



Cobham & Luddesdowne *News*

June 2024

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PARISH of COBHAM & LUDDESDOWNE with DODE

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

For Funeral enquiries please contact Alyson Phone no. 01474-812068
email:- alyson@stjohnsmeopham.co.uk

(Rest Day: Friday)

Associate Priest – The Rev'd Pam Davies

For Wedding, Baptism and all other enquiries please contact Pam
The Vicarage, Battle Street, Cobham, Kent. DA12 3DB

Phone no 01474-394515 email:- rev.pamdavies@sky.com (NB new number)

(Current work days are Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday)

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

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Churchwarden	Hilary Savage	(01634) 723027
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Treasurer	Jeffrey Julie-Rusz	07946 249021
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Treasurer Janet Weaver (01732) 823936

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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 editorialcln@gmail.com

Cover photograph Adrian Whiteing (The flint houses in Stonehouse Yard viewed from the churchyard)

Printed by Wested Logistics Limited 01474 361615
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June
2024

Hello everyone - welcome to the June edition of CLN.
The gardens of the parishes are looking lovely as grass is kept tidy and flowers and buds are blooming. The wild garden areas are also looking cheerful as they attract all kinds of wildlife.

I hope you get a chance to walk around our beautiful parishes and enjoy the lovely countryside and points of interest, we are so lucky.
Wishing you sunny days ahead—Tina

A letter from the Vicar

My Dear Friends,

*June is bustin' out all over
All over the meadow and the hill
Buds're bustin' outa bushes
And the rompin' river pushes
Ev'ry little wheel that wheels beside the mill*

A song taken from the film 'Carousel' and it always reminds me of summer. A time when we see the garden filled with colour and brightness. We look forward to being outside enjoying (we hope) good weather. Summer is very often a time when we take holidays of rest, things start to feel much more easier to deal with and life just seems that little bit brighter.

Summer can also show up those parts of our homes which may need a fresh lick of paint, repair or a full renovation of an area which is now starting to look well sad for itself.

This summer we hope to see the refurbishment of Saint Mary's Room Sole St. It has been a hard long road for many faithful people over the past 12 years to raise funds for this to happen. It's not been without its hiccups, upsets, and disagreements but perseverance and faith have got them to this point in time.

Cont'd P 4

Perseverance is something that is everyone's to gain but many people do not want to work for it. After all, wouldn't it be great if we could all be strong and fearless in the face of adversity and enduring hardship came natural to us. But this is not how life works. Perseverance has to be earned and built through many trials and tough decisions. And this is the same for our faith. The testing of our faith may not be pleasant, but it produces an important fruit, the ability to stand stronger the next time we are tested, so how can this be?

First of all, when our faith is tested, we realise just how dependent we are upon God. We've come to the end of our rope, and we come to accept there's nothing we can do to save ourselves. If life was always perfect and painless than we would never know how powerful the grace of God is. It is by trials that we come to understand that we are weak and our strength comes from Christ, who will never fail us and so, as we face more trials in the future. We can be confident that just as God helped us before He will help us again.

The testing of our faith also gives us wisdom. The first time we encounter difficulty, it can be easy to feel overwhelmed. Everything is uncertain I'm not sure which choices to make or how to react in the best way. As it turns out much of life is trial and error. But the lessons we learned along the way aren't just a coincidence. On the contrary, God's plan for all our lives is divinely orchestrated. He knows exactly what we need to learn and how we need to learn it.

So when we find ourselves struggling with faith in a situation, we can draw upon the experiences we've already faced and what God has taught us in the past.

Romans 5:3-4 says

'more than that we rejoice in our sufferings knowing that suffering produces perseverance and e perseverance produces character and character produces hope'.

Rejoicing in suffering sounds nearly impossible, but it is what we're called to do as followers of Christ. We can persevere with even greater strength than the rest of the world, because we have an advantage that they don't, faith in Jesus Christ. Even when this faith is tested and we find ourselves wrestling with doubt, we know that all our suffering creates perseverance as we go through life.

