

## PARISH of COBHAM with LUDDESDOWNE and DODE

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

Phone no. 01474-812068 email:- <u>alyson@stjohnsmeopham.co.uk</u> (Rest Day: Friday)

Associate Priest - The Rev'd Pam Davies

For Wedding, Baptism and Funeral enquiries and all other enquiries please contact Pam.

The Vicarage, Battle Street, Cobham, Kent. DA12 3DB

Phone no 01474-394515 email:- <u>rev.pamdavies@sky.com</u> (<u>NB new number</u>) (Current work days are Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday)

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

<u>Church Safeguarding Officer</u> - Hilary Savage - (01634) 723027 <u>Church Office</u> Phone no. 01474 813495

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SUBMISSIONS Cobham and Luddesdowne News is a community magazine produced by and for the residents of Cobham, Sole Street and Luddesdowne.

Please send material for inclusion by the 15th of the month preceding publication to <u>editorialcln@gmail.com</u>

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August 2024		
August is usually when people take a break and spend time relaxing it is also known, in journalistic circles, as the 'silly season'! Traditionally this would be when Parliament rises and newspapers would fill their pages with frivolous stories instead of matters of state, anyway who can resist reading the occasional article about the image of Elvis' appearing on a lasagne?		
In the Parishes this month there will be tea and cake in Cobham Church (page 15). There will also be a music event in Sole Street (back page).		
The CADS centenary lunch, for former and current members, is on 21st Sept (page 32). Don't forget Cobham's August Bank Holiday Fair!		
Looking ahead, Chris from the college is putting together a trip to Hastings—let him know if you are interested in going (page 29).		
I hope you manage to have a nice August. Tina		

## International Bat Night - 24th August

August is the perfect month to look out for bats, when our soft, warm twilight evenings are full of the tiny flying insects that attract them.

But these days bats need our help, and so this annual celebration will include a good few 'bat events' this month. If you like bats, you may enjoy one of the events being arranged by local bat groups, wildlife trusts, countryside rangers and other organisations across the country.

To help you get started, the website, <u>https://www.bats.org.uk/support</u> <u>-bats/international-bat-night</u>, is full of useful information. It explains the natural environment that bats need, and how you might help to conserve their dwindling numbers.

## Letter from the Priest in Charge, Revd Cannon Alyson Davie

#### Sorry seems to be the hardest word....

A phrase from one of Elton John's songs that I think rings true for many of us at various times in life. We have all said, done or forgotten something and we know to whom we should say 'sorry', but it is so hard!

It is also hard to say sorry to God. One of the things we become aware of as we come to God in prayer is his holiness and our sinfulness, thrown into sharp relief by his holy presence and though we know deep within ourselves that we need to and want to say, sorry for those wrong things we have done - it is hard!

What can help to make it less difficult is to make sure that **each time** we pray, we ask God's forgiveness for all that has been wrong in our lives. The cross on which Jesus Christ died means that we have the freedom to do just that. The cross of Jesus needs to be seen as a place of sincerity which means that simply saying sorry is not enough.

"Repentance (saying sorry) always involves change: a change of mind, a change of heart, and a change of behaviour".

So, when we come to God and repent of our sins, our genuineness is measured by whether there is:

a change of mind - in which we realise the seriousness of what we have done, a change of heart – in which we cease to want to act in this way, because it hurts God, and a change of behaviour in which we work with God to live differently from now on.

The cross of Jesus is also a place of scrutiny, which means viewing it as the place where we scrutinise our lives against God's standards.

One way we can measure the spiritual health of our society is by the way it has turned away from the ten commandments: -

Idolatry is rife – we worship anything and everything, but God.

God's name and that of Jesus are continually taken in vain.

Sunday has long since ceased to be a day set apart for God.

The family unit is becoming more and more fractured.

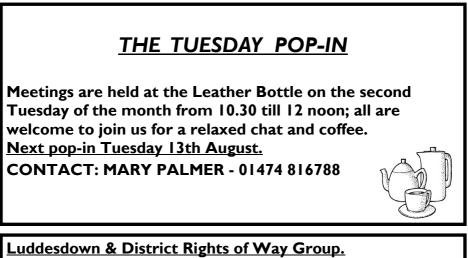
Murder is rife, adultery is frequent, stealing whether something small or large is an everyday occurrence. People bear false witness as often as they can get away with it, and Covetousness is something positively encouraged by a powerful advertising industry.

