as the caring community that grew up amongst the prisoners including educating the children even though there were no access to any material even remotely educational. Even, with distance, some rather humorous incidents such as the donation of khaki shorts to the prisoners, which were originally destined for boy scouts, which turned the camp khaki as they were transformed into badly needed clothing.

A lunch has been arranged at The Rifleman on the 16<sup>th</sup> March. As our Godden Green walk was cancelled last month due to the high winds and rain promised, which turned out to be a good decision, we will meet at Godden Green on 18<sup>th</sup> March and hope for kinder weather.

The book this month is the "Circus of Wonders" by Elizabeth MacNeal.

Next month our speaker is Mr David Carey on "Dene Park".

**Sue Streeter**

### **FROM YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT**

Many of us rely on the bus services to connect us. For years, Kent County Council (KCC) have supported bus routes in our community. School children and shoppers have depended on the links to keep going. They're not alone. Many of us, and our family and friends do too.

Sadly, KCC have announced they are looking to reduce subsidies for a number of these supported bus routes, some of which are vitally important to the communities in Tonbridge and Malling and will impact the 222, and Tonbridge & Malling Kent Carrier services.

I share the frustration of many in hearing this news. At a time when we know traffic is a problem, fuel prices are rising and we're all doing what we can to protect the environment, getting out of cars and sharing the burden makes sense whatever your motivation.

I am pleased that KCC have decided to start with a consultation so we can let them know what we think and tell them how important these buses are to our community.

The Consultation closes on 6 April and I hope everyone will take part by going here online - [letstalk.kent.gov.uk/bus-funding-reductions](http://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/bus-funding-reductions).

Our buses keep us together, keep us connected to shops, schools and so much more, and are vital to keeping us active and free. I will be doing all I can over the coming weeks to keep these bus routes running in our community.

**Tom Tugendhat**  
**Member of Parliament for Tonbridge and Malling**



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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.

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