

*St Giles' and Shipbourne Village*  
**NEWSLETTER**



***June 2025***

## **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 Rev Mark Packer 07970-709006 CurateSwP@gmail.com  
Churchwardens: Mrs H Leach 07762 241720  
Mr A Boorman 07795 182966

### **PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

Secretary: Mrs C Chambers 382228  
Treasurer: Mr C Keeling 07825 139046  
Deanery Synod Sir P Britton 365794  
Rep:

### **CHURCH OFFICERS**

Parish  
Safeguarding: Ms C Jackson 07729814798  
Choirmaster: Mr J Young 810289  
Electoral Roll: Mrs H Leach 07762 241720  
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: P Leach  
Councillors I Bond, S Oram,  
A Dagger, S  
Davis,  
L Hollobon

**VILLAGE WEBSITE** www.shipbourne.com

### **SHIPBOURNE SCHOOL**

Head: Mrs Terri Daters TDaters@bournepartnership.org

### **SHIPBOURNE VILLAGE HALL**

Chairman: Peter Leach shipbourne.villagehall@gmail.com  
Bookings: Helen Leach 07889 362462  
07762 241720

### **SHIPBOURNE FARMERS' MARKET**

Manager: Bob Taylor 833976

### **SHIPBOURNE WI**

President Sue Streeter 810731

### **SHIPBOURNE CRICKET CLUB**

Secretary: Mark Fenton

### **PLAXTOL & SHIPBOURNE TENNIS CLUB**

Membership: Cilla Langdon- 810338  
Down

### **POLICE**

Emergency: 999 Non-urgent: 01622 690690

### **ST GILES' AND SHIPBOURNE NEWSLETTER**

Editor/Compiler: Lindsay Miles 810439 lindsay\_miles@btinternet.com

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

## PARISH DIARY – JUNE 2025

**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>Sunday after Ascension</i>	<b>1st</b>	8.00am	Holy Communion at Plaxtol Church
		<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Parish Communion at St Giles, Shipbourne</b>
		11.00am	Family Service with Communion at Plaxtol Church
		Readings:	Ezekiel 36:24-28, Acts 16:16-34, John 17:20-end
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>5th</b>	<b>9-11am</b>	<b>Farmers' Market at St Giles, Shipbourne</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>7th</b>	<b>12-4pm</b>	Plaxtol Church Summer Fair & Dog Show - Rectory
<b>SUNDAY</b> <i>Pentecost</i>	<b>8th</b>	<b>8.00am</b>	<b>Holy Communion at St Giles, Shipbourne</b>
		<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Matins at St Giles, Shipbourne</b>
		11.00am	Parish Communion at Plaxtol Church
		Readings	Genesis 11:1-9, Acts 2:1-21, John 14:8-17
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>12th</b>	<b>9-11am</b>	<b>Farmers Market at St Giles, Shipbourne</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>14th</b>	<b>11am-2pm</b>	<b>Shipbourne School Summer Fete</b>
<b>SUNDAY</b> <i>Trinity Sunday</i>	<b>15th</b>	8.00am	Holy Communion at Plaxtol Church
		<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Parish Communion at St Giles, Shipbourne</b>
		11.00am	Community@11 Plaxtol Church/drinks from 1030
		Readings:	Proverbs 8:1-4. 22-31, Romans 5:1-5, John 16:12-15
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>19th</b>	<b>9-11am</b>	<b>Farmers' Market at St Giles, Shipbourne</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>21st</b>	<b>1-5pm</b>	<b>Shipbourne Garden Safari</b>
<b>SUNDAY</b> <i>Trinity 1</i>	<b>22nd</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:	Isaiah 65:1-9, Galatians 3:23-end, Luke 8:26-39
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>26th</b>	<b>9-11am</b>	<b>Farmers' Market at St Giles, Shipbourne</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>28th</b>	<b>9.30-11am</b>	<b>Community Bread Basket at Plaxtol Church</b>
<b>SUNDAY</b> <i>Peter &amp; Paul</i>  <i>'Holy Apostles'</i>	<b>29th</b>	<b>8.00am</b>	Holy Communion at Plaxtol Church
		<b>9.30am</b>	<b>BCP Holy Communion at St Giles, Shipbourne</b>
		11.00am	Morning Worship at Plaxtol Church
		<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Benefice Choral Evensong at Plaxtol Church TBC</b>
		Readings:	Zechariah 4:1-6 <sup>a</sup> , 10 <sup>b</sup> -end, Acts 12:1-11, Matthew 16:13-19

## CONCLAVE (A REAL ONE!)

In February's edition I reflected on having been to see the Oscar-winning film 'Conclave' – a drama based on the novel around the business of how the Roman Catholic Church chooses a new Pope. And during May, Pope Francis died, and the Curia (College of cardinals) have met in conclave and duly elected their next leader, Pope Leo XIV.



