

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



***November 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 OQG http://shipbourne.com/st-giles-church/  
Associate Rector Rev Mark Packer 07970-709006 CurateSwP@gmail.com  
Licensed Lay Marius Carboni 07885 753272  
Minister  
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: VACANCY  
Electoral Roll: Mrs H Leach 07762 241720  
Flower Guild: Mrs F Ward 810525  
Bell Ringing: Mr G 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](http://www.shipbourne.com)

### **SHIPBOURNE SCHOOL**

Head: Mrs Terri Daters Terri.Daters@shipbourne.kent.sch.uk

### **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**

Lindsay Miles 810439 [lindsay\\_miles@btinternet.com](mailto:lindsay_miles@btinternet.com)

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

## PARISH DIARY – NOVEMBER 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><br><i>All Saints Sunday</i>                                             | <b>2<sup>nd</sup></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                                                      |
|                                                                                       |                        | <b>6.00pm</b>    | <b>All Souls' Service at Plaxtol Church (lists in both churches for loved ones' names)</b>           |
|                                                                                       |                        | Readings:        | Daniel 7: 1-3, 15-18, Ephesians 1: 11-end, Luke 6: 20-31                                             |
| <b>Thursday</b>                                                                       | <b>6<sup>th</sup></b>  | <b>9-11am</b>    | <b>Farmers' Market at St Giles, Shipbourne</b>                                                       |
| <b>Saturday</b>                                                                       | <b>8<sup>th</sup></b>  | <b>4.15-6pm</b>  | <b>Shipbourne School Bonfire and Fireworks</b>                                                       |
| <b>SUNDAY</b><br><i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday before Advent</i><br><br><i>Remembrance</i> | <b>9<sup>th</sup></b>  | <b>8.00am</b>    | <b>Holy Communion at St Giles, Shipbourne</b>                                                        |
|                                                                                       |                        | <b>10.50am</b>   | <b>Act of remembrance at St Giles, Shipbourne War Memorial followed by Morning Service in Church</b> |
|                                                                                       |                        | 10.50am          | Act of remembrance at Plaxtol War Memorial followed by Morning Service in Plaxtol Church             |
|                                                                                       |                        | Readings:        | Micah 4: 1-7                                                                                         |
| <b>Thursday</b>                                                                       | <b>13<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>9-11am</b>    | <b>Farmers Market at St Giles, Shipbourne</b>                                                        |
| <b>SUNDAY</b><br><i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Advent</i>                           | <b>16<sup>th</sup></b> | 8.00am           | Holy Communion at Plaxtol Church                                                                     |
|                                                                                       |                        | <b>9.30am</b>    | <b>Parish Communion at St Giles, Shipbourne</b>                                                      |
|                                                                                       |                        | 11.00am          | Community@11 at Plaxtol Church (Refreshments from 10.30am)                                           |
|                                                                                       |                        | Readings:        | Malachi 4: 1-2a, 2 Thessalonians 3: 6-13, Luke 21: 5-19                                              |
| <b>Thursday</b>                                                                       | <b>20<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>9-11am</b>    | <b>Farmers' Market at St Giles, Shipbourne</b>                                                       |
| <b>Saturday</b>                                                                       | <b>22<sup>nd</sup></b> | <b>9.30-11am</b> | <b>Community Bread Basket at Plaxtol Church</b>                                                      |
| <b>SUNDAY</b><br><i>Christ the King</i>                                               | <b>23<sup>rd</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:        | Jeremiah 23: 1-16, Colossians 1: 11-20, Luke 23: 33-43                                               |
| <b>Thursday</b>                                                                       | <b>27<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>9-11am</b>    | <b>Farmers' Market at St Giles, Shipbourne</b>                                                       |

|                                                         |                        |               |                                                                           |
|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Saturday</b>                                         | <b>29<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>7.00pm</b> | <b>Quiz Night in Shipbourne Village Hall</b>                              |
| <b>SUNDAY</b><br><i>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent</i> | <b>30<sup>th</sup></b> | 8.00am        | Holy Communion at Plaxtol Church                                          |
|                                                         |                        | <b>9.30am</b> | <b>Book of Common Prayer Communion with hymns at St Giles, Shipbourne</b> |
|                                                         |                        | 11.00am       | Morning Worship at Plaxtol Church                                         |
|                                                         |                        | Readings:     | Isaiah 2: 1-5, Romans 13: 11-end, Matthew 24: 36-44                       |
|                                                         |                        | <b>6.00pm</b> | <b>Advent Carol Service at Plaxtol Church</b>                             |



