



Cobham & Luddesdowne

January 2023

News

£1

PARISH of COBHAM & LUDDESDOWNE with DODE

Vicar — currently in an interregnum

Church Office

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For admin items please call the office.

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SUBMISSIONS *Cobham and Luddesdowne News is a community magazine produced by and for the residents of Cobham, Sole Street and Luddesdowne.*

Please send material for inclusion by the 15th of the month

preceding publication to editorialcfn@gmail.com

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Hello

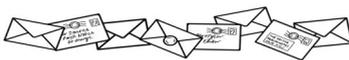
As I write this article I am looking out on a very white, crisp and beautiful garden! Our gardens certainly had to cope with a lot during 2022 extreme heat, with the hottest temperatures on record, heavy rain and flooding followed by freezing temperatures and thick snow! Hopefully nature will work its magic and, with a bit of help from us, the gardens will bounce back in the coming Spring just as we will !

2022 was a bumper year for our parishes with the many platinum jubilee celebrations all topped off with Cobham's gardens and public spaces winning the coveted South East Britain in Bloom Village award. In 2023 the King's Coronation will be a reason to celebrate, as a community, once again.

Two Women events have a full programme for Cobham Church in 2023 starting on the 2nd February with 'The Alter Eagles' (p.28) then 'Not the Rolling Stones' on 2 March, 'Logical Tramp' on 13 April and 'The Bohemians on 25 May!

May I wish you all a Happy, Healthy New Year. Tina

(Visitors and Churchgoers were welcomed by a snowman during Dec 22, photo by Mike Pickersgill)



Used Postage Stamps

Please may I ask everyone who reads our lovely magazine in the Parish of Cobham, Luddesdowne and beyond for your used postage stamps as I am collecting for the R.N.I.B and I need to fill my boxes! If possible the stamps need a border of about 1cm' all round.

There will be boxes in both Cobham and Luddesdowne churches, or you can send or deliver them to me at The New College of Cobham, Cobhambury Road, Cobham, Gravesend DA12 3BG.

Thanking you,
Mrs Dorothy Gee

Bell Ringing by Peter Hartley

There are 230 ringing towers (near enough) in Kent and John Keeler had conducted full three hour peals in all but six. Cobham was one of the six so he gathered five other expert ringers and on Thursday morning 10th November they did ring their peal. For the record they rang 5,040 changes of seven Surprise Minor methods being 720 changes of each of London, Westminster, Durham, Bourne, Beverley, Norwich and Cambridge which took them 3 hours and 1 minute. It means little to me too but I do know it is impressive. Now they have five towers to go.

In the band was Alan Regin who is Steward of the Rolls of Honour of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers and the Rolls, in alphabetical order of ringers killed in war, are kept in St. Paul's Cathedral. The band dedicated their peal to 2nd Lieutenant William Wakely Pye, 6th Battalion of the Royal West Kent Regiment, of Jeskyns who was a Cobham ringer and was killed in the Great War.

William Wakely Pye is among the 20,598 dead remembered on the Loos Memorial in France who have no known grave. But his death is not forgotten for his name is recorded in the Rolls of Honour in St. Paul's and Canterbury Cathedrals and on the Memorials designed by Sir Herbert Baker of Owletts in Loos and the War Memorial in Cobham village as well as in the Church. On 14th October 2015, being the exact Centenary of the Death of William Wakely Pye we did ring a Quarter Peal in Cobham in his honour. Always remembered.

After their ringing I found John Keeler and his band, quite rightly, in the Leather Bottle and I thanked them for their thoughtful dedication of their splendid peal. Then for Remembrance Sunday Byron Aldous and Christian Antrobus half-muffled our bells. So, as is customary, we rang half-muffled rounds as the haunting background sound while prayers are said and wreaths laid at the village War Memorial and for the Service of Remembrance in the Church.

The next day Monday 14th November, with muffles removed, we rang a Quarter Peal in celebration of the 74th Birthday of King Charles III and the first birthday of His Majesty as Sovereign. Then we just had to toast The King in the Darnley Arms. Another year hoves into view, so Happy New Year to all for Coronation Year.



**WHO WANTS TO SEE A WEST END SHOW?
CURRENTLY ORGANISING EITHER A MATINEE OR
EVENING WEEKDAY OUTING**

FOR NEXT MAY/JUNE 2023.

