



# Cobham & Luddesdowne

*May 2026*

*News*

*£1*

**PARISH of COBHAM with LUDESLOWNE and DODE**

**Priest-in-Charge** – The Rev'd Canon Alyson Davie

For all enquiries, including Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals, please contact Alyson.

Phone no. 01474-812068 email:- [alyson@stjohnsmeopham.co.uk](mailto:alyson@stjohnsmeopham.co.uk)  
(Rest Day: Friday)

**Pastoral assistant-** Janet Weaver, 36 Highview, Vigo Village, DA13 0RR  
01732 823936

**Church Safeguarding Officer** - Hilary Savage - 01634 723027

**Church Office** Phone no. 01474 813495

**Church Officers of St. Mary Magdalene, Cobham**

<b>Lay Chair</b>	Hilary Savage	01634 723027
<b>Churchwarden</b>	Hilary Savage	
<b>PCC Secretary</b>	Vacant	
<b>Treasurer</b>	Vacant	
<b>Deanery Synod</b>	Hilary Savage	01634 723027

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Jill Beety  
Sue Campbell  
Janet Weaver

SUBMISSIONS Cobham and Luddesdowne News is a community magazine produced by and for the residents of Cobham, Sole Street and Luddesdowne. - Please note new email address.

**Please send material for inclusion by the 15th of the month preceding publication to [clnewseditorial@gmail.com](mailto:clnewseditorial@gmail.com)**

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May  
2026

## From The Rev'd Canon Alyson Davie

Following my decision to retire, dates have now been agreed with the diocese, and my final Sunday will be on 31 May when a joint service of Holy Communion will be held for all parishes at St John's Meopham at 10.30am followed by refreshments and farewell.

All are very welcome to come along and worship and enjoy fellowship together.

Alyson

### The hymns of the Wesleys

The Church calendar celebrates the lives of John and Charles Wesley. John's great gift to the Christian cause was the little matter of founding the world-wide movement known as Methodism. His brother Charles had an equally profound impact through his hymns. He wrote over 6,000, most of which aren't sung nowadays, but among the ones we do still sing are all-time favourites – 'Love divine, all loves excelling', 'O for a thousand tongues to sing'. 'Jesu lover of my soul', 'Hark the herald angels sing' – and scores more.

40 years ago, almost everybody knew quite a lot of hymns, but sadly that's no longer true. Traditional hymns aren't usually sung at school assemblies, not even in church schools, and while the audience for 'Songs of Praise' on BBC TV is substantial, most of those watching are older people.

Nowadays, with only about five per cent of the population going to church, there is inevitably a lack of familiarity with hymns of any kind. Christmas carols are an exception, as is 'Jerusalem' and 'Amazing Grace', because they are frequently heard outside church.

Singing hymns is a wonderful experience at its best – just ask a Welsh rugby crowd singing 'Bread of heaven'! It seems a pity to lose it.

It's not a bad idea to take ten minutes and think about what is your favourite hymn – ancient or modern doesn't matter. Then try singing it in the bath or under the shower – a very purifying experience!





## Spring Show

What a great Spring Show we had - 224 exhibits -44 more than last year. We had plenty of visitors who all enjoyed the show and the great selection of homemade cake that was on sale. Don't miss our Summer Show on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June.

**There is plenty going on within the Society -**

**Summer Show & Plant Sale Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2026 at 2:00pm to 3.30pm in the Meadow Room, Cobham.**

This is Gardeners' Society second Show of the year. The show features Adult & Junior Show Categories, Flowers, Vegetables, Preserves & Photographic entries. Tea, coffee & home-made cake is on sale. **Free Entry for Members & Non-Members.**

For more information email [cobhamgs@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cobhamgs@hotmail.co.uk)

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 6.30pm for 7pm**

**Interest In The Garden All Year in the Meadow Room**

**Paul Grimmer** of Plants N Gardens will talk about how to achieve interest in the garden all year. He will bring with him a selection of topical plants of varying styles and sizes, with a variety of foliage, flower and colour. He will illustrate how the different combination of these can be planted in groups or styles, for different aspects in the garden such as shade, dry, wet or sunny aspects to achieve interest all year. Members free, non-members only £3. For more info email [cobhamgs@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cobhamgs@hotmail.co.uk)

**Summer is on its way!**

As bulbs fade and herbaceous borders grow in leaps and bounds, it is now clear that summer is approaching. Sowing and planting out bedding can begin, depending on regional weather variations, and you can take softwood cuttings. It's also time to get back into the lawn mowing regime, as the lawn will be loving the warmer temperatures this month brings.