The Church of England was prompt in publishing a prayer for Pope Leo, and we used it on the first Sunday after his election, which happened to be 'Good Shepherd' Sunday. Here's the prayer. It's a good one. Anyone can use it!

*Almighty God, shepherd and guardian of all,  
we pray for your servant Pope Leo.  
Grant him grace to follow in the footsteps of the Good Shepherd,  
to preach the Gospel with boldness,  
to build up your people in unity and peace,  
and to serve them with humility and love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

In the same spirit of new beginnings, both our parishes have now completed their Annual Parochial Church meeting and so have newly elected Parochial Church Councils. In my remarks to both meeting I said that my recent birthday signals the beginning of the decade in which I will retire and, all being well, I have five years more. So as we begin our work, we need to face into planning positively for those five years: identifying priorities and fragilities, and doing all we can within our means to grow the churches in their depth, their strength, their resilience, their vision, and their mission.

***Peter Hayler, Rector***

## HELEN MARGARET THOMPSON

Known to us all as Margaret, was born on the 19th January 1934. She lived in Shipbourne all her life, first at Little Budds, then Marchurst and finally her beloved Peacocks.

She was at Walthamstow Hall with Sheran Cazalet (the late sister of Edward) and was a guest at her wedding at St Giles in 1968.

She was devoted to St Giles and attended every Sunday (woe betide any Rector or reader who did not 'speak up'). She served on the PCC for many years and was a Churchwarden from 1996 to 2004.

Margaret was an accomplished rider, having started at an early age and continuing for the rest of her life. She competed in endurance riding, jumping and dressage and anyone who had been to Peacocks will have noticed the many trophies she won. At the age of 90 she was still hacking out her much loved horse, Toby, several times a week. She was an early member of the Sevenoaks Riding Club where she went on to become President, a position she held until she died.

She was a staunch supporter of the Kent Wildlife Trust. She volunteered for many years at Bough Beech Reservoir and served on the local committee. She loved barn owls and successfully hatched many in a box in her top field

She was Head Teacher at Hever School for 15 years until circa 1991 and rumour had it that she commuted there on a Lambretta!

Margaret had been President of Shipbourne WI and until 2024 went on their monthly walks with Alfie, her dog, and rarely missed the pub lunches afterwards.

For several years she ran Scottish Dancing in the village hall and proved herself to be a formidable teacher. She also hosted fortnightly Scrabble at Peacocks - no quarter given!

Margaret loved this village, St Giles, her horses, Toby and Scarlet, and her little dog, Alfie. And being the person she was she made arrangements for these three to be cared for after her death.

She spent the last few days of her life as she would have wished. She was at St Giles on Sunday (after a short time in hospital and then convalescing) when she was given a warm welcome by the congregation. On Monday she watched the VE Day celebrations on television, and on Tuesday she died in her garden.

Her funeral will be held at St Giles on **Wednesday 18th June, at 2 o'clock.**

## **OUR RESTORATION PROJECT IS FINISHED ... FOR NOW!**

The second phase of the restoration of St Giles' church is now complete, apart from some minor snagging. The first phase, rewiring the crypt and installing a sump pump to prevent flooding, was completed in January last year and I am pleased to say that the crypt has since stayed dry. The second phase, restoring the exterior of the building, was finished early this year and we held a service of celebration which many of you attended on 23 March.

This major building project, which cost a total of around £270,000, has been a significant undertaking for those of us involved in raising the money, getting the necessary permissions and providing the client function, alongside our architect. One thing we have learnt is that until the scaffolding is up and you can get close to the building, you cannot know exactly what needs to be done. Some things we expected to have to do proved not to be necessary, others things which had to be done were not visible from the ground: for instance, the stonework around the clockface on the tower proved to be in very poor condition and had to be extensively repaired.

We had both good and bad luck. We were very lucky not to be affected by the Government's recent decision to limit grants to reimburse churches for VAT on repairs: if we had been doing the project now, that decision would have added £20,000 to our costs. And we were lucky in the great generosity of the congregation and local people, which made raising the money so much easier than we had expected at the outset. The bad luck was that we found woodworm in the roof and that we had to spend almost £7,000 on bat surveys and work to accommodate the single bat which was found roosting in the south transept roof. That bat is now royally housed, not only does it have a comfy bat box in one of the churchyard trees, it can also roost in the transept, which has a special breathable membrane under the tiles and a 'bat tile' which incorporates a slit to enable it to get in and out.

The most enjoyable aspect of the project for many of us was to see the splendid cross returned to the east gable of the chancel, the original having fallen in the 1960s. Watching Eugene, the stonemason, carving the cross was fascinating. Eugene also volunteered to piece together a finial from the reredos behind the altar inside the church which had fallen a few years ago and smashed on the floor. He was able to stick the 17 alabaster fragments together with resin. The finial is now back in place and you would not know that it had been so severely damaged.