Cont'd on next page

As we look at a world, in which evil and sinful people seem to rule supreme, where the greed of powerful people leads to war, violence and unrest, we see that our world is far from a holy and perfect place. The truth is we are all sinful people - people who do what is wrong and hurt others and God.

Here is a challenge for August. Determine to spend a little time scrutinising your life, if it helps make a list of all that needs to be dealt with, and then ask God your Heavenly Father to help you deal with just one area of sin, so that you can determine with him how you can become more and more the person God longs for you to be.

Alyson Davie



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 by email <u>janetferguson@hotmail.fr</u> . Ian Sheridan, Acting Chairman, 07951 927 517



# HEDGES

If you have an established hedge as your garden boundary you should count yourself very lucky

and the older it is the better it is for wildlife. Hedges support an amazing diversity of plants and animals, providing wildlife with a rich larder throughout the year and you can observe these from your garden seats. You can see bees and other pollinators buzz around their flowers in spring, count how many different birds emerge from their depths in summer and pluck berries from their branches in autumn and winter.

As well as providing food and shelter, hedgerows create vital links across the countryside, helping wildlife to move freely about and keeping populations healthy. They're also good for the landscape and the wider environment, having been proved to capture pollutants in the air from cars, fertilisers and pesticides running off fields, assisting with water regulation, storing carbon to help combat climate change, and providing homes for predators of many pest species such as birds of prey looking for small mammals. Gardening is said to be excellent exercise so the trimming of your hedge could be called your garden gym. Although seeing your neatly trimmed hedge can give you immense satisfaction, it is recommended you avoid hedge cutting during the main breeding season for nesting birds, which usually runs all the way from March to August each year. This can be weather dependent and some birds may nest outside this period, so it is important to always check carefully for active nests prior to cutting.

It is an offence under Section I of the <u>Wildlife and Countryside Act of</u> <u>1981</u> to intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built, or to intentionally kill, injure or take chicks or adults, or intentionally take or destroy any eggs.

If you decide on the destruction of your hedge please consider the wildlife you will be destroying but make sure there is a connection for surviving species to wander to another hedge elsewhere by leaving holes in the bottom boards of your neat new fences (boards or concrete boards can be bought with these in them) such as hedgehogs but including many creatures that come into our gardens. Plant shrubs for birds to visit and ground cover plants to shelter the smaller earth bound "critters" and enjoy your garden and its wildlife! Celia Burns



#### SOLE STREET WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Sole Street WI members sat in wrapt attention during the re-telling of "The Grace Darling Story" by Mark Lewis, Education Officer for the Association of Lighthouse Keepers. Although the story is well known, he explained how Grace's father William was the main protagonist in the rescue of survivors from the wreck of the SS Forfarshire on 7th September 1838. Grace steadied the boat during the rescue but subsequent reports and artistic impressions romanticised her part and almost air-brushed William out of the picture. Her heroism and fame spread world wide but she was overwhelmed by the celebrity status and her health declined, culminating in her death from TB at the age of 26. Mark posed the question "Was she pestered to death?"

Our scheduled speaker on 23rd July had to cancel and we have invited Alvin Shaw JP on the subject of "The Justice System". At this meeting members have the opportunity to suggest and propose their individual ideas for next year's NFWI Resolution. The 29th July Craft Meeting organised by Helen at her home and the craftwork will be on sale in support of the St Mary Church Room refurbishment at the LFG Music Event at Sole Street House on Saturday 31st August. Further ideas for products for the Meopham Church Bazaar will be under consideration.

During August we do not organise a formal meeting as members may be on holiday. Instead the ladies organise a Garden Party with lunch and Pimm's and every good thing. The Walking Group continues every Tuesday throughout the holidays.

Our next main meeting will be held on Tuesday 24th September at 2pm at The Railway Inn, Sole Street. Our speaker will be Jane Scotchmer with a presentation entitled "How Artists and Designers Lead Us Up The Garden Path".

