



# Cobham & Luddesdowne News

October 2025

£1

## **PARISH of COBHAM with LUDDESDOWNE and DODE**

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

For all enquiries, including Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals, please contact Alyson.

Phone no. 01474-812068 email:- [alyson@stjohnsmeopham.co.uk](mailto:alyson@stjohnsmeopham.co.uk)  
(Rest Day: Friday)

**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 of St. Mary Magdalene, Cobham**

<b>Lay Chair</b>	Hilary Savage	07557 987320
<b>Churchwarden</b>	Hilary Savage	
<b>PCC Secretary</b>	Vacant	
<b>Treasurer</b>	Jeffrey Julie-Rusz	07946 249021
<b>Deanery Synod</b>	Hilary Savage	07557 987320

### **Church Officers St Peter and St. Paul, Luddesdowne**

<b>Lay Chair</b>	Sue Campbell	
<b>Treasurer</b>	Janet Weaver	01732 823936

### **Parochial Church Council Members**

#### **Cobham**

Peter Balanck  
Ron Chamberlain  
David Palmer  
Lynn Ruddock

#### **Luddesdowne**

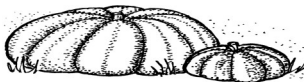
Diana Bampton  
Jill Beety  
Sue Campbell  
Janet Weaver

**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](mailto:editorialcln@gmail.com)**

**Cover photograph - Adrian Whiteing** -Cobham Hall estate between the Hall and Halfpence Lane apparently known as either Lime Tree Walk, The Long Walk or the Avenue?

**Printed by Wested Logistics Limited 01474 361615**  
**[sales@westedpress.com](mailto:sales@westedpress.com)**



October  
2025

## **St Francis of Assisi - love for the Creation**

St Francis (1181 - 1226) is surely one of the most attractive and best-loved of all the saints. But he began by being anything but a saint. Born the son of a wealthy cloth-merchant of Assisi, Francis' youth was spent in fast-living, parties and on fast horses as a leader of the young society of the town. Then he went to the war between Assisi and Perugia, and was taken prisoner for a year. By the time of his release, Francis had changed. Perhaps his own suffering had awakened him to that of others. In any case, he abandoned warfare and carousing, and began to help the poor and the lepers of his area. Then one day a voice which seemed to come from the crucifix in the small, semi-derelict church of Damiano Assisi 'Go and repair my house, which you see is falling down'.

This religious experience was a vital turning point in Francis' life: Jesus Christ became very real and immediate to him. His first action was to begin repairing the church, having sold some of his father's cloth to pay for materials. His father was not amused, in fact he was furious - until Francis renounced his inheritance and even his clothes by his dramatic stripping off in the public square of the town. The Bishop of Assisi provided him with simple garments, and Francis began his new life.

His inspiration was always religious, not social, and the object of his quest was always the Crucified Christ, not Lady Poverty for her own sake. Francis rebuilt San Samiano, and then travelled as a pilgrim. His compassion for the poor and lepers became famous. Soon disciples joined him, and they set up a communal life in simple wattle and daub huts. They went on occasional preaching tours. (Not until later did they become an Order whose theologians won fame in the Universities.)

In 1219 Francis visited the Holy Land, and his illusions about the Crusaders were shattered. He went on to seek out the Sultan, and tried to convert him. Back home, he found his Order was now 5,000 strong, and growing. Francis stepped down as head, but continued to preach and was immensely popular. He died after a prolonged illness at the age of 45, and was canonised in 1228. Francis' close rapport with the animal creation was well known. The story of his preaching to the birds has always been a favourite scene from his life. He also tamed the wolf of Gubbio. This affinity emphasises his consideration for, and sense of identity with, all elements of the physical universe, as seen in his Canticle of the Sun. This makes him an apt patron of nature conservation. The 20th century witnessed a widespread revival of interest in Francis. Sadly, some films and books caricatured him as only a sentimental nature-lover or a hippie drop out from society. This ignores the real sternness of his character, and his all-pervasive love of God and identification with Christ's sufferings, which alone make sense of his life. Two ancient, and many modern English churches are dedicated to him.

**Please see below details of a career opportunity  
that we have received from the HR office,  
The Diocese of Rochester**

They are currently recruiting for an **Executive Assistant to the Archdeacon of Rochester**.

For further information and to apply please go to: Church Of England Vacancies - Executive Administrator to the Archdeacon of Rochester or to the Diocesan website: Vacancies



**1<sup>st</sup> Cobham Brownies**  
**(Tuesday evenings during term time only at The Meadow Rooms, Cobham)**

**At Brownies, we welcome all girls from 7 to 10 years old** for non-stop fun, learning and adventure. Brownies get to explore their creative side, get out into the great outdoors, and start to learn to look after themselves, others and the world we live in.