In due course we hope to move on to the third phase of our project which will involve replacing part of the tiled dado on the south wall of the nave, part of which has fallen off (luckily, the firm which made the tiles in 1881 is still in business and should be able to replicate them for us) and restoring the damaged wall-paintings in the chancel. Our fundraising last year was so successful that we exceeded our target and have a substantial sum left over which we can put towards these internal works.

We may think that we have almost finished: certainly, the work we have just done, together with the reroofing of the nave and repair of the top of the tower in 2008, have put the exterior of the church in a very good state of repair. But all buildings decay. There will come a time when our successors will need another repair campaign, for instance to reroof the chancel and north transept, both of which still have their original tiles of 1881. This is the price of having one of the best Victorian churches in Kent in our midst for our use and enjoyment and I hope that it is a price that future generations will be prepared to pay, as you have done. Thank you.

**Paul Britton**



*Live link:*

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/george-krygier>



## Community Bread Basket

9:30 - 11:00 on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2025

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.*

## PICK YOUR OWN FLOWERS at MITCHELL FLOWER FARM

Rooks Hill, Bitchet Green, TN15 ONG

Just 10 mins drive from Shipbourne

Open on **Fridays & Saturdays** from **6<sup>th</sup> June 2025**, 10am-3pm.

Chose your bucket size and fill with home grown beautiful stems all picked by you, in the middle of a beautiful Kent farm.

Further details at <http://www.mitchellflowerfarm.co.uk/>

Email: [alex@mitchellflowerfarm.co.uk](mailto:alex@mitchellflowerfarm.co.uk) / WhatsApp: 07951 742101





## **Newsletter Trial: Where to get your copy**

**Collection Hubs:** Hard copies are available for collection from the following hubs (thank you to all hubs!):

- St Giles' Church
- The Chaser Inn
- Plaxtol Stores
- The Kentish Rifleman

**Digital Copy to your Inbox:** Residents are encouraged to sign up to receive a digital copy directly to their email inbox - please email [lindsay\\_miles@btinternet.com](mailto:lindsay_miles@btinternet.com)

**Online:** The newsletter will continue to be uploaded in a digital format to [www.shipbourne.com](http://www.shipbourne.com) and a monthly link provided on the Shipbourne Facebook page @shipbournevillage

**Limited Access:** Please contact Lindsay Miles at [lindsay\\_miles@btinternet.com](mailto:lindsay_miles@btinternet.com) or 01732 810439 if you are not physically able to collect a hard copy and have no access to a digital copy.

## **JULY NEWSLETTER**

Please send any articles and adverts for the July Newsletter by **15<sup>th</sup> June.**

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

## **THE WEATHER IN APRIL**

The average day temp. was 23.5<sup>0</sup>c, the average night temp. was 5.0<sup>0</sup>c, the highest day was Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> with 30<sup>0</sup>c, the lowest night was Monday 7<sup>th</sup> with -0.5<sup>0</sup>c, the total rainfall was 32mm, the average rainfall for April over the last 35 years was 56.54mm, with the highest year being April 2023 with 149mm and the lowest year was April 2021 with 3.0mm.

***Lionel Stielow***

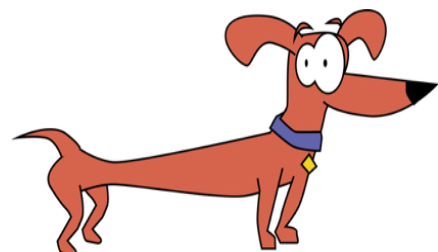


**SAVE THE DATE**

**ST GILES' SUMMER FAIR AND  
DOG SHOW**

**BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY  
25<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2025**

**12.30pm – 3.30pm  
on Shipbourne Common**



## **REQUESTS FOR THE ST GILES' SUMMER FAIR:**

### **CALL FOR BOOKS PLEASE!**

Helen Leach would be appreciative of any second hand, good condition book donations for both village Summer Fairs (June and August) and the Shipbourne WI Book Sale on 2<sup>nd</sup> August. All genres of books can be dropped off in the storage bench outside Helen's house at 5 New Cottages, Upper Green Road TN11 9PN.

### **JIGSAW STALL AT SUMMER FAIR**

Jenny Porter would like to ask if anyone has a jigsaw they have finished with, so that we can have a stall with used jigsaws, both adult and children's. Please leave at the rear of St Giles' Church. It would be appreciated if you could check them to ensure that there are no missing pieces please. If anyone has a large number Jenny would be happy to collect.

Jenny can be reached on 01732 832657

### **CAKES!**

If you are able to help and bake a cake or biscuits for the Summer Fair (either for the teas and coffees or for the cake stall) it would be much appreciated. Please bring to the Village Hall from midday on the day.

