



Cobham & Luddesdowne *January 2022* News

PARISH of COBHAM & LUDDESDOWNE with DODE

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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 of local interest.

Please send material for inclusion by the 15th of the month preceding publication to editorialc1n@gmail.com

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Cobham

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Ann Clarke

Jeffrey Julie-Rusz

David Palmer

Luddesdowne

Colin Campbell (Lay Chair)

Sue Campbell

Rita Hayward

Janet Weaver

Cover photograph by Adrian—thank you



January
2022

Happy New Year everyone

As a teen of the 70s I remember a song called 'January' by the band Pilot. The words went - "*January sick and tired you been hanging on me*" I have never really understood the meaning behind the song, however as time has gone on I believe it is quite unfair to refer to the month of January in such terms. Yes the bills roll in and the coldest of months does drag on especially if you are waiting on pay day! Yet it is a start of a New Year with all the hope and anticipation that comes with it, will there be a wedding? A new addition to the family? A new job? Will you take that holiday of a lifetime? Ok so the year ahead may not include any of the above and we are likely to have the occasional downcast, unhappy or bad news day, but let's try to make the most of whatever 2022 holds in store for us. We managed through 2020/21 so let's be positive for 2022!

With all good wishesTina

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 12 January.

CONTACT: MARY PALMER - 01474 816788



TWO WOMEN EVENTS

Present:

FROM THE STYLE COUNCIL



THURSDAY 20th January 2022

7pm for 7:30 start

St Mary Magdalene Church, Cobham KENT

Tickets £19.50 in advance, £25 on the door

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NORTH KENT EMBROIDERERS



Hello Everybody,

Happy New Year to you.

There was no speaker at our last meeting but we enjoyed Eileen's quiz and the Santa sacks as well as Anita's delicious cake, Mary's famous rocky road cake and excellent snacks. Many of our members had made cards to go in the Santa sack and it was lovely to receive something beautiful to take away.

Many of us have said how much they have enjoyed and developed their love of stitching as a result of the pandemic and it is so nice now to be able to see some of the results.

One of our new members, Leonie showed us her beautiful butterfly stitched using the silk shading method. Many of us are looking forward to another day school with Jenny Adin-Christie

www.jennyadinchristieembroidery.com in February. The main skill we will be learning is 'stumpwork' with a choice of a snowdrop or a fairy to work on. Jenny is such an excellent teacher that I'm sure we will all produce beautiful pieces to show you.

Meanwhile, work on our new banner is continuing. The speedy stitchers among us have already finished their first letter to go towards making up the wording, with some of them bravely taking on a second one. My task is to stitch the QR code at the bottom of the page. Keep your fingers crossed for me that it works when it's finished!



If you would like to join us or just find out a bit more about us then please look at our website <https://northkentembroiderers.co.uk/> or email us at: info@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

On 7th December Sole Street WI members held our traditional Christmas lunch in St Mary's Church Room. Our president, Yvonne, had invited us all to decorate an old jumper with items to hand at home so we all arrived in very colourful, if elaborate, Christmas jumpers - see photo. We enjoyed our home made soup and were treated to dessert with hot custard whipped up in the modest church room kitchen. Members had each created a Secret Santa and after all the festivities and joke reading was over, we parted on the promise of "Carol Singing in the Park" the following week at Camer Park. We had a collection of donations for Gravesend Food Bank.

The final meeting of our Institute for 2021 took the form of a Craft Meeting in SMCR on 15th December when members set about making Christmas wreaths & table decorations.

We have kept our plans very flexible for our annual programme in the light of any restrictions that may have to apply. At the time of writing our first gathering planned is a New Year Lunch at the Golden Lion. We also have walks every week organised from the car park at Jeskyns.

Sole Street WI meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month in St Mary's Church Room. The meeting planned for January is a Beetle Drive and other table games

For further information on this and all our activities please contact Yvonne tel 01474 813455

Molly Isaacs



Cobham & Luddesdown W.I.



Even though our annual Festive Tea was as early in December as it could have been, the Christmas spirit was definitely there.

