



Cobham & Luddesdowne

October 2026

News

£1

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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

Church Officers St. Mary Magdalene, Cobham

Lay Chair	Hilary Savage	01634 723027
PCC Secretary	Greg Atkinson	
Churchwarden	Hilary Savage	
Treasurer	Vacant	
Deanery Synod	Hilary Savage	01634 723027

Church Officers St Peter and St. Paul, Luddesdowne

Lay Chair	Janet Weaver	
PCC Secretary	Greg Atkinson	
Treasurer	Janet Weaver	01732 823936

Parochial Church Council Members

Cobham	Luddesdowne
Greg Atkinson	Diana Bampton
Peter Balanck	Jill Beety
Ron Chamberlain	Sue Campbell
Lynn Ruddock	Janet Weaver

SUBMISSIONS Cobham and Luddesdowne News is a community magazine produced by and for the residents of Cobham, Sole Street and Luddesdowne. - Please note new email address.

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

Cover photograph by Adrian Whiteing - Cobham Mausoleum-under renovation in October 2022.

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October 2026

Looking back on the Jarrow March - Tim Lenton

Ninety years ago, from 5th to 31st October, the Jarrow March took place. Some 200 men walked from Jarrow in north-east England to Westminster to draw attention to the severe unemployment and poverty in their area.

Because of the huge number of unemployed in the town, on the banks of the Tyne, the marchers felt compelled to do something dramatic to stir the government out of its apparent complacency. Their loss of Palmer's shipyard two years previously had meant that a staggering 70 per cent of the town were jobless.

They called their walk of nearly 300 miles a Crusade, and they received widespread support from local political parties of all kinds on their way to London, and from the population generally.

Before they left, the mayor, Alderman J W Thompson, the town clerk, members of the town council, and their extremely supportive MP, Ellen Wilkinson, attended a service at Christ Church, in which all the clergymen and ministers of the town took part. The Bishop of Jarrow, Dr Geoffrey Gordon, gave a blessing.

But there was little official support from the Church at top level, who seemed to regard the Crusade as political and disruptive. Dr Gordon was in fact rebuked for this reason by his superior, the Bishop of Durham, the Rt Revd Hensley Henson.

However, the men walked for 25 days in a peaceful line, causing no trouble at all. Miss Wilkinson joined them for much of the journey. On reaching London, the 12,000-signature petition calling for the government to build more industries was presented to Parliament, but it was not debated.

Although the men from Jarrow, who returned home by train, undoubtedly regarded their Crusade as a failure, it did in fact effect change, leading up to the creation of the Welfare State after the war.

Autumn Nocturne

Chopin's quavers tumble in their chords,
Nocturnes gently soothing as they play;
Arpeggios – saying more than words
As autumn shades replace the summer day.



Sapphire skies give way to rainy grey
The heat is gone from damp and misty air,
The maple sheds its fire of yesterday
The moonlight shines on boughs now stark and bare.

Hands of gentle skill caress the keys,
The nocturne soothes our spirits as it's played.
We sigh not for the baring of the trees
Nor for the coming of the winter shade.

Forgotten soon the frozen frosty ground
The mem'ry stowed beside our winter coats;
As warm we sit, enfolded by the sound
Of Chopin's Nocturne and his graceful notes!

By Nigel Beeton



Sole Street W.I

August has been another busy month for our members, despite the hot weather!

At the beginning of the month, twelve of our members enjoyed a visit to Great Comp Gardens near Sevenoaks, exploring seven acres of beautiful gardens surrounding a charming 17th-century manor house. It was a lovely opportunity to wander, admire the gardens and find shade when needed.

We were also very fortunate to be invited to a wonderful afternoon tea hosted by one of our members, held in support of the charity, *'Breast Cancer Now!'*

Despite the soaring temperatures – and plenty of melting going on – our lovely host kept us refreshed and entertained with delicious treats and some fun games. A fabulous afternoon for a very worthwhile cause which raised an amazing £400 pounds.



On Tuesday 25th August, 24 members gathered for our annual Garden Party. This year was particularly special as we also celebrated a belated 70th birthday. We enjoyed a delicious three-course lunch, followed by, of course, a little birthday cake! It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces, including some of our long-standing members, and to have the chance to catch up, chat and simply enjoy each other's company. All in all, it was a lovely afternoon and a perfect way to round off another busy month for Sole Street W.I



Dates for your diary:

Monday 21st September 2pm - Craft session at Helens House

Tuesday 22nd September 7.30pm at St. Marys Church Room – *'All things Sloe Gin & Chocolate,'* with Katharine Hook - Please remember your 1 item for the Harvest Hamper.

