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Cobham & Luddesdowne April 2020 News



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Organist

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SUBMISSIONS Cobham and Luddesdowne News is a community magazine that is produced by and for the residents of Cobham, Sole Street and Luddesdowne. We welcome all contributions and the editor's decision on what is included is final. Please submit any articles to the editor by the 5th of the month.

Cobham Parish Council Meeting Dates

Annual Parish Assembly-Mon 6th April 2020 - Meadow Rooms

Annual Parish Council Meeting-Monday 4th May 2020 -St Mary's Church Room

Mon 8th June 2020 – Meadow Rooms

Mon 6th July 2020 – Meadow Rooms

Monday 7th September 2020 – St Mary's Church Room

Monday 5th October 2020 – St Mary's Church Room

Monday 2nd November 2020 – St Mary's Church Room

Luddesdowne Parish Council meetings.

Monday 18th May 2020 - Parish Meeting

All meetings are held at Luddesdown Village Hall.

Weekly Mini-Bus Service to Gravesend Timetable

Cobham Parish Council sponsors a mini-bus service to the St George's Shopping Centre in Gravesend. The service operates on Thursdays and the fare is £2.00 single or £4.00 return. The service is free of charge to holders of a valid bus pass.

To Gravesend		From Gravesend
Sallows Shaw – The Beeches	09.34	12.59
Sallows Shaw o/s No.73	09.35	13.00
Sole Street – Scratton Fields	09.38	12.54
Cobham New College	09.45	12.47
Cobham Church	09.47	12.45
Henhurst	09.50	12.42
Gravesend Railway Station	10.02	—
Gravesend St George's Centre	10.04	12.30

Further information is available from the Clerk to the Council Mrs T Sampson
Tel. 01474 815598 E-mail clerk@cobham-kent-pc.gov.uk



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This magazine, and all the service sheets etc. that you see in our churches are printed by Cobham and Luddesdowne Churches. If you are interested in getting your printing done in colour or black & white to this quality, with a fast turnaround at highly competitive prices, then let us quote for your work.

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Contact Janet Weaver on 01732 823936

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The Monday Club

Why not come and join us?
We meet every Monday afternoon from 1.30 to 3.30 pm.
We enjoy many activities; such as quizzes, speakers and lunches out (often at reduced prices!).
We meet at St Mary's Church Room and transport, although limited, is available if needed. Please contact Brian Williams on 01474 814049 for further details. I look forward to seeing you soon.



Iris White.

Hello to all our regular readers and to all the additional recipients of this Easter magazine.

I hope you will find all the information about the events taking place around the parish useful. Coming up - we have special commemorations around VE Day, Dickens events on the 150th anniversary of his death, not to mention the Cobham Amateur Dramatic Society's latest production and as always excellent music events taking place at the church. Additionally you will find info about various local fundraising events too.

The longer days are wonderful and it really is starting to feel like the worst of the weather is behind us! Keep well.

Have a lovely Easter.. Tina



SOLE STREET WI CELEBRATION OF VE DAY AFTERNOON TEA

Sat 9th May 2-4pm St Mary's
Church Rm.
(VE fancy dress optional)

LETTER FROM THE VICAR



Dear Reader, Happy Easter

As I sit to write this we are enjoying a rare day of sunshine: it certainly does improve the sense of well being. It is also my son's 40th birthday today and I am waiting for a parcel to arrive before I can take his gift over to him. I hope that he likes his gift, and I hope that it arrives soon.

Because I need to write this letter a whole month before it goes to print, I am writing during Lent, the season in the church calendar that leads up to Easter, Lent is usually a 40 day period of fasting and prayer as we recall all that Jesus went through for us as he made his way to the cross. The bible tells us that 'Jesus set out resolutely for Jerusalem'. He set out for Jerusalem knowing what awaited him there. He knew that he would encounter a false trial, beatings and mocking and that he would eventually die a horrid death on a cross. YET, he still went.

I don't know if any of us truly understand the great sacrifice he made, perhaps we might feel unworthy of such a sacrifice? But the truth is, Jesus set out deliberately to offer his life as a ransom for you and me. Why? Because it was the only way to save us; You see, because of that great sacrifice made on our behalf, God the father accepts the life of Jesus laid down, in place of our death. That means that God the Father accepts us as cleansed from sin, it is the shed blood of Jesus that washes away our sin.

It is amazing to think that we can be forgiven for every single wrong word or thing we have ever done. But it doesn't just stop there, Jesus death on the cross dealt with every-thing that seeks to bring us down. Things like guilt, shame, anxiety, fear and worthlessness. We do not have to remain captive to any of these emotions because Jesus died to set us free. Jesus came to give us life, life in all its fullness, what a wonderful gift. I hope that my son will be pleased with the gift that I will take him later today, but that is nothing like the gift that Jesus gave to us, when he died on that cross in our place. He couldn't have given more; he gave all that he had. He gave his life.

