



Cobham & Luddesdowne

February 2022 News

PARISH of COBHAM & LUDDESDOWNE with DODE

Rev Angela Walker

Church Office (01474) 813495

The Vicarage, Battle Street, Cobham, DA12 3DB (01474) 814332

Pastoral Assistant

Janet Weaver, 36 Highview, Vigo Village, DA13 ORR (01732) 823936

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 of local interest.

Please send material for inclusion by the 15th of the month preceding publication to editorialcn@gmail.com

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Organist

Church Officers St Peter and St. Paul, Luddesdowne

Churchwarden

Organist

Treasurer

Janet Weaver (01732) 823936

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Ann Clarke

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David Palmer

Luddesdowne

Colin Campbell (Lay Chair)

Sue Campbell

Rita Hayward

Janet Weaver

Cover photograph by Adrian—thank you



February
2022

Happy February everyone

The other day, despite the cold weather and the early fog, I ventured out into my garden and started to potter about with the broom and rake, when I suddenly noticed that I had been joined by a particularly friendly black-bird. He stayed with me for the whole afternoon, obviously waiting to see if I had made some worms or insects easily available for him, then as the light began to fade I heard the beautiful sound of a robin perched high up on a branch of our pear tree he sang so sweetly and proudly it was absolutely charming. I finally put the tools in the shed and went in for what I considered a well-deserved cuppa and couldn't help but smile as I thought of the simple but enjoyable afternoon I'd had.

Even if you haven't a garden we are surrounded by so much beautiful open space, just try to take some time to enjoy the simple things in life.

Be lucky Tina



THE TUESDAY POP-IN

Meetings are held at the Leather Bottle on the second Tuesday of the month from 10.30 till 12 noon and everyone is welcome to join us for a relaxed chat and coffee. The next meeting will be on the 8th Feb.

CONTACT: MARY PALMER - 01474 816788

IT'S A GIRL THING!



**RUTH, ESTHER AND MARY
COME AND HEAR**

THEIR STORIES
at a sponsored Bible Reading
by Angela

Saturday, 12 March 12 noon – 4 pm
in St Mary's Church, Cobham

***See if she can match her last marathon,
210 minutes, and help raise another £1000
for the Friends of Cobham Church***

Further information on how to sponsor Angela
from Mary - 01474 816788
amarypalmer@aol.com

Friends of Cobham Church is a Registered charity no 280467

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"Call a chimney sweep not the Fire Brigade"

North Kent Embroiderers

Hello Everybody,

In case you are wondering, the QR code that I was embroidering, is now finished and yes it does work. Try it for yourself. Old skills meet new technology!

Talking of old skills, in 2007 some of our members embroidered a beautiful hanging to go in what was known as the St Andrews Arts Centre. It still hangs there today but as the building is to undergo some renovation work, it will be rehoused elsewhere. I thought it might be good to see it again.

The blue and white theme came from the colours of the St Andrew's flag. The images on the hanging were taken from various designs in the centre and the surrounding areas. All the members of the group took part. Individual sections were created using blue silk as a base and mainly blue and silver threads to depict the image. Interestingly it has now become a historical record as Tilbury Power Station is no longer in existence. Thank you to Veronica for her last newsletter which contained much to inform and entertain us including delicious recipes for peanut butter sweets, orange and cranberry cake and a white Christmas cake. This reminds me that cake is an important part of our meetings thanks to Anita. Many of us enjoy the chance to share ideas and experiences over a cuppa and a slice of something good to eat.



Our next meeting will be a 'stitch and chat' session which will include a small group learning more about their overlockers. This will be led by Caroline from CCB sewing machines <https://ccb-sewing-limited.myshopify.com/> We will of course all be following government guidelines regarding Covid. Please visit our website <https://northkentembroiderers.co.uk/> or email us at: ino@northkentembroiderers.co.uk or contact our Chairman, Eileen Tuff on 01474

324734 Happy stitching, Karen
(All links and photographs used with permission)



SOLE STREET WI

Sole Street WI organised a traditional New Year luncheon on 4th January and members enjoyed a very sociable reunion at Bartella's 'though in much reduced number due to renewed guidelines. The January main meeting was organised around a Beetle Drive and other team games.

Members are delighted that many of the table decorations produced by the Craft Group at their gathering in St Mary's Church Room on 15 December especially for Christmas have survived well beyond the festive season.