With tables decorated with flowers, crackers and two tables loaded with all sorts of food, so generously provided by our members, including Jean Horgan's legendary fresh cream meringues (which apparently take eight hours to cook!) and some Christmas music playing in the background, how could it not be? Everyone had been asked to take a Covid-19 lateral flow test before they came and this, together with other anti virus precautions that had been carried out, at least gave those who had decided to come along, a degree of comfort. Some ladies, who were due to attend, had elected not to, as they had been in contact with someone who had tested positive for Covid. Anyway, with that in mind, the pandemic was put to one side and everyone joined in the fun.

Everyone tucked in to the food, the raffle was drawn and then local resident and handyman, Kevin Holmes, gave us some anecdotes from his career in education and then proceeded to take us back to our childhoods with some party games. We had already had a Christmas quiz and played "pass the parcel", kindly prepared by Joyia Henderson; and we thought that was it, until Kevin produced a game that had us doing the opposite – trying to wrap a parcel with one hand, which proved to be much more difficult than you might think. For the second game, he produced what can only be described as a Heath Robinson arrangement of elastic bands, joining everyone at the tables to a red felt pen, which we had to then use to colour Rudolph's nose red, without actually touching the pen. Impossible without a bit of cheating, you might think, but at least one table did it.

Finally, Kevin reminisced about his own childhood Christmases, when the kids all relieved their boredom after the Christmas meal by throwing the debris from the crackers into each other's paper hats. Not the sort of thing you would expect grown-ups to take part in. Nevertheless, we all did! Much to the delight of everyone there.

Continued on next page.....9

Having wished each other “Happy Christmas and a Happier New Year”, distributed our Christmas Cards and filled our “doggie bags” with the excess food, everyone departed, leaving the stalwart helpers to clear up and we all looked forward to our next meeting on Wednesday 5th January 2022, starting at 2 p.m. at the Meadow Room, when Peter Hartley will be coming along to talk to us about Her Majesty the Queen, in her Platinum Jubilee Year. If anyone who is not a member of Cobham & Luddesdown W.I. would like to come along to that meeting, they would be most welcome, but please contact our secretary, Jenny Brooker or Janet Cherrison, our president, first. We ask visitors to pay just £2, which includes tea and cakes. Jenny may be contacted at 01474 362501, email: CobhamLuddesdown@wkwfi.org

The Monday Club raised £144.44 at their Christmas meeting – funds raised have been put towards the Church Room renovations. Well done—Monday clubbers!!



COBHAM’S CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

We wish to thank all volunteers who gave up their Saturday to make the 2021 Christmas Bazaar so enjoyable and successful.

Although we scaled it down, we managed to raise £2,015.14. We are so fortunate to have people to make cakes, preserves, sell bacon butties, roast chestnuts and much, much more. Thank you for the part you played in supporting us. All monies go to the work of Cobham Church.

Wishing you a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2022. Michele Jackson and Geraldine Cracknell.



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January - Often The coldest month January might be the middle of winter but as the days lengthen the garden starts to grow. Now is a great time to plan for the coming gardening year and to order seeds and plants. Enjoy the fresh air, on dry sunny days, and check your winter protection, stakes, ties and supports are still working after any severe weather. Also put out food for birds and leave some garden areas uncut, a little longer, to provide shelter for wildlife in your garden.

RHS - Top 10 jobs this month

- 1 Recycle your Christmas tree by shredding it for mulch
- 2 Clean pots and greenhouses ready for spring
- 3 Dig over any vacant plots that have not been dug already
- 4 Disperse worm casts in lawns
- 5 Inspect stored tubers of Dahlia, Begonia and Canna for rots or drying out
- 6 Prune apple and pear trees
- 7 Start forcing rhubarb
- 8 Plan your vegetable crop rotations for the coming season
- 9 Keep putting out food and water for hungry birds
- 10 Make a polythene shelter for outdoor peaches and nectarines, to protect against peach leaf curl

Gardeners announce their 2022 Programme of Events & Shows

Liz Jardine, Chairman of Cobham Gardeners, presented 2021 award winners with their trophies at the AGM held at the Meadow Room on Wednesday 1st December. In addition, Liz announced the launch of their programme of Expert Speaker Talks & Shows for 2022. She circulated copies of their annual schedule to signed up members.