## Community Bread Basket

9:30 - 11:00 on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 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.*

## RIDE AND STRIDE 2025

Congratulations to our weather man, **Lionel Stielow**, who completed the Kent Churches Ride & Stride event in September. Lionel raised over £600 in sponsorship which will be split between Kent Churches and St Giles' Shipbourne. Thank you Lionel!

## WHOSE FLAG IS IT ANYWAY?

You may or may not have noticed, but it suddenly seems trendy to fly a flag. What's it all about? The simple answer, at least on the news, seems to be 'It's patriotic!' – but what does that really mean? I'm concerned that it's a fairly poor excuse for racism and xenophobia, an inarticulate and misguided way of protesting about our out-of-control immigration system. But whose flag is it? St George's! Where's he from? Georgia! I imagine myself asking St George himself, 'Where did you get you flag, saintly fellow, and what does it mean?' 'It's the banner of the resurrection!' 'Oh, I see, thanks!' So please don't misuse a symbol of hope for such a singular evil.



There have always been displaced people, foreigners, aliens. In some of the earliest known writings, which we now call the Old Testament, it is clear how people who had a relationship with God understood God's will on this matter: "When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself." (Leviticus 19:33-34). That seems very simple and straightforward and yet I anticipate many 'Yes, but..' replies, because it's a complex issue. But we ought to strive a clear vision of the compassion that's needed in the face of the desperation of immigrants, and to put our efforts into solving the complexities, rather than demonising the vulnerable.

Flags will be flying, too, on November 9<sup>th</sup> (Remembrance Sunday) and on 11<sup>th</sup> (Armistice Day). Acts of Remembrance will take place, as usual, at the War Memorials in both villages, concurrently, beginning at 10.50am in time for the two minutes silence at 11.00am, both followed by a simple service in church.

Just in case you're a flag nerd, here's the local trivia – the flag we fly from both our churches has the badge of the Diocese of Rochester in the corner.

***Peter Hayler, Rector***

# Shipbourne School Bonfire and Fireworks Party

## Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2025 4.15pm-6pm

Dear Shipbourne Resident,

It is approaching that time of year where the PTA are busy organising the Shipbourne School Bonfire & Firework Night. This year the date is set to be Saturday 8th November 2025, 4-6pm. Most of you will be familiar with the disruption to the village and the local roads, and for that we sincerely apologise. It is a hugely important fundraising opportunity for the school and last year we raised a record-breaking amount that the children benefitted hugely from. We want to give notice to the residents of Shipbourne and express our deepest gratitude for you tolerating the influx of people to the village for a short time.

Please see attached the map of how we aim to coordinate parking, to minimise disruption as much as possible. We will send the map to everyone who has purchased tickets online and ask people to car share where possible. The direction of traffic indicated on the map is a suggestion; it is an attempt to ease congestion on the narrow roads and to make the area safer for cars and pedestrians. We strongly suggest that should you need to travel yourselves during the time of the event, that you observe the suggested one-way flow of traffic.

Thank you for your support and understanding, we really do appreciate it. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us via email [Shipbourne-pta@outlook.com](mailto:Shipbourne-pta@outlook.com).