The ladies picked up their sewing needles and haberdashery baskets for the latest Craft Meeting at Min's to reproduce traditional hand-made dolls.

Weekly walks continue on Tuesday from Jesky's. The weather has not been unkind for the middle of winter when the fresh air and exercise are so invigorating. Above all, the companionship and social intercourse is very much to be appreciated in these uncertain times. However one must not underestimate the beneficial and uplifting effects of a Forestry Commission cafe's hot chocolate!

Poppy Appeal

The Poppy Appeal was more as usual this last November. Collection boxes out in most places and volunteers allowed to go house-to-house. Money raised this way came to £7111.81. It was noted that more and more people were asking about giving with a card, so next year we will try that in such places as our week in Millbrook.

The Meopham Remembrance Service also went ahead, with service, parade and wreath laying, also a good-sized congregation, all those that attended seemed relieved to recognise the procedure and be able to have conversations 'almost' as before. Churches were more involved this year with Luddesdowne even laying on their usual tea and coffee after, as long as you didn't stand 'too' close. In Cobham they were celebrating the 100th anniversary of their war memorial, an event by the memorial, a talk with exhibition also an extra push was made selling hand made poppies around the village.

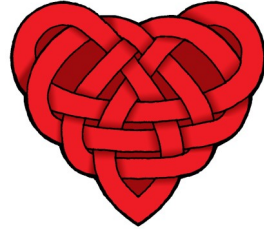
The Poppy appeal is most grateful for the donation resulting from all their efforts. The total passed on to the Poppy Appeal was £8,609.81, extra will be added to this as more and more donations are being made by bank transfer, The Poppy Appeal will notify us of the final total much later in the year. Of course very many thanks go to all those who donated, also our house-to-house collectors, shops, pubs, Millbrook for inviting us and lots of 'behind the scenes' helpers, Thank you all..

Sandra



Love

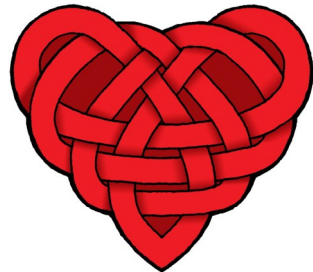
He held her close in his arms' embrace,
 Their eyes and their lips did meet,
He looked down into her lovely face,
 And her heart did faster beat...



They went to the kirk an it came the day,
 And the book the priest did take;
He in his kilt was so bright and gay
 As his promise he did make.

She stood at his side so white and fair,
 Her white fingers fair to give,
The priest handfasted them then and there,
 And he blessed them long to live.

O God give the joy and God the love
 To those who are lovers true,
Shed down benediction from above
 As in one are joined the two.



From Prayers of the Western Highlanders



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February - Spring is in sight

This month there are signs of the approaching spring, with bulbs appearing and wild-life waking up as light levels and temperatures increase. There's plenty to do indoors this month to prepare for the season ahead. Outdoors, as the garden comes to life again, it's time to prune shrubs and climbers, such as Wisteria as well as evergreen hedges.

RHS – Top 10 Jobs this month

- 1 Prepare vegetable seed beds, and sow some vegetables under cover
- 2 Chit potato tubers
- 3 Protect blossom on apricots, nectarines and peaches
- 4 Net fruit and vegetable crops to keep the birds off
- 5 Prune winter-flowering shrubs that have finished flowering
- 6 Divide bulbs such as snowdrops, and plant those that need planting 'in the green'
- 7 Prune Wisteria
- 8 Prune hardy evergreen hedges and renovate overgrown deciduous hedges
- 9 Prune conservatory climbers such as bougainvillea
- 10 Cut back deciduous grasses left uncut over the winter, remove dead grass from evergreen grasses

Gardeners 2022 expert speaker talks for February and March

Gardeners' events get started with an expert speaker talk on Wednesday 9th February by MDCV UK, owners of Vineyard Farm, give a talk about the wildflowers and meadows in Luddesdown and Upper Bush and their plans to conserve these nationally important sites for future generations.

Our second talk of the year is Wednesday 9th March, Pruning: Why, When & How by Alison Marden. Her talk covers why we need to prune plants and how plants react to pruning so that you can have confidence that you are doing the right thing at the right time.

Both talks are 7pm for 7.30pm at The Meadow Rooms, Cobham. Entrance is free for members and £3 on the door for non-members, who are most welcome.