Please email Wendy Ostridge ([wendy.minister@googlemail.com](mailto:wendy.minister@googlemail.com)) if you would like more information about 1<sup>st</sup> Cobham Brownies or register your interest through the Girlguiding website at [www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus/](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus/) and selecting 1<sup>st</sup> Cobham Brownies.

We look forward to meeting new members.



Hello, my name is John and I work for **South Eastern Railway**.

I would like to let you know what has been happening at Sole Street Railway Station over the last year. Many of you will remember Jan, who worked in the ticket office and who was passionate about her gardening and plants.

After she retired, the station became unloved and somewhat tired.

Last year, I had to pop to Sole street to complete a task and I decided I wanted to smarten it up.

At the same time, the company was promoting "South Eastern in Bloom", a company initiative to brighten up our stations and encourage wildlife to thrive.

I offered to get involved and asked if I could do something with Sole St. Bev the station manager, was fully supportive and encouraged me to take the reins and get started.

I started by removing the damaged wooden planters and pots.

I relocated most of the pots around the platform and added a lovely half barrel.

Most of the plants and flowers I have planted are perennials and with a bit of love and care, should continue to flourish.

Also added to the entrance to the platform are wildflowers to bring the pollinators to the area.

All of this would not be possible without the team that has assisted and that brings me onto my next chapter of the story.

The stations from Rochester as far up to Farningham Road are maintained by a couple of fantastic colleagues that we call line cleaners.

They move from station to station cleaning the platforms and facilities. Not only that, but they water the plants for us each day when needed.

They also notify Rochester of any issues at the stations so we can act accordingly. I hope you agree that the station looks so much more presentable and tidier.

These colleagues are very approachable and if anyone needs any assistance when they are there, please don't hesitate to reach out to them.

It is a real pleasure to collaborate with the community and I look forward to meeting the residents when I am at the station to have a chat.

## Thursday Fellowship.



Our next meeting is on 23<sup>rd</sup> October, at 12.30.p.m.  
In the St. John's Centre Meopham.

Do come along as Elleanor Hospice will be catering for a light lunch with a choice of 2 soups and a crumble or pie with custard.  
Cost £6/8 or donation.

All are welcome but please contact Jennifer on 01474 812706 before  
1<sup>st</sup> October.



**1<sup>ST</sup> SOUTH STREET BBGA COMPANY** meets every Friday evening during term time 6pm-7.30pm at South Street Baptist Church, Wrotham Road, Meopham, DA13 0QJ (*next to Hope Hill*). Boys and girls aged 5-18 years are warmly invited to join us for games, craft, cooking, Bible stories and outdoor activities. The half term holiday is on 24<sup>th</sup> September and the weekly subscription is £2.

Kayaking, canoeing and stand-up paddle boarding are taught at the Boys Brigade Water Activities Centre in Tonbridge. Camping and outdoor activities take place at the Honey Hill Boys Brigade Campsite in Maidstone.

Please visit [www.BOYS-BRIGADE.org.uk](http://www.BOYS-BRIGADE.org.uk) for more information about Boys Brigade.

Song time meets every Monday morning during term time 9.45am-11am, for families with babies, toddlers and children under five. The half term holiday is on 20<sup>th</sup> October.

There is a varied selection of toys, including a slide, ball pool, construction toys, home corner, creative activities, musical instruments and singing. Family admission is £1.

The family games afternoon is on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2pm-4pm for all ages. There will be board games, pool, table tennis, craft activities and refreshments. Free admission. South Street Baptist Church Sunday services all begin at 10.45am and finish about midday. There is a Family Service on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October. Please visit [www.southstreetbaptist.org.uk](http://www.southstreetbaptist.org.uk) or ring 01474 815039 or 01474 813379 for more information about activities at South Street Baptist Church.



## **Cobham Church Registers**

### **Funeral**

Brenda Amy STONEHAM was born on the 17<sup>th</sup> January 1927 and died on the 12<sup>th</sup> July 2025 at the age of 98 years old. Brenda's funeral took place on the 9<sup>th</sup> August 2025 in Cobham Church followed by burial in Cobham's lower churchyard with her husband Edgar John STONEHAM. The service was conducted by her grandson-in-law The Rev'd Philip TRAINER curate at St Luke's Maidstone. Our condolences and prayers go to her daughters Anne and Christine and son Paul and their families.

### **Baptism**

Maya GALLOWAY was baptised on the 17<sup>th</sup> August 2025. The service was conducted by The Rev'd Pamela ALEXANDER (Retired clergy with PTO from Rochester Archdeaconry). We welcome Maya into the Church Family.

### **Burial of Ashes**

Beryl Violet WILSON born on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 1929 and died on the 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at the age of 95 years. The service for the burial of her ashes, which were buried within her husband Len's grave in Cobham's lower churchyard, and includes their son Kevin's ashes, took place on the 30<sup>th</sup> August 2025. The service was conducted by The Rev'd Canon Alyson DA-VIE, our Priest-in-Charge. Our condolences and prayers go to Beryl's family.