For further information on this and all our activities please contact Yvonne by telephoning 01474 813455. Molly Isaacs



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## **North Kent Embroiderers**



Hello Everyone,

Sue the Silkewoman,

the-silkewoman.company.site came to our last meeting to talk about her passion for what she describes as "insanely time-consuming silk work" (a hand knotted silk hairnet could take five hundred hours to produce). She makes beautiful hand knotted silk hairnets, tablet-woven and finger loop braided narrow-ware and embroidered textiles

for people, museums, historic places and events using diligently researched historic techniques and materials, as well as faithfully reproduced equipment. Sue also teaches these skills to anyone who is interested. She attends events and talks in full costume which she told us about too. Sue is in awe of the 'silkewomen' of Cheapside in East London, who set up as businesswomen to sell their wares. By becoming professional tradespeople these ladies could own property, employ workers, manage their own financial affairs and if they could read and write they could pass on their skills to future generations. This was a fascinating talk so thank you Sue. If you would like 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 <u>https://</u> <u>northkentembroiderers.co.uk/</u>

or email us at: info@northkentembroiderers.co.uk or contact our Chairman, Eileen on 01474 324734

Happy stitching, Karen All photos with permission









## COBHAM & LUDDESDOWN W.I.

Our July meeting, aka The Annual Strawberry Tea, was a great success. The Meadow Room tables were decked out in splendour, with our best WI monogrammed bone china, beautiful floral table decorations, some newly decorated tablecloths, our Hardanger embroidered table centres and plenty of tea, cakes, scones, Jean Horgan's now famous, and very popular, fresh cream meringues, and strawberries and cream. Our link representative for the NFWI Annual Meeting at the Royal Albert Hall was there as well, to tell us all about what went on there and two lucky ladies were awarded bursaries, to be used on an educational activity of their choice. The Meadow Room was buzzing with conversations about holidays, friends and families, fellow members, possible answers to the rather difficult questions in the "sweets" quiz, (not too loud though in case someone on the next table overheard!) and we ended with a somewhat belated 'pass the parcel' game.

As usual, we do not have a meeting in August but we will be holding a fundraising Beetle Drive in the Meadow Room from 2 until 4pm on Wednesday 7th August; open to all. Price is £5 for a game sheet and refreshments. If you haven't played before, the rules are very simple and it is great fun.

Although there will be no meeting in August, a group of our ladies will be enjoying a guided tour of Cobham Hall, led by Christoph Bull, followed by a cream tea and we are sure that some of our 'groups' will be meeting together to pursue their various interests and continue with the wonderful warm friendships for which our WI is known.

Our next WI meeting will be at 2pm on Wednesday 4th September, when Sylvia Fletcher will be coming along to give a talk with the intriguing title 'Head First'. We always welcome new members but if you would like to come along to a couple of meetings before deciding whether or not to join, visitors are welcome too (cost is £2 a visit and includes refreshments).

For further details, contact our secretary, Jenny Brooker, by email at: CobhamLuddesdown@wkfwi.org.uk.



<u>Meopham Library Writing Group</u> meets again on Thursday I<sup>st</sup> August from 10am until noon and the following meetings will be on 5<sup>th</sup> September, 3<sup>rd</sup> October and 7<sup>th</sup> November.

Each month there is a different writing theme, such as "The Restaurant", which is a starting point for a poem, short story or an article. There is also a writing challenge, which involves trying to include seven or eight words, which are chosen by the group, in as few short sentences as possible. Anyone who is interested in writing short stories, poetry or articles is warmly invited to join our small, friendly group. Beginners and more experienced writers are equally welcome to come to meetings. Creative writing is a very enjoyable activity, which can also be therapeutic for anyone who is facing difficult times or who would like to record special family memories. Please ring 01474 813379 for more information, or just join us at Meopham Library on 1<sup>st</sup> August.

## I<sup>st</sup> SOUTH STREET BOYS BRIGADE and GIRLS ASSOCIATION COMPANY

Boys and girls aged 5-18 years old are invited to join the 1<sup>st</sup> South Street Company for team games, art, craft, cooking, nature activities and Bible stories every **Friday** evening during term time 6pm-7.30pm at **South Street Baptist Church,** Wrotham Road, Meopham, DA13 0QJ(*next to Hope Hill*). The weekly subscription is £2.

There are no meetings during August.