### **BOTTLE TOMBOLA**

Please donate any unwanted bottles of ANYTHING (so long as they are full, unopened and in date) for the popular bottle tombola. Drinks, alcohol, shower gel, oils etc. Please either leave by the font in St Giles' Church, by the shed in the Village Hall garden or drop to Lindsay Miles at The Stables, Back Lane TN11 9PP.

# **SHIPBOURNE WI**

**Invite you to come along on**

**SATURDAY 2 AUGUST 2025**

**1PM – 4PM**

**to Shipbourne Village Hall for a**

**TEA & BOOK SALE**

**ALL ARE VERY WELCOME**

(Proceeds will be shared between Shipbourne WI and the Village Hall)

## **SHIPBOURNE SCHOOL PTA**

are asking for any donations of **old crockery** for the crockery smash stall at their Summer Fete on 14<sup>th</sup> June (11am-2pm). Please leave any donations at the playground gate off of Back Lane or collection can be arranged.

Thank you.

## **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.

## **PLANNING APPLICATIONS –**

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

## **KENT POLICE**

Our new beat officer is **Thomas Mead PC 46014468**, based at Tonbridge Police Station. For non-urgent matters, please call 101, for emergencies please call 999.

**<https://www.mycommunityvoicekent.co.uk/>**

*For information on community policing, My Community Voice is a messaging service that helps Kent and Medway residents, businesses, and community groups to keep in touch with their local policing teams. The service sends updates about your local area directly from the police officers themselves. You can sign up using the link or website address above.*



Thursday 12 June	Trosley Trot- fairly flat circular walk along the bottom of the Downs with good views to the south. Moderate difficulty.	5.5 miles
Thursday 19 June	Circular walk from Yalding to Nettlestead Green, through the deer park, past Roydon Hall and up to St Michaels Church before returning via Pizien Well and along the River Medway. Two steady climbs; moderate difficulty.	5.8 miles
Sunday 22 June	Tonbridge and Malling Ramblers will be guiding the London Blind Ramblers along quiet country lanes and footpaths from Borough Green to Basted Mill, Dux Green, Plaxtol Spoute and Dunks Green. Picnic lunch and return via orchards and paths. Moderate difficulty.	7.5 miles
Thursday 26 June	Early morning walk from Ightham Mote at 07.30 to hear the birdsong. Walk through Scathes Wood, Fairlawne estate and onto Shipbourne before returning to the Mote for refreshments at the cafe. Far reaching views. Moderate difficulty; 10 stiles.	4 miles
Sunday 29 June	Circular walk from Otford around the solar system and back! Moderate difficulty.	5 miles

**REPAIR CAFE** Tonbridge



**DO YOU HAVE BROKEN HOUSEHOLD ITEMS ?**  
Bring them to our repair cafe

**REPAIRS OFFERED :**

Electrical : Electronics : Mechanical : Wood : Clothing :  
Textiles : China repair : Toys : Knife & Scissor sharpening

**Saturday 14 June**  
**Saturday 12 July**  
**Saturday 13 Sept**  
**Saturday 11 Oct**  
**Saturday 8 Nov**

**10am - 12:30pm**

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



**FREE** Voluntary contribution welcome

**ENJOY** Refreshments at the St Stephen's Cafe

**St Stephen's Church**

Waterloo Road, Tonbridge, TN9 2SW



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

# Shipbourne Village Hall News

## VILLAGE GARDEN PARTY

What a fantastic day we had for the Garden Party; the weather could not have been more perfect and coupled with so many of you coming along, it made for a truly enjoyable afternoon.

Our thanks to Tom Tugendhat, our MP, who came along with his daughter and spent time chatting with people and, without notice, was rather press-ganged into making a presentation.

Thank you to all those who came along and made the afternoon so enjoyable and successful. It was especially good to meet new residents who have recently moved in but also some who are shortly to be moving in.

Final figures are yet to be confirmed but the proceeds to the hall funds are about £650.00 which is very welcome.

A huge thank you to all the team who organised the Party but also worked hard on the day, especially Venetia and Peter on bar duty, Abi and Sallie serving the burgers and hot dogs and in particular to Martin our chef on the BBQ, Sarah and Helen on washing up duties!!

We are also grateful to The Chaser and Larkins Brewery for their very kind donation of the beer.