All we have to do is

'Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways submit to him,
and he will make your paths straight'

Proverbs 3:5-6

Your sincere friend and minister Rev Pam



Hedgehogs in our Gardens

One balmy evening two years ago as I was sitting in my courtyard garden just as the sun was setting, enjoying a glass of chilled wine when I heard 'rustling' from behind me. Thinking it might be a rat, I froze! But, trundling along amongst the plants was a very healthy looking, big, fat

hedgehog, I was very relieved and also very excited!

How fantastic that we should have visiting hedgehogs in our gardens . I immediately got a plate of cat food (I was already feeding a cat or two and some foxes) and placed it on the ground as close as I could to where he was and sat back down on my bench.

I watched him for about an hour as he munched the food and explored the garden. I was hooked!

When my sons asked me what I wanted for Christmas I had no hesitation in replying 'A Hedgehog House and a Wildlife Camera please'. I now have two houses hidden amongst the bushes for their hibernation.

Now, at least 2, maybe 3 visiting hogs come at the same time each evening, you could almost set your clocks by them. One definitely is returning each season as I can see from the camera footage that he has particular markings on one side of his body.

The plate has recently been replaced by a feeding station allowing the hogs to feed without having to share the food with visiting cats and foxes and I have photos of the fox and hedgehog almost feeding from the same plate at the same time but now I feed the foxes in a different area of the garden, so everything is happy!

I place the camera in different locations over a period of weeks and check the footage regularly on my computer, capturing the hogs travelling all over the garden, even negotiating our deep stone steps from the lawn as I added some wooden blocks to help make the steps shallower for them.

Last summer the camera captured still photographs and some video footage of 2 hogs eating side by side, is it wishful thinking that we may hear the pitter patter of tiny hog feet sometime soon? Watch this space for the first baby our garden has places behind shrubs where there are piles of leaves in one place and piles of twigs in another where hedgehogs and other wildlife can stay secretly. Why don't you try to add secret places to your garden?

Angela Purdy



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Luddesdown & District Rights of Way Group.

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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 janetferguson@hotmail.fr . Ian Sheridan, Acting Chairman, 07951 927 517

SOLE STREET WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



We are now settled into our temporary accommodation in the Railway Inn; with grateful thanks to Dave, the publican, who has made us very welcome.

Following our A.G.M two members from Sole Street will be attending The National Conference to be held in the Royal Albert Hall. This year's resolution is "Free dentistry for all".

Plans continue for our July 6th Duel event FUN- DAY (monies towards the renovation works on the St Mary's Church Room). For details please see page 17.

The photo above shows a selection of tea lights we have been producing, they are perfect for enhancing any outside event and will be available to purchase throughout the 6th July events.

For enquires and tickets please contact Andrea for details 07880988637 or email andreamiddlebrook@btinternet.com

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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 Tuesday 11th June.

CONTACT: MARY PALMER - 01474 816788



Meetings & Shows at the Meadow Room in Dickensian Cobham, Kent
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Saturday 8th June 2024 - 2:00-3.30pm
Cobham Gardeners' Society

Summer Show & Plant Sale

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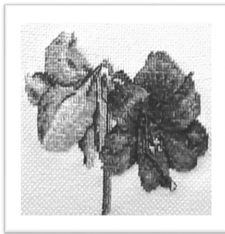


Hello Everyone,

We welcomed Roz Snowden an embroiderer and published author, to our last meeting. Roz was teaching us the skill of 'stumpwork' during one of the new mini workshops we have introduced to our programme. Those taking part arrived in the morning and worked hard all day to learn this intricate style of embroidery which originated in England in the mid 1600s. We were aiming to produce something like the blue flower and beetle design that you can see here.

This required a lot of concentration but luckily Roz was a very patient teacher! Everyone enjoyed the day which had proved popular, so much so that Roz has agreed to come back to us for another session next year. Those not taking part in the workshop arrived at the usual time of 2pm to work on their own pieces.

This month's postcard challenge was based on the theme 'Flowers'. This was a very apt subject for this time of year as the gardens and hedgerows are full of blossom (partly due to the large amount of rain we have had). You can see two examples here. This was our final postcard challenge as



some of our members are now starting on pieces to form another column for our banner- this time on the theme of the forthcoming Olympics.