Summer camping takes place at the Honey Hill Boys Brigade Campsite in Maidstone. There are also opportunities for kayaking, canoeing and standup paddle boarding at the Boys Brigade Water Activities Centre in Tonbridge. Please visit: **www.BOYS-BRIGADE.org.uk** for more information **South Street Baptist Church** Sunday morning services all begin at 10.45am and finish at about midday. During August, there will be a Bible Society Bible Course, with videos and discussions All are welcome to join us to find out more about the Bible and its teachings.

**Song Time** is closed during August, but will begin again on 9<sup>th</sup> September. It meets every **Monday** morning 9.45am-11am during term time for families with babies and toddlers. There are lots of different toys, craft activities, musical instruments, singing and refreshments. Family admission is £1. Please visit <u>www.southstreetbaptist.org.uk</u> or ring 01474 815039 or 01474 813379 for more information about all the activities at South Street Baptist Church.



Luddesdown Parish Council

Luddesdown PC were invited by another local PC to take part in a German town twinning event, in particular they wished to visit Luddesdown and the Silverhand Vineyards to learn something of the unique history of our Parish. Councillor Peter Crow, having armed himself with a wealth of historical memorabilia (many thanks to Mr and Mrs Bampton of Luddesdown assisting here), gave a very well received address to around 45 visitors including the Mayor in full regalia.

The council are aware with recent road closures, including now overnight ones on the A2, diversions are not always being followed which leads to more unwelcome heavy traffic through the village. We have also had a couple more incidences of unwelcome behaviour - most recently the theft by some unpleasant characters, in broad daylight of a prestigious motorbike despite many security features being in place. Please continue to be vigilant and report anything unusual to our community PC Jo Hammond. Details on the Luddesdown PC website. Please join us at our Parish Council meetings we would love to hear your thoughts for the village. Cobham, Luddesdowne and Sole Street

**Church Services during August** 



## Sunday 4th August

- 10:30am Holy Communion (BCP), Cobham
- Sunday II<sup>th</sup> August
- 10:30am Morning Worship and Baptism, Luddesdowne

## Sunday 18th August

10:30am Holy Communion, Cobham

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August

10:30am Holy Communion, Luddesdowne

**Midweek services** 

There will be no Midweek services during August

St John's Meopham with St Mildred's Nurstead Church Services August 2024



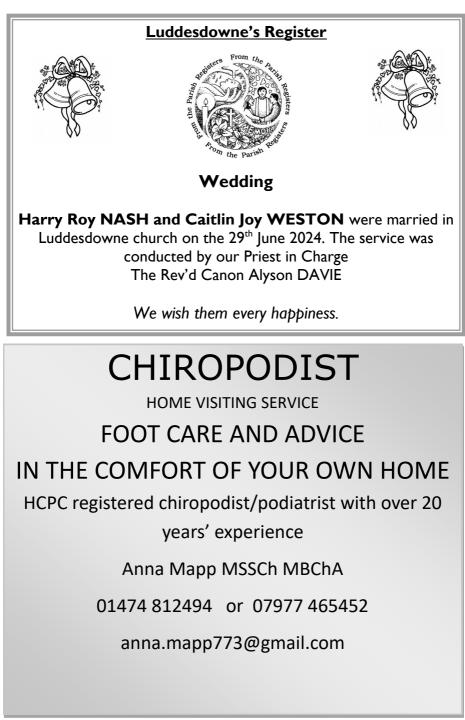
Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August 9.45am All Age Worship at St John's I I.30am Holy Communion at St Mildred's

Wednesday 7th Aug 10am Holy Communion at St John's Centre

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August 9.45am Holy Communion at St John's 11.30am Mattins at St Mildred's

Wednesday 14th Aug 10am Holy Communion at St John's Centre

- Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August 9.45am Morning Worship at St John's Church 11.15am Churches Prayer Meeting at St John's Centre
- Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> Aug 10am Holy Communion at St John's Centre
- Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August 9.45am Holy Communion at St John's I 1.30am Family Service at St Mildred's
- Wednesday 28th Aug 10am Holy Communion at St John's Centre





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## **BELL RINGING by Peter Hartley**

The impressive ceremonies in Normandy on the 6<sup>th</sup> June for the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day were matched back in Blighty by many towers ringing to honour the occasion. Cobham rang too and dedicated their Quarter Peal to all who gave so much in Operation Overlord.