You can buy Membership of Cobham Gardeners at any time ... and get savings at local garden centres straight away to help with all those garden jobs. You can apply for membership at the talks or via email cobhamgs@hotmail.co.uk It is 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.



TWO WOMEN EVENTS

Present:

FOREVER ELTON



THURSDAY 17th February 2022

St Mary Magdalene Church, Cobham KENT

7pm for 7:30 start

Tickets £19.50 in advance, bit more on the door

Book online on www.twowomenevents.com or come to Cobham
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Cobham Gardeners' Society

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

Wednesday 9th February 2022 - 7.30pm



MDCV UK, owners of Vineyard Farm give a talk about the wildflowers and meadows in Luddesdown and Upper Bush and their plans to conserve these nationally important sites for future generations.

Members free - non members £3



Sharing a love of gardening ... locally
Contact us cobhamgs@hotmail.co.uk



Smile Lines



Say it with flowers

A man stopped by his local florist shop to buy flowers for his new girlfriend on Valentine's Day. He asked the proprietor, "You know the expression, 'Say it with flowers?'"

"I do indeed!" the florist enthused. "How about three dozen of my finest roses?"

The man hesitated. "No, make it just a half dozen roses. I'm a man of few words."

Those who want to get married

A minister was preparing to marry a local couple within a couple of weeks. At the close of the morning service, he saw them both in the congregation, and wanted to ask them to come forward, but he couldn't think of their names. So he said: "Will those wanting to get married please come to the front?"

Immediately, nine single ladies, six single men, three widows, and four widowers walked up the aisle.

Fire of love

Here's to love, the only fire for which there is no insurance.

Love

Love may not make the world spin around, but it certainly makes a lot of people dizzy.





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Dates for the Diary



Forever Elton –17/2/22
Fil Straughan—17/3/22



History tours

Northfleet's story from A to Z (illustrated talk) Speaker: Christoph Bull (Local Historian and former local librarian) On: Friday 4th February 2022
At: Coldharbour Library, Coldharbour Road, Northfleet
Begins: 6.30pm Price: £5 Booking required at the library itself or via coldharbourlibrary@kent.gov.uk or 03000 413131 A brand new talk on the history of Northfleet, promoting its identity and celebrating the town's heritage. An event celebrating the centenary of Kent County Library.

Gravesend the day before yesterday-how the town has changed over the past 60 years (illustrated talk with supper)

Speaker: Christoph Bull On: Monday 7th February 2022
At: Reliance Restaurant, Queen Street, Gravesend
Begins: 6pm for meal-talk to follow Cost: £18 includes both talk and award winning fish & chips Booking essential: Reliance Restaurant 01474 533593

Grim Gravesend- the underside of Gravesend's history-the mad, bad & sad (illustrated talk with dinner)

Speaker: Christoph Bull On: Sunday 27th February 2022
At: The Three Daws public house, Town Pier Square, Milton-next-Gravesend Begins: 3pm for talk – dinner to follow Cost: £18 includes both talk and dinner Booking essential: Three Daws 01474 566869

Sunday Lunch-with the Mayor of Gravesham (Councillor Lyn Milner) and a talk on the Earls of Darnley by Christoph Bull On:

Sunday 13th February 2022
At: Gilt Hall in Cobham Hall, Brewers Road, Cobham, Kent DA12 3B Time: 12.30 for 1pm Cost: £30 for three course meal and talk - £17 for under 16 year olds. Tickets can be purchased by sending a BACS payment with reference 'Mayor' to: Bank account holder: Gravesham Borough Council Bank name: Lloyds Bank, Gravesend Bank sort code: 30 93 60 Bank account number: 54599860 Please email bev.sanderson@gravesham.gov.uk with your name and the number of tickets you have purchased. Alternatively, Cheques can be made payable to: Gravesham Borough Council (marked on the back Mayor's Charity) Send cheques to: Bev Sanderson, Committee Section, Gravesham Borough Council, Civic Centre, Windmill Street Gravesend. Come to Cobham Hall, enjoying the food, fellowship and facts about the Darnleys.