For further information please email: solestreet@wkwfi.org.uk

Jayne Holden



TWO WOMEN EVENTS

Present:

FLEETWOOD BAC



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TWO WOMEN EVENTS

Present:

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THURSDAY 26th NOVEMBER 2026

St Mary Magdalene Church, Cobham KENT
7pm for 7:30 start

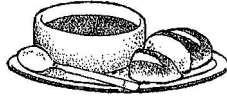
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Local Funding Group '24



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2ND THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH at 10.30am

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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 13th October.

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Thursday Fellowship.

October's meeting will be a recital.

We will be welcoming Mrs Sue Sutton from Rochester, she will give an accompanied song recital called, Songs of the Sea. Sue raises funds for the Wisdom Hospice where her mother was cared for.

Please join us on the 22nd of October at 2.00.p.m in the St. John's Centre, Meopham. There will be Tea and cake following the recital we look forward to seeing you there.



MONDAY CLUB—Sole Street

The Monday Club meets every week at St Mary's Church Room, Manor Road, Sole Street, Cobham from 1.30pm to 3.30pm. It is a small club for the retired and semi- retired. We have a very varied programme of Speakers, Choirs etc with Social Afternoons – tea, biscuits games etc. We also arrange outings to places of interest and afternoon teas. New Members are made very welcome.

ST MARY'S
CHURCH ROOM



Thank you

Many thanks to all those who attended the Macmillan coffee morning and helped raise £375.72.

Also, thanks to everyone who helped, provided raffle prizes and baked delicious cakes.

Paul & Lindsey Kennett

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Sole Street W.I

On Thursday 2nd July, two of our ladies from Sole Street W.I had the pleasure of accepting an invitation to a delightful cream tea hosted by Shorne & Thong WI at Shorne Village Hall. We received a very warm welcome from their members and enjoyed a fascinating talk by Iain Craig, on the life and legacy of Pocahontas. It was wonderful to see another WI in action, share ideas, and spend a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon chatting over tea and scones. Thank you to everyone at Shorne & Thong WI for their warm hospitality.



On a very warm evening on 28th July, our speaker was Susan Shaw, who gave a presentation entitled “*Top Tips for Flower for Arranging.*”

Susan explained that every successful floral arrangement is built around five key elements: colour, form, space, texture and line. Susan treated us to a wonderful selection of photographs showcasing beautiful floral arrangements. She demonstrated how foliage can enhance any display and how seasonal flowers and greenery can be used to create stunning designs throughout the year. It was an enjoyable evening, leaving us with plenty of new ideas to have a go at floral displays.

Dates for your diary:

Tuesday 25th August - 1pm Garden Party at Kathy's house

Friday 18th September - Water Blitz (More info at Garden party meeting)

22nd September - 7.30pm 'All things Sloe Gin & Chocolate' - Katharine Hook

Please bring one item for the Harvest hamper

For further information about our meetings, walking group or craft sessions, please email:

solestreet@wkwfi.org.uk

Jayne Holden

Lewis Solomon

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Dates for your Diary

The dates for the Cobham Parish Council meetings are:

Tuesday 6th October Meadow Rooms at 7.30pm

Tuesday 3rd November St Mary's Church Room at 7.30pm

Tuesday 1st December Meadow Rooms at 7.30pm



The dates for the Luddesdown Parish Council meetings are:

Monday 16th November Luddesdown Village Hall

All meetings start at 7.30pm

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Colin Dickens 07460 242304 or

email lvhbooking@gmail.com

BELL RINGING by Peter Hartley

The Sunday morning service on the radio seems to be following me around or more accurately reminding me of past ringing trips.

Ringling in Cheshire we stopped at the model village of Port Sunlight, built by Lord Leverhulme, a Congregationalist, for his workers in his chemical works making Sunlight soap. The church looks like a traditional Anglican parish church but is run by the United Reformed Church. An interesting service was broadcast from the church and I was remembering ringing their eight bells. Bells are very unusual for a nonconformist church but such was the generosity of Lord Leverhulme.

Though time was short in our ringing schedule I made a point of running round the marvellous Lady Lever Art Gallery.

The other United Reformed church with bells is at Saltaire in West Yorkshire in the model village built by Sir Titus Salt for his workers in his spinning mills on the banks of the River Aire. While looking around the church and seeing the Salt family mausoleum a bible reading marathon was taking place in aid of church funds. The light ring of six bells remained unringed on this occasion.