**Here's the RHS Top 10 Jobs for May.**

- 1 Watch out for late frosts. Protect tender plants.
- 2 Earth up potatoes and promptly plant any still remaining.
- 3 Plant out summer bedding at the end of the month (except in cold areas)
- 4 Collect rainwater and investigate ways to recycle water for irrigation.
- 5 Regularly hoe off weeds.
- 6 Open greenhouse vents and doors on warm days
- 7 Mow lawns weekly
- 8 Check for nesting birds before clipping hedges.
- 9 Lift and divide overcrowded clumps of daffodils and other spring-flowering bulbs.
- 10 Watch out for viburnum beetle and lily beetle grubs.

You can buy Membership of Cobham Gardeners at any time. You can apply for membership at the talks or via email [cobhamgs@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cobhamgs@hotmail.co.uk) It is only a modest £10 for the year – money you get back from free entry into all Gardeners' expert speaker talks and massive savings of up to 50% on quality plants at local garden centres.

**Help the MEADOW ROOM Revitalise on  
WEDNESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> MAY 7.30 -8.30**

The Meadow Room committee require your help! We would like as many of you as possible to give us your ideas and energy for fundraising for community events.

We need fresh ideas so we can pay for new windows, modernise the kitchen and make the building Energy Efficient. Please, please come along to our AGM at the hall on 6<sup>th</sup> May. Our committee of 3 are trying their best, almost single handed but we need representatives from the regular users, the CADS, the COBHAM GARDENERS SOCIETY, the W.I., the PRE-SCHOOL and the VILLAGERS .

We used to have a committee of 8, we now need that help back again.  
Hope to see you there!



Rosemary Dymond

**SATURDAY AFTERNOON ,9<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

The splendid and historic church of St. Mary Magdalene in Cobham has been chosen to host the AGM of THE FRIENDS OF KENT CHURCHES (FKC). The AGM will be hosted by Sir Paul Britton, well known church historian, who will give a detailed history of all aspects of this church and its small museum. The AGM will be a short affair and there will be guided tours of the church afterwards. The Medieval College will also be open with conducted tours so guests will be able to walk along the PROCESSIONAL WAY around the church to access the college grounds and marvel at its medieval structure and Great Hall. This afternoon event begins at 3.00 pm and finishes at 6.00 pm with tea at 4.30 in the church. If you are a member of FKC come along and the invitation extends to those that cycle or walk for Ride and Stride and its major sponsors for local riders. Contact Rosemary Dymond on 01474 814143 to book tickets or find more information.



# Cobham Gardeners' Society

Meetings & Shows at the Meadow Room in Dickensian Cobham, Kent  
SatNav DA123BZ Registered Charity No 228007



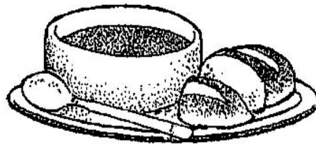
## Wednesday 13th May 2026 - 7pm Interest In The Garden All Year

**Paul Grimmer** of Plants N Gardens will talk about how to achieve interest in the garden all year. He will bring with him a selection of topical plants of varying styles and sizes, with a variety of foliage, flower and colour. He will illustrate how the different combination of these can be planted in groups or styles, for different aspects in the garden such as shade, dry, wet or sunny aspects to achieve interest all year

**Members free - non members £3**



Sharing a love of gardening ... locally  
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**Why not come along and join us for a heart-warming soup lunch.**

**A Roll /Tea, Coffee and Homemade Cake included for just £5 per person.**

**A warm welcome is awaiting you and we look forward to seeing you on –**

**Thursday 21st May 12pm - 2pm at St Mary's Church room Sole Street**



## **Local Funding Group '24**



**COFFEE MORNING**

**ST MARY'S CHURCH ROOM**

**2ND THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH at 10.30am**

**Meet old Friends and make new Friends**

## **THE TUESDAY POP IN**

**Meetings are held at the Leather Bottle on the second Tuesday of the month from 10.30 till 12 noon; all are welcome to join us for a relaxed chat and coffee.**

**Next pop-in 12th May.**

**CONTACT: MARY PALMER—01474816788**



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## Thursday Fellowship.