For our upcoming meetings and workshops please look at the website (see below) or check out our QR code. If you are looking for a new hobby or would like to pick up an existing pastime there might be something that would interest you.



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

<https://northkentembroiderers.co.uk/>

or email us at: info@northkentembroiderers.co.uk

or contact our Chairman, Eileen on 01474 324734

Happy stitching, Karen All photos with permission



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Thursday Fellowship



Our meeting is on 27th June, at 2.00.p.m. in the St. John's Centre, Meopham.

Our title is 'Mostly Music.' We will have 2 or 3 people, sharing their particular gifts and talents on more than one instrument--- details still to be confirmed. Do come, it will be fun and as always

Tea and chat at the end, a short time of worship to begin.

HAPPY DAYS!

Join us



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**We also meet at other local venues, days & nights! For some activities, Cards, Pub lunches and more.*

BELL RINGING by Peter Hartley

For an annual Spring outing ringing friends from Kent, Sussex and Hampshire gathered in the industrial heartland of the High Weald. However the iron industry of before the Armada to after Waterloo then moved up to the northern coalfields. So we were able to enjoy pretty villages in their hursts or groves with their churches and bells.

Our first hurst was Goudhurst with its 16th century ironmaster Culpeper family memorials in the church. The tower was rebuilt after being struck by lightning in 1637. We rang the 8 bells from the gallery with great views down into the church and out down the street and all across the slopes of the hill with long views of typical Kentish countryside. Lamberhurst is famous for its snowdrop churchyard and the three-decker pulpit and John Piper window. We rang their 6 bells.

Over the border into Sussex the 33 iron grave slabs in Wadhurst Church floor bear witness to the importance of the iron industry. The 124 feet church spire is covered in 5,400 cedar wood shingles and the bell ropes are 75 feet long. The bells were augmented to 8 in 1955. We were privileged to ring the bells for a 105 year old lady who loved the sound of the bells. Her funeral was in the Roman Catholic Church but, as she had requested, we rang as her coffin came across for burial in the churchyard of the parish church. Now she will hear the bells for evermore.

In the gallery of Ticehurst Church we rang the 6 bells cast in 1771 and rehung in 1950. Before leaving the fine mediaeval glass could be noted and on the 1964 wooden lectern carved by Robert Thompson of Yorkshire his signature mouse was spotted.

Back in Kent the church at Sandhurst stands outside the village commanding views across the Rother valley to Sussex. The gold and blue window of St. Michael is a treasure for the glass dates from about 1450. The 6 bells are an anticlockwise ring so it is essential to look left when commencing to ring.

It had been a good day ringing through the hursts amidst the myriad of new greens of the High Weald Spring countryside. The next day back ringing for the fortnightly Sunday morning Service on our familiar Cobham bells.



D-DAY FORTITUDE SOUTH, KENT'S WARTIME DECEPTION

Based on his book, an evening with Sole Street author, John Reymond, as he explains the deception which convinced Hitler that the Allies main assault was to be in the Pas de Calais and the Normandy landings were a feint.

LFG fund-raising event towards St. Mary's Church Room

At The Meadow Room, Cobham

On Friday, 7th June 7.00 pm for 7.30

Tickets: £25.00

Including two-course dinner with wine

Optional Wartime Fancy Dress

Contact: Su Rowe 07557 990944

Payment to: Tin Tabernacle Community Fund

Account Number 83638219. Sort Code 20-25-43

Other Forthcoming fundraising events in aid of St Mary's Church Room renovations.

6th July 9.30am Morning guided walk from Sole Street to Luddesdown and Cobham Churches then on to the Vicarage, Cobham for fun, games, stalls and Ploughman's lunch.

6th July 2pm Afternoon guided Frolic from Sole Street to Little Jeskyns / Jeskyns Park to the Vicarage, Cobham for more fun, games, stalls and BBQ. Family & Individual Tickets will be available. Food to be pre-booked 01474 813 445.