Another service was broadcast from the Hampshire church of Old Alresford to mark the 150th anniversary of the Mothers' Union which was founded by the Rector's wife, Mrs. Mary Sumner. I recall ringing their six bells and in the church Mrs. Sumner was well remembered. Her Mothers' Union received the royal patronage of Queen Victoria in 1897 and today has 4 million members in 84 countries. It was then on to the larger New Alresford to ring their eight church bells.

It is a while since I rang these particular Cheshire and Hampshire bells. I hope teams of ringers are still keeping them sounding. Our Cobham team keep our village bells ringing out. Any team welcomes new members. If you would be interested to see what we do we aim to practise on Wednesdays from 7.30p.m. to 9.00p.m. and on Sunday service days to ring between 10.00a.m. and 10.30a.m. The tower door is at the base of the church tower, and then come up the stairs carefully and knock on the ringing room door.

A welcome awaits.



Meopham Library Writing Group

Meopham Library Writing Group meets again on Thursday 1st October 2026 at 10am.

Anyone who is interested in writing is very welcome to join us. Each month there is a writing challenge and a different writing theme, such as "Exercise", which can be used as a starting point for a short story, poem or an article. Creative writing is a very enjoyable activity which can also be used to record special family memories as well as being helpful for anyone facing difficult times. Future meetings will be held on 5th November, 3rd December and 7th January 2027.

Please ring 01474 813379 for more information.



1st South Street Boys Brigade and Girls Association Company

The 1st South Street Boys Brigade and Girls Association Company meets every Friday evening from 6pm-7.30pm during term time, for boys and girls aged 5-18 years, at South Street Baptist Church, Wrotham Road, Meopham, DA13 0QJ (next to Hope Hill). New members are very welcome to join us for games, craft and Bible stories. Half term is on 30th October.

Please ring 01474 815039 or 01474 813379 for more information or visit www.southstreetbaptist.org.uk and www.BOYS-BRIGADE.org.uk

SONG TIME meets every Monday morning 9.45am-11am during term time for families with babies and toddlers. Half term is on 26th October.

South Street Baptist Church services on Sunday all begin at 10.45am.

There will be a Children's Craft Morning on Wednesday 28th October 10.30am until midday.

All are welcome. Extra parking at Hope Hill Scout Campsite.



LUDDESDOWN SOCIETY



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7:30 PM

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Luddesdown & District Rights of Way Group.

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

**St John's Meopham with St Mildred's
Nurstead Church Services for October 2026**



Sunday 4 October

9.45am Morning Worship at St John's
11.30am Holy Communion at St Mildred's

Sunday 11 October

9.45am Holy Communion at St John's
11.30am Mattins at St Mildred's
3pm Sunday Afternoon Club at St John's

Sunday 18 October

9.45am Morning Worship at St John's

Sunday 25 October

9.45am Holy Communion

Please note that the services are correct at the time of going to print, but please check the Churches' websites for any possible changes.

*For Cobham and Luddesdowne <https://www.cobham-luddesdowne.org/>
For Meopham and Nurstead <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/9875/>*

Cobham, Luddesdowne and Sole Street
Church Services during October 2026



Sunday 4th October

10:30am Harvest Festival Service, Luddesdowne
Packets and tins to The Community Cupboard, West Kingsdown
Fresh produce to the Ellenor Hospice and
Monetary collection to TEAR Fund

Sunday 11th October

10:30am Holy Communion, Cobham

Sunday 18th October

10:30am Baptism Service, Luddesdowne

Sunday 25th October

10:30am Memorial and Thanksgiving Service, Cobham (*Don't forget the clocks go backwards*)

Midweek services in Sole Street

St Mary's Church Room, Informal Morning Prayer

9:30am – 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th October

Please note that the services are correct at the time of going to print, but please check the Churches' websites for any possible changes.

For Cobham and Luddesdowne <https://www.cobham-luddesdowne.org/>

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ST MARY'S
CHURCH ROOM



CHRISTMAS WREATH WORKSHOP

This popular event will be led by Sue Arnott on
Tuesday 1st December at The Meadow Room, Cobham
from 10.00 am – 2.00 pm
Tickets are £30 which includes all necessary mechanics, foliage
and decorations, You will need to bring a cloth to work
on, kitchen scissors and knife and your lunch.

Please book with

Sue Arnott: 07783 285105 or Su Rowe 07557 990944



Cobham
Gardeners'
Society

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



Wednesday 14th October 2026 - 7pm Behind The Scenes At Kew Gardens By Dr John Hughes

As a member of the RHS Tender Ornamental Plant Group, our Speaker John Hughes has had access to areas not normally visited by the general public. Amongst other things, he has promised to show us the work going on behind the scenes to keep the Davies Alpine House looking presentable throughout the year and the work involved in restoring the Temperate Glasshouse, including photos taken by a Kew staff member specially for the talk. He also promises to show some of the wonderful plants grown in the nursery areas which are not open to the public

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CAN YOU HELP PLEASE?