Kind regards,

**Shipbourne School PTA**

**Registered Charity No. 1094459**

**SHIPBOURNE SCHOOL FIREWORK & BONFIRE NIGHT PARTY**  
**SATURDAY 8<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2025 4.15PM - 6.00PM**

**PARKING**

ROAD SIGNAGE AND DESIGNATED TRAFFIC MARSHALLS WILL DIRECT THE FLOW OF TRAFFIC ALONG THE ROUTE SHOWN ON THIS MAP

PARKING IS SUGGESTED EITHER ON 'UPPER GREEN ROAD' OR ALONG 'BACK LANE'

IF PARKING ON 'BACK LANE' WE STRONGLY SUGGEST A ONE WAY FLOW OF TRAFFIC ENTERING BACK LANE FROM UPPER GREEN ROAD AND EXITING AFTER THE EVENT ONTO STUMBLE HILL/A227. THIS SHALL PREVENT CONGESTION AND ALLOW FAMILIES TO WALK SAFELY TO AND FROM THEIR CARS TO THE EVENTS FIELD

A LIMITED NUMBER OF DISABLED SPACES WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR BLUE BADGE HOLDERS – PLEASE ASK THE TRAFFIC MARSHALLS

**MANY THANKS FOR YOUR COOPERATION!**

THE LOCAL RESIDENTS OF SHIPBOURNE ARE VERY SUPPORTIVE OF OUR ANNUAL EVENT. PLEASE BE RESPECTFUL OF THEIR PROPERTIES/DRIVEWAYS WHEN PARKING - **PLEASE DO NOT BLOCK THEIR ACCESS**. WE VALUE THEIR SUPPORT AND WISH TO MINIMISE DISRUPTION.





# Greenacres

Borough Green Road, Ightham, Kent, TN15 9JA 01732 884726

## Countdown to Christmas

- **Cut and pot grown British Christmas trees from 2ft-15ft**
- Holly wreaths and hand decorated wreaths
- Christmas foods, mince pies and Christmas hampers
- Local fresh bread, vegetables, fruits, cheeses and Simply Ice Cream
- Treat yourself to a **Rombouts** coffee/hot chocolate available in the farm shop
- We stock **COOK** frozen meals and desserts

**Open every day: 9am-5pm**

[sales@greenacresgardencentre.co.uk](mailto:sales@greenacresgardencentre.co.uk)



## 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.

## **SHIPBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL**

The contact details for the Parish Council are:

Shipborne Parish Council  
Clerk – Mrs Sarah Huseyin  
Gable Cottage  
Ismays Road  
Ightham TN15 9BE  
e-mail: [shipbourneparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:shipbourneparishcouncil@gmail.com)  
Telephone: 01732 886402

Please visit the website for Shipbourne Parish Council Meeting Agenda's, Minutes and News. (<http://www.shipbourne.com/>) If you have any ideas or would like something added, such as a news item, please email 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](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>

### **LOCAL PLAN**

Over the past few years there has been much interest, concern and talk about the local plan which TMBC have to produce. The plan has been delayed for some considerable time, but it has now been released and is available on the TMBC website.

The draft plan does not currently schedule any proposed sites within Shipbourne Parish. However, it must be noted that the draft plan is simply that, a draft, which is subject to further discussion and consultation which could result in changes.



TMBC has meetings lined up in October to decide on the consultation process.

We have requested Matt Boughton the leader of TMBC, attends at the beginning of our November meeting 6.30-7.30pm to give an overview, please look at our website or contact the Clerk for confirmation. Please register your interest and email to: **[shipbourneparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:shipbourneparishcouncil@gmail.com)** with your contact details.

There will be plenty of opportunity to comment on the local plan.

### **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.*



For full details of all our walks, see **[www.tonbridgeandmallingeramblers.org.uk](http://www.tonbridgeandmallingeramblers.org.uk)**

### **TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER CONSULTATION (PSPO)**

The current PSPO is due to expire in April 2026, and TMBC are proposing to renew the existing restrictions while introducing a few additional measures to further support community safety.

## Proposed Changes:

We intend to retain all current restrictions and add the following:

- A new restriction to prevent misuse of catapults.
- A new restriction to prevent unauthorised camping in the Memorial Gardens, Tonbridge.
- A slight amendment to the existing drone restriction, clarifying that unauthorised drones must not be launched or landed on any land owned by the Borough Council.