Welcome to Cobham, Luddesdowne and Sole Street Churches

Services during February



Sunday 6th February

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

Sunday 13th February

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

Sunday 20th February

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

Sunday 27th February

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

Midweek services (*please note change of time*)

9:30am **Holy Communion 2nd**

Informal Morning Prayer 9th, 16th & 23rd

held in people's homes during the winter months

contact Pat 01474 814343 for details

RIDE & STRIDE SATURDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER 2021

Cllr Rosemary Dymond

It was a gloriously sunny day, perfect weather for a one hundred mile cycle ride around the Kent countryside! So it was a real joy to take part and to know that I had been sponsored by so many villagers in Luddesdowne, Sole Street and Cobham and the members and friends of all three places of worship. I had set myself the target of visiting sixty churches in the eight hours we were allowed. As my route is so long I did in fact visit more than sixty but only those visited and signed for between 10.00 am and 6.00 pm count. Despite the Covid warnings there were many churches open and refreshments available especially in the area around us in North West Kent. There were certainly more cyclists and several churches locally had set up cycling teams to take part, hence our churches had more visitors than ever before. Luddesdowne (rarely visited but always open) amassed a total of four visitors, the St. Mary's Church Room a total of eleven and St. Mary Magdalene in Cobham eighteen visitors.

Thank you to all of you for you all gave so generously and so I managed to gather £2,070 in sponsorship, £635 from Luddesdowne, £765 from Cobham and £635 from Sole Street. Fifty per cent of this is returned to the churches and fifty per cent to the Friends of Kent Churches who then use this money to supplement any grants they are distributing to Kent churches in need . Any churches can apply to FKC for grants and that is exactly how our three churches can apply for we are always involved in R&S , hence the successful application won in Sole Street .

Next year's Ride & Stride event will take place on Saturday 10th September so please put it into your new diaries now and encourage me with your sponsorship to pedal again the glorious Kent Downs from Cobham to Tunbridge Wells and home again!



SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO.....

PARTY IN THE PARK

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COBHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 2022

8th February, Committee Room, Meadow Rooms

8th March, Committee Room, Meadow Rooms

5th April, Main Hall, Meadow Rooms

Luddesdowne Parish Council Meetings 22/23

16 May 22 Annual Council Mtg. Luddesdowne Village Hall at 7.30pm

18 July 22 Full Council Mtg. Luddesdowne Village Hall at 7.30pm

19 September Full Council Mtg. Luddesdowne Village Hall at 7.30pm

21 November Full Council Mtg. Luddesdowne Village Hall at 7.30pm

16 January 23 Full Council Mtg. Luddesdowne Village Hall at 7.30pm

20 March 23 Annual Parish Mtg. Luddesdowne Village Hall at 7.30pm

Luddesdown and District Rights of Way Group

Friendly local walks run 11:00 am every Wednesday morning at a gentle pace from Luddesdown and Cobham. Contact Gerry or Janet for details:- 01474 813376 or 07977 416366

Weekly Mini-Bus Service to Gravesend Timetable

Cobham Parish Council sponsors a mini-bus service to 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, Charles Amis E-mail clerk@cobham-kent-pc.gov.uk

A BLOOMING GOOD SHOW! Cllr Rosemary Dymond

We may be in the middle of winter but don't the flower troughs throughout our village look so colourful with their pansy faces of yellow and purple. An unexpected splash of Spring and a reminder that six months ago these flower troughs welcomed the judges from Britain in Bloom. Cobham entered the SOUTH and S.E Britain in Bloom section and in two categories – Parish – and – Village. Jim Buttriss (of BBC renown) led the judging and spent all afternoon on 1st July walking the village streets, orchards, allotments, sports fields, churchyards and carparks. An extensive inspection, to say the least, was undertaken for the whole afternoon and the allotment owners at the College of Peter, John and Keith entertained Jim Buttriss for quite some time, Jim was suitably impressed by how the allotment had been created and the quality of the plants, they even had a mention in the final report! Well done chaps! The community involvement was a focus for the inspection and the College won that "hands down".

Fortunately the village was still in the middle of the Front of House competition so the pretty displays were evident and Jim couldn't resist peering over the wall and then visiting the School House garden and its quite amazing array of thirty plus baskets all cascading with colour. The Front of House Competition and its community involvement earned us more points as did the immaculate apple orchards under Radu's thorough management. Jim Buttriss eyed favourably the land by the railway bridge which had been rescued from its previous existence as a wasteland dump. Once again, inspired and worked on by local volunteers, it now looked attractive with grass cut and rows of wooden troughs filled with bright coloured flowers, and like all the flower troughs the plants were kept well-watered by the villagers – thank you all.