**COACH LEAVING FROM COBHAM AND DROP OFF
CLOSE TO THEATRE.**

**GROUP BOOKING THROUGH "JEWELS TOURS" SO
THE SEATS WILL BE DISCOUNTED.**

A DEPOSIT OF £25 WILL BE REQUIRED.

**CONTACT ME EARLY JANUARY IF YOU ARE
INTERESTED.**

CHRIS BROADLEY 01474 247632

NEW COLLEGE OF COBHAM

chrisbr48@hotmail.com.

THE TUESDAY POP-IN

**Meetings are held at the Leather Bottle on the second
Tuesday of the month from 10.30 till 12 noon;
everyone is welcome to join us for a relaxed chat and
coffee.**

Next pop-in Tuesday 10th

**CONTACT: MARY PALMER -
01474 816788**





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
- 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 2023 Programme of Events & Shows

Liz Jardine, Chairman of Cobham Gardeners, presented 2022 award winners with their trophies at the AGM and Christmas Get Together held at the Meadow Room on Wednesday 7th December. In addition, Liz announced the launch of their programme of Expert Speaker Talks & Shows for 2023. Gardeners' events get started with a talk on Wednesday 15th February entitled "From Owletts to Stockbury" by Chris Spree. Chris tells the story of the family sadly departing from the National Trust property Owletts in Cobham and returning to their old home and developing the New Garden. Entry is free to members and non-members are welcome and pay only £3. 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, cobhams@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.

SOLE STREET WI

Happy New Year wishes to you all from Sole Street WI.

We ended last year on a high note with our craft sale at the WI Christmas Fair in Meopham village hall, even taking pre-orders for Christmas table decorations. It was a huge celebration of the variety of skills of WI members across this area.



Our traditional Christmas party held in St Mary's Church Room this year hosted guests from neighbouring WIs from Cobham & Luddesdowne and Meopham. You may be able to spot these ladies in the photo, without the outrageously decorated Christmas jumpers and behind the pile of Secret Santas !

On this occasion we took the opportunity to vote on Resolutions for 2023, which were divided on the 4 choices on the shortlist but the final campaign choice will be chosen at National Annual Meeting in Cardiff on 25th May. We are fifth reserve to send a delegate from our linked local WIs, our President having represented our group at the National Meeting in Liverpool last year.

The Christmas Lights of Love and Carols organised with the Local Funding Group on 17th December helped raise funds for S.M.C.R with mulled wine and mince pies to sustain the choirs and those making dedications.

Our first social occasion of the year is always a New Year Lunch and this was held this year at The Golden Lion. The first Book Club meeting on Monday at Meopham Library did not take place as it fell on a Bank Holiday. Weekly walks at Jeskyns continue each Tuesday. Next Craft meeting will involve creation of "confetti" fused glass items and collage pictures.

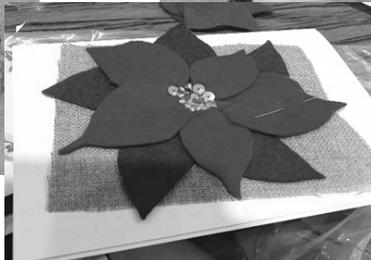
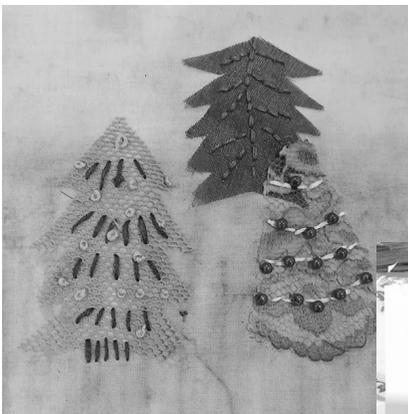
There is a change to our main meeting times to facilitate travel & weather conditions to 2PM on 24th January and 28th February. For further information on this and our other activities please contact Yvonne,
tel 01474 813455
Molly Isaacs

North Kent Embroiders

We thought you might like to see the finished banner with our name (hung vertically) on it and with the Queen's Jubilee section added. Now of course we are working on another panel for the King Charles' Coronation, more of that later. Our last meeting was a "Four Corners" meeting with different activities going on in each corner of the room. Thank you to Sue, Evelyn, and Marie for leading the teaching groups. You can see some of the resulting pieces here, all with a festive theme. It was good to welcome several new ladies and to see them enjoying the activities. This kind of meeting provides a lovely opportunity for members to maybe learn a new skill but also to sit and chat and get to know other people in the group. Of course, we were very grateful that there was delicious cake provided by Anita. If you would like to join our group or would just like to find out a bit more about us then please look at our website <https://northkentembroiders.co.uk/>



or email us at: info@northkentembroiders.co.uk
or contact our Chairman, Eileen Tuff on 01474 324734
Happy stitching, Karen (All links and photographs used with permission.)