**We would love to receive your feedback, comments and suggestions for future consideration** [peter4inscope@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:peter4inscope@yahoo.co.uk)

### **Further village event dates for your diary:**

**GARDEN SAFARI** – June 21st

**ST GILES FAIR & DOG SHOW** - August 25<sup>th</sup> Bank Holiday Monday

**WINE TASTING** - October 4<sup>th</sup> – 7.00pm

**QUIZ NIGHT** - November 29<sup>th</sup> - 7.00pm

### **Help us to keep in touch.**

We are keen to keep everyone informed directly of village events and would greatly appreciate receiving your contact details; please email your name, address, telephone number and email address to:

[shipbourneparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:shipbourneparishcouncil@gmail.com)

## **ANYONE FOR CHESS?**

Plans for a chess club are still being worked on. There is a reasonable level of interest - but we would still like to hear from you if you are interested in playing and which evenings would best suit. All ages and ability welcome.

Please email to register your interest: [peter4inscope@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:peter4inscope@yahoo.co.uk)

## **LONDON MARATHON CHAMPIONS**

**Congratulations to:**

**Gemma Rankine** (Jane & Martyn Williams' daughter) for completing this year's London Marathon. Gemma was fundraising in support of the Prader-Willi Syndrome Association UK.

Donations can still be given via the web site:

<https://donate.justgiving.com/page/nellrunsthelondonmarathonforpws/donation-amount>

**Congratulations to:**

**Duke Chidgey** (Manager at the Chaser Inn) who also completed the London Marathon and was fundraising for Great Ormond St Hospital.

You can continue to donate through the web site:

<https://www.justgiving.com/greatormondstreet>

## **Well done Gemma and Duke!**

*Let us know if you ran in this, have taken part or are due to take part in any other fundraising events. Give us the information and the relevant sponsor/donations details so we can publish them each month, ([peter4inscope@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:peter4inscope@yahoo.co.uk))*



## **SHIPBOURNE VILLAGE HALL**

Situated on the Green in the heart of Shipbourne, our village hall with its enclosed and safe garden, is the perfect venue for children's parties, family celebrations, pilates, yoga, exhibitions, fundraising events, training courses or seminars. It has a main hall, an adjoining side room ideal for meetings, blackout blinds, wheelchair access, a well-equipped kitchen, baby changing facilities and disabled toilet.

**Wi-Fi with excellent download speed is provided by courtesy of Gigaclear.**

**In addition, 2 N° 8m x 4m marquees, 3 N° 3m x 3m and 2 N° 2.5 x 2.5m gazebos are available for hire.**

For hall rates, enquiries and bookings, please call Helen Leach on 07762 241720 or email [shipbourne.villagehall@gmail.com](mailto:shipbourne.villagehall@gmail.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](http://www.thekentishrifleman.co.uk)**



## **SHIPBOURNE GARDEN SAFARI**

### **SATURDAY 21st JUNE 2025, 1-5PM**

Safari Gardens open from 1pm-5pm.

Tea and cakes available to buy in the Village Hall from 1pm.

Tickets/maps (£5 per person) will be available to purchase in advance at Shipbourne Farmers' Market throughout June and on the day from 1pm at the Village Hall. One ticket allows entry to all gardens (approx. 4-5 gardens).

Visitors are encouraged to park near the Village Hall and visit the gardens on foot as they are all located around the Shipbourne "block". All Safari Gardens will have a display board outside.

Please bring cash for payment. Proceeds will be donated to St Giles' Church to restore the wall paintings behind the altar.

Please remember this isn't Chelsea Flower Show! Safari Gardens are individual, interesting spaces, looked after and loved by their owners.

**We still ideally need one more garden for the Safari.**  
**If you would like yours to be included please call**  
**Viv Packer on 07768 397936.**



**CASP**

## ***Never too small to make a difference***

Climate Action Shipbourne and Plaxtol **CASP** has a new logo and a new website! Do visit <https://casphub.org> to find out about the **CASP HOME ENERGY PROJECT** and join us at the launch at 9 am, 28th June at Plaxtol Memorial Hall. (please see larger advert on page 23)



**We need your help!**

If you would like to play a part in the CASP Home Energy Project fill in our two minute home energy questionnaire <https://bit.ly/42qlz3i>

And if you would like a free home retrofit assessment there is an opportunity for a selection of homes to be assessed for upgrades of heating systems and suitability for energy generation.

Contact Sarah : [shipbourneparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:shipbourneparishcouncil@gmail.com) with your address, postcode, description and photograph of your home.

Sign up early; ***you might be a lucky one!***

Join us too at:

Shipbourne Farmers Market every Thursday,

Plaxtol Church Fete – 7th June

Plaxtol Fayre – 14th June

Shipbourne School Fair – 14th June

## **SHIPBOURNE WI**

This month, the WI meeting began with the AGM, which was then followed by a session on exercise and nutrition led by Sian Rickard. Sian demonstrated some very useful techniques for keeping fit, irrespective of age! Her tip of tackling hills with small but fastish steps will be used on our next walk! This was followed by a delicious tea, provided by members.

A walk to Hadlow from Puttenden took place last month with a walk to Ightham Mote planned for this month.