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.

Entrance to all expert speaker talks and Shows is free for members and just £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 of those garden jobs. You can apply for membership via the Gardeners' e-mail, cobhamgs@hotmail.co.uk. Membership is still only a modest £8 for the year – money you more than 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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Friends of Cobham Church

Thank you to everyone who supported the Friends by buying Hilary Savage's beautiful Christmas card. You have raised almost £600 - a splendid total. Happy New Year to you all!



Don't cover over your garden

The TV presenter Monty Don has said that having pavement or tarmac on your property is one of the 'worst contributions' that homeowners can make to climate change.

The Gardeners' World presenter points out that hard surfaces prevent water from being absorbed into the ground, which is a growing problem because of increased flooding.

Instead, Don urges people to consider having as many absorbent surfaces in their gardens as possible. Writing in the BBC Gardeners' World Magazine, he explains: "We need for excess water to slowly work down into our underground aquifers and make its way gradually to our rivers and out to the sea."





Smile Lines



Cry Pharaoh!

A visiting minister was very long-winded. Every time he felt he'd made a good point in his sermon, he would repeat it all over again. Finally, the host pastor started responding to every few sentences with 'Amen, Pharaoh!' The guest minister wasn't sure what that meant, but after several more 'Amen, Pharaohs' he concluded his very lengthy sermon.

After the service was over and the congregation had left, the visiting minister turned to his host and asked, "What exactly did you mean when you said 'Amen, Pharaoh?'"

His host minister replied, "I was begging you to let my people go!"

Moses revisited

Nine-year-old Joseph was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday school. "Well, Mum, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his engineers build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then he radioed headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved."

"Now, Joseph, is that really what your teacher taught you?" his mother asked, somewhat alarmed.

"Well, no, Mum. But if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!"

Chocolate

When I look at chocolate, I hear two voices in my head. The first one says, 'You need to eat the chocolate.' The second one says, 'You heard. Eat the chocolate.'



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Dates for the Diary



Toyah—2/12/21
From the Style Council—20/1/22
Forever Elton—17/2/22
Fil Straughan—17/3/22



History tours

Come in - Guided tour of St George's church, Gravesend & environs

On: Tuesday 18th January 2022 At: St George's Church, Church Street, Gravesend Guide: Christoph Bull (Local Historian)
Meet: 2pm. Price: £10 (includes light refreshments at the church afterwards) – the tour will go ahead only with 10 people or more.
Stories of Pocahontas and much-much more. Booking essential as individuals or groups. Rev Jim Fletcher (Rector of St George's church) 01474 532505

Cement-Civil War & Cleopatra's needle – guided tour of St Peter & St Paul's church, Swanscombe

On: Saturday 29th January 2022
At: St Peter & St Paul's church, Swanscombe Street, Swanscombe
Guide: Christoph Bull (Local Historian) Meet: 3pm
Price: £5-tour of external and internal areas of church, lots of secret history stories. A charity fund raising event of the Town Mayor of Swanscombe & Greenhithe, Councillor Lesley Howes, who will be attending.
No need to book – just turn up and pay at the door. Latest edition of illustrated booklet on Swanscombe Church available.

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.

Welcome to **Cobham, Luddesdowne** and
Sole Street Churches
Services during January

Sunday 2nd January

10:30am Morning Prayer, Luddesdowne

Sunday 9th January

10:30am Holy Communion (BCP), Cobham

Sunday 16th January

10:30am Holy Communion, Luddesdowne

Sunday 23rd January

10:30am Holy Communion, Cobham

Sunday 30th January

10:30am Holy Communion, Luddesdowne

Midweek services

**9am Informal Morning Prayer 12th, 19th and 26th
held in people's homes during the winter months
contact Pat 01474 814343 for details.**

Various reflections on daily life

Hope means expectancy when things are otherwise hopeless. – *GK Chesterton*

Do not pray for easy lives. Pray to be stronger men. – *John F Kennedy*

Grief drives men into the habits of serious reflection, sharpens the understanding and softens the heart. – *John Adams*