We welcome views/feedback from all members of the community including Parish Councils, and your feedback will help shape the final version of the PSPO.

Information about the consultation can be found here and includes a link to our survey –[Public Space Protection Orders \(PSPO\) consultation – Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council](#)

***The consultation period runs from Monday 15 September to midnight on Sunday 2 November.***

### **DECEMBER NEWSLETTER**

Please send any articles and adverts for the December Newsletter by **15<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

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

# Shipbourne Village Hall News

## Hall windows and other works

The replacement hall windows have now been installed and make a huge difference to the appearance of the hall both inside and out. The Parish Council have also approved additional work to renew some of the timber on the outside of the building which has rotted.

In the kitchen, the cabinet below the sink has been replaced as that was in a dreadful condition and in the main hall a new magnetic whiteboard has been installed. New heating and committee room decoration remain on the list of work to do.

## Wine Tasting

Forty people attended the evening which was very enjoyable. Thanks to Dominic Harris for all the work he put into presenting a selection of sparkling wines, giving us an insight to the different techniques and processes which give the various wines their distinctive colour, clarity, bouquet and taste.

Further thanks to all those who helped organise the evening and those who attended and contributed to a profit for the hall of **£719.90**.

## QUIZ NIGHT

**Saturday November 29<sup>th</sup> - 7.00pm**

**£20.00 per head to include food**

**BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS & NIBBLES**

**With limited availability - early booking is recommended.** Last year the tickets went very quickly; half the tickets for this year have already been sold. Reservations by email to [peter4inscope@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:peter4inscope@yahoo.co.uk)

The evening will be in two sessions, with the food this year being a selection of cold meats, cheeses, quiches, breads, biscuits and salad, served during the interval. We will try to cater for vegetarian and gluten free dietary requirements but please let us know those in advance.

Raffle tickets will be on sale during the evening, and there will be a prize for the **best Christmas jumper!**

## Help us to keep in touch

If you want to be kept informed about this and other events, please email [peter4inscope@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:peter4inscope@yahoo.co.uk) with your contact details.

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)

**Ideas for other events and activities are always welcome.**

## **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)**



## **Climate Action Shipbourne and Plaxtol. CASP**

**[www.casphub.org](http://www.casphub.org)**

Preparing for Christmas. Make it a special one this year.

CASP will be at the Farmers' Market the last two weeks of November and up until Christmas. Please visit us to catch up on our latest news in the battle to reduce carbon emissions in our villages.

Every year British consumers emit 23-times their usual rate of carbon as we enjoy our annual winter celebration. We shall be sharing tips on how to enjoy a cheaper, low-carbon Christmas.

In the UK we waste as much as 10 million tonnes of food a year, 70% of which is wasted in homes. Reduce your food waste this Christmas to help protect the environment and save cash.

Reuse, recycle, repair, create! Get creative with last year's Christmas cards, wrapping, and garden produce for house and present decoration. Rent or recycle your Christmas tree.

The Farmers' Market is an excellent place to begin your preparations where local produce can cut those shopping miles with in-season local produce, crafts, and unique treats.

Make your veggie family members happy with delicious meat-free recipes for the roasts, puddings and bakes of Christmas!

We look forward to hearing your own brilliant ideas to cut carbon this yuletide.

### **Invasive Species**

Last month, we heard about invasive Asian Hornets attacking our honeybees. The following website helps to identify the Asian Hornet <https://www.bbka.org.uk/identify-report-asian-hornet>. You can contact Sue Knights to report local sightings. Email: [sushelagh@icloud.com](mailto:sushelagh@icloud.com) Mobile: 07825210885

American mink is another skilled and agile invasive predator. They adapt well to their habitat and will hunt whatever they can find—from mammals such as water voles and rabbits to water birds like moorhens and kingfishers, as well as frogs and fish. Because mink are an invasive species with no natural predators in the UK to keep their population in check, our wildlife urgently needs our help. Mink have been sighted in our area. To see pictures and to learn about efforts to eradicate the American mink go to [www.waterliferecoverytrust.org.uk](http://www.waterliferecoverytrust.org.uk)