## **Luddesdowne Church Registers**

### **Wedding**

Spencer Seaward SACHIKONYE and Susanne SELF were married in Luddesdowne Church on the 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2025. The service was conducted by The Rev'd Canon Chris STONE (Clergy with PTO from Cobham Deanery). We wish them a happy future together.

# **Complete** *Family* **Law**

**Complete Family Law Ltd is a modern and innovative law firm based in north Kent. We can offer appointments at our offices, via remote methods including Zoom or telephone, with home visits also available.**

**With our friendly team of expert Solicitors and Legal Executives,  
Complete Family Law can assist with:**

- **Divorce**
- **Wills and Probate**
- **Financial Applications**
- **Children Issues and Applications**
- **Disputes between unmarried couples**
- **Family Law Act Applications (Injunctions)**
- **Disputes within the wider family**
- **Lasting Powers of Attorney**

**0330 223 2016 (Brasted & Cobham)  
0330 223 2018 (Otford)**

**info@completefamilylawltd.co.uk  
www.completefamilylawltd.co.uk**





## **Autumn Show**

What a great show we had on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September. The weather was mixed on the day and in the weeks leading up to the show we had sun, heavy rain and wind – often all on the same day! But our members still pulled out all the stops to put on a great show with 216 exhibits! 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 8th October 2024 – 7pm expert speaker talk.**

**Monet The Painter & Gardener by Dr John Hughes**

**See page 16 for further details.....**

## **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 and aquatic plants, 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](mailto:cobhamgs@hotmail.co.uk)

## Prestige Property Maintenance

*Old fashioned standards of customer service and a high quality craftsman finish to all work undertaken*

- Repairs and renovations, internal and external
- Painting, decorating and tiling
- Shelving and cupboards made to measure
- Furniture and fitted kitchen repairs and restorations
- Gardening, fencing, paths and patios

No job too small – References available on request

Contact Kevin by telephone or email to arrange a visit to discuss your requirements

Telephone: 07765 405641 Email: [prestigemaintenance@outlook.com](mailto:prestigemaintenance@outlook.com)



### **THE MEADOW ROOM COBHAM AVAILABLE FOR HIRE**

Contact us or visit the website for  
full details

[www.meadowroom.org.uk](http://www.meadowroom.org.uk)

Hire rates start from £36.00 for a 3.5  
hour session.

Phone number 01474814879

Email -

[meadowroombookings@gmail.com](mailto:meadowroombookings@gmail.com)

Discount for parish residents

Registered Charity No 228007

### **St Mary's Church Room Sole Street**

Recently refurbished and  
fully accessible.

Now Available for hire  
£12.00 per hour for local  
residents /£15 for  
everyone else.

For further details contact  
Lynn Ruddock  
07928 700490

## SOLE STREET WI

After 14 wonderful years of dedication, Molly has decided to pass the editorial baton of Sole Street WI to me. A heartfelt thank you to Molly for her tireless work in keeping us all informed. There's no shortage of creativity, camaraderie, & community spirit in Sole Street's WI so I'll do my best to continue Molly's legacy.

In August we were treated to a delightful garden party in Kathy's beautiful garden where we welcomed both familiar faces and new friends. A delicious three course meal was enjoyed by all and even a passing shower couldn't dampen the atmosphere. Laughter and good company made a memorable afternoon.



Join us on Tuesday 28th October at 7.30pm in St. Mary's Church Room, where tour guide and historian Peter Batty will share fascinating insights into the 'Hidden Gems of Kent.'

Our next craft meeting will be held on Monday 13th October and weekly walks continue every Tuesday morning at 9.30am. For further information about any of our upcoming activities please contact our President, Helen on 01474812448

Jayne Holden

# Lewis Solomon

## Funeral Service



**The oldest independently owned and family run funeral directors in Gravesend and surrounding towns**

Especially for the first time, any time of the day or night you can talk to us

We will attend to everything, we can provide for all of your requirements

We have a private chapel of rest and can provide a fleet of Hearses and Limousines to compliment a dignified occasion

**19 DARNLEY ROAD, GRAVESEND, KENT, DA11 0RZ**

*24 hour personal service  
parking available on site  
bespoke funeral plans*

# 01474 352261

Email: [office@lewissolomon.co.uk](mailto:office@lewissolomon.co.uk)

**[www.lewissolomon.co.uk](http://www.lewissolomon.co.uk)**



## GULLANDS

SOLICITORS

Agricultural and Farming Law

Farm Sales and Purchases

Conveyancing

Divorce and Family

Employment Law

Wills, Estates and Tax Planning

Accident Claims

Medical Negligence

Criminal Law

Road Traffic Offences

Commercial Property

Construction Law

Landlord and Tenant

Dispute Resolution

Company and Commercial Law

Health & Safety Prosecutions

Business Defence

Licensing

Notarial Services

[info@gullands.com](mailto:info@gullands.com) [www.gullands.com](http://www.gullands.com)