Many come to bring their clothes to church rather than themselves. – *Anon*

Churches in cities are most wonderful solitudes. – *Thomas Merton*

Remember that Triumph is just a little ‘umph’ added to ‘try.’ – *Anon*

Good judgment comes from experience. Unfortunately, the experience usually comes from bad judgment. – *Anon*

There are decades when nothing happens: and there are weeks when decades happen. – *Vladimir Ilyich Lenin*

Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed, until it is faced. – *James Baldwin*

Hope smiles from the threshold of the year to come, whispering ‘it will be happier’ – *Alfred Lord Tennyson*

Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbours, and let every new year find you a better man. – *Benjamin Franklin*





Cobham's Register

Baptism

Willow Phoebe MORGAN was Baptised on the 7th November 2021.
We welcome Willow into the Church family.

Funeral

Evelyn BURCH was born on the 16th September 1933 and died on the 11th October 2021 aged 88 years old. Evelyn's funeral took place in Cobham church on the 15th November 2021, followed by burial in the churchyard. Our sympathy and prayers go to Evelyn's daughters Hilary and Faith, other family members and friends.

Good Cause —

Luddesdowne church's collection at the Remembrance Sunday service was for The Royal British Legion and came to a total of £155.00. Sandra Price, the representative of The Royal British Legion, has acknowledge this and sent a letter of grateful thanks.

Luddesdowne's Carols by Candlelight, Nine Lesson and Carols, was held on the 12th December. The collection goes to charities and this year the Parochial Church Council decided to give the collection to Crisis. For the small number of us that attended a grand total of £192.94 was raised. This will go to help the homeless people.

LUDESLOW PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Monday 17th January 2022

Monday 21st March 2022 - APM

COBHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 2022

4th January, Main Hall, Meadow Rooms

8th February, Committee Room, Meadow Rooms

8th March, Committee Room, Meadow Rooms

5th April, Main Hall, Meadow Rooms

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

CHURCH ROOM UPDATE ...

The Christmas Wreath Making Workshop on Wednesday, 12th December was fully booked. It was refreshing to hear conversation punctuated with laughter again while participants worked to create master-class rings. Thank you to the Local Funding Group for so generously providing copious amounts of foliage, cakes, tea and coffee and to Chris Antrobus. The bonus was to make a profit of £305 towards the 'Tin Tabernacle Community Hub – Repoli-Shed'.

On Sunday we held 'Christmas at Home' at Sole Street House with mulled wine and Christmas bites – again so generously provided by the Local Funding Group. Even with Covid restrictions we raised £313.50

The LFG treasurer and chairman, aided by our very special IT expert, are presently spending every waking minute concentrating on the grant application to Veolia – please wish us luck and keep fingers and toes crossed that our application will be successful.

If you are considering holding a meeting, class, children's party or other event, the present fees for hiring the Church Room are:-

Hourly Rate £ 6. 00.

Regular User Groups, 2 hours session £10. 00.

All Day - £20. 00.

Telephone Su Rowe to book 07557 990944 or 01474 814560

Or call at Sole Street House to discuss.

Wouldn't it be great if a Mothers and Toddlers Group, Slimming Club, Keep Fit class, Book Club or IT class were held in the Church Room Sole Street? Maybe you'd like to arrange a fund-raising event for the project!

Great news - A £10,000 grant has been allocated by the Rochester Missionary property branch towards work on the Church Room.

The LFG wish you all a very happy, healthy and wealthy New Year.