If you have seen a mink, or live beside a waterway on which to host a trap, please contact the project officer for our area Ali Horn at Waterlife Recovery Trust 07491 303986 email: [alihornwrt@gmail.com](mailto:alihornwrt@gmail.com)

Both these species reduce bio-diversity. We can stop them by concerted, prompt action. and/or PV panels. We will be putting their stories up on our website. Here is one:

**Climate Action Shipbourne and Plaxtol. CASP**  
*Never too small to make a difference.*

## **SHIPBOURNE WI**

The plans for the next few months are in place, with a list of forthcoming speakers, and our festive activities on schedule.

Our walk in London in September took us along the north bank of The Thames, from Temple to Tower Hill. It was a fascinating walk which included many landmarks on both sides of the river, and concluded with lunch before our return journey. We also continue our local walks with one in the coming days to Ightham Mote.

At the October meeting, Tony Daniels gave us an absorbing talk on "The Life and Loves of Thomas Hardy". Tony is extremely knowledgeable and immersed in his subject, interweaving his talk with verses from Hardy's poetry which linked to his many loves. A thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.

Towards the end of October there will be a lunch at The Papermakers in Plaxtol.

The book this month has been "Tulip Fever" by Deborah Moggach, known for her book, "The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel".

Our next meeting on 12th November will be a workshop on Wreath Making - yes, it is that time of year again!

***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***





## Wasp Treatment

Taking the sting out of summer

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## Grumpy Painters

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02/25)

## **FROM YOUR LOCAL MP**

All of us enjoy the quiet beauty of our countryside - the walks across the Downs/Weald, the still mornings, and the sense of calm that defines our corner of Kent. That's why the Government's decision to approve a second runway at Gatwick Airport will come as such a disappointment to so many of us.

I will continue to stand alongside the many local campaigners who have spent years working to defend our countryside and our communities. Growth in aviation should bring benefits to those who live nearby as well as to the industry itself - and at present, that balance has not been struck.

For us in Shipbourne, you might ask why this matters? The community I represent goes as far south as Penshurst and Hever. These villages, primarily between Tonbridge and Edenbridge, suffer greatly from noise and environmental issues caused by being directly under the flightpath. Much of this area is a designated National Landscape, recognised for its beauty and importance. If this were a motorway on the ground, it would never be approved.

The airport stands to see a major increase in passenger numbers, but there remains no commitment to reinstate the direct rail link from Kent to Gatwick - something I believe should be in place before any expansion is allowed to operate. I made this point clearly at the public inquiry, along with the need for stricter limits on night flights, stronger protections from aircraft noise, and firm commitments to reduce the carbon impact of the airport. These are not unreasonable requests. They are essential safeguards for those of us who live beneath the flight paths and who already feel the strain of existing traffic in our skies.

Despite my concern at the decision, I will continue to work to try and secure a direct rail link. The work to date shows this coming to Tonbridge, which is much easier to get to than Hildenborough Station. This would help ease traffic on the

***Tom Tugendhat***

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

E-mail: [tom.tugendhat.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:tom.tugendhat.mp@parliament.uk)

Phone: 01732 441563

Post: 130 Vale Road, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 1SP

Website: [www.tomtugendhat.org](http://www.tomtugendhat.org)

Facebook, Twitter and Instagram: @TomTugendhat



Have you ever wondered who lived in your house before you? About their lives, their work and their family? About who built your house, and why?

In Plaxtol we have houses that are less than five years old and some which are 500 years old or more. They all have a history: not just a history of the building, but also of the people who have lived there, and the history of the land on which it was built.

Why not find out about yours?

During 2026 Plaxtol Local History Group will be running *Plaxtol House History Year* and we would love to help you research the history of your home. We will be running talks, help sessions and activities throughout the year. Why not join in and help us to build our knowledge of our wonderful village?