A book entitled "The Spy Coast" by Tess Gerritsen, was the Book Club choice this month, with the discussion yet to take place.

The WI is planning a Tea & Cake Sale on 2nd August, so SAVE THE DATE! This has been a very popular event over the last two years, and we hope this year will be no exception!

Members were very sad to hear that Margaret Thompson had died on 6th May. Margaret, and her mother before her, had both been stalwart Presidents of Shipbourne WI. Margaret had contributed so much to the association over many years, and she will be greatly missed by us all.

***Glynis Coates***

## **USED STAMPS FOR THE R.N.I.B**

Thank you to everyone who has left used postage stamps at the back of the church. So far I have managed to collect 5 kilos which should raise £100 for the R.N.I.B. Please keep collecting them for this very worthwhile charity.

***Jenny Porter***



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## **FROM YOUR LOCAL MP**

The county elections have been revolutionary. We have all seen the result and whoever we voted for, we now have to ensure those elected deliver for our community. Whatever promises they made, whatever words they used, we know what we need: a county that keeps Kent strong.

That means making sure those in need get the support they deserve from the adult social care programmes KCC run, and it means helping kids – our children and grandchildren – get the opportunities they need from the schools they support. And for the rest of us, it means fixing the roads – I spend more than ever on new tyres.

Let me start by saying congratulations. Harry Rayner has been a champion of Shipbourne and I am delighted he will keep delivering for Malling West. His knowledge and commitment is a great asset to our community.

I am grateful to all those who put themselves forward. Standing as a councillor is hard work, serving as one, harder still. For those who put themselves forward, and especially for those who served before, I am grateful for the excellent work they have done.

Please don't forget what they can do for you – it's not just fixing potholes, Kent County Council has a budget of around £2 billion. They have a huge responsibility and whoever is leading must make sure our money is spent well. They work for us!

My work is guided by you and your priorities, so please do share your thoughts with me, or contact me if you have any issues I can help with. You can reach me using these details:

E-mail: [tom.tugendhat.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:tom.tugendhat.mp@parliament.uk)  
Post: 130 Vale Road, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 1SP  
Phone: 01732 441563  
Social Media: @TomTugendhat

**Tom Tugendhat**  
**MP, Member of Parliament for Tonbridge, Edenbridge and**  
**North Downs Villages**

# CASP HOME ENERGY PROJECT LAUNCH EVENT



June 28<sup>th</sup> 2025  
9AM - 1PM  
Plaxtol  
Memorial Hall



Come learn about:

- Affordable, low-carbon, alternative heating systems
- Review of what grants are available
- Our plans for making retrofit accessible to all
- A chance to have a home energy upgrade assessment

and more!



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

@shipbournevillage

## **THE ALLCORN BUILDERS OF PLAXTOL AND SHIPBOURNE**

Just as landscape can shape communities so members of the community can influence and reinforce the distinctive character of that landscape. And in Plaxtol and Shipbourne skilled family firms have over the years built in harmony with the landscape using local brick, stone and tile.

A family of master bricklayers and builders who have lived in these and surrounding parishes since at least the late 1700's is that of the Allcorns, whose work has done much to reinforce our sense of place.

William Allcorn, b.1819, Sarah Sophia his wife and their six children lived in St Giles Cottage, School Lane – then called Plaxtol Lane of which it is a logical continuation – Shipbourne, one of whom was their son Jonathan born in 1858.

In 1877 William built Ashenden Cottage, Plaxtol as a lodge for Ashenden and rebuilt the Gothic revival church of St Giles in Shipbourne for Edward Cazalet in 1879, completing it within 18 months. It replaced the Palladian church of 1722 by Gibbs and when Jonathan, a joiner, built a house in School Lane, Shipbourne for himself and his wife Elizabeth in 1903 he named it The Pinnacles after two of the corner posts from the original church tower and steeple that still top the gate posts there.

William's brother, Stephen Allcorn, b.1810 - also a master bricklayer and builder - lived in Plaxtol. He and his family lived originally in Dunks Green then near the Tiger's Head in The Street - where Trent House & High Weald now stand – then in a private house in Red Lion Square and latterly Pickwick Cottage and finally Southview, Plaxtol.

The Plaxtol Allcorn builders - Stephen and his son William, b.1845 - are perhaps most well-known for the red brick terrace of houses in Dunks Green known as Chapel Cottages. It was William and Sarah Ann Bennett's son, Frederick Percy Allcorn, a carpenter, who is commemorated on the Plaxtol WW1 Memorial.

The Shipbourne Allcorn builders are known to have built not only St Giles Church but also The Church of the Good Shepherd in



Borough Green. In addition to The Pinnacles, in 1906 Jonathan built a detached three storey butcher's shop – with a slaughter house behind - at the top of The Street in Plaxtol where much of the tiled frontage remains. When two of his sisters married Feldon brothers - both widowers - around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century he named the terraced cottages he built next to the shop in The Street, Feldon Cottages.