In mid-June there was a Saturday ringing tour in East Sussex. Our first stop was at the pretty village of Sedlescombe. The churchyard had drifts of Early Spotted Orchids and inside I rang the 1595 tenor bell, the oldest of the ring of six bells. I had joined the throng of unknown ringers down the centuries who have rung that bell.

The 13<sup>th</sup> century church in Battle, with 8 bells from all decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, stands on the other side of the road from the Abbey and has a fine mediaeval Doom wall-painting over the chancel arch. The resplendent table-tomb with recumbent effigies of Sir Anthony Browne, died 1548, and his wife Alice stands in the chancel on the north side. In Cobham the equally grand gilded and alabaster tomb of Sir George and Anne Brooke, Lord and Lady Cobham, both died 1558, is placed in the chancel centre stage before the high altar.

Deans are normally heads of Cathedral Chapters but remarkably, under an edict of William the Conqueror, the Incumbent at Battle is a Dean with the full title of the Very Reverend.

On to the hilly Cinque Ports town of Hastings and firstly the 1870's church of Christchurch (Blacklands) built for the Victorian gentry of the new grand villas. The tower was added nearly twenty years later with a ladies (anticlockwise) spiral staircase. Spiral staircases are usually clockwise so that Knights with swords in their right hands can more easily repel enemies coming up the stairs. 61 stairs up in the ringing room we rang the 6 bells given in 1890 by a lady in the congregation and the 2 added in 1897 in honour of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee.

Down into the Old Town on a sunny but windy day and naturally fish and chips for lunch and then an ice cream. To the 15<sup>th</sup> century All Saints church with another Doom painting and its 1878 Father Willis Organ renovated in 2021. There is an Organ Concert Series in July and August with leading organists coming to play this very special instrument. Having climbed the 63 stairs to the ringing room we rang the 8 bells and enjoyed views across the Hastings rooftops to the white breakers of the English Channel crashing on the pebble beach. *Cont'd on next page* 

## Cont'd from page 23

A stroll through the fascinating lanes brought us to the other mediaeval church of the Old Town, St. Clements where in 1860 Dante Gabriel Rossetti married the beautiful red-headed Elizabeth Siddal. The Norman church was ravaged by the French in 1339 and 1377 and rebuilt in 1380. In 1943 a German bomb blew out the windows and the Principal of the Hastings School of Art designed a new colourful and striking East Window and Lady Chapel Window both of which look very well.

The west end of the church has a stylish new chrome and light wood gallery area and kitchen and ringers gallery from where we rang the 8 bells cast in 1963 by Taylors of Loughborough.

On for a final ring in a Victorian church in St. Leonards. Peal boards in the ringing room recorded that the loyal ringers had rung 3 hour peals on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1901 for the State Funeral of Queen Victoria and in May 1910 in memory of King Edward VII. On 19<sup>th</sup> September 2022 a Peal of 5040 changes of St. Martin's Bob Triples was rung in 3 hours 10 minutes on the occasion of the State Funeral of Queen Elizabeth II.

Finally a drink in the nearby Horse & Groom pub which belongs to a local ringer.

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Let's hope we get some Summer weather soon!!

Our next event is the Autumn Show & Plant Sale which is to be held at The Meadow Rooms on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2024 from 2pm to 3.30pm.

Members will exhibit their home-grown flowers, vegetables, and preserves. Non-members are welcome free of charge to view the exhibits between 2pm and 3.30pm. Plants plus tea, coffee and homemade cake will be on sale.

For further information email <a href="mailto:co.uk">cobhamgs@hotmail.co.uk</a>

# In your own garden, the RHS recommended Top 10 jobs for August are -

- I Prune Wisteria
- 2 Don't delay summer pruning restricted fruits
- 3 Deadhead flowering plants regularly
- 4 Watering! particularly containers, and new plants, preferably with grey recycled water or stored rainwater
- 5 Collect seed from favourite plants
- 6 Harvest sweetcorn and other vegetables as they become ready
- 7 Continue cutting out old fruited canes on raspberries
- 8 Lift and pot up rooted strawberry runners
- 9 Keep ponds and water features topped up
- 10 Feed the soil with green manures

If you would like to become a member of Cobham Gardeners' Society, It's only a modest  $\pounds 10$  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. For further details of all Gardeners' activities contact <u>cobhamgs@hotmail.co.uk</u>