You can find all the details of events on our website  
<https://plaxtollocalhistory.wordpress.com>

The project will be launched on 9 December 2025 with a special talk by  
TV House Historian Melanie Backe Hansen  
All welcome

*Plaxtol House History Year 2026 is a community project led by Plaxtol Local History Group supported by generous grants from the William and Edith Oldham Charitable Trust and Plaxtol Parish Council and in collaboration with The National Trust at Ightham Mote & Plaxtol Primary School*

# Plaxtol Local History Group

will be launching  
*House History Year*  
with a talk on  
*Tuesday 9th December 8pm*  
in Plaxtol Church

***Discover The Secrets Behind Your Front Door* with  
Melanie Backe-Hansen TV House Historian**

Visitors Welcome  
Members Free - Visitors £5  
History Group Annual Membership £10



## **THE SUNKEN LANES OF PLAXTOL & SHIPBOURNE**

The weather in 2025 may have been disastrous for local farmer's crops but it has been a bumper year for apples, pears and plums; chestnuts, beech mast and acorns. For oak trees this year of plenty is known as a 'mast year' - which only occurs every five years or so - when the energy stored up by the trees produces an abundance of acorns which are rich in energy.

In the ninth century Manors were awarded large stretches of forests for grazing swine or for collecting wood. These were called 'dens' and were connected to the parent manor by a drove way. Drove ways, both narrow or wide, would have had an influence on the positioning of the church and - for obvious reasons - farmsteads, husbandmen's cottages and drinking establishments were built close to them.

Many of the sunken lanes that wind through Plaxtol and Shipbourne were used as drove ways. In Saxon times herdsmen from Aylesford made use of these ways to move their pigs for pannage to the dens where they were fattened on acorns and beechmast before being taken to market.

An ancient drove way from Oldbury past Ightham Mote to Budds Green led onto dens at Hildenborough and further to Hayesden. Others from Aylesford came down the drove ways from Crouch to Dunks Green in Plaxtol and from there on down to the dens at Puttenden for final fattening before reaching the market at Tonbridge.

The roads we know to have been long distance drove ways were wide enough to take large numbers of livestock to markets - sometimes over weeks - for sale or slaughter many miles away in large towns and cities. But, locally, farmers moved their livestock from field to field via narrow sunken lanes and herded cattle raised in Plaxtol and sheep that grazed the fields of Shipbourne to the local market town of Tonbridge.

These narrow, ancient sunken lanes - surfaces eroded over the centuries by thousands of feet both two and four legged - are most easily recognised today as single track roads with high, steep banks. They are most obvious on the hills of the parishes and are often accompanied by a tunnel of trees overhead. Mote Road and

Sheet Hill are lanes that most locals today would recognize as ancient sunken lanes.

And there are other sunken paths in the parishes known as 'holloways' - such as that from Spinners Wents to Rats Castle in Plaxtol - narrower tracks still through our woodland and bordering our fields worn away through centuries of use as footpaths and bridleways and the water that inevitably runs down them.

Long distance droving slowly came to a halt with the advent of the railways but the increase in motorized vehicles after WWII has meant that livestock rarely tread our sunken lanes. Lanes which, nevertheless, continue to make such a special contribution to the character of our villages and landscape.

***Libby Cohen***

## **THE WEATHER IN SEPTEMBER**

The average day temperature was 24.0<sup>0</sup>c, the average night temperature was 9.0<sup>0</sup>c, the highest day was Friday 19<sup>th</sup> with 29.5<sup>0</sup>c, the lowest day was Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> with 20<sup>0</sup>c, the highest night temp. was Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> with 17.5<sup>0</sup>c, the lowest night temp. was Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> with 1.0<sup>0</sup>c, the total rainfall was 77.5mm with an average over the last 35 years of 65.81mm, the highest year was September 2024 with 216mm and the lowest year was September 1997 with 9.5mm.

***Lionel Stielow***

## NOVEMBER AT SHIPBOURNE FARMERS' MARKET



### **Local produce made/grown by Local producers**

Clocks have now gone back and Autumn moves towards the depths of Winter, appetites change as, with the shortening days, we all crave a little comfort. Slow-cooked casseroles, satisfyingly starchy creamy mashes, rich flavoured roasts and warming puddings all fit the bill perfectly so wrap up and head out for a trip to the Market for inspiration.