Jonathan's son, William John, b.1890, built – amongst other houses - Maddox Cottages in Crouch, named after the London Street in which he trained as an architect and extended the end terraced Rose Cottage on Church Hill erecting a plaque, JA & EA 1923, in honour of his parents. He and his wife Ruth lived at The Pinnacles, Shipbourne and brought up their four children there, one of whom we know as Mary Wells.

### ***Libby Cohen***

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## **PLAXTOL PEST AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT**

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

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

## **JUNE AT SHIPBOURNE FARMERS MARKET** **(Local produce made/grown by Local producers)**



After weeks of sunshine together with a very cold wind, which really kept the number of visitors down the wind has died down and we are now hoping for much better numbers at the Farmers' Market.

Sid of **Caffezhino** has changed her business and is now concentrating on importing and exporting coffee beans from the High Andes. The Church Co-operative Stall are now stocking her four most popular coffee blends. If we are missing your favourite please let us know and we can add it in to our next order. As our overheads are much less we have also reduced the prices!

We are welcoming **Hadlow College** to the Market who will be bringing a selection of vegetable plants plus their own apple juice. So together with Jo's flowers and flowering plants we now have the 'Shipbourne Nursery'!

The benefits of buying locally at Farmers' Markets means that not only do you get the chance to taste before you buy but by going directly to the source you can find out at first hand how the produce was grown or made. In addition, our producers are able to give you storing and cooking tips so you can really make the most of your purchase.

With the cost of food increasing, remember that when you are buying locally and seasonally, pricing is now very competitive with supermarkets and often cheaper so don't fall for the idea that shopping at Farmers' Markets is an expensive luxury.

The **Asparagus** season is in full swing and picking will finish by the end of the month to allow the plants to generate growth for next year, so make the most of the green spears while they are around now. Eat your local asparagus traditionally, steamed and served with melted butter, or brush with olive oil and griddle the spears on the barbecue until tender then scattered with shavings of a sharp hard cheese.

Other veg to look out for are crisp **radishes**, **spring onions**, **spinach**, and of course **new potatoes**. There are also **early**

**cucumbers, runner beans, spinach and courgettes**, alongside all kinds of **salad leaves** now in season.

Warm weather means BBQ time! Kieron now has a great choice of sausages from Old English, venison, wild boar and apple together with venison and wild boar burgers, perfect for the coals.

We are entering **berry** season - a favourite way to serve **raspberries, cherries** and **strawberries** is to crush them slightly, sprinkle with a little cherry brandy and sugar, leave for an hour, then serve with vanilla ice cream.

## COOKERY CORNER

### STRAWBERRY SUMMER GIN

*Perfect for a gin & tonic or as a base for a fruity cocktail*

*Easy / Makes 1.5 litres / 15 mins prep plus 3 weeks infusing*

- 700ml bottle of gin
- 400g strawberries, sliced
- 100g caster sugar

1. Mix the gin with the strawberries and sugar in a large bowl
2. Pour into a 1.5 litre sterilised Kilner jar
3. Store in the fridge and stir every two days for three weeks
4. Strain through coffee filters or muslin cloth to serve

*Stallholder Shopping List:*

- Strawberries – Watts Farms
- Greensand Ridge London Gin – The Cooperative Stall

*Taken from Tom Kerridge at bbcfood.com*

## TALES FROM NIGHTINGALE COTTAGE

*Nightingale Cottage is a 'learning hub' where home-educated pupils socialise and learn together.*

*Inspired by Dickens, the master of serialisation, we are thrilled to unveil a gripping mystery set in Shipbourne, unfolding in monthly instalments and set in places you know and love! We have been focusing on accurately punctuating speech.*

One Monday morning, the five children entered Shipbourne woods. The air was cool, and the birds were happy, singing their songs. Elegant bluebells nodded their heads from side to side in the gentle breeze.

As they walked through the woods, Peter mentioned something rather important. "Maybe we should stick together - there are deep mysteries hidden beneath these trees."

As Lily, Millie, George and Isla nodded in agreement, Isla wandered off to a tall, vast oak tree: the children were certain it was something strange.

Isla shouted jumping up and down, "There it is! The symbol that Ben found in the soil!"

As the children approached the tree, they could see the symbol had been carved into the dark, brown bark.

"I wonder what this mea-" Peter didn't have time to finish.

"Look! I've found a box. It's..." Lily tapped the material with her nail "metal?"

"Let's open it!" said George excitedly.

All the children smiled. But suddenly, Isla's smile faded.

"What is it?" Peter asked.

"It needs a key," said Isla glumly.

"Don't be silly!" said Peter, plastering a smile across his face. "Oh, it really does. I thought that only happened in pirate movies!"

