

GOUDHURST & KILNDOWN PARISH MAGAZINE



February 2016



80p (£9 per year)

**UNITED BENEFICE OF ST. MARY, GOUDHURST
WITH CHRIST CHURCH, KILNDOWN**

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www.gkchurch.org.uk

WHAT'S ON IN FEBRUARY 2016

Family Service – 7 February

On the first Sunday of the month our service at St Mary's is informal and relaxed, with something for the whole family. There's coffee and something tasty to eat from 10:00 and the service starts at 10:45.

Film Afternoon -19 February

We will be showing Annie on the big screen in St. Mary's on 19 February at 2:00. Entry will be free but all children must be accompanied by an adult. Annie has a PG rating, so there will be the option for younger children of watching a different film in the Children's Chapel. Free popcorn available too!

Sunday Club

Every Sunday at St Mary's we run 5 groups for children and young people aged 0-18 including a crèche for preschoolers. Our aim is to help them have a brilliant time playing games, making friends and learning about God while their parents and carers enjoy the service. There's no need to book, just turn up for the 10:45 service.

Ash Wednesday

Lent starts on Ash Wednesday, which this year falls on 10 February. There will be a service that evening at Sacred Heart Catholic Church at 8:00pm.

Lent Groups

Lent is an excellent time to slow down and give more time to prayer, reflection and thought. To help with that we will be running two Lent Groups, one on Wednesday evenings in Sacred Heart Church at 7:30pm, the other on Fridays at 1:30pm in St Mary's Church. To sign up for one of the groups please call Becky Addis on 01580 211739 or email her at beckyaddisgk@gmail.com

Cafe Toddlers

Every Friday morning from 9:00-11:00 St Mary's is open for coffee, cake, chat, newspapers and fun for children. Preschool children and their families are very welcome, as is anyone else who wants to meet other local people and enjoy some community spirit.

Lent lunches

One of the best things about life in our villages is the quality of community life. Every Saturday in Lent starting on 13 February, St Mary's will be open for a bowl of soup with bread and a chance to meet other local people. It runs from 12:30-2:00 and anyone can come, any time. There's no need to book, just turn up.

There's lots more going on and you can find out about it all on our website

www.gkchurch.org.uk

FROM THE VICAR

Dear Friends

February, it seems to me, is the least romantic month of the year. Cold, dreary and usually wet. At this time of year the fun of Christmas has disappeared and spring seems far ahead. And yet it's the month which includes our annual celebration of all things heart shaped and romantic.

We know next to nothing about the Saint whose name is synonymous with chocolates and candle lit dinners, although most of the stories about him end up with his head being cut off. Hardly an obvious candidate for the saint of love and romance.

But perhaps there is a good reason to celebrate love in the midst of all the greyness of February. Perhaps this is precisely when we most need to be reminded that we are loved. After all, when everything is going brilliantly well - when the sun is shining and life is good - we don't need that voice that says to us 'I know it's hard, but still, I love you'. But when life is gloomy, and everything is a struggle, it's what we need more than anything else.

And strip everything back, and that's precisely what lies at the heart of the Christian faith. The outstretched hand of the God who made it all and a voice that says 'I love you'.

And there are no strings attached, no 'ifs' or 'buts' or 'maybes'. That love isn't conditional on us behaving well (which one of us could possibly live up to that?). It's offered simply because God is love. He can't do anything else except love. He can't be anything else except love.

So this February, whenever life gets a bit bleak or gloomy, listen out for that voice. The one that reminds you that it doesn't matter what you think of yourself, that it doesn't matter whether you feel worthy of it, that it doesn't matter whether you understand it - you are loved. You always have been, and you always will be. Not just on 14 February, but every day, of every week, of every month. Always.

God bless

Revd Hugh



Weavers Cottages, drawing by Len Pierce

WEAVING GOUDHURST'S HISTORY

AT 7.45 ON 2ND FEBRUARY KAREN MILLER WILL REVEAL HOW GOUDHURST PLAYED AN IMPORTANT PART IN THE EVOLUTION OF THE ENGLISH TEXTILE INDUSTRY. HEAR HER EXPERTLY WEAVE THIS INTRIGUING STORY: 'HANGING BY A THREAD', AT THE CHURCH ROOM, BACK LANE, GOUDHURST.

*Entry: free for
members, just £2.50
for non-members.*



*Special Offer
Why not join now?
It's just £7.50 pp for all
the season's meetings?*

For more information visit www.goudhurstlocalhistorysociety.org

CALENDAR

Please note - re: 8.00 am Communion Service in St Mary's – order two from the Book of Common Worship, Traditional Language is used.

Weekday parish prayers: Morning prayer is at 8.30 am on Tuesday at St Mary's and on Friday 8.00 am at Christ Church. Evening prayer is at 5.30 pm on Friday at Christ Church when the prayers for Compline will be used. See weekly sheet for Bible readings.

Tues	2	7.30 pm	Alpha, Goudhurst Village Hall
Thurs	4	10.00 am	Holy Communion, St. Mary's
Fri	5	9.00 am	Café Toddler, St. Mary's
		7.00 pm	Youth Group meets (contact Kev Draper for more detail – kevdraper@sky.com)
Sat	6	10.00 am	Choir Practice, St. Mary's
Sun	7		Sunday Next before Lent
		8.00 am	Holy Communion, St. Mary's
		9.15 am	Holy Communion, Christ Church
		10.45 am	Family Service, St. Mary's with something to eat and drink from 10.00 am
Tues	9	7.30 pm	Alpha, Goudhurst Village Hall
Wed	10	8.00 pm	Ash Wednesday service, Sacred Heart
Thurs	11	10.00 am	Holy Communion, St. Mary's
Fri	12	9.00 am	Café Toddler, St. Mary's
Sat	13	10.00 am	Choir Practice, St. Mary's
		12.30-2pm	Lent Lunch, St. Mary's
Sun	14		Lent 1
		8.00 am	Holy Communion, St. Mary's
		9.15 am	Holy Communion, Christ Church
		10.45 am	Holy Communion, St. Mary's with Sunday Clubs
Wed	17	7.30 pm	Lent course starts at Father Vic's house
Fri	19	1.30 pm	Lent course starts, Goudhurst Church Rooms
		2.00 pm	Film Afternoon – showing Annie – St. Mary's
Sat	20	10.00 am	Choir Practice, St. Mary's
		12.30-2pm	Lent Lunch, St. Mary's
Sun	21		Lent 2
		8.00 am	Holy Communion, St. Mary's
		9.15 am	Holy Communion, Christ Church
		10.45 am	Holy Communion, St. Mary's with Sunday Clubs
Tues	23	7.30 pm	Alpha, Goudhurst Village Hall
Wed	24	7.30 pm	Lent course at Father Vic's house
Thurs	25	10.00 am	Holy Communion, St. Mary's
Fri	26	9.00 am	Café Toddler, St. Mary's
		1.30 pm	Lent course, St. Mary's

Sat 27 10.00 am Choir Practice, St. Mary's
Alpha Day, Goudhurst Village Hall
11.45-1pm Lent Lunch, St. Mary's
2.00 pm Wedding, St. Mary's

Sun 28 Lent 3
8.00 am Holy Communion, St. Mary's
9.15 am Holy Communion, Christ Church
10.45 am Holy Communion, St. Mary's with Sun Clubs

FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISM: We welcome into the Church:

Ariana Lily Mae Gabbitas

FUNERAL / BURIAL: We commend into God's loving care:

Jacqueline Bourne
Steven Lawday

FOOTPATH WALK IN THE FOREST- SUNDAY 21ST FEB 2016

Paths in Bedgebury Forest are not as badly affected by the rain as other local footpaths, so we are pleased to invite you to join us for this walk on Sunday 21st Feb from 10am to 12 noon.

Driving from Goudhurst along the B2079 south towards the junction with the A21, turn left into the driveway some 120m before you reach the A21. It is called Windy Ridge. Fifty metres along the driveway, on the left is a house. We have been permitted to park at the house by kind permission of Lynette and David Edwards.

The walk will follow the paths and tracks through and around Bedgebury Forest and the Pinetum. There are no significant stiles to climb.

For directions or to share transport, please contact us at: d.boniface@hotmail.co.uk or by telephone at 01580 211 430 or mobile: 07518 894 915.

David and Pamela Boniface

GOUDHURST AND KILNDOWN RECORDED MUSIC SOCIETY 'Women in Music'

Our next meeting will be at 7.45 in the Church Room on Thursday 18th . We hear far too little about the great women in music. Now is the time to set the balance right when there are significant anniversaries of three great women:

Elizabeth Schwarzkopf, the soprano,
Jacqueline du Pre, the cellist,
Dame Ethel Smyth, composer (and suffragette).

The speakers will review their lives, explain their significance and play their music.

Members come free and visitors are welcomed at £5.

VILLAGE ECHOES

Residents of Goudhurst and Kilndown are regularly inconvenienced by large vehicles getting stuck at the bend around the churchyard at the top of the High Street. Many may not be aware that the present road didn't always take this course, and it may be suggested that if the original road was still in place, this constant interruption to traffic might have been averted.

The original route through Goudhurst went up from the pond via what is now Back Lane, i.e. along the south side of the Church, and then curving around the east side of the churchyard. In March 1935 John Druce, President of the newly formed Goudhurst Village History Society, published a detailed pamphlet of his research into the circumstances of the change in the route.