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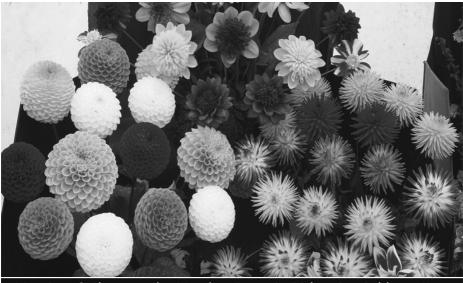
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Saturday 14th September 2024 - 2:00-3:30pm Cobham Gardeners' Society

# Autumn Show & Plant Sale

Gardening Tips \*Adult & Junior Show Categories Flowers, Vegetables, Preserves & Photographic Tea, coffee & home made cake on sale

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**f** Sharing a love of gardening ... locally! cobhamgs@hotmail.co.uk



# **HASTINGS OUTING**

COACH OUTING TO HASTINGS THE DATE: THURSDAY 10 OCTOBER 2024 Coach will leave Cobham (opposite school) at approx. 9.15am Coach will leave Hastings 4pm Cost: £10 per College Resident Cost: £20 per Non-College Resident PLEASE, no parking along The Street or in Lawrence Drive. Plenty of parking behind the School by the Cricket pavilion.

CONTACT CHRIS BROADLEY TO BOOK YOUR SEATS AND PAY BY CASH OR BANK TRANSFER

(PAYMENT NON-REFUNDABLE)

CHRIS BROADLEY 01474 247632 / 07595904701

FLAT 36, NEW COLLEGE OF COBHAM/ chrisbr48@hotmail.com.



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Full public liability insurance

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Contact John - Home: 01322 423063 (Based in Gravesend)

Mobile: 07951 429175 Email: boaz26@live.co.uk

APEX PEST CONTROL Mole catching, Wasp nests, Rodents 24/7 service



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Tel: 07775 971380 Email: robinhunt1@hotmail.co.uk



## **Cobham Amateur Dramatic Society**

## Calling old CADS members

CADS is celebrating it's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday with a meal at the Meadow Rooms on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September. If you belonged to CADS and would like to come along and meet old friends, then please get in touch with Jean Smith

(jeanglenthorp@hotmail.com) or any CADS member. The meal will be at lunchtime and the cost will be around  $\pounds 25$  per head.

## LUDDESDOWN PARISH COUNCIL

Meetings will be held at 7.30pm on Mondays

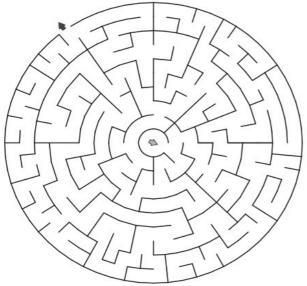
16th September 2024,
18th November 2024,
20th January 2025,
Annual Parish Meeting on 17th March 2025 and the Annual Meeting on
Monday 19th May 2025
All meetings will be taking place at Luddesdown Village Hall.

## Cobham Parish Council Meeting dates

- 7.30pm on 3rd September at the Meadow Rooms
- 7.30pm on 1st October at the Meadow Rooms
- 7.30pm on 5th November at the Meadow Rooms
- 7.30pm on 3rd December at the Meadow Rooms







Have fun finding your way out of the maze and colouring the summer holiday picture!

Love and Licks Paddy







#### **Remembering John Bunyan**

After the Bible, John Bunyan's Christian allegory, the *Pilgrim's Progress*, is one of the most celebrated and widely read books in the English language. It has been translated into more than 100 languages around the world and is a Christian classic. Names of people and places from its pages are known wherever English is spoken: Mr Great-Heart, Mr Valiant-for-Truth, Giant Despair, Madame Bubble, the Slough of Despond, Vanity Fair, the Delectable Mountains, the Hill Difficulty and the Celestial City. Bunyan was a popular preacher of Baptist conviction, but because of his opposition to the Established Church and because he did not have a Church of England preaching licence, he was imprisoned in 1661. It was in prison that he wrote Pilgrim's Progress. He is remembered by the worldwide Church on 30<sup>th</sup> August.

John Bunyan Pilgrims Progress Great Heart Valiant Truth Giant Despair Madame Bubble Slough Despond Vanity Fair Delectable Mountains Hill Difficulty Celestial City Prison Preaching license