"Here, it shouldn't be that strong," said Millie, handing Peter a twig.

"OPEN!" Peter screamed so loudly, his voice echoed through the woods. "OPEN!" The children laughed so hard, it gave them hiccups.

Suddenly, a dusty old map met their eyes.

"Look guys! An X over Tinkers and Tribe! Why would it be there?!" George questioned.

"That's where my sister goes to nursery," Millie said excitedly.

"I think that's the next place to investigate!" said Lily happily.

As the children disappeared into the thick brambles of the forest, they chatted excitedly and wandered across the fields to Tinkers and Tribe, the local nursery.

*To be continued ...*

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# HOSPICE IN THE WEALD RUN 2025

Are you a serious competition runner? Someone who enjoys a regular weekend exercise? Someone who likes walking in the summer sun? or a family looking to experience a fun Sunday together? The Hospice Run, now in its nineteenth year, has something for everyone.

You can sign up for the following routes

1. Family Fun Run: The theme is “Hospice Heroes” and is suitable for all ages and abilities. Children are encouraged to dress up as their favourite hero as they dodge the water.
2. 5k: for runners starting off on their fitness journey.
3. 10k: for regular runners who like a challenge, taking in popular Tunbridge Wells landmarks.
4. Half marathon: our ultimate challenge! Our half marathon is an undulating route, Suitable for experienced athletes or those wanting to practise their first half marathon distance.

However, the day is about more than just walking or running – there is an amazing event atmosphere, with live music to provide motivation.

Sign up now to avoid missing out on one of the most hotly anticipated closed-road routes in the Southeast.

Visit the events section of our website to find out about the route details, answers to questions you may have, explore payment and fundraising options, and to register for the event.

<https://www.hospiceintheweald.org.uk/events/hospice-run-2025/>

Alternatively call Hospice in the Weald on 01892 820533.

**All entry fees and funds raised support Hospice in the Weald’s care for people facing terminal illness and their loved ones in Kent and East Sussex.**

## 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.

### **NEW: FOR SALE:**

30 terracotta pot feet. £5.00.  
Garden rake, long handled edging shears, hand shears and hoe. £3.00 each.  
3 green glazed plant pots. 15cm, 20cm and 24cm diameters. £5.00 each.  
2 single air beds for camping. £5.00 each.  
1 foot pump for air beds. £3.00.  
2 three legged folding camping stools 42cm high. £5.00 each.  
2 extendable walking poles. £5.00 each.  
2 two man tents. £50.00 each.  
For details & photos please call Lynne on 07799 258000 / Clive on 07773 151796

**RECLINER CHAIR AND RISER BED:** Does anyone need (or know of anyone who might need) an electronic riser/recliner chair – used only for a few months so as new.  
Also a 4 ft riser bed (both ends of the bed can be raised) with neutral covered head and end boards and storage drawers underneath – also as new.  
Please contact 07881 621036 and I will send photographs.

### **TD BRICKWORK LOCAL RELIABLE BUILDER**

All aspects of Brickwork, Garden, Walls, Steps, Patios, Repointing, Landscaping. Please Contact Terence 07742831875 or Email [douseterence@gmail.com](mailto:douseterence@gmail.com). (12/25)

### **YAMAHA ELECTONE HS-4 ELECTRIC ORGAN SYNTHESISER WITH STOOL**

Model introduced 1987 and probably bought that year. Inherited recently. Seems good order but cannot give any assurances. One careful lady owner! We live in Ivy Hatch. No charge but donation to St Giles' Church Restoration Appeal suggested. Please message 07584 517383. (02/25)

### **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\\_](https://www.instagram.com/joannelouisebeauty_) For any questions or to book an appointment I can be contacted on 07894054015 or email [joanne@joannelouisebeauty.co.uk](mailto:joanne@joannelouisebeauty.co.uk) (02/25)

**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)

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**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](mailto:salvioz@blueyonder.co.uk) (02/25)

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**LOCAL WASP NEST TREATMENT:** Fast, efficient, reliable. Andy Wasp 07833 558773 (02/25)

## SHIPBOURNE VILLAGE 2025 EVENTS DIARY

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> June	12-4pm	Plaxtol Church Fair, Rectory
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> June	11-2pm	Shipbourne School Summer Fete
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> June	1-5pm	Shipbourne Garden Safari
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	9am-1pm	CASP Home Energy Project Launch, Plaxtol Memorial Hall
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> August	1-4pm	WI Tea & Book Sale, Village Hall
Bank Holiday Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> August	12.30-3.30pm	St Giles' Summer Fair and Dog Show, Shipbourne Common and Village Hall
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> October	7pm	Village Hall Wine Tasting
Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup> November	7pm	Village Hall Quiz Night

***Cut out and keep***