Whitehall Place | 47 The Terrace | Gravesend | Kent | DA12 2DL | 01474 887688

16 Mill Street | Maidstone | Kent | ME15 6XT | 01622 689700

**The Friends of Cobham Church present**

*Don't miss*

# **QUIZ NIGHT**




**Are you ready for a night of trivia and fun? Join us for our final fundraiser event. Tickets are £10 per person (or £80 for a whole table) which includes our famous cheese sharing board. Bring your own drinks.**

**Saturday 8 November  
The Meadow Room 7.30pm**

**Tickets on sale now at Cobham Community Stores**

**Contact Kate 07941018897 for more info**

**FOCC raise funds to maintain the fabric of the village church. Registered charity No 280467**

  @kmjacupuncture



A modern approach to health using  
ancient wisdom and healing

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sciatica  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General fatigue          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Muscle aches & pains    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Allergies | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Menopausal symptoms      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anxiety & Depression    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Insomnia  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Musculoskeletal problems | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fertility & IVF support |

## ACUPUNCTURE

ELECTRO-ACUPUNCTURE

CUPPING

GUA SHA

[www.kmjacupuncture.com](http://www.kmjacupuncture.com)

[kate@kmjacupuncture.com](mailto:kate@kmjacupuncture.com)

01474 612 057

Station Approach, Wrotham Road,  
Meopham, DA13 0HP



British  
Acupuncture  
Council Member

professional  
standards  
authority  
accredited register



### Professional Domestic Cleaning Services

Are you a busy mum?

Working long hours?

Just need extra help?

Give us a call for reliable

DBS checked staff and

fully insured service!

07545 455742

[sophie@capablecleaners.co.uk](mailto:sophie@capablecleaners.co.uk)

[www.capablecleaners.co.uk](http://www.capablecleaners.co.uk)

## LUDESDOWN VILLAGE HALL

The hire charges are as follows:  
from £40 per session (please visit  
our website for full details)

**Concessions for  
parishioners  
and members of  
LUDESDOWN SOCIETY**

For bookings and enquiries please  
contact:

Colin Dickens 07460 242304 or  
email [lvhbooking@gmail.com](mailto:lvhbooking@gmail.com)



TWO WOMEN EVENTS

## **Forthcoming TWO Women events**

16th October -The Bon Jovi Experience

6th November - Fleetwood Bac

27th November - Totally Blondie



# Families, Faith and Fun

## Sunday Afternoon Club in the St John's Centre:

Stories, music, crafts and  
games for children aged 3 – 12  
and their adults. 3.00pm.

For further information contact  
Jill on 01474 813632 or Jan on  
01732 823753



**September 14**  
**October 12**  
**November 9 (4.00pm)**

## Family-Friendly Services in St John's Church

### **Harvest Thanksgiving**

September 28 10.30am

Together with friends from Nurstead,  
Cobham and Luddesdown, thanking and  
blessing farmers near and far.

### **Christingle service**

December 14 3.00pm

Light in the darkness to support The  
Children's Society

### **Christmas Crib Service**

December 24 4.00pm

Celebrating the best story ever!



Wrotham Road, Meopham DA13 1AA



## Cobham Gardeners' Society

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



### **Wednesday 8th October 2025 - 7pm** **Monet The Painter & Gardener** **By Dr John Hughes**

Monet was from a middle-class family but his father was not in favour of him becoming an artist, so Monet did not have an easy life. John's talk explores how Monet's style of painting evolved and why Monet eventually ended up living in Giverny and how the garden, his love of gardening, were such an important part of his life & painting. John has visited Monet's garden on two occasions Summer and Autumn plus has photos from the Spring, so will give a snapshot of this beautiful garden throughout the year. John is a well respected judge both locally and within the Royal Horticultural Society.

**Members free - non members £3**



Sharing a love of gardening ... locally  
Contact us [cobhamgs@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cobhamgs@hotmail.co.uk)

### **Meopham Library Writing Group** will meet again on **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2025 at 10am.**

This month's writing theme is "SECRET", which can be used as a starting point for a poem, short story or an article and there is also a writing challenge. Anyone who is interested in writing, either as a beginner or a more experienced writer, is warmly invited to join our small, friendly group.

New members are always very welcome. Creative writing is a very enjoyable activity, which can be used to record special memories for the family and can also help people who are facing difficult times. Future meetings will be on 6<sup>th</sup> November, 4<sup>th</sup> December and 8<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

Please ring **01474 813379** for more information.

## **BELL RINGING by Peter Hartley**

It was a beautiful June day for the King's Official Birthday and also for a ringing tour organised by the Rochester District of the Kent County Association of Change Ringers. Through the kindness of Nick and Anita, driver and navigator and both Rochester Cathedral ringers, it was off to Essex and Hertfordshire.