Game is the meat of choice for cooks in November as the season is well under way for birds such as pheasant, partridge and wild duck as well as venison and rabbit are available. Our new pie-maker, Liz, has now added venison pies to her popular menu (her Shipbourne Pasty is also always worth a try, whatever the season!).

Root vegetables are at their tastiest now and perfect for mashes, gratins and soups – they improve with the cold and you will notice a marked difference in flavour compared to supermarket specimens. Look out for parsnips, Jerusalem artichokes, swede and turnips. Main crop potatoes are full of texture and flavour and the varieties available locally are worth exploring. Brassicas really come into their own this month too – kale, Spring greens and all kinds of cabbages are wonderful in stir-fries, soups, and hashes or just steamed with grated nutmeg and more butter! And red cabbage cooked with apple, spices and red wine is another seasonal treat to go with rich pork, or maybe a roasted wild duck.

Colder waters make for high quality fish and seafood, and as the temperature drops the range available just gets better. At the luxury end of the scale Dover sole, turbot and halibut are rightly considered the very finest eating. Lower cost alternatives are also at their best. Brill is a firm white flesh full of clean flavour that only needs simple cooking. Or opt for healthy mackerel, full of valuable Omega 3 fish oils.

Bramleys are perfect for using in mincemeat and Christmas pudding so buy them ready for stir up Sunday at the end of the month. The eating varieties can be used in tarts and cakes or covered in chocolate or caramel for a bonfire night treat!

To find out more about Shipbourne Farmers Market and to sign up for the weekly e-Newsletter, visit [www.shipbournefm.co.uk](http://www.shipbournefm.co.uk)



## COOKERY CORNER

### BONFIRE NIGHT BAKED POTATOES

*Serves 4 / Preparation: 15 minutes / Cooking: 1hr 30mins*

#### Ingredients:

- 4 medium baking potatoes
- 2 tbsp rapeseed oil
- 25g butter
- 1 large onion finely sliced
- 6 slices smoked streaky bacon, chopped
- 2 tbsp double cream
- 200g mixed good melting cheese e.g. reblochon, raclette or gruyere
- Chopped parsley

#### Method:

1. Heat oven to 200 C / 180 C fan / gas mark 6. Prick potatoes all over with a fork, then rub with half the oil, some sea salt and black pepper.
2. Arrange on a baking tray and bake in the oven for 1hr 15 mins, until their skins are crisp and they are completely tender when prodded.
3. Meanwhile heat the remaining oil and half the butter in a frying pan. Add the onion and gently cook for 15-20 mins until softened and golden. Remove from the pan and set aside, add the chopped bacon and fry until just crisp. Remove using a slotted spoon and place on kitchen paper.
4. Halve each potato lengthways, then scoop out most of the potato into a bowl, leaving a potato skin shell with a thin layer of potato. In the bowl, crush the potato with the remaining butter and the double cream. Season with salt and pepper. Fold through the onion, bacon, three quarters of the cheeses and half the parsley. Spoon back into the potato shells and top with the remaining cheese. Transfer to the baking tray and return to the oven for 10-15 minutes, until melting and golden.
5. Sprinkle with the rest of the parsley, serve with a crisp salad.

#### *Stallholder Shopping List:*

*Potatoes, onion and herbs – Watts Farms*

*Rapeseed Oil – The Cooperative Stall*

*Taken from bbcgoodfood.com*



## **NEWS FROM SHIPBOURNE SCHOOL**

The school year has started very successfully, with children and staff adapting quickly to our new class structures. It has been a real pleasure to show prospective families around, and we continue to receive fantastic feedback from all who visit. Our Value of the Term has been 'Kindness'. We have celebrated every Friday by sharing acts of kindness spotted around the school. Next term, we will be focusing on 'Honesty'.