I cannot imagine my son not wanting my gift. It would be horrid if he just took it and put it on the shelf without opening it and left it there. He wouldn't do that but so many of us do that with the gift of God.

Hoppy Easter everyone...

Hope you have fun and receive lots of Easter treats!

I took a peek at the Sole Street village Facebook page the other day and noticed that there are some dogs and other animals that are being searched for and I get so sad to think of how worried their families must be. There are also other animals from a rehoming centre looking for their forever home, just like I did once. I am lucky to live so comfortably so I do hope that the little chappies on the Facebook find a home too, after all we all need to feel safe and loved don't we....

Love and licks Harvey



Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Luke 22: 24, John 13: 3-17

Jesus and his disciples were celebrating the Passover with the special meal. The disciples were bickering again.

I'm most important because I've known him the longest!
But I'm the oldest!
I've given up the most to follow him!

There was a reason why no-one wanted to be the least important - the roads were mud and everyone's feet got very dirty.

It was the job of the least important servant to wash everyone's feet...

The disciples didn't have a servant, and none of them wanted to do the feet washing...

Jesus took off his outer robe and tied a towel around his waist.

He filled a large bowl with water and started washing the disciples' feet.

Peter couldn't believe what he was seeing!
Are you really going to wash my feet?

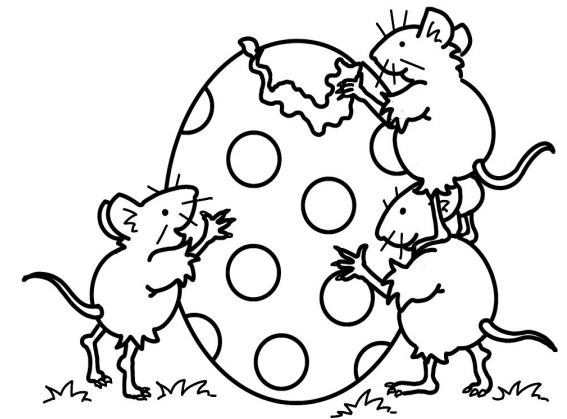
You will understand later why I am doing this.
I can't ever let you serve me like this!

If you don't let me, you will no longer be my disciple.
Then wash all of me!

If you've had a bath, then you only need your feet washing!

Once Jesus had washed all their feet, he put his robe back on and sat down.

Do you understand why, your teacher, did this? I am setting you the example of how you are to serve each other. Do it, and God will bless you.





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Knowing what Jesus went through in order to give us life really does need a response from us. Although Jesus did everything to save us, we do have to make a response to this great sacrifice. Accepting this gift is the first step, opening this gift and looking at it is the next step. And giving thanks for this gift is the least that we can do. A gift has no value if you don't open it and Jesus wants everyone to receive his gift and take possession of it. It is like he has written us a huge cheque, but unless we cash it in it will not benefit us.

Not only that but the sooner we open the gift the sooner we will benefit from it. It is no good leaving it on the shelf until the last minute, until we are near death or on our last legs. We may certainly benefit from the gift of eternal life even if we do leave it until the last minute but we will have missed all the benefits in-between. Looking back to before I became a Christian I am just so thankful that I opened the gift of God when I did. The difference that Jesus has made to my life is amazing. The peace, the love, the strength that he has given me throughout my life is just wonderful. I don't know how I would have coped with some things without knowing the love and strength of God.

So this Easter why not come to church and learn more about God's amazing gift that he holds out to you. I promise you, you will never regret saying yes to Jesus. He doesn't come to ruin your life, he comes to give you abundant life. Come and see for yourself.

Blessings Reverend Angela Walker

With grateful thanks from Luddesdowne Church and WaterAid

At Luddesdowne's Carol by Candlelight service a collection was taken and half of this was going to WaterAid and half to the church. On behalf of the church I would like to thank you for your donations to the church in the sum of £128.84 and for your support to keep our church going.. An extract from WaterAid's letter:-

'Dear Miss Weaver,

We recently received the gift of £128.85 from Luddesdowne Parochial Church Council, and wanted to thank you all so much for your generosity.

For girls like Lucy and Nancy, clean water will mean everything. Instead of having to walk for water, they will be able to play and dance as all little girls their age should.

The gift from Luddesdowne PCC will help us to install a tapstand in Tombohuaun, bringing a reliable source of clean water to the village. We'll also train the community on how to look after their new water supply so it lasts for the long term.

The amazing support from groups like yours is transforming lives around the world. We're looking forward to bringing good news from Tombohuaun as the community turn on their new taps for the very first time!

With warm regards and many thanks, Katrina Kilkenny (Community Team, WaterAid)'

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Darren Lawrence
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This year is the 150th anniversary of Charles Dickens's death and events will be happening around some of his old stomping grounds. The following extract has been taken from the visit Gravesend website.