31st August Musical Afternoon Sole Street House. Hellzapopin to play music from the 50s, 60s and 70s. Picnic items will be available to purchase. For tickets contact Nichola 07960273913

Cobham, Luddesdowne and Sole Street

Church Services during June



Sunday 2nd June

10:30am Holy Communion (BCP), Luddesdowne

Sunday 9th June

10:30am Holy Communion, Cobham

Sunday 16th June

10:30am Holy Communion, Luddesdowne

4pm All Age Service, Cobham

Sunday 23rd June

10:30am Holy Communion, Cobham

Sunday 30th June

10:30am Holy Communion, Luddesdowne

Midweek services

Please phone Ron on 01474 814250 for venue

9:30am Informal Morning Prayer

5th, 12th, 19th and 26th June



Funeral

Anthony Watkins WEBSTER (known as Tony) was born on the 11th March 1940 and died on the 27th March 2024 at the age of 84 years. The service took place on the 22nd April 2024 at Thames View Crematorium. The service was conducted by Life Celebrant Peter Tongue. Our condolences and prayers go to Tony's wife Delia and son Charles.



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KCC TRADING STANDARDS APPROVED

Meopham Library Writing Group meets on the first Thursday morning of every month. The next meeting is on **Thursday 6th June** from 10am until noon. Each month there is a different writing theme such as “The Walking Stick” and a writing challenge, which involves writing a short sentence to include seven or eight words chosen by writing group members. Creative writing is a very enjoyable activity, which can also help people who are facing difficult times or record special family memories. If you are interested in writing short stories, poetry or articles, you are invited to come along to the meetings. Everyone is equally welcome to join our small, friendly group, either as a beginner or a more experienced writer. Please ring 01474 813379 for more information, or just join us at Meopham Library on 6th June. The following meetings will be on 4th July, 1st August and 5th September.

1st SOUTH STREET BOYS BRIGADE and GIRLS ASSOCIATION COMPANY

Boys and girls aged 5-18 years old are invited to join the Company for team games, art, craft, cooking, Bible stories and nature activities 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 outdoor activities in the summer, including camping at the Honey Hill Boys Brigade Campsite in Maidstone in July and opportunities for kayaking, canoeing and stand-up paddle boarding at the Water Activities Centre in Tonbridge, with a team of fully qualified leaders.

Sunday morning services at South Street Baptist Church all begin at 10.45am and finish at about midday. The 97th Church Anniversary Service is on 2nd June and the next Family Service and BBGA Church Parade is on 30th June.

Song Time 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. The next Family Games Afternoon is on Saturday 15th June 2pm-4pm for people of all ages. There will be table tennis, indoor archery, pool, board games and refreshments. Admission is free.

For more information about the activities at South Street Baptist Church please ring 01474 815039 or 01474 81379 or visit www.southstreetbaptist.org.uk

May Talk

The Society had another interesting and well attended talk by Caroline Halfpenny in May, about water in the garden and its importance for wild-life and our own mental wellbeing. Studies have proven the following - *When we are near water, our mind enters a semi-meditative state, known as 'drifting'. Drifting is a special form of attention, where we are still engaged with the world around us, but not focused on getting things done.*

June - Summer arrives.

June 21 is the longest day of the year, and the extra light and warmth encourages the garden to put on an exuberant burst of growth. But this extra light and warmth also means weeds will sprout up from seemingly nowhere. Keep on top of them by hoeing regularly in dry conditions.

Here's the RHS Top 10 Jobs for this month.

- 1 Hoe borders regularly to keep down weeds.
 - 2 Be water-wise, especially in drought-affected areas.
 - 3 Pinch out sideshoots on tomatoes.
 - 4 Harvest lettuce, radish, other salads, and early potatoes
 - 5 Position summer hanging baskets and containers outside
 - 6 Mow lawns at least once a week
 - 7 Plant out summer bedding
 - 8 Stake tall or floppy plants
 - 9 Prune many spring-flowering shrubs.
 - 10 Shade greenhouses to keep them cool and prevent scorch
- The Society's activities being held at the Meadow Rooms, Cobham, for June are:

Summer Show & Plant Sale

Saturday 8th June 2024 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

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 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. For further details e-mail us at cobhamgs@hotmail.co.uk or call 01474 363315.