The highlight of the term has been watching the new playground installation materialise, then finally getting a chance to play on it with each other! The weather has been glorious, which has meant that we have continued to enjoy lots of outdoor fun and learning; already trips off-site have taken place with more planned for next term. Year 2 have got off to a great start during their swimming lessons and are already making great progress

As we look ahead, we have made the decision to lead our own development of PE after Christmas, and we will therefore be saying goodbye to the Pure Sports coaches in December. Under their confident leadership, our pupils have developed a good foundation in sport, but we now have the passion to develop our PE curriculum in greater depth and drive things forward much more rigorously in order to ensure that all our children develop adequately and thus assure a healthy future for all. This will hopefully include off-site Forest School sessions and new opportunities to learn skills with external dance and gymnastics groups.

We remain ever grateful to our PTA who once again are working tirelessly to make our fantastic fireworks event happen (Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November). The funds raised at past events have guaranteed every child has access to an iPad and laptop and this term saw the installation of playground equipment providing much needed gross motor development opportunities for all of our pupils. Thank you all for letting us hold this event in the village and for your continued patience during the day of the event.

***Terri Daters***

*Headteacher*

*Shipbourne School*

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References available

Digger and driver available for hire



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02/25)

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INFORMATION AND EVENTS**  
@shipbournevillage

## **HOSPICE IN THE WEALD CHRISTMAS EVENTS MARKET, WREATH MAKING AND CAROLS**

### **CHRISTMAS MARKET 28-30 NOVEMBER 2025**

With a fantastic variety of stalls showcasing the best from local businesses and talented craftspeople, the Hospice's Christmas Market takes place on Saturday, 29th and Sunday, 30th November, from 10.00am until 4.00pm. at the hospice in Pembury. In addition to visiting the range of stalls you can book a meeting with Santa, enrol to a Christmas wreath making workshop, and indulge in some festive food. There is a suggested donation of £5.00 entry fee. In addition, for this year, as a special event the market will be open on Friday the 28th of November, 5.30 -8.30. This is a ticketed event, so numbers are limited. in addition to having the first chance to view the stalls, refreshments are included in the ticket price of £12.50.

We look forward to seeing you over the market weekend

### **CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING WORKSHOPS 29 NOVEMBER-4 DECEMBER 2025**

Spend a relaxing and rewarding time at one of our wreath-making workshops. All are welcome from complete beginners to experienced wreath creators. Soak up the festive atmosphere, enjoy some light refreshments and let our florist guide you to craft your own beautiful Christmas wreath. All necessary materials are provided. Workshops are being held at our Christmas Market on the 29th and 30th November, and in addition on 2nd, 3rd and 4th December also at the Hospice in Pembury.

### **CAROLS AT CHRISTMAS 21ST DECEMBER 2025**

An occasion for all the family, with festive music, readings and performance. We are thrilled to be welcoming back Royal Tunbridge Wells Orpheus Male Voice Choir to create some Christmas magic. The event is taking place in the atmospheric and beautiful Chapel of St Augustine at Tonbridge School in Tonbridge, Doors open at 6.00pm for a 6.30pm start, with an 8.00pm finish. Afterwards you are invited to join us for a complimentary drink and mince pie.

### **NEXT STEPS ...**

For more information on any of the above events, and to book tickets (Note - for the Christmas Market, tickets are only required for the 28th of November, not the 29th and 30th) please visit the events section of our website: [hospiceintheweald.org.uk](http://hospiceintheweald.org.uk). Alternatively, you can call our fundraising team on 01892 820533.

**All proceeds help to fund the free care and support Hospice in the Weald offers to adults and children in our community facing life-limiting illness.**

## 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.

**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](mailto:joanne@joannelouisebeauty.co.uk) (02/25)

**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)

**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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## SHIPBOURNE VILLAGE 2025 EVENTS DIARY

| DATE                               | TIME        | EVENT                                                 |
|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> November  | 4.15pm-6pm  | Shipbourne School PTA Bonfire and Fireworks           |
| Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> November    | 10.50am     | Remembrance Sunday service at Shipbourne War Memorial |
| Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November | 9.30am-11am | Community Bread Basket at Plaxtol Church              |
| Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup> November | 7pm         | Village Hall Quiz Night                               |

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