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of May we will be welcoming Dr. Roz Oliver to speak about her work as a Volunteer at Rochester Prison. Sadly, her previous two bookings had to be cancelled and we continue to hope all will be well this time.

We meet as usual at 2.00.p.m. In the St. John's Centre, starting with a short time of worship and ending with Tea.

Everyone is very welcome so please do come along.



### **COBHAM AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY**

Presents an evening of comedy with two one act plays

#### **The New Patio**

Sarah's marriage to Jeffrey is effectively over, even before he emails her to say he's absconded with fraudulently earned riches. She shows the message to the police, but they find no evidence of the crime. Can she be planning to join him or has she instead formed a liaison with friendly builder Ted, who has just laid her new patio?

By Barry Lambert

By arrangement with Lazy Bee Scripts

#### **Sally's Last Chance**

Sally has had no luck with tracing her long-lost father, and is running out of options. Follow her efforts though this tale of hope, which includes some humour from a couple of loveable vagrants, as well as a bittersweet subplot involving a recovering alcoholic. Oh, and of course, a horse and an elephant making their holiday arrangements!

By Paul Amura

The Production will run Thurs 21<sup>st</sup>, Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> May at

The Meadow Room, The Street DA12 3BZ

Tickets £10.00-Box Office will open Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026 on

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## Sole Street WI

Three of our Sole Street members attended the WI West Kent Federation AGM on 18th March. This is one of the largest Federations with nearly 160 WI's and 6000 members. The third speaker, the producer of the television series "Grumpy Old Women", was particularly entertaining. Sole street members kindly donated plants to create baskets to sell at the AGM. One of our members worked her magic arranging them & they looked lovely.

On Thursday 24th March, we were delighted to welcome Marie to our monthly meeting, where she led a 'Sugar craft workshop.' Armed with a list of ingredients (and plenty of enthusiasm), members set to work creating delightful Easter bunnies. It was a thoroughly enjoyable and successful evening, with plenty of laughter along the way. We very much hope to welcome Marie back later in the year to guide us in making Christmas gongs.



Jayne Holden

# Lewis Solomon

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## Dates for your Diary

The dates for the **Cobham Parish Council** meetings are:

Annual Parish Meeting Tuesday 12th May Meadow Rooms at 7.30pm  
Tuesday 2nd June St Mary's Church Room at 7.30pm  
Tuesday 7th July Meadow Rooms at 7.30pm  
Tuesday 8th September St Mary's Church Room at 7.30pm  
Tuesday 6th October Meadow Rooms at 7.30pm  
Tuesday 3rd November St Mary's Church Room at 7.30pm  
Tuesday 1st December Meadow Rooms at 7.30pm

The dates for the **Luddesdown Parish Council** meetings are:

Annual Parish Meeting Mon 18th May Luddesdown Village Hall  
Monday 20th July Luddesdown Village Hall  
Monday 21st September Luddesdown Village Hall  
Monday 16th November Luddesdown Village Hall  
All meetings start at 7.30p



Meetings & Shows at the Meadow Room in Dickensian Cobham, Kent  
SatNav DA123BZ Registered Charity No 228007

**Saturday 13th June 2026 - 2:00-3.30pm**  
**Cobham Gardeners' Society**

# Summer Show & Plant Sale

Adult & Junior Show Categories  
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Colin Dickens 07460 242304 or  
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## **BELL RINGING by Peter Hartley**

In a 1962 photograph that hangs in our ringing room in Cobham church tower can be seen Sid Wood, blacksmith and Tower Captain, with his band of bell ringers. The band includes Graham and Simon Barnard. Cyril and Betty Barnard were a big part of village life and lived in Homelea in Halfpence Lane where they raised their three children Graham and the twins Simon and Cindy.

Now on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March we were ringing the Cobham bells for a service of celebration of the life of Lucinda who had married George Gough-Cooper in Cobham Church. Simon's ashes were interred in the lower churchyard on 3<sup>rd</sup> February this year exactly a year after his death. His twin Lucinda was present, though not feeling special. The next day Lucinda suddenly died.

With George and family a full church celebrated Lucinda's life and their wedding was recalled with spectacular flowers and Widor's organ music "Toccata". Afterwards I could thank George for his kind support of our bells and in The Leather Bottle I managed a word with Graham who remembered his singing in the choir and ringing up the tower.