An interactive walk with characters through Cobham Village

Charles Dickens created some of the greatest characters in literature, and they are so plentiful they cover almost all walks of life. Some have even become part of the English language. Dickens' much-loved characters, often drawn from and based on real life people, although sharply defined, often grotesque or comical, greatly contribute to keep his work still alive today. They leap off the pages of his books which make them so easily adaptable to performances.

Dickens himself toured the world, performing scenes from his own work on stage but he was also a great walker and one of his routes was through the picturesque village of Cobham.

And there we have the recipe for our production: A walk through Cobham village, during which the audience will encounter some of Dickens's most memorable characters. Experience a chilling interaction with the jilted Miss Havisham, endure a lesson with sadistic schoolmaster Wackford Squeers and dodge being pickpocketed by the workhouse boys, to name a few.

The performance will start at Owletts and finish- like all good walks- in the village pub, The Leather Bottle.

Date: Saturday 6 June **Time:** performances will happen between 11am and 6pm (lunch break at 1pm) **Price:** £10 per person **Booking:** Booking is essential by calling Visit Gravesend Information Centre on 0144 33 76 00 or emailing info@visitgravesend.co.uk For a full diary of events visit <https://www.visitgravesend.co.uk/dickens-150/>

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Gravesham Choral Society & Orchestra

Rochester Cathedral

7:30pm Saturday 18 April 2020

Mendelssohn

HYMN of PRAISE

Mendelssohn wrote his exhilarating cantata, *Hymn of Praise*, in 1840 to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the invention of printing. The words are from Luther's translation of the Old Testament; but we're using the English edition prepared by Alfred Novello for Birmingham Festival's performance later that year.

Our soloists in *Hymn of Praise* are Helen Lacey and Ellen Pearson (sopranos), and Stephen Anthony Brown, who is not only our tenor soloist but also a genius at re-scoring major choral works for smaller orchestra. This he has kindly done especially for tonight's all-Mendelssohn concert to enable good choir/orchestra balance in the resonant acoustic of Rochester Cathedral.

I warmly invite you, your family and friends to join us for an evening of magical music by Mendelssohn—Alan Vincent – conductor
Tickets at £15 or £5 (full-time students) are available in advance on 01474 816684, from members of Gravesham Choral Society or on the door

Meopham Medical Centre Health and Well Being Walks

Every Thursday from the Centre at 2pm.

The local walks vary from 3 to 4 miles and finish at the Centre at 4pm.

Please note that although the walk leader takes care with the planning and execution of the walks, anyone taking part does so at their own risk. For more information contact the Centre on: 01474 814811/814288



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Musings of an Ordinand

Do you consider yourself to be wise?

In a talk I heard recently the speaker described knowledge as knowing that tomatoes are fruit and wisdom as not putting them in a fruit salad! I have a number of qualifications to my name and currently seem to be producing endless essays, these demonstrate that I have knowledge. But as every teacher knows there is a big difference between knowing something (or how to do something) and being able to teach it to someone else. For example, I have no difficulty reading myself, but I wouldn't really know where to start trying to teach someone else to read. Another speaker told us that true wisdom is knowing what to do when you don't know what to do – having a strategy to draw on when you meet a problem for the first time. These days Google seems to know everything, but of course wisdom is knowing when I can trust what Google says – the Internet contains a huge amount of biased and incorrect information. Even our news services now seem to present us with an increasingly biased view.

The Bible speaks of wisdom being a woman who 'calls out in the marketplace' (Proverbs 1:20). Wisdom is described as 'more precious than rubies, for nothing compares with her' (Proverbs 8:11). What, in the Bible, is wisdom? Proverbs 9:10 tells us that wisdom is to fear God. This is not a frightening fear but recognising who God is, how awesome and powerful he is and how tiny and weak I am in comparison. Tiny and weak, but not insignificant or forgotten. For the message of the Bible is that God loves us, not because of who we are but because of his very nature. He created us, knows everything we do, say and even think and yet still loves us more than we could ever imagine. The more I read, the more I study the Bible, the more I realise that I really don't understand God. He is truly beyond my human understanding. That's why wisdom is not knowing everything about God; but knowing God. For, as Paul writes, even God's foolishness is far wiser than man's wisdom (1 Corinthians 1:25).

As I approach the end of my course and prepare for my Ordination in September, I am becoming increasingly aware of just how little I know and how many questions I still don't know the answers to. But I do know that God knows and that he loves me and answers prayer. So, my strategy when I don't know what to do is to pray and ask God for help. Does that make me wise?