Stansted Mountfitchet is near Stansted Airport and the encircling roads, car parks, hotels and warehouses spread ever closer. The roaring M11 runs nearby. The Stansted Hall Estate is now a residential college for the Spiritualist movement and the estate church well cared for by the Churches Conservation Trust. Volunteers were working hard in the extensive churchyard with many gravestones and Giant Redwood trees.

We climbed the wooden ladder in the church tower up to the ringing room to ring the 8 bells (tenor 13cwt) with the oldest bell cast in 1540. They are an anticlockwise ring so you must remember to look left when starting ringing the standard rounds (lightest to heaviest bell) which starts and ends all ringing.

Then on just into Hertfordshire to Bishop's Stortford where today a large multistorey car park, Sainsbury's and shopping malls are crammed in by the River Stort. How different when the family came down from Lochwinnoch, Renfrewshire and my Grandpa Millar was the vet with a pony and trap and Mallow the Jersey cow who provided the family with rich creamy milk.

Walking up Windhill the old town survives with its large 15<sup>th</sup> century church. But here there is change too for the upper part of the tower and the spire were added in 1812. Inside the tower there is also change for though the oldest bell the 7<sup>th</sup> was cast in 1713 five new bells were cast by the bell foundry Royal Eijsbouts in 2022. This Dutch firm was founded in 1872 as a 'factory for tower clocks'. Since 1947 they have also cast church bells and bells for carillons. For the 850<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris the existing bells were restored and a new set of bells cast. Also with a French foundry Royal Eijsbouts cast some of the new bells including the largest 'Marie' weighing 6 tons. Through the bravery of the French firemen the cathedral's west towers and their bells survived the later devastating fire which the cathedral suffered.

Today in this Hertfordshire parish church there is now a full cathedral like ring of 12 bells (tenor 15cwt). Weaving your own bell correctly amongst so many bells and watching closely a forest of ropes and bobbing coloured woollen sallies takes considerable skill and concentration.

Next to Hatfield Heath where, sitting on a bench eating a sandwich, the village cricket match was enjoyed in the sunshine and behind us the little Victorian church awaited our visit.

**St John's Meopham with St Mildred's Nurstead**  
**Church Services October 2025**



Weds 1<sup>st</sup> October **NO** 10am Holy Communion at St John's

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October      9.45am All Age Worship at St John's  
   11.30am Holy Communion at St Mildred's

Weds 8<sup>th</sup> October      10am Holy Communion at St John's Centre

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October      9.45am Holy Communion at St John's  
   11.30am Mattins at St Mildred's  
   3pm Sunday Afternoon Club – all families welcome

Weds 15<sup>th</sup> October      10am Holy Communion at St John's Centre

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October      9.45am Morning Worship at St John's  
   11.15am Churches Prayer Meeting at  
   St John's Centre

Weds 22<sup>nd</sup> October      10am Holy Communion at St John's Centre

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October      9.45am Holy Communion at St John's  
   11.30am Family Service at St Mildred's

Weds 29<sup>th</sup> Oct      10 am Holy Communion at St John's Centre

**Cobham, Luddesdowne and Sole Street**  
**Church Services during October 2025**



**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October**

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

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October**

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

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October**

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

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October**

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

**Midweek services in Sole Street**

**St Mary's Church Room, Informal Morning Prayer**

**9:30am 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> October**



# HEDGE & FENCING SPECIALIST

ESTABLISHED FOR 20 YEARS

- ALL HEDGES AND SHRUBS TRIMMED, REDUCED AND REMOVED
- STUMP GRINDING SERVICE
- ALL STYLES OF FENCING SUPPLIED AND INSTALLED
- SLEEPERS AND DECKING SUPPLIED AND INSTALLED
- ALL STYLES OF GATES SUPPLIED AND INSTALLED

CALL MATTHEW ON:

**07796 416607**

OR 01732 822467 EMAIL: [mhlgardencare@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mhlgardencare@yahoo.co.uk)

FULL PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE,  
FREE ESTIMATES & REGISTERED  
WASTE CARRIER



# TREE STUMP REMOVAL SERVICES

- FULLY INSURED
- REGISTERED WASTE CARRIER
- FREE ESTIMATES

CALL MATTHEW ON:

**07796 416607**

OR 01732 822467

OR EMAIL:

[mhlgardencare@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mhlgardencare@yahoo.co.uk)



The background of the flyer is a dark grey color. It is decorated with various Christmas-themed elements: pine branches with needles, several round Christmas ornaments (some with stripes, some with floral patterns), and five-pointed stars. The text 'Christmas Party' is written in a large, white, cursive script font, centered in the upper half of the flyer.

# Christmas Party

**13 December 2025  
2Pm Onwards**

Luddesdown Village Hall

Party Games, Buffet & Music  
FREE Drink on arrival  
Plus a visit from Santa

A grey starburst shape with a jagged edge, containing the ticket prices in white text.