I recall singing and ringing in Cobham Church in the sixties. Now an interregnum approaches in Meopham with Nurstead, Cobham with Luddesdowne and there is already an interregnum in Shorne with Ifield and the Church of the Holy Family, Gravesend. The Friends of Meopham and Cobham churches have both closed. We must look to the Bishop to make some inspirational appointments to reverse the managed decline.

Dame Fiona Reynolds, chair of the Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England, writes of her concern for the 20,000 beautiful and listed historic churches in the United Kingdom. The 2025 National Churches Survey reports 38% needing roof repairs and one in twenty congregations wondering if their buildings will be open for worship in 5 years' time. Lord Williams of Oystermouth, former Archbishop of Canterbury, doesn't "know whether the Anglican Communion will survive". He adds "What reassures me, what anchors me, is ultimately an act of faith, of theological conviction, that if God wants the Church to exist, the Church will exist". In numerous parishes and in Cobham the too few in faith continue to toil to ensure the church does exist. Churches need income and capital and people and leadership. Dame Fiona calls for bold and urgent new thinking at all levels of Church and State and society.

May be new times are coming.

Continued on Page 16

*Peter's article cont'd from previous page.*

Bells marked new times when Dame Sarah Mullally arrived at Canterbury Cathedral having walked the Pilgrim's Way from St. Paul's Cathedral. The next day, Lady Day, saw the first ever Installation of a female Archbishop of Canterbury when the Canterbury Cathedral Company of Ringers rang a full 3 hour peal of Grandsire Cinques on the Cathedral's 12 bells. Among countrywide ringing over the week four quarter peals were rung in Kent by all female bands of ringers. The sound of bells will accompany Dame Sarah on her mission ahead.

In due course Lucinda Gough-Cooper's ashes will be interred next to those of her twin Simon. The sound of the Cobham bells will float across them. In the east the sun will rise and light will shine and eternity becomes reality.

And now with every good wish for health and happiness to Alyson in her retirement and best wishes to bell ringing husband Martin and all generations of the family.

**Meopham Library Writing Group** meets again on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 10am**. Anyone who is interested in writing is warmly invited to join our small, friendly group and new members are always very welcome. Every month there is a different writing theme such as "Chocolate", which can be used as a starting point for a short story, poem or an article. Creative writing is a very enjoyable and sociable activity, which can also be used to record special family memories as well as being helpful for anyone facing difficult times. Please ring **01474 813379** for more information. Future meetings will be held on 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2<sup>nd</sup> July and 6<sup>th</sup> August.

The **1<sup>st</sup> South Street Boys Brigade and Girls Association Company** meet every Friday evening 6pm-7.30pm for boys and girls aged 5-18 years, at South Street Baptist Church, Wrotham Road, Meopham, DA13 0QJ(*next to Hope Hill*). New members are very welcome to join us for fun, craft, games and Bible stories. Please ring *01474 815039* or *01474 813379* for more information or visit [www.southstreetbaptist.org.uk](http://www.southstreetbaptist.org.uk) and [www.BOYS-BRIGADE.org.uk](http://www.BOYS-BRIGADE.org.uk) **SONG TIME** meets every Monday 9.45am-11am during term time for families with babies and toddlers. There are lots of different toys, art and craft, musical instruments and singing. **SOUTH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH** Sunday services start at 10.45am. All are welcome.



## Cobham Church

### Burial of ashes

Simon James BARNARD born on the 17<sup>th</sup> November 1947 and died on the 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025 at the age of 77 years old. Simon's funeral service took place on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at Hemel Hempstead Crematorium and on the 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025 a service of Celebration of Life was held at Holy Trinity Potten End. These services were conducted by The Rev'd Ben BRADY Vicar of Potten End.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2026 Simon's ashes were buried in Cobham's Garden of Remembrance. Mrs Alison HARDING (Licensed Lay Minister from Ash and Ridley) conducted this service. Our condolences and prayers go to Simon's wife Anna, son Simon Craig and his family, Simon's grandson Callum, and other family members.