Dave Bubb



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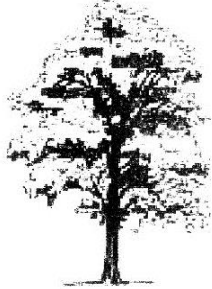
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Meopham Library Writing Group

Meopham Library Writing Group meets again at **10am** on **Thursday 2nd April**.

Anyone who enjoys writing, either as a beginner or a more experienced writer, is invited to join us at Meopham Library on the first Thursday of each month. Visitors and new members are always very welcome. The meetings are free and end at about midday, with a short break for refreshments at 11am.

Each month, there is a different writing theme, which can be interpreted as a poem, an article or a short story of up to 1000 words. Recent writing themes have included, "The Truth Will Out", "The House" and "A Chance Meeting". There is also a writing challenge, when up to a dozen words, chosen by writing group members, are used to make several short, sensible sentences.

For more information about the writing group, please ring **01474 813379**, or just turn up at the library at 10am on Thursday 2nd April 2020.

The following writing group meetings are on; 7th May, 4th June and 2nd July.



The **1st South Street Boys Brigade and Girls Association Company** meets every Friday evening during term time, from 6pm until 7.30pm at South Street Baptist Church, Wrotham Road, Meopham, DA13 0QJ, which is next to Hope Hill Scout Camp. The Easter Holidays will be on Friday 10th April and Friday 17th April. Young people, aged between five and eighteen years old, are invited to come and join in the fun. Activities each week include; games, quizzes, craft, ropes and knot tying, sand pictures and learning about the world around us. The weekly subscription is £2 and the inexpensive uniform consists of a navy polo shirt and a red or navy sweatshirt with embroidered badges.

There will be weekend camps at Honey Hill Camp, near Maidstone, for the older children and teenagers, in June and July. There are also opportunities to experience canoeing and kayaking during the summer months, at the BB Water Sports Centre in Maidstone, on Wednesday evenings.

For more information about the company, please ring the church telephone number **01474 815039** and leave a message. Alternatively, visit South Street Baptist Church website at: www.southstreetbaptist.org.uk

To find out more about the **Boys Brigade**, please visit the Boys Brigade national website at: www.BOYS-BRIGADE.ORG.UK



Meetings & Shows at the Meadow Room in Dickensian Cobham, Kent
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Saturday 4th April 2020 - 2:00-4:00pm
Cobham Gardeners Society

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SOLE STREET W.I.

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INSPIRING WOMEN

At our February meeting Hartley Owls - four of them to be exact - honoured us with their presence together with our speaker Neil Moseley. He and his wife have been rescuing these beautiful birds at their aviaries in Hartley for over 15 years. They were awesome creatures and we ladies were transfixed when Neil introduced them individually and they perched on our gloved arms.

First there was "Blueberry", a Barn Owl or "Ghost Owl", so called because they often find their prey in churchyards/graveyards, so associated with evil spirits. He was a lovely white and light brown colour with fixed eyes and no visible ears - a calm and friendly presence. Then we met "Mouse", 18 years old, a small South African Eagle Owl (African version of our Tawny Owl) with yellow eyes and ear tufts but not ears for display or camouflage. Extremely cute. Next there was "Indie", a white faced Scops or South African Devil Bird, 5 months old & only 450 grms, with amber eyes. Finally, having made his presence felt by hooting loudly and bounding about in his box throughout Neil's presentation, came "Abbot", a huge European Eagle Owl - the largest species of owl in the world - a magnificent bird, weighing in at nearly 10 lbs with 1-2m wing span and ability to exert 300 lbs pressure through his razor sharp talons. He was very regal but behaved impeccably when introduced to members individually. Before returning to his box he spread his huge wings and hugged Neil, nuzzling his beak under Neil's chin. Extraordinary display and very endearing.

The subject of our scheduled speaker Susan Shaw on Tuesday 24 March "An Adventure in Peru". In April there is no formal meeting as members traditionally celebrate our Institute's birthday with a luncheon, on this occasion at "The George", Trottscliffe. Other social events included a visit to Barbara Macnish's garden to see the snowdrops and take refreshments, performances of "South Pacific" and "Riverdance" at Bluewater Showcase Cinema and coffee morning at White Finch barn, Bloomfield Farm.

Sole Street WI will be providing refreshments for the Local Fund Raising Group "Blossom Tour" on 26 April and, as previously announced, be holding an Afternoon Tea in celebration of VE Day on Saturday 9 May, St Mary's Church Room in aid of "Help For Heroes". Home made WI produce for sale. Gala of traditional games for children in adjoining gazebo (weather permitting). Admission free. Come and join in the fun !!

Molly Isaacs

COBHAM & LUDESLOWNE W.I.