£2 per Child  
£5 per Adult

RSVP  
dickens\_90@hotmail.com

## CHIROPODIST

HOME VISITING SERVICE

### FOOT CARE AND ADVICE

### IN THE COMFORT OF YOUR OWN HOME

HCPC registered chiropodist/podiatrist with over 20  
years' experience

Anna Mapp MSSCh MBChA

01474 812494 or 07977 465452

anna.mapp773@gmail.com

# CELLAR DOOR

Experience the welcoming atmosphere of the Silverhand Estate Cellar Door, where every visit reveals the unique stories behind our exceptional wines.

Sunday - Thursday  
11:00 - 18:00

Friday - Saturday  
11:00 - 21:00

Silverhand Estate Cellar Door, Luddesdown Rd,  
Luddesdown, Gravesend, DA13 0XE



JOIN US FOR OUR FARMERS MARKET  
every third Saturday of each month



+44 (0)330 122 5290

silverhandestate

silverhandestate

[silverhandestate.com](http://silverhandestate.com)



## *lunch menu* NOW AVAILABLE

12:00PM - 3:00PM  
MONDAY AND TUESDAY

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR ALL OPENING HOURS  
MONDAY TO SUNDAY

The Lion, Luddesdown Rd, Luddesdown,  
Gravesend DA13 0XE

BOOK NOW

+44 (0)330 122 5290

thelionluddesdown

The Lion Luddesdown

[thelionluddesdown.com](http://thelionluddesdown.com)

## **LUDDESDOWN PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS**

7.30pm Monday 17th November

Meetings will be taking place at Luddesdown Village Hall.

<http://www.luddesdown-pc.gov.uk/community/luddesdown-parish-council/>

## **COBHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 2025**

All meetings will start at 7.30pm

- 7<sup>th</sup> October 2025 - Meadow Room
- 4<sup>th</sup> November 2025 - St Mary's Church Room
- 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2025 – Budget Meeting - Meadow Room

<http://www.cobham-kent-pc.gov.uk/>

<https://www.gravesham.gov.uk/>

### **Autumn Glades**

We stroll through leafy autumn glades,  
An amber carpet 'neath our shoes;  
As Nature's summer beauty fades  
She clothes herself in golden hues.

The stillness of October days,  
The chillness of a frosty dawn,  
Yet autumn sunshine's slanting rays  
Caress us with their glowing warmth.

They also warm the southern breeze,  
Which comes upon us, as it may,  
Releasing crispy, ochre leaves  
To gently patter on our way.

Soon, soon comes winter's icy grip,  
Of freezing wind and driving snow,  
But, just for now, we'll gladly slip  
Through gentle autumn's golden glow.

*By Nigel Beeton*



# WentWorth

PLUMBING & HEATING

07904 103484

[info@wentworthplumbing-heating.co.uk](mailto:info@wentworthplumbing-heating.co.uk)

- Plumbing
- Heating
- Gas & LPG.
- Installation, Repair and servicing.
- Based locally in Sole Street, Cobham.

IT Solutions Kent Ltd

IT Support –

CCTV - Networking

0333 050 2446

[support@itsk.co.uk](mailto:support@itsk.co.uk)

## *COBHAM TREE SURGERY*

All aspects of work undertaken

Tall & Dangerous Trees

Hedge trimming

£5 million Public liability insurance

Most waste organically recycled

Call for a free quotation:

07789261474

[Stuart@cobhamtreesurgery.co.uk](mailto:Stuart@cobhamtreesurgery.co.uk)

WWW.COHAMTREESURGERY.CO.UK  
KCC TRADING STANDARDS APPROVED



Local Funding Group '24

COFFEE MORNING

ST MARY'S CHURCH ROOM

2ND THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH at 10.30am

Meet old Friends and make new Friends

DATES FOR 2025

9th October

13th November

11th December

2026

8th January

## **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 14th October**

**CONTACT: MARY PALMER—01474816788**



# Consilio

## Partnership

Garden Design - gardens tailored to your needs

Landscaping - full landscaping service

Garden Maintenance - regular visits to one off tidy-ups

Consilio offer a comprehensive range of garden services through our team of fully qualified & experienced professionals.

Landscaping Services include:  
driveways-patios-fencing-decking-  
water features-planting-turfing-etc.

Please contact us with your enquiry or ask a member of staff

01474 247 077  
07311 381858

[enq@consiliopartnership.com](mailto:enq@consiliopartnership.com)  
[www.consiliopartnership.com](http://www.consiliopartnership.com)

## COBHAM & LUDDESDOWN W.I.

Back from our August break, our September 3rd meeting included a fascinating talk by retired Scotland Yard detective Geoff Lewry, entitled “30 Years of the Bell, Book & Candle” – about the Anti-Terrorist Branch of which he was a member. Geoff gave us an illustrated presentation showing the most well-known terrorist attacks by groups such as the IRA and Islamic terrorists, as well as lesser-known cases with which he was involved. It was not the jolliest of subjects for a group of ladies on a Wednesday afternoon and there were some fairly horrifying scenes and details which shocked many of us. However, we were able to indulge ourselves in some comforting cake and a soothing cup of tea afterwards. The rest of this year will be filled with our annual events, such as the Ploughman's lunch, followed by a “make”, which this year is a paper tree decoration. These will be on October 1st; Some of our ladies are putting the finishing touches to their art, craft and photographic entries for our Autumn Show on November 5th, which we are sure will go off with a bang!