### Funeral Service

Lucinda Sheilah GOUGH-COOPER (also known as Cindy, and the twin sister of Simon James BARNARD) was born on 17<sup>th</sup> November 1947 and died on the 4<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at the age of 78 years old. Lucinda's funeral service took place at Thames View Crematorium on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026 followed by a Celebration of Life service in Cobham church. Mrs Alison HARDING (Licensed Lay Minister from Ash and Ridley) conducted these services. Our condolences and prayers go to Lucinda's husband George, daughters Alix and Chloe and their families.

### Burial of ashes

Brian Michael VINALL died on the 14<sup>th</sup> January 2002 at the age of 69 years old and his wife Ruth Marie VINALL who died on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025 at the age of 90 years old. The service for the burial of their ashes took place on the 14<sup>th</sup> March 2026 where they were buried together in Cobham's Garden of Remembrance. The Rev'd Canon Alyson DAVIE (our Priest-in-charge) conducted the service. Our condolences and prayers go to Brian and Ruth's daughter Sandra, son Simon and their families.

### Burial of ashes

Brenda Morton MITCHELL was born on the 29<sup>th</sup> August 1926 and died on the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025 at the age of 99 years old. Brenda's ashes were buried with her husband Eric MITCHELL in Cobham's Garden of Remembrance on the 28<sup>th</sup> March 2026. The Rev'd Canon Chris STONE conducted the service. Our condolences and prayers go to Brenda's daughter Anna, son Peter and their families.

## St John's Meopham with St Mildred's Nurstead Church Services May 2026



- Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May      9.45am All Age Worship at St John's  
                                 11.30am Holy Communion at St Mildred's
- Weds 6<sup>th</sup> May      10am Holy Communion at St John's Centre
- Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May      10.30am Joint Morning Worship for Christian Aid  
                                 at St John's Meopham
- Weds 13<sup>th</sup> May      10am Holy Communion at St John's Centre
- Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May      9.45am Morning Worship at St John's  
                                 11.15am Churches Prayer Meeting at St John's Centre
- Weds 20<sup>th</sup> May      10am Holy Communion at St John's Centre
- Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May      Pentecost  
                                 9.45am Holy Communion at St John's  
                                 11.30am Family Service at St Mildred's
- Weds 27<sup>th</sup> May      10am Holy Communion at St John's Centre
- Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May      Trinity Sunday and marking Canon Alyson Davie's final  
                                 Sunday before retirement.  
                                 10.30am Joint Service of Holy Communion  
                                 for all four churches at St John's Meopham

**Cobham, Luddesdowne and Sole Street**  
**Church Services during May 2026**



**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May**

**10:30am**                      **Holy Communion (BCP), Luddesdowne**

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May**

**10:30am**                      **Holy Communion, Cobham**

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May**

**10:30am**                      **Holy Communion, Luddesdowne**

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May**

**10:30am**                      **Holy Communion, Cobham**

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May**

**10:30am**                      **Holy Communion, St John's Meopham**  
*(Joint service for all 4 Parishes)*

**Midweek services in Sole Street**

**St Mary's Church Room, Informal Morning Prayer**

**9:30am 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> May**



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## ALL IN ONE POST BOX!

Cobham has a “ new “all-in-one post box. Because of the conservation area there is no brand new box but a return of the original E.R.I I with a slightly mis-shapen upper quarters.

Now locals can post letters and shoe box size parcels in one go, all of which will be collected daily to hopefully match household letter delivery days!

Knitty Knatters beware of the new shape and how you will have to adapt your beautiful knitted arrangements to stay in position on the new top knot!

Rosemary Dymond



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## **National Biscuit Day – 29<sup>th</sup> May**

My secondary school was in Lee, SE London and just around the corner was the Chiltonian biscuit factory (known locally as Chilts), the smell was amazing and made us feel very hungry in the afternoon. My friend's mum worked in the office and would bring home a weekly box of broken biscuits. Such lovely memories of after school treats!

Sadly the factory is no longer there, I went past on the train recently and it had been replaced by an industrial estate. Oh well...

Did you know that Britain is the country with the highest biscuit consumption in the world? According to industry research, we each eat about 500 biscuits a year. And the great biscuit dunking debate - over which biscuit holds up best when dipped in tea – can spark surprisingly passionate discussion. Biscuits have been part of our daily lives for centuries. Their dose of sweet, tasty comfort is loved by 2-year-olds and 90-year-olds, and every age in between. And so National Biscuit Day is held each year to honour this beloved snack. Our national favourite seems to be the chocolate digestive, followed by shortbread and chocolate fingers. But don't underestimate the appeal of custard creams, hobnobs, chocolate chip and oatmeal cookies!