Take care,

Susan Rowe

Local Funding Group

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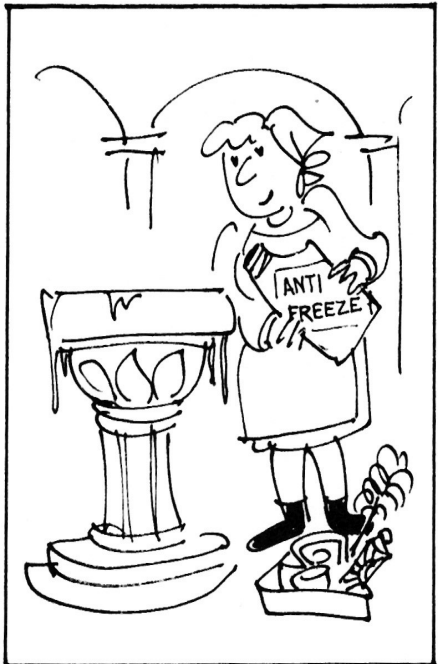
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Hello Cobham peeps - Hope you had a lovely Christmas!

The winter is a cold time and I wear my warm coat when I go for my walks, I do not go very far but I do enjoy sniffing along the hedgerows and around the bottom of the trees. I like to keep fit and keep my bones moving and walking is a great way to exercise, especially after enjoying all the goodies over Christmas. Don't be put off by the cold just wrap up warm and get out and enjoy this very pretty and special time of year in our own very beautiful parish!

Love and licks Harvey



Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Mt 14: 13-22, Mk 6: 45-52, Jn 5: 16-21

After Jesus had fed the crowd, he sent his disciples off in their boat and the crowd away. He went up the mountain to pray.

Jesus spent the evening with his father God.



A strong wind started to toss the boat around.



They tried rowing but could make no headway.



Not long before morning they saw someone walking past them on the water.



They thought it was a ghost and screamed!



Don't be afraid! It's me, Jesus.



Lord, if it's really you, tell me to come to you!



Peter started walking towards Jesus...



he saw how strong the wind was and took fright. He began to sink!

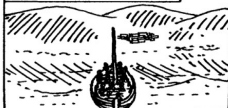


Jesus pulled Peter up.



Why did you stop trusting?

As Jesus and Peter got into the boat the wind died down.



The disciples worshipped Jesus.



You really are the Son of God!

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. The first meeting in the New Year 2022 will be on Friday 14th January at 6pm. Boys and girls aged 5-18 years old are very welcome to join in the fun, which includes games, craft and team activities. The uniform is an inexpensive blue T-shirt and sweatshirt with an embroidered badge. The weekly subscription is £2.

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 activities are supervised by fully trained and qualified leaders.

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

Meopham Library Writing Group meetings are held in Meopham Library on the first Thursday morning of each month. The first meeting in the New Year 2022 will be on **Thursday 6th January 2022 at 10am**. The meetings usually end at about midday. Masks must be worn in the library and as the kitchen is unavailable just now, please bring a drink. 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”, “Harvest Festival”, “Journey” and “Celebrations”. There is also a writing challenge, which involves writing several sensible sentences containing seven words chosen by the group, using less than seventy words.

New members are always welcome and anyone who is interested in writing, either as a beginner or a more experienced writer, is invited to join our small, but friendly group.

Many people enjoy writing about their memories, which can be very interesting for their families and friends. Writing can also be very therapeutic in difficult times. The following writing group meetings will be held on 3rd February, 3rd March and 7th April. For more information, or to join the group, please ring **01474 813379** or just turn up at the library on Thursday 6th January at 10am.

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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!

N	R	E	H	T	U	O	S	S	R	H	R
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Where did the Wise Men come from?

Magi from the East – it isn't a lot to go on. The Magi were a religious caste devoted to astrology, divination and the interpretation of dreams. Some scholars believe these magi came from southern Arabia, where the Queen of Sheba had lived. She would have learned about the coming Messiah from Solomon.

In Matthew's gospel the Magi ask Herod: 'Where is the One who has been born king of the Jews? We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.' So it is possible that Queen of Sheba's story of Messiah for Israel had survived.

One thing that supports the theory that the magi came from southern Arabia is this: if you study any map of Palestine as it was during biblical times, you will find that the old Arabian caravan routes all entered Palestine 'from the East'.

Magi East Religious Caste Astrology Divination Dreams Scholars
 Southern Arabia Queen Sheba Messiah Solomon Herod
 King Star Worship Palestine Caravan



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

PREMIUM WINES, VINEYARDS & ESTATES



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