Our Festive Tea will be on December 3rd and we hope some of our members will be entertaining us with anecdotes of Christmases past, poems etc., which puts us all in the Christmas spirit, along with some delicious food and the usual seasonal quizzes.

Our various “groups” have been busy painting, drawing, crafting, sewing, knitting, reading, crocheting etc. accompanied by a lot of nattering and rab-biting!

We currently have 34 members and would love to have more, so if any ladies are interested in joining our friendly and welcoming group, we meet at 2pm on the first Wednesday of each month (except August) at the Meadow Room, The Street, Cobham. You are most welcome to come along as a visitor for a couple of meetings, for which we charge £2 per meeting. We are sure that you will enjoy yourselves. Further information is available from our Secretary, Jenny Brooker (email: [cobhamluddesdown@wkwfi.org.uk](mailto:cobhamluddesdown@wkwfi.org.uk))



### **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 Coordinator Janet Ferguson, preferably at [janetferguson@hotmail.fr](mailto:janetferguson@hotmail.fr). Ian Sheridan, Acting Chairman, 07951 927 517

### **Stephen P Gay Memorials Inc. Horlocks**



**SPECIALISTS IN MONUMENTAL  
MASONRY  
120 Old Road West  
Gravesend  
Kent, DA11 0LR  
Tel: 01474 321003**

## **JOHN GREEN DECOR LTD**

**PROFESSIONAL PAINTERS  
& DECORATORS**

**INTERIOR, EXTERIOR  
& INSURANCE WORK  
ALL ASPECTS OF PAINTING  
AND DECORATING  
INCLUDING WALLPAPER  
HANGING, PAINT  
EFFECTS AND SPRAYING**



Phone: **01474 871273**  
email: [sales@johngreendecor.co.uk](mailto:sales@johngreendecor.co.uk)  
website: [www.johngreendecor.co.uk](http://www.johngreendecor.co.uk)

## **MEDWAY METALS LTD**

**Buyers of all scrap  
metal & car batteries**

**QUICK PAYMENT**

**01634 297423**

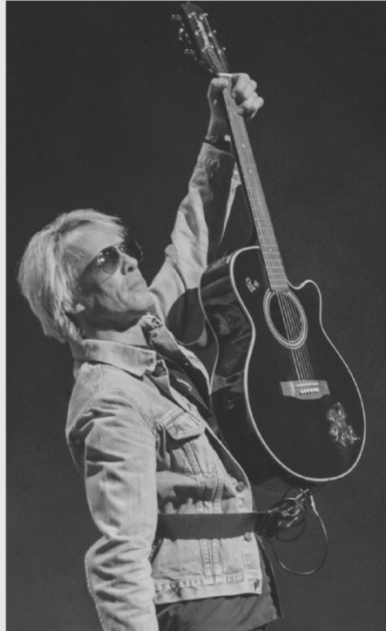
**UNIT 6 SHAMEL PARK, MEDWAY CENTRE EST.  
COMMISSIONERS ROAD, STROOD  
ME2 4HQ**



TWO WOMEN EVENTS

Present:

# The BON JOVI EXPERIENCE



**Thursday 16th October 2025**

St Mary Magdalene Church COBHAM KENT

Doors open at 7pm for 7:30 start

Advance Tickets £25 on [www.twowomenevents.com](http://www.twowomenevents.com)

Fully Licensed Bar, free public car park nearby

Contact: [info@twowomenevents.com](mailto:info@twowomenevents.com)

Find us on Facebook, Youtube and Instagram

## **All Seasons Garden Maintenance**

Local and reliable service

Grass and Hedge cutting, Border Maintenance, Pruning

Pressure washing,

Full public liability insurance

References available from existing customers

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

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

**APEX PEST CONTROL**

Mole catching, Wasp nests, Rodents

24/7 service



## **AtTENTively Yours...**

Here to provide you with a fully personalised service

Catering for garden parties, corporate and sporting events

High specification - best quality equipment used

Site survey and no obligation quotation

**Freephone 0800 389 8298**

**Office 01474 815150 Mobile 07766 681151**



# Robin Hunter

Tree Surgery  
Garden Design  
Fencing & Gates

Tel: 07775 971380

Email: robinhunt1@hotmail.co.uk

- ☒ Professional, Affordable, Service
- ☒ Foils & Colour Specialists
- ☒ Cut & Blow Dry Specialists
- ☒ Wedding hair available on request
- ☒ Hair extension by appointment (Tuesday only)
- ☒ Late Evenings (Monday & Thursday's)