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Sunday 23rd June two sittings **2p.m. & 4p.m.**

Limited to 30 per sitting.

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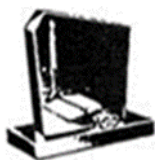
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LUDESDOWN PARISH COUNCIL

We are aware of the notification of the closure in Gold Street for one month from 20 May to allow UK Power networks to carry out work. There will inevitably be a negative impact on our rural roads. Please consult Luddesdown PC website for information on any updates.

Following our meeting in May the schedule of PC meetings for the next year are posted on the Luddesdown PC website. Please, if you can, take time out to come to our meetings.

The Cobham Youth Club

The sessions up to and including July 2024 will be:

Friday 21st June

Friday 5th July

Friday 19th July

The youth club starts at 7.30pm and finishes at 9.30pm. £2 per session and the venue is the Meadow Rooms, The Street, Cobham.

Cobham Parish Council Meeting dates

7.30pm 4th June at the Meadow Rooms

7.30pm on 2nd July at the Meadow Rooms

7.30pm on 3rd September at the Meadow Rooms

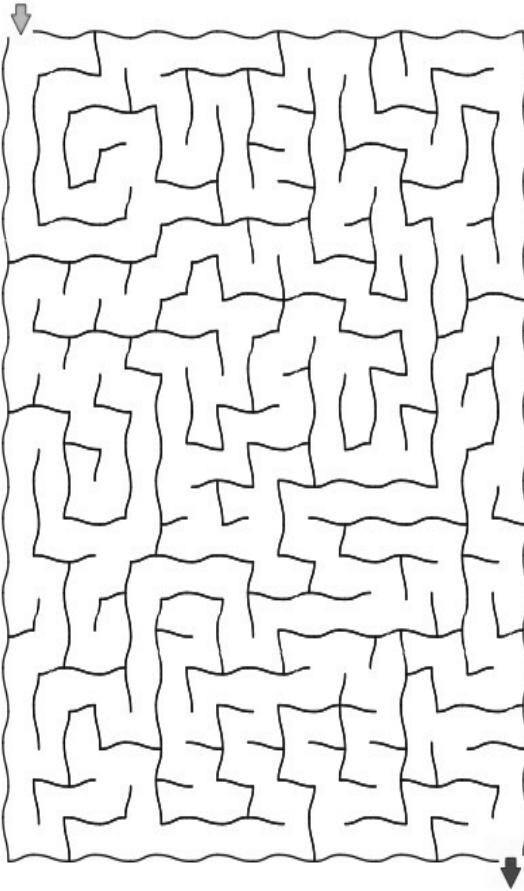
7.30pm on 1st October at the Meadow Rooms

7.30pm on 5th November at the Meadow Rooms

7.30pm on 3rd December at the Meadow Rooms



Can you find your way through the Maze?



Did you know that 200 years ago, on 16th June 1824, a London vicar, Arthur Broome, and 22 of his friends, including William Wilberforce (anti-slavery campaigner) met at Old Slaughter's Coffee House to found the SPCA - the first national animal protection society in the world. Then by 1840 Queen Victoria gave permission for it to be called the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; our wonderful RSPCA, who helped me when I needed a home. Me and my family will always be grateful to them. Paddy



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Erasmus, patron saint of sailors

Do you like messing about in boats? If so, then you'll have heard of St Elmo's Fire. It is the light that is sometimes seen on mastheads of boats after storms at sea. St Elmo is another name for St Erasmus, a fourth century Syrian bishop who was not afraid of violent storms. Legend has it that one day when Erasmus was preaching outside, a thunderbolt hit the ground right beside him. That might have distracted modern bishops, but not Erasmus – he just kept on preaching. His courage won him the respect of sailors, who made him their patron saint. Erasmus finally died during the Diocletian persecutions in 300AD, and his feast day is 2nd June.

Boats Elmo Fire Light Masthead Storm Sea Fourth Century
 Bishop Legend Preaching Thunder Ground Respect Courage
 Sailors Saints Died persecution

Cobham Choir

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