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COBHAM & LUDESDOWN W.I.



On December 7th we started our Christmas celebrations this year with our annual Festive Tea, attended by most of our members and some very welcome guests. The afternoon started with a demonstration by Su Rowe, showing us how to make a Christmas table decoration, with some very helpful tips. Su kindly donated the beautiful finished display to our raffle, together with a kit to help the winner make their own.

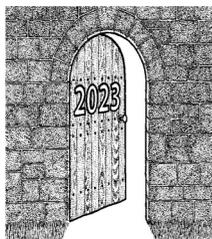
The buffet table was heaving with some wonderful food, most of which was donated by our members and there was a round of applause when Jean Horgan's now famous meringues appeared on the scene.

We had no need for the usual Christmas music and games, just the gentle buzz of conversation, as everyone chatted and occasionally laughed (or groaned) at their corny Christmas cracker jokes, was sufficient to make the afternoon an enjoyable one. In fact some of our members commented on how calm and relaxing the atmosphere was.

We look forward now to the New Year, and to our first meeting on Wednesday 4th January, when Ron Chamberlain will be coming along to talk to us about "My Experiences in the World of Amateur Dramatics."

Visitors are always welcome to join us at the Meadow Room. Our meetings start at 2pm.

Jenny Brooker (Secretary) – tel. 01474 362501



January 2023



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Observations on life...

The second day of a New Year's diet is always easier than the first. By the second day you're off it. - *Jackie Gleason*

Gluttony is an emotional escape, a sign that something is eating us. - *P Devries*

Why do you sit there looking like an envelope without any address on it? - *Mark Twain*

Feel a failure because you don't get everything on your list done each week? Don't worry – the only person who ever got everything done by Friday was Robinson Crusoe! - *Anon*

New Year Sales: The science of arresting the human intelligence long enough to get money from it. - *Stephen Leacock*

Cobham's Register



Funeral

Eileen Mary POWELL was born on the 9th August 1950 and died on the 2nd October 2022 aged 72 years old. Eileen's funeral took place on the 7th November 2022 in Cobham church followed by burial in the churchyard. The service was conducted by Licensed Reader from Ash, Alison HARDING. Our sympathy and prayers go to Eileen's sons David, Tom and Robert their families and friends.

Baptism

Leo Stephen PAILES was Baptised on the 27th November 2022 in Cobham church.

The service was conducted by Rev'd Canon Jane WINTER.

We welcome Leo into the Church family.

Joseph James O'GORMAN was Baptised on the 27th November 2022 in Cobham church.

The service was conducted by Rev'd Canon Jane WINTER.

We welcome Joseph into the Church family.

LUDESDOWN SOCIETY

NEW YEAR'S DAY WALK

Sunday 1st January 2023
at Luddesdown Village Hall

Walk starts at 11am (Dogs welcome)

Mulled Wine before we set off

Soup & Baked Potatoes when we Return

No charge, but donations at your discretion

Contact: Jill Escudier or Dave Freeman

Tel 01474 391644

Cobham, Luddesdowne and Sole Street
Church Services during January



Sunday 1st January

10:30am Holy Communion, Luddesdowne

Sunday 8th January

10:30am Holy Communion (BCP), Cobham

Sunday 15th January

10:30am Holy Communion, Luddesdowne

Sunday 22nd January

10:30am Holy Communion, Cobham

Wednesday 25th January

7pm Welcoming Service, Cobham

***Welcoming our new Priest-in-Charge The Revd Canon Alyson Davie
and Associate Priest The Revd Pamela (Pam) Davies with
The Bishop of Rochester***

Sunday 29th January

10:30am Holy Communion, Luddesdowne

Midweek services

9:30am 11th, 18th and 25th Informal Morning Prayer

(Venue in peoples homes, phone Pat on 01474 814343 for details)

COBHAM AND LUDESLOWNE LATEST!

The Bishop of Rochester, in consultation with the Archdeacon of Rochester and the Rector of Meopham with Nurstead, is pleased to announce that The Revd Canon Alyson Elizabeth Davie is also to be licensed as Priest-in-Charge of the benefice of Cobham with Luddesdowne and Dode. This is alongside her role as Rector of the benefice of Meopham with Nurstead. Alyson will be well known to the church communities at Cobham w Luddesdowne & Dode as she has been Area Dean for Cobham Deanery since December 2018.