**£5 OFF PERMS & COLOURING**  
WITH THIS ADVERT



**RAILWAY CUTTINGS**  
HAIR STYLISTS

Station Approach, Meopham, Kent - Telephone: 01474 813378

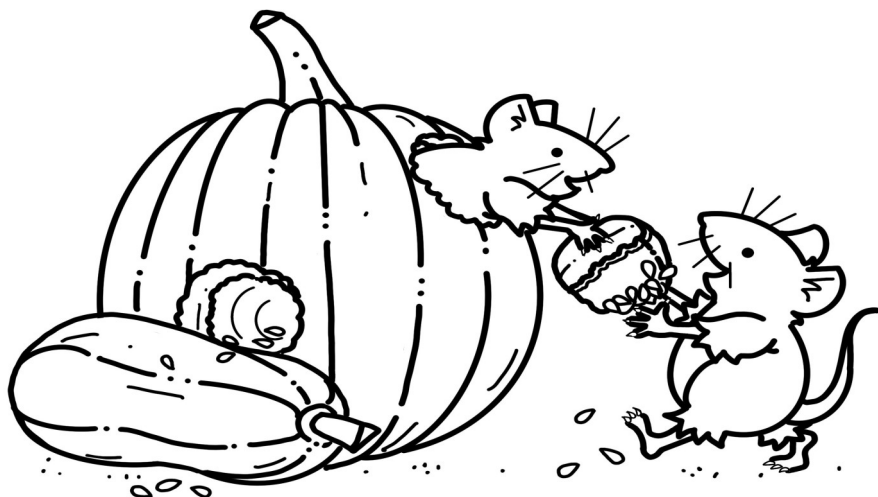


**Harvel House Café  
Ice Cream Parlour  
Pizza & Grill  
Sweet Shop**

[www.harvelhousefarm.co.uk](http://www.harvelhousefarm.co.uk)

**Harvel House, Harvel Lane, Harvel Rd, Meopham  
Gravesend, DA13 0DH**





## Animal Welfare Sunday

Did you know that it will be Animal Welfare Sunday on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October? It is the nearest Sunday to St Francis' feast day, he liked animals.

It is the ideal time to think about the animals around the world that are not always cared for as kindly as the pets you love. It is also sad that some much loved pets are being caught up in difficult situations and their families can only do their best to look after them in, often, desperate conditions.



I am lucky to have a comfy home and people who care for me, and it is clear to see that the many pets in these parishes are truly cherished .

If you want to find out more about Animal Welfare Sunday you might want to visit, with your grown up, the following website <https://www.aswa.org.uk/> Love Paddy.



# Need a Plumber?

Your local plumber is

**Graham Hickson**

Reliable, prompt and reasonable prices

20% discount on labour with this magazine

**Graham Hickson**

**07968 551 562** [g.hickson@btinternet.com](mailto:g.hickson@btinternet.com)

VAT Sole Free Trader

**Wills & Trusts  
Powers of Attorney**

**Based in Cobham  
covering all Kent**



***British Will Writers***



**Totally Confidential  
Friendly and Professional  
Free Consultation**

**07942 999 919**

<http://www.britishwillwriters.com>

## ADVERTISING RATES IN THE MAGAZINE

Page Size	1 Year	6 months	1 month	Dimensions (mm)
¼ page	£60	£36	£13	W:65 H:90
½ page	£105	£56	£18	W:135 H:90
Full page	£195	£100	£34	W:135 H:185

[cobandlud.office@btinternet.com](mailto:cobandlud.office@btinternet.com)

L	P	F	Y	A	A	M	P	O	P	G	I	M	Y
P	P	A	R	A	B	L	E	S	O	J	A	A	I
N	T	I	G	T	G	O	S	P	E	L	P	N	N
C	C	T	S	A	E	F	R	R	L	U	E	H	I
C	I	H	S	G	N	O	U	I	E	A	L	E	K
L	O	F	R	N	D	S	P	R	R	P	I	E	L
E	G	U	E	I	A	A	H	L	P	S	E	U	M
E	A	L	G	L	S	O	Y	O	G	R	K	L	N
N	S	A	E	L	R	T	S	G	G	E	O	C	P
S	L	M	N	E	T	T	I	R	W	N	A	O	E
R	T	N	C	V	C	G	C	A	N	N	A	G	P
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

The background of the poster is decorated with several large, stylized question marks and lightbulbs in various colors including pink, green, purple, yellow, and blue. The text is centered and reads:

Luddesdown Society

# Quiz Night

**Saturday  
11th October**

**7.30pm**

**£5 per person  
Teams of 6 or less**

**Ploughman's supper included  
Please bring your own  
drinks and nibbles**

RSVP  
dickens\_90@hotmail.com