Unfortunately our booked speaker, had to cancel at short notice, however, our programme organiser, Mrs J Beety looked through the W.I. speakers handbook, so we were delighted to welcome Mr Michael Bunn, who stepped in at short notice. Michael's talk with power point presentation was a really excellent travelogue of his travels through the 'cowboy states' of America. The photos of the Rockies and all the different landscapes he and his wife travelled through on their route, were really stunning. His talk flowed along and we felt we were there travelling through the townships, deserted highways, odd tourist stops, plus several North American Indian rest sites, and seeing the amazing, really vast rock formations scoured by centuries of wind, weather, sand storms and possibly the Ice Age. Several mountain routes to reach some of these astonishing sites, were simply hair raisingly scary.

Two members, Mrs Sheila Ralph and Mrs June Woodham won the annual Pancake race organised by Istead Rise .W.I. and brought the delightful trophy to show members.

Our Resolution choice was sent to H.Q. Our Resolution with the most votes was to 'end modern slavery.' Anita Bird has volunteered to attend the Annual Conference on behalf of our Institute. We learned at the meeting that the two popular choices will be debated by the relevant experts. 'Stem Cell donation' and 'end to modern Slavery.'

All Art, Craft and Embroiders groups and individual members are busy completing items for the April Spring Show. Over the festive season, sales, via Cobham Community Store from several items, made by members of the Knit & Natter group added £67 to funds.

With help from ladies in Cobham College who donated crotched/ knitted squares and wool which have been made into much appreciated blankets, fiddle cushions by the group, these are donated to Darenth Valley Hospital to ease the distress of Dementia patients. It has been agreed by the group that this is an on-going project, until Darenth Valley Hospital advises that they have sufficient. As the blankets are given to the patients on leaving hospital, this is a never ending, and worthwhile project. Odd balls of wool and pieces of material, unwanted keys, zips, bits of Velcro etc – in fact anything tactile always welcomed by the group who will turn these surplus items and material into the fiddle muffs, fiddle cushions and blankets which give something positive and comforting to patients, and therefore their families. Read & Rabbit having discussed 'Camino Island by John Grisham are now reading 'The Killing House' by Claire McGowan.

Bookworms discussed 'The Taxidermist Daughter' by Kate Mosse. A very skilful writer. An intriguing dark, Gothic tale. It has been suggested that there is scope for more groups to be introduced for members, e.g. a beginners Craft group, a cinema / theatre group, amblers / walking group and a poetry group. Just need members willing to organise them. The next meeting, in The Meadow Room is on Wednesday 1st April at 2pm, the annual Spring Show. Entries to arrive from 9.30-a.m. Visitors welcome. £2. For information about meetings, tel: 01474 814253.



April - Sunshine and showers

Spring is finally in evidence as daffodils and flowering trees start to bloom. Expect the inevitable April showers this month but with sunny days too, when you can turn your attention to the lawn. It's an exciting month, with indoor-sown seeds well into growth, and it's also time to start sowing outdoors. Just watch out for frosts...

Here's the RHS Top 10 Jobs for April.

- 1 Keep weeds under control
- 2 Protect fruit blossom from late frosts
- 3 Tie in climbing and rambling roses
- 4 Sow hardy annuals and herb seeds
- 5 Start to feed citrus plants
- 6 Increase the water given to houseplants
- 7 Feed hungry shrubs and roses
- 8 Sow new lawns or repair bare patches
- 9 Prune fig trees
- 10 Divide bamboos and waterlilies

Saturday 4th April 2020 at 2:00pm sees the doors of the Meadow Room, Cobham thrown open for viewing of the Cobham Gardeners Spring Show.

Entrance to view the adult & junior members' entries in the various show categories (Flowers, Vegetables, Preserves & Photographic) during the afternoon is free to the general public. And there's more! To make it an afternoon out, expert members are on hand to answer gardening questions and sell afternoon tea & cake at very reasonable prices. There will be a plant sale in the Meadow Room car park.109

Wednesday 13th May 2020 at 7:30pm – expert speaker talk on 'How to grow Fuchsias' by meal winning cultivationist Nick Dobson who will talk at the Meadow Room Cobham on the all year round skills involved in growing fuchsias (perhaps from your own cuttings).

Entrance is free for Members and just £3 for non members. You'll be able to sign up for Membership on the day. It's only a modest £8 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.

For further details visit www.cobhamgardeners.com

Chair Liz Jardine and all of the committee look forward to meeting new and perhaps lapsed –members at the Gardeners Spring Show.

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Community Warden Don't forget that you can meet your community warden on the 1st Friday of each month in St Mary's Church Room from 10 am to 11 am. Please go along if you have any concerns about crime or antisocial behaviour in the Parish. www.kent.gov.uk/communitywardens

LUDESDDOWN MAY FAIR
(Organised by the Luddesdown Society)

Due to the bank holiday being moved for the VE DAY anniversary.

Luddesdown May Fair will be held on Saturday 9th May.

The Luddesdown Society are looking for volunteers to set up and run the stalls. They would very much appreciate donations of items (in good condition please) for the Bric a Brac stall as well as cakes, books, bottles and plants.