Dear reader,

About five years ago, I researched and, with the permission of the owner, surveyed some of the features of Cobham's Second World War heavy anti-aircraft battery off Lodge Lane.

From the finding of a contemporary map, I also came across evidence of a small earlier anti-aircraft battery for a 3-inch gun and a searchlight from the First World War. This appears to have been roughly 200 yards or so north of The Street. These were part of a massive strategic air defence system for the protection of London, involving many such batteries and searchlights, fighter airfields and balloon barrages. Unfortunately, the map is at too small a scale and the location dot too large to allow a precise location for the Cobham site. So, I wondered whether a reader might know of the location so that I might investigate? Any results would be shared.

Some years ago, I recorded the Second World War school air raid shelters off The Street. The report was deposited with the school and there is a copy within the archive of the Heritage Conservation Group of Kent County Council.

I would be grateful for any assistance.
With thanks.

Victor Smith of Northfleet (Kent Defence Research Group)

Please respond to either Victor - victor.defcon1@gmail.com

Or via the editor email (to forward on to Victor) - clnewseditorial@gmail.com



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Autumn Show

What a great show we had on Saturday 12th September. After a challenging summer in terms of weather as a committee, we weren't sure what to expect in terms of entries. But we needn't have worried we had a steady stream of members arriving in the morning to place their entries, 293 entries in total, which was a record! Jean Pickering won best in show with her superb flower arrangement. When the show opened members and visitors enjoyed viewing all the varied and colourful displays and then catching up with tea and homemade cake in the sun. More photos on our Facebook Page – Cobham Gardeners Society Established in 1901. Many thanks to everyone who visited, exhibited, donated cakes/raffle prizes, sold cakes/raffle tickets or generally helped. Without you there wouldn't be a show!



Cobham Gardeners' Society Next Event at The Meadow Rooms - Wednesday 14th October 2026 – 7pm expert speaker talk.

Behind the Scenes at Kew Gardens by Dr John Hughes (See page 21).

October - The autumn chill sets in

Although we had some warmer days over September, the autumn is now definitely here for real, and it feels colder. It's a beautiful time of year, with the trees changing colour. Sometimes it may seem pointless raking, when the wind blows even more leaves onto the lawn, but just think of all the lovely leaf mould you can make! It's also time to start preparing for early frosts.

RHS - Top 10 jobs this month

- 1 Divide established rhubarb crowns to create new plants
- 2 Cut back perennials that have died down
- 3 Divide herbaceous perennials
- 4 Move tender plants, inc. aquatic ones, into a greenhouse or conservatory
- 5 Plant out spring cabbages
- 6 Harvest apples, pears, grapes and nuts
- 7 Prune climbing rose
- 8 Finish collecting seeds from the garden to sow next year
- 9 Last chance to mow lawns and trim hedges in mild areas
- 10 Renovate old lawns or create new grass areas by laying turf

You can sign up for Membership of Cobham Gardeners at any time ... and get savings at local garden centres straight away to help with all of those garden jobs. Membership 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 email cobhamgs@hotmail.co.uk

Cobham Choir

10

10th Anniversary Season

Would you like to join a choir where you quickly feel like you belong?

Do you want to join an amazing group of women who sing a wide range of music to a high standard and have a lot of fun at the same time?

If the answer is yes, and you read music or sing well by ear, then come along and join us for a free 'give us a go and see what you think' rehearsal on 8th September.

Email cobhamchoir@gmail.com for more details and to let us know you're coming.



Sunday Afternoon Club

3.00pm on some Sunday Afternoons in the St John's Centre Meopham: Songs and Stories, Prayers and Games, Activities and Food!
For Children up to age 12 and their adults.
For further info visit stjohnsmeopham.co.uk



FUNERAL

Josephine Elizabeth SIMONS (known as Josie) was born on the 17th October 1940 and died on the 2nd August 2026, at the age of 85 years old. Josie's funeral took place at Thames View Crematorium on the 24th August 2026. The service was conducted by her brother-in-law The Rev'd Deryck CHARNOCK. Our condolences and prayers go to Josie's daughter's Denise and Joanne and their families.



MEMORIAL AND THANKSGIVING SERVICE

St Mary Magdalene Church Cobham

Sunday 25th October at 10:30am

~~~~~

A time to remember those loved ones  
who are no longer with us.