In addition, The Revd Pamela Elizabeth Davies is to be licensed as Associate Priest of both the benefice of Meopham with Nurstead and the benefice of Cobham with Luddesdowne and Dode. Pam is currently Rector of Sundridge with Ide Hill and Toys Hill near Sevenoaks, a post she has held for the past seven years.

We expect Pam to move to her new home in Cobham early in the New Year. A date for the licensing service for Alyson and Pam has yet to be confirmed with the Bishop's Office, but we expect this to be in late January and details will, of course, be shared with you as soon as we have it.

In the meantime, please do hold both Alyson and Pam in your prayers as Pam arranges her move and the two of them prepare for their new ministry amongst us.

COBHAM CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Once again the Cobham community responded to the rallying cry and pulled off another brilliant Christmas Bazaar. On a sparkling late November Saturday the stallholders assembled as if by magic and laid out their enticing wares. Cakes, cards and chestnuts, punch, pickles and plants, reads ,wreaths, bacon bites and teas, tombola ,gifts, grand raffle prizes , bargains galore and no end of surprises. We raised a staggering £2000 for the upkeep of the church. Huge thanks and a special mention to the Cobham Cricket club who generously sponsored the raffle and all those who grafted, crafted, collated, donated, pitched in and helped out, as well as everyone who came along to enjoy and support this lovely annual event which begins the Christmas season.

Wishing you a very happy New Year
Michele and Jenny

Gardening for a Wilder Kent – Hedgehogs



European Hedgehog is the species in the UK of the prickly night time visitor which we see in cute pictures on ceramics and textiles, but hedgehogs are a rapidly declining species. We are so lucky when we see them or their signs here and lots of us try to support them in their fight for survival.

We are surrounded by the woodlands, grasslands, the park and the churchyard that are important habitats but our gardens are part of the large range they need if they are living here as they travel between 1 and 2 km per night. We can help in several ways:

- Connect gardens
- Provide food by plants for insects and leaving some long grass
- Stop use of pesticides and poisons especially slug pellets
- Provide log piles and leaf pile for habitat
- Be aware of dangers: strimming, bonfires, driving through the village at night.

You may be thinking that because you don't see hedgehogs in the garden they do not visit but as they are nocturnal you may have missed their visit. Keep a look out for their little tell-tale deposits, smaller and more formed than a fox dirt but bigger than a mouse dropping. If you think you have visiting hedgehogs you may wish to leave out some food and water and buy or construct a hedgehog house to be placed in a secluded shady corner. The hedgehogs' favourite is cat food, preferably meat and kitten biscuits but never milk. The feeding station must be made cat and fox proof. This can be achieved by using an upturned or lidded plastic box with a doorway the size of a CD, weighted, with a brick at the entrance leaving just enough room for a hedgehog. Leave the food inside and hope that it gets eaten.

Because of their decline, if you see a hedgehog there are organisations that want to know. Log your sightings whether the hedgehog is alive or dead on the Big Hedgehog Map at bighedgehogmap.org where you will find the details of Hedgehog Street which is a project to promote the development of the connectivity of gardens for hedgehogs. Please take a look.

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Meopham Library Writing Group meets again on **Thursday 5th January 2023** at **10am** until about midday in Meopham Library. Each month, everyone is invited to write a short story, poem or article based on a writing theme such as “New Start”, “Invasion” or “Emergency”. There is also a writing challenge each month, in which a small selection of words are used in one or two short sentences. A new Rolling Story starts in January, where everyone contributes 150 words to a story, which is then passed on to the next person. There can be many twists and turns in the plot and an unexpected ending! Anyone who is interested in creative writing is very welcome to join our small, friendly group, as a beginner or even as a more experienced writer, who has already published stories and poems in magazines or books. Writing about early memories can be really appreciated by family and friends, as well as being enjoyable. Writing can also be very therapeutic for people who are experiencing difficult times.

The following writing group meetings will be on 2nd February, 1st March and 6th April. For more information about the group, please ring **01474 813379** or just turn up at Meopham Library on the first Thursday of each month.

SOUTH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH Sunday services start at 10.45am and finish at midday. Holy Communion is celebrated on the first and third Sundays of the month, as part of the morning service. The All Age Family Service and Church Parade is on Sunday 29th January at 10.45am. Visiting speakers preach each week and some of their sermons are on the Church website.