So in total we scored 81 points out of 100 for the parish category which earned us a SILVER GILT award and a certificate. But for the village category though we scored one point less it was a total more than other villages and so we were awarded FIRST PLACE but the category award was still SILVER GILT. Let's try for GOLD in 2022, the year of our Queen's Platinum Jubilee. There will be an extra component in 2022 of what is called "wilding", so the plan of wild flower areas at the rear of the War Memorial Green will earn us points as will wilding areas at the College and in residents gardens. We must look to see how other areas can be enhanced such as the railway bridge, railway station, and grass banks can become areas for wild flowers to grow. We need to achieve 85 points out of 100 to have a GOLD award. So please can everyone get involved in 2022.

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Parish Council news

The Cobham Youth Club started again on the evening of 14 January and 32 young people attended in the Meadow Rooms and had a great time.

The youth club is run by youth workers from The Grand at Gravesend but they are looking for volunteer leaders to work alongside them so if you have some spare time to offer that would be gratefully received.

The next youth club sessions are Fridays 28th January, 25th February, 11th March and 25th March from 7.30pm at the Meadow Rooms, The Street, Cobham. It is for children from Year 6 (top year primary) to Year 9 (13-14 years old). Subs are £2.00 per session.

Bollards

For the latest information on the temporary closure of The Street from 12th February for 9 days and the changes to the pavements and the installation of the bollards please visit the Cobham Parish Council website <http://www.cobham-kent-pc.gov.uk/>

LUDESDown VILLAGE HALL

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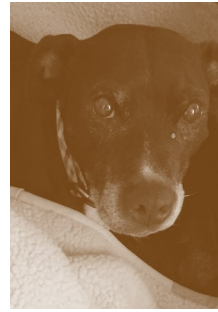
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Brrrr isn't it cold! I have some new booties, not just to help my feet stay warm, but to stop me slipping on the kitchen and hallway floor. My legs are not too strong now but my non slip booties help me get up and down and around the house much easier and they are quite fetching, black, grey with white paw prints on the bottom! The editor ordered them and they arrived the next day, which is amazing considering they had to come all the way from the Amazon. Keep warm.



Love and licks Harvey 

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Luke chapter 15 verses 11-32

Jesus spent his time teaching everyone who would listen, whatever they were. The Pharisees and Law teachers watched Jesus.

He is friendly with bad people, and even eats with them...

So Jesus told these stories.

If a man owns 100 sheep...

Imagine having that many sheep!

and he loses 1 of them ...

How would you notice with that many sheep?

won't he leave the 99 in the field and look for the lost one?

When he finds it, he tells his friends to celebrate because he has found his lost sheep!

In the same way there is more celebration in heaven when one bad person repents...

than the 99 who don't need to repent.

Or what if a woman who has 10 small coins loses 1?

What's special about a small coin?

Won't she light a lamp, sweep her house, and search until she finds it?

That's what I'd do.

When she finds it she tells her friends to celebrate because she found the coin she had lost.

It was special to her.

In the same way, God's angels rejoice when a bad person repents.

1st South Street Boys Brigade & Girls Association Company

The **1st South Street Boys Brigade and Girls Association Company** meets every Friday evening from 6pm until 7.30pm during term time. Half term will be on Friday 18th February.

Boys and girls aged 5-18 years old are very welcome to join in the fun, which includes challenges, games, craft and team activities. The weekly subscription is only £2. The uniform consists of a blue T-shirt and a blue sweat-shirt with embroidered badges.

In the spring and summer there will be opportunities for the older girls and boys to visit the Boys Brigade Camp Site at Honey Hill, Maidstone which has an adventure playground, wooded areas and well equipped facilities for camping. Young people can also enjoy canoeing, kayaking and stand up paddle boards at the Boys Brigade Water Activity Centre, Maidstone. All these water activities are supervised by fully trained and qualified leaders and cost about £3 a session. For more information about the Company, please visit the 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

Meopham Library Writing Group meetings are usually held in Meopham Library on the first Thursday morning of each month. Masks must be worn in the library and as the kitchen is unavailable, please bring your own drink. The next writing group meeting will be on **Thursday 3rd February 2022** at **10am** until about midday.