From the Registers

Funeral

Phyllis Rose JONES was born on the 6th October 1924 and died on the 13th January 2020 at the age of 95 years old.

Phyllis's funeral took place on the 13th February 2020 at Thames View Crematorium. Our sympathy and prayers go to Phyllis's son Philip, daughters Jen and Josie and their families and friends.

Cobham's Register

Funeral

Denise Sonia HAVER was born on the 1st July 1953 and died on the 7th January 2020 at the age of 66 years old.

Denise's funeral took place in Cobham church on the 7th February 2020 followed by a private service for the family at Thames View Crematorium. Our sympathy and prayers go to Denise's husband Steve, family and friends.

Interment of Ashes

Dorothy Marion THOMAS, who died on the 2nd January 2020 at the age of 87 years old, had her ashes interred in Cobham's Garden of Remembrance on the 26th February 2020.

Funeral

Carole Pauline WILSON was born on the 12th May 1939 and died on the 1st February 2020 at the age of 80 years old. Carole's funeral took place at Cobham church on the 27th February 2020, followed by committal at Thames View Crematorium. The Service was taken by Reverend Canon Chris Stone.

Our sympathy and prayers go to Carole's son Mark, family and friends.

Luddesdowne's Register

Funeral

Margaret Sheila STEVENS was born on the 14th June 1932 and died on the 3rd January 2020 at the age of 87 years old. Margaret's funeral took place at Luddesdowne church on the 12th February 2020 followed by burial in the churchyard. Our sympathy and prayers go to Margaret's daughter Lisa, family and friends.



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VE DAY COMMEMORATIONS

Friday 8th May—A memorial service will take place at 10.00 -10.30, by the War memorial followed by refreshments.

At 19.00 the Cobham Bell ringers will ring a Quarter peel of the church bells.

Our beautiful church will be flood lit for the whole weekend.

Visit the sports field for a bonfire and BBQ from 20.00

The Leather Bottle will be holding a 1940's evening

Saturday 9th May- Sole Street WI will be holding a 1940's Tea Party in the Church Room 14.00-17.00

Sunday 10th May – A display of village histories and memories will be on display in the College 11.00 – 17.00. A re-enactment group in costume will be there.

The Kent Archaeological group will display their discoveries from WWII.
A competition will take place for the best 1940's costume.
Tea will also be available.

The Parish pump and the school will be decorated and I hope that the houses along The Street and Sole Street will enter in to the spirit of the commemoration by decorating their house frontage with bunting - and why not start preparing for this year's front of house competition; the theme of which is "WHITE, BLUE and RED". (email the clerk at clerk@cobham-kent-pc.gov.uk to take part in the front of house competition).

Rosemary Dymond



MUNCHIES ON THE MEADOW

Munchie's will once again be taking place and raising funds in support of the Meadow Rooms.

Saturday 2nd May 20 11.30 am to 18.00

For more info visit. <http://www.munchiesfestival.com/>

BELL RINGING by Peter Hartley

Sunday, 2nd February Candlemas and we rang for the usual Cobham service. Then at teatime I commuted again to Crayford. Leaving the tranquillity of my mediaeval chantry building I flung myself into the maelstrom of the A2. How is it that four lanes in each direction are full of traffic on a late Sunday afternoon? Being a Gravesend born boy I remember the Watling Street being one lane each way with a heart stopping overtaking lane in the middle. And the Gravesend/Tilbury car ferry was so exciting, after long delays, as we looked down into the engine room and saw men shovelling coal into the great steam engine. Then the Dartford Crossing had one tunnel, then another tunnel plus a bridge and the A2 became dual carriageway and moved and even wider. Always traffic has swamped the infrastructure. Now we are invited to again consider the Lower Thames Crossing in a supplementary consultation. What will 2028 look like when the new Crossing might (?) all be built and opened?

Digressions are fatal in bell ringing and hopelessly muddle the ordered pattern of changes so back to Crayford and the parish church. We were to ring a quarter peal of Candlemas Doubles. After five minutes there was a confusion (always a risk) and we began again. This time all went well and the four working bells skilfully made Old Singles whenever the conductor frequently called 'single'. The quarter peal achieved we then joined Father Paul and his family in the Rectory for a Candlemas party for the organist, choir members, servers and bell ringers.

Friday, 7th February was a day of sunshine and snowdrops. Our bells joyfully rang out as people gathered in the church for the funeral of Denise Haver when we could remember and rejoice in the life of Denise. By the time I came down the tower it was standing room only in the church for the Denise's life had gladdened the hearts of so very many. John Jackson gave an affectionate tribute bringing smiles to all. Denise was born in Cobham Hall. She was slow to learn to talk and then never stopped. Denise and Steve with John and Michelle had trips to various European cities. Invariably Denise would get lost and always turn up again at the centre of a party. We all came out of the church to the song 'Rabbit' by Chas & Dave with grins on our faces.