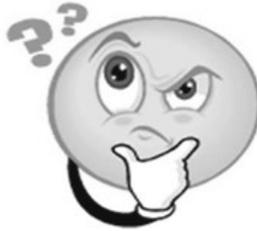
The next **FAMILY FILM NIGHT** is on **Saturday 21st January at 4.30pm** until about 6.30pm. Popcorn and hot dogs are served during the interval. Everyone is welcome and admission is free.

Please visit the church website above for more information about all the activities at the church.

SONG TIME meets every Monday morning from 9.45am until 11am during term time for families with children under five. There is a varied selection of toys, as well as creative activities and action songs. Admission is £1 for a family. Song Time starts again on Monday 9th January at 9.45am.

The 1st **South Street Boys Brigade and Girls Association Company** meets every Friday evening during term time, from 6pm until 7.30pm for boys and girls aged between 5 and 18 years old. New members are always very welcome to join in the fun and games. The new term begins on Friday 13th January and the weekly subscription is £2.

To find out more about **Boys Brigade**, please visit **www.BOYS-BRIGADE.ORG.UK**. Please also visit the **Boys Brigade Water Activities Centre** website at **www.thewac.org.uk**



GOT YOUR DIARY FOR 2023?

DO YOU HAVE YOUR DIARY FOR 2023?

MAKE A DATE WITH THE FRIENDS

MAKE A DATE WITH THE FRIENDS

On Saturday 22 April

The Friends of Cobham Church will be holding another of their popular Quiz Nights, with the splendid Janet Potter returning as Quiz Master.

Make sure you have the date in your diary.

Contact Mary Palmer (amarypalmer@aol.com) or Kate Hyde (hyde.kate@gmail.com) if you would like to receive further information in due course.

A Bible quiz – of sorts!

Q. What kind of man was Boaz before he married?

A. Ruthless

Q. What do they call pastors in Germany?

A. German Shepherds.

Q. Who was the greatest financier in the Bible?

A. Noah. He was floating his stock while everyone else was in liquidation.

Q. What was the greatest female financier in the Bible?

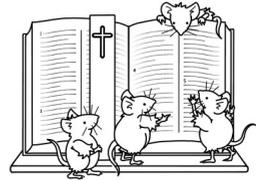
A. Pharaoh's daughter. She went down to the bank of the Nile and drew out a little prophet.

Q. What excuse did Adam give to his children as to why he no longer lived in Eden?

A. Your mother ate us out of house and home.

Q. What's the phone number of the Garden of Eden?

A. ADAM-8-1-2



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 by email janetferguson@hotmail.fr . Or Chairman Gerry Minister on 01474 813 376.

The man who made the first-ever vaccine. By Tim Lenton

Two hundred years ago, on 26th January 1823, Edward Jenner, the British physician and immunologist who created the first vaccine (for smallpox), died of a stroke.

He was the son of a Gloucestershire clergyman and the brother of another – who brought him up when his father died. He was also a violinist, a poet and a naturalist, but he chose medicine and became the pupil of a distinguished surgeon, John Hunter, at St George’s Hospital in London. Hunter also had wide interests, and the two kept in touch for many years.

Jenner, a committed and sincere Christian, married a near neighbour, Catharine Kingscote, in 1788. He was described as amiable and quiet, but his work in creating a smallpox vaccine was said to have saved more lives than any other man on earth, though his treatment in making inoculations using cowpox lesions, initially from a dairymaid in 1796, was laughed at by some to start with.

The word ‘vaccination’ (relating to cows) stems from this experiment. Previous smallpox inoculation attempts were known as variolation and were both less successful and dangerous to health. Jenner himself had received this treatment as a child.

Jenner was a member of the Royal Society, primarily because of his work as a naturalist. He published valuable observations and interpretations on, for instance, the life of the cuckoo, which was little understood at the time.

But in the end, he gave so much time to vaccination work that his personal affairs suffered badly, though he was voted a total of £30,000 by Parliament.

His wife died of tuberculosis in 1815, after which he retired from public life. In 1980 the World Health Organisation said that smallpox had finally been eradicated from the world, though a few lab samples were kept.



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Local Funding Group Update:



Planning Permission was resubmitted to Gravesham Council on the 6th December, 2022.

We received the news from the National Churches Cornerstone Trust that we have been awarded a grant of £15,00.

This enabled us to advise the Allchurches Benefest Trust that we have raised £87,676. 76p. - more than 30% of the total cost of the project - required to be considered to make an award and if so the size of an award. The Christmas Wreath Workshop raised a further £374 and the WI Demonstration £25.

We very reluctantly decided to cancel the Christmas Carol Memories event on the 17th December. It would be devastating if anyone slipped and fell on the ice. Nevertheless, such a disappointing decision. Thank you for the part you intended to play.

We thank you for your tireless support and generosity that make our endeavours so worthwhile.

Susan Rowe

On behalf of the Local Funding Group, St. Mary's Church Room.

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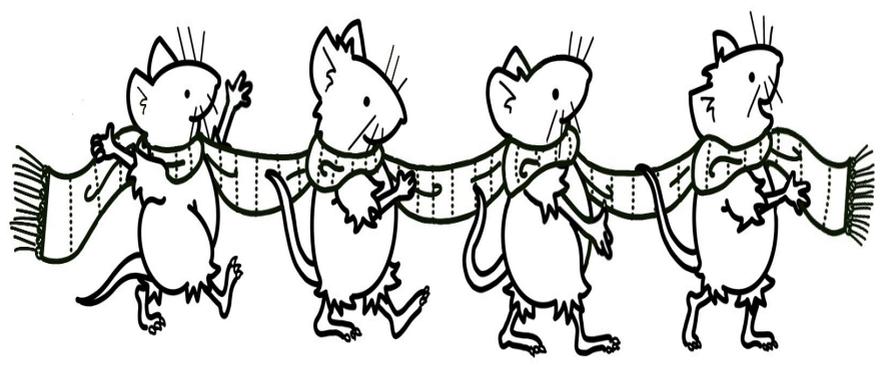
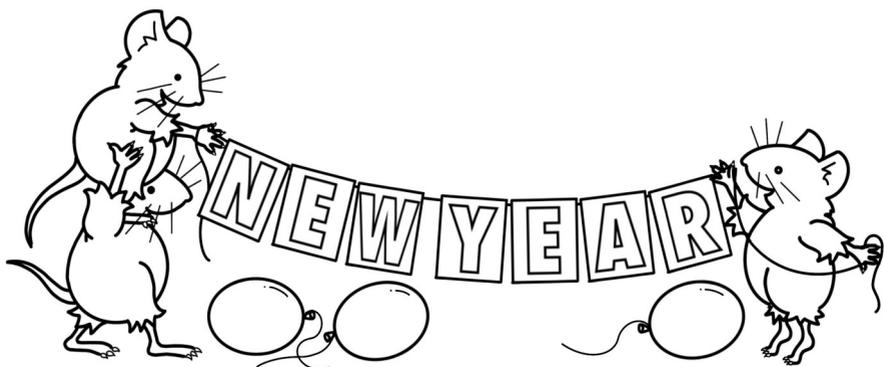
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Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Paddy and I moved to Sole Street at the end of November. I had been living with the wonderful people at the RSPCA Leybourne for a while, but I am thrilled to be here now and making lots of new friends.

Now I know that lovely old Harvey used to put small articles in the magazine, but I am not quite as proficient on the lap top as he was (I'm not five yet!) but I will pop up now and then with snippets of news and I do hope to get to know you all.

Enjoy colouring in the mice pictures - Lots of sloppy licks Paddy.



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The Coming of the Magi

'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 Matthew tells of the coming of the Magi, or Wise Men, to the baby Jesus. Today we remember it on Epiphany, on 6th January. Did they come from Arabia Felix – nowadays southern Arabia? How many came? No one knows, but by the 6th century they were named Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. Why gold, frankincense and myrrh? Gold stands for kingship: Jesus was King of the Jews. Frankincense stands for divinity; Jesus was to be worshipped. Myrrh stands for death and burial; Jesus would become a sacrifice and die for His people. The Wise Men were the very first gentiles ever to worship Jesus. Isaiah foresaw this response to Jesus: 'Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.' The Magi wanted to worship Jesus; Herod wanted to kill Him. But the Jewish leaders who knew about the prophecy of a Messiah born in Bethlehem did not even bother to visit to Bethlehem. And it is only six miles from Jerusalem!

King Jews star east worship magi wise men baby Jesus epiphany
 Arabia Felix Gaspar Melchior Balthasar Gold Frankincense myrrh
 kingship divinity death Isaiah nation Herod prophecy Bethlehem
 Jerusalem Priests scribes



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