~~~~~

Jesus said: Peace I leave with you.

My peace I give to you.

Do not let your hearts be troubled,
neither let them be afraid.





Primrose and Paws

DOG GROOMING

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"Wait a moment, dear, this isn't a tourists' attraction ratings guide, it's a Health and Safety warning!"



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At our monthly meeting in September, we were pleased to welcome Derek March who gave a talk on 'The Story of English Country Cheeses'. We learned that there are well over 2,000 English cheeses. We export mainly stilton and cheddar cheeses, much of which supplies cruise ships. Derek took us back to ancient Egypt when cheese was made in the stomach lining of animals using milk mixed with honey. He went on to tell us about the Roman occupation of Britain in 53AD and the importance of cheese for them. They brought their technological innovations with them, including food production. Their skill at road construction is well documented and we were told that the Iceni were known to remove some of the clay layer to make clay pots – hence the term 'potholes'. (Other theories are available!). The Romans loved cheese and produced one which is the forerunner to modern day mozzarella. The growth of Christianity brought the religious orders, with their abbeys, which took over when the Romans left. Moving on to the 16th century, cheese was very unpleasant. Cows were diseased and milk maids contracted cowpox. Cheese was in fact pretty lethal until Louis Pasteur developed a method of sterilisation.

Most of us knew already that there are two types of Stilton – blue and white, which are produced around the village of Melton Mowbray, but Cheshire cheese is the oldest and noblest and a favourite of Queen Elizabeth the first. An interesting fact was about Jervaulx Abbey, which was totally destroyed during the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII . Only one book was found in the remains and this contained the recipe for Wensleydale cheese, which, we were reminded, was a particular favourite of Wallace and Gromit! Derek brought along a selection of cheeses for us to sample.

Our next monthly meeting will be on Wednesday 7th October, preceded by our annual Ploughman's Lunch. Between 2 and 4pm our ladies will be using their skills to make paper angel Christmas tree decorations and solving some quiz questions. Visitors are always welcome to attend our meetings, for which there will be a charge of £3. Please contact our secretary, Jenny, for further info (01474 362501).



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Miscellaneous observations on daily life



At my age I have given up on health foods; I need all the preservatives I can get.

Ever feel like life is a car wash and you're on a bicycle?

It's good to have self-confidence. It's even better to have a reason for it.

You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream.

Blessed are the flexible people, for they don't mind when the demands of family and work ties them in knots.

If God had wanted us to fly, He would have given us tickets. (*Mel Brooks*)

My favourite childhood memory is having energy.

My mind is like an internet browser. At least 19 open tabs, three of them are frozen and I have no clue where the music is coming from.

It's weird being the same age as old people.



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 C O M P A S S I O N I P O W
 S A M A R I T A N N S H O R
 E L C E T L A N E M O W D A

To St Luke, whose feast-day is 18th October, we owe a beautifully written gospel as well as the Book of Acts. He was a Greek physician and faithful travelling companion to St Paul. Under house arrest near the end of his life Paul noted, 'only Luke is with me'. Luke's gospel focuses on the compassion of Christ, and offers us moving parables, such as the Good Samaritan and Prodigal Son. Women figure more prominently in Luke's gospel than in any other: look out for the extended story of the Virgin Birth, and stories of Mary, Elizabeth, and the woman who was a sinner. His gospel also features more poor people, more lepers, more 'sinners', who are all shown to be 'inside' the love of Christ. In Acts, Luke skilfully links sacred and profane history, as subsequent archaeology has shown. He tells of how the early Christians moved away from Jerusalem into the pagan world, and especially on to Rome.

Luke Feast Day Written Gospel Acts Greek Physician Travelling
 Faithful Paul Compassion Parables Prodigal Son Good Samaritan
 Women Poor Lepers Sinners Jerusalem Pagan Rome Early
 Christians

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Hello all my special hooman friends

I had to go to the vets the other evening, the editor found a little lump on my neck. The lovely lady at the vets had a look at said lump and told the editor that it was nothing to worry about. Anyway, I suddenly went off the lovely lady a bit when she said that “at my age” we could expect these things, well how dare she - I’m not even 9 yet!

A lovely Boneo and a snuggle on the sofa made me feel better!

Enjoy all the Autumn colours.

Paddy



World Animal Day, held on 4th October, the feast day of St Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals, aims to raise awareness about animal protection and welfare.

Here in the UK, we have a good network of animal charities devoted to the rescue, medical care, and wildlife conservation. The leading one is the RSPCA, but there are many more! For info visit

[Www.worldanimalday.org/get-involved/](http://www.worldanimalday.org/get-involved/)



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