Each month, there is a different writing theme and everyone is invited to write a short story, poem or article, using less than 1,000 words. Recent writing themes have included; “New World”, “Journey” and “Celebrations”. There is also a writing challenge, which involves writing a couple of sensible sentences, including six or seven words chosen by the group, but using as few words as possible.

Anyone who is interested in writing, either as a beginner or a more experienced writer, is very welcome to join our small, but friendly group. Many people enjoy writing about their memories, which can be interesting and informative for their family and friends. Although writing can be very challenging, it is also therapeutic in difficult times.

The following writing group meetings will be held on 3rd March, 7th April and 5th May. If weather conditions are poor, or Covid infection levels are very high, the writing group meeting on 3rd February may be held on Zoom instead of meeting in the library. For info please ring **01474 813379**.

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- Complimentary GP Lifestyle Assessment.
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Get in touch

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TWO WOMEN EVENTS

Present:

FIL STRAUGHAN



THURSDAY 17th March 2022

St Mary Magdalene Church, Cobham KENT

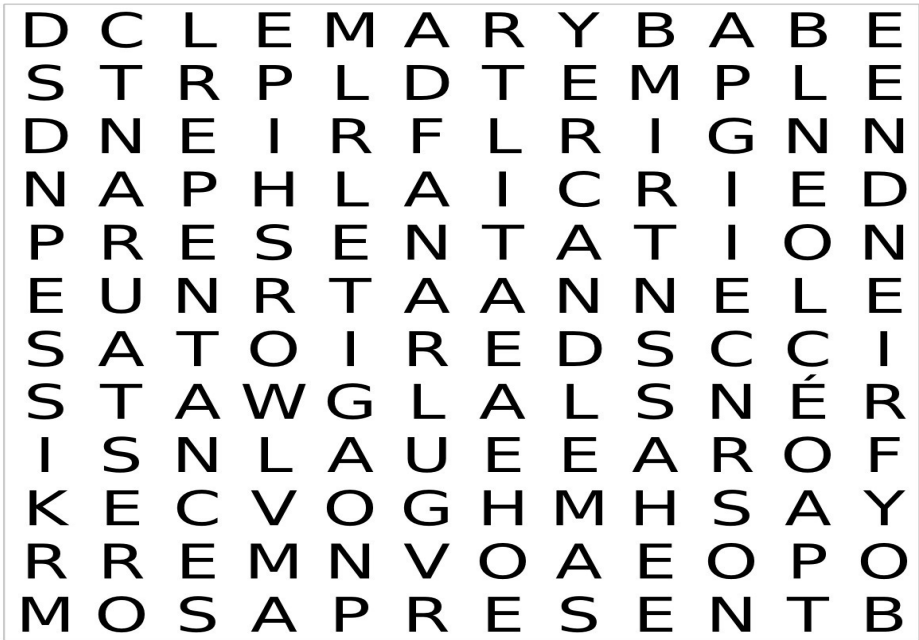
7pm for 7:30 start

Tickets £18.50 in advance, £23 on the door

Book online on www.twowomenevents.com or come to Cobham
Community Stores (cash or cheques only)

Fully Licensed Bar

Find us on FB for contact and info!



Word search for February

February is the month of romance. Millions of Valentine cards will be sent in the next week or two, as we celebrate our romantic love for that special person in our lives. But there are other kinds of love to celebrate, and on Candlemas we remember Mary and Joseph taking their baby son to the temple to present Him to God. Jesus’ whole life was a loving present to us from God. Through His death for us on the cross, and His resurrection, His love can now transform anyone’s life. Romance can die, but God’s love for us is always there. But it won’t do us much good – unless we accept it!

Valentine Rose Romance Love Present Restaurant Hearts Kiss
Hug girlfriend boyfriend fiancé worship repentance angels baby
Temple Mary Candlemas presentation



Cobham
Gardeners'
Society

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



Alison Marsden

Wednesday 9th March 2022 - 7.30pm

Pruning: Why, When & How

Alison Marsden, founder of Gardening by Design, is asked about pruning more than any other single topic. Many people avoid pruning altogether for fear of doing irreparable damage to their trees & shrubs. Her talk covers why we need to prune plants and how plants react to pruning so that you can have confidence that you are doing the right thing at the right time.

Members free - non members £3



Sharing a love of gardening ... locally
Contact us cobhamgs@hotmail.co.uk