The McVitie's Digestive, first produced in 1892, is one of the most iconic biscuits in British history. Today, it remains a bestseller alongside other classics like the Rich Tea, the Bourbon, and the Jammie Dodger.

The word 'biscuit' comes from the Latin *panis biscotus*, meaning 'twice-cooked bread'. In Roman times, flour-based provisions were baked twice, to remove moisture, making them durable enough for long journeys. Ancient Egyptian sailors and Roman soldiers relied on these early biscuits as a portable, long-lasting food source.

The transformation from practical sustenance to sweet treat began around the seventh century, when Persian bakers added eggs, butter, cream, and eventually sugar and honey to their recipes, creating some of the earliest cookies in history. By the Middle Ages, biscuits had spread across Europe, with each region developing its own favourite. The Industrial Revolution brought mass production to the biscuit world. British firms like McVitie's, Huntley and Palmers, and Carr's produced biscuits on an unprecedented scale. In 1831, Huntley and Palmers even invented the decorative biscuit tin, which not only kept biscuits fresh but also made them an attractive gift item.

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## North Kent Embroiderers



We had an extremely interesting talk this month, given by a lady with a passion for historical embroidery tools and the containers they were kept in. Jean Surrey explained how originally sewing tools were so precious that they were kept attached to the owner's person, eventually in something called a 'chatelaine'. When fashions changed so that the tools couldn't be kept in clothing, the idea of a small box became popular. In the 1860's workboxes came with keys and were therefore a secret place to hide for example, love letters. Such a box might include a mirror, a little bottle of perfume, a manicure set or a seal for stamping letters. Most ladies would only own one or at most, two needles as they were hugely expensive but it was extremely important for a lady to be able to sew her own clothes and to look good in them! Jean told us that needles were originally made in the City of London, but the industry was moved away after the Great Fire of London as the process was felt to be too risky. Needle making was transferred to Redditch. In 1851, The Great Exhibition introduced the needle threader to the general public – a particularly useful device still used by many today.

As time went by needlework boxes became less popular and by the start of World War I women were more likely to be mending fabric rather than sewing new pieces but many beautifully decorated boxes remain today as giving us a glimpse into a bygone era.

The theme for our postcard swap this month was 'farm link' The scary scarecrow is an example of one of the cards produced. This will be the last postcard swap for the time being.

If you or someone you know would maybe like to start a new hobby and to join our group or would just like to find out a bit more about us then please pay us a visit - look at our website:

[northkentembroiderers.co.uk/](http://northkentembroiderers.co.uk/)

or email us at: [info@northkentembroiderers.co.uk](mailto:info@northkentembroiderers.co.uk)

or contact our Chairman, Eileen on 01474 324734

Happy stitching, Karen All photos with permission.



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## **COBHAM & LUDESDOWN W.I.**

Spring is a glorious time of the year, when our gardens literally spring into life with beautiful flowers and trees coming into bloom. This was evidenced in the entries displayed in our annual Spring Show on 1st April, when the Meadow Room was filled with the results of our members' hard work in producing a wonderful show of narcissi, tulips, pansies and other spring flowers, along with some delightful flower arrangements and delicious baking and preserves.

Our judges; Su Rowe, who judged the flowers and floral arrangements, and Geraldine Cracknell, who judged the baking and preserves, had a really hard job in deciding which of the entries were the best but they had no hesitation in awarding Anne Greenstreet's delightful and amusing easter floral table decoration as 'Judge's Choice'. Anne's display had already been awarded a first place.

The judges gave a summary of the show, together with some useful advice for the future. Awards were presented to Carol Callis, who gained most points in the 'Spring Flowers' section, with Molly Neville in second place and Ann Clarke in third; to Marilyn Haigh, who won the 'Crystal Rose Bowl' award for flower arranging, with Lin Tarrant second and Sandra Booth third. In the baking and preserves section, first place went to Anne Tobutt, with Molly Neville in second place and Marilyn Haigh, Ann Clarke and Jan Dickson sharing third place.

Marilyn Haigh, however, was awarded the silver salver for most points overall, with Molly Neville in second place and Sandra Booth third. Our 'arty crafty' ladies are now looking forward to our Autumn Show on 4th November when they will be able to display all of their hard work and hopefully win a trophy for their mantelpiece.

Next month's meeting will take place at 2pm on Wednesday 6th May. This will be our Annual Meeting, when members will hear summaries of our activities over the past year and have the opportunity to vote for their president and committee for 2026/7. The two shortlisted Annual Resolutions will also be discussed and a vote taken on how members wish their link delegate to vote at the W.I.'s National AGM, which will be on 4th June.

**Luddesdown & District Rights of Way Group.**

We are a small friendly group that usually walks from The Cock Inn, Henley Street, Luddesdown, Gravesend DA13 0XB, at 11am on Wednesdays. We walk at a gentle pace for some 90 minutes in beautiful countryside. Occasionally we lead weekend walks. With four Socials a year in Luddesdown Village Hall and a twice yearly Newsletter, we would be delighted if you joined us for a walk or two. Becoming a member costs £7 per person a year. Please contact Walks Co-ordinator Janet Ferguson, preferably at [janetferguson@hotmail.fr](mailto:janetferguson@hotmail.fr) . Ian Sheridan, Acting Chairman, 07951 927 517

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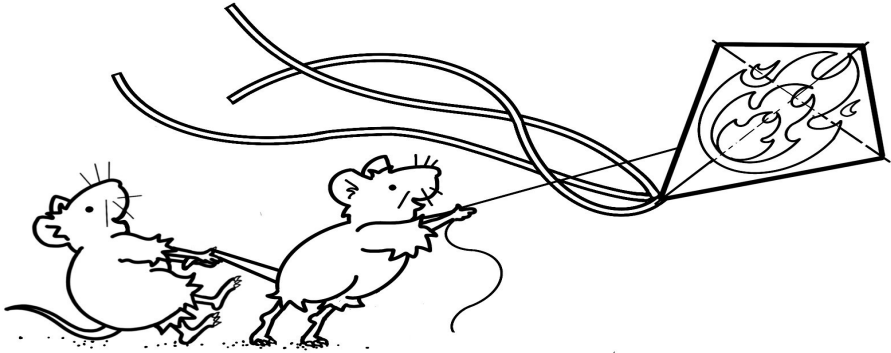
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## Sunday Afternoon Club

3.00pm on Sunday Afternoons in the St John's Centre  
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For Children up to age 12 and their adults.



Hello everyone

You won't believe this, but the vet said I was carrying a bit of weight!  
I know it is only puppy fat, but I am being very good at sticking to my diet  
and I have lost a couple of kgs, although the low-fat  
treats aren't much to write home about- grrrr!

The vet also mentioned that I had something on my  
teeth so now I always remember to brush my teeth  
before I retire for the night. I have a lovely blue tooth-  
brush that fits on the editor's finger she puts this  
special gel on it and brushes my teeth, but if she isn't  
quick enough I lick it all off, well it does taste of liver,  
so what's a dog to do?

See you soon, love and licks - Paddy



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**Notices found in church newsletters -  
that didn't quite come out right!**



Barbara remains in the hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of the vicar's sermons.

The Rector will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing: 'Break Forth Into Joy.'

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married last weekend in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their schooldays.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Ladies are requested not to have children in the church kitchen.

For those who have children and don't know it, we have a crèche and nursery in the crypt.

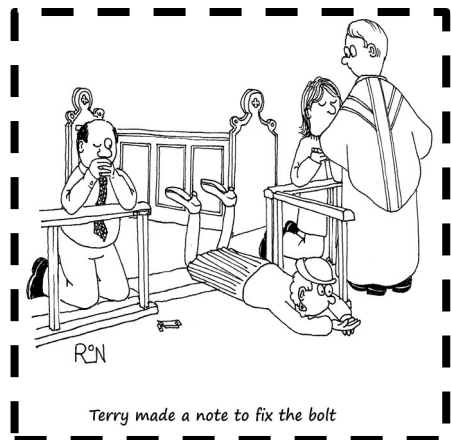
Don't let worry kill you. Let the church help!

The organist invites any members of the congregation who enjoy sinning to volunteer for the choir.

At the church meeting last week, the rector spoke briefly and delighted the audience.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick both of our church and the community.

Smile at someone who you find hard to love. Say 'hell' to someone who doesn't much care about you.





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