We streamed across the road into The Leather Bottle which kindly had been made available for the reception. Packed inside we talked endlessly, shared memories and enjoyed a glass or three of merlot. In the late afternoon the village reverberated to the bangs and thumps of fireworks. It had been a sparkling day for a sparkling person.



COBHAM AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY

Presents

Give Us A Sign A comedy by Tony Domaille.

Ken Lockwood has been out of work for months and really needs some cash, so he decides to set himself up as a clairvoyant. As a salesman, he has always persuaded people to buy things they don't need, so it shouldn't be too difficult to make some money "talking" to the dead? Unfortunately for Ken after the death of a prominent professor, he attracts the attention of the KGB, CIA and MI5 who have very different ideas and Ken finds himself in the middle of a rather difficult situation.

The production will run from

May the 21st to 23rd in the Meadow Room, Cobham. DA12 3BZ

Tickets £8

Box Office opens 20th April 2020 Phone 01474 814250

Bar opens at 7.30pm Curtain up 8pm

Ample free parking

THE TEMPEST

SUNDAY 19 APRIL 7.30pm, St Mary's Church, Lower Higham

A tale of revenge, love and forgiveness! Classical language combines with live music and choral sea shanties to bring what is thought to be the bard's final play to life.

"For twelve years Prospero, the rightful duke of Milan, has dwelt on an island after his brother Antonio betrayed him and cast him adrift in a small boat. For twelve years he has plotted revenge on those who overthrew him.". Tickets £12.50, (concessions available) from thisismytheatre.com/tickets or from stmaryschurchhigham.com or phone 07762 054688

SPRING DANCE

SATURDAY 25 APRIL, 7.30PM

An evening of jazz, swing, jive, boogie and rock&roll at Higham Memorial Hall, School Lane, Higham, ME37JL. Come and dance the night away, or just sit and tap your toes while you listen to the wonderful sound of the Dave Bowdler Quartet. There will be a licensed bar for drinks and light snacks. Tickets are £12.50. To reserve tickets email: friends@stmaryschurchhigham.com or phone 01634 712217.



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"Call a chimney sweep not the Fire Brigade"

Sunday 9th February and Storm Ciara was one of the reasons we were only 4 ringers to ring for morning service. However we did manage to ring Plain Bob Minimus and Reverse Canterbury Places Minimus (for the first time).

The full name of the method indicates the number of bells ringing the particular method named so this table may be of interest when (!!) you are listening to Bells on Sunday on Radio 4 at 5:40 a.m.

Even Bell Methods

4 Minimus

6 Minor

8 Major

10 Royal

12 Maximus

Odd Bell Methods

(Tenor Last)

5 Doubles

7 Triples

9 Caters

11 Cinques

Sunday, 23rd February being family birthdays we rang a quarter peal (see details below) when Chris achieved his first quarter ringing a working bell carefully weaving his way through all the changes of the method.

Thinking ahead to Easter maybe it will, hopefully, be drier by then and will, again, all the daffodils be over too early? We shall ring the bells triumphantly on Easter Day wishing all a very Happy Easter.

From the Tower Records

Celebrating the birthdays of Christopher Hamp and Joanne Edwards on Sunday 23rd February 2020 a Quarter Peal of 1260 changes of Plain Bob Doubles was rung by 1. Florence Hamp; 2. Christian Antrobus; 3. Alan Driver; 4. David Gyles; 5. Stuart Edwards (c); 6. Peter Hartley.





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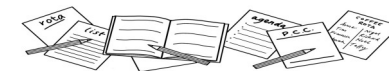
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DATES FOR THE DIARY



Quiz – Gravesham Town Twinning Association – open to everybody. On: Saturday 4th April 2020 At: St George's Church Hall, Church Street, Gravesend Begins: 7.15pm for 7.30. Cost: £5 a head – teams of 6 Booking essential. Contact: Jill Clucas graveshamtwinning@gmail.com

The forgotten parish of Denton (illustrated talk & supper)-if you think you know Denton, then think again. Speaker: Christoph Bull On: Monday 27th April 2020 At: Reliance Restaurant, Queen Street, Gravesend Begins: 6pm for the meal – talk to follow Cost: £16 for meal and talk (drinks not included) Booking essential: Reliance Restaurant 01474 533593

Ifield & Singlewell: the story of a complicated & obscure local parish (illustrated talk & supper)

Speaker: Christoph Bull On: Monday 18th May 2020 At: Reliance Restaurant, Queen Street, Gravesend Begins: 6pm for the meal – talk to follow Cost: £16 for meal and talk (drinks not included) Booking essential: Reliance Restaurant 01474 533593

Cobham and Luddesdowne Church Messy Church calendar 2020 with related family services

Sunday 12th April - Easter Service at Luddesdowne Church (9am)

Sunday 12th April - Easter Family Service at Cobham Church (10.30)

Sunday 7th June - Messy Church celebrates Trinity Sunday *

Sunday 14th June - Family service at Cobham Church (10.30)

Messy Church is free (but donations welcome) and takes place* between 3.00 – 5.00 in **St Mary's Church Rooms, Sole Street** unless otherwise stated. Children's activities are followed by food and drink (for the children) and all children must be accompanied by an adult. **For further information contact Rachel on 07947072818**

Music events coming in 2020

26 March Nine Below Zero (The real deal!)

16 April: Alter Eagles

14 May: Oye Santana

11 June: The Dualers (Tyber and Pete)

16 July: Toyah

17 September: From the Style Council

15 October: FiL Straughan



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North Kent Embroiderers' Guild

Today our talk was provided by the fabulous 'Hand & Lock' <https://handembroidery.com/>. This company has been in existence since 1767 and they have over 250 years' experience of embellishing, embroidering and monogramming garments for the royal family, the military, the church and fashion houses including Christian Dior, Hermes, Burberry and Louis Vuitton. Alastair Macleod the chairman (himself from a family of tailors) spoke to us about the history of the business which he acquired in 2001.

Much of Hand & Lock's work involves 'goldwork' which is the art of embroidery using metal threads. Goldwork uses threads that are made from imitation gold, silver or copper which can be combined to make beautiful pieces which reflect the light and gleam and dazzle. In the past the technique was traditionally used on military and ceremonial uniforms, but now has many wider uses in embellishment.

Juliet their Head Embroiderer told us how Hand & Lock had produced the gold work for the sumptuous Gieves & Hawkes tailcoat designed for Michael Jackson's Bad tour. It remains one of the finest examples of Hand & Lock hand embroidery.

Despite much of the work sticking firmly to traditional methods, Esme who designs for the company told us how she produces designs on the computer using Adobe Illustrator. Other concessions to the passing of time include raising the height of the wooden work tables as people are now taller!

This really was a very interesting and inspiring afternoon, but we do have others, so if you are interested in joining us then please look at our website for full information or email us at: info@northkentembroiderers.co.uk
Happy stitching, Karen



(All links and photographs used with permission)

MARCH SERVICES



Sunday 5 th	Palm Sunday
9:00am	Luddesdowne Palm Sunday Service
10:30am	Cobham Holy Communion (CW)
Friday 10 th	Good Friday
12noon	Luddesdowne Good Friday Communion
Sunday 12 th	Easter Day
9:00am	Luddesdowne Easter Communion
10:30am	Cobham Easter Communion
Sunday 19 th	Second Sunday of Easter
9:00am	Luddesdowne Morning Worship
10:30am	Sole Street New Covenant Service
Sunday 26 th	Third Sunday of Easter
9:00am	Cobham Holly Communion (BCP)
10:30am	Luddesdowne Parish Communion (Followed by APCM)



Midweek Services

Wednesday 1 st	9:00am	Sole Street Morning Prayer
Wednesday 8 th	9:00am	Sole Street Holy Communion
Wednesday 22 nd	9:00am	Sole Street Morning Prayer
Wednesday 29 th	9:00am	Sole Street Morning Prayer

Don't forget to bring along the Kids to Messy Church at St Mary's Church Room, Sole Street, [Please check Facebook for dates](#)

MARCH ROTAS



Cobham Sidespersons Rota

	Readers	Sides	Chalice (C)
5 th	Anne Latcham David Palmer	Anne Latcham Margaret Haig	Pat Summerfield (C) Veronica Horsley (C)
12 th	Hilary Savage Margaret Haig	Catherine Parnell Ann Clarke	Dave Bubb (C) Jane Bubb (C)
19 th	Service at Sole Street		
26 th	Mary Palmer Gilly Knight	Anne Latcham	Ann Clarke (C)

Luddesdowne Readers and Sidespersons Rota

	Readers	Sides	Intercessions (I) Chalice (C)
5 th	Janet Weaver Sue Huntingford	Sue Huntingford	Rita Hayward (I)
10 th	Mary Bagshawe Elizabeth Haider	Elizabeth Haider	Janet Weaver (C)
12 th	Colin Campbell Sue Campbell	Sue Huntingford	Rira Hayward (C) Angela Walker (I)
19 th	Elizabeth Haider	Sue Huntingford	Rita Hayward (I)
26 th	Colin Campbell Sue Campbell	Colin Campbell	Sue Campbell (C) Janet Weaver (I)

Coffee Pop in Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month from **10.30 to 12 noon** and everyone is welcome to join us **in the Tea Room** at 'The Leather Bottle. Next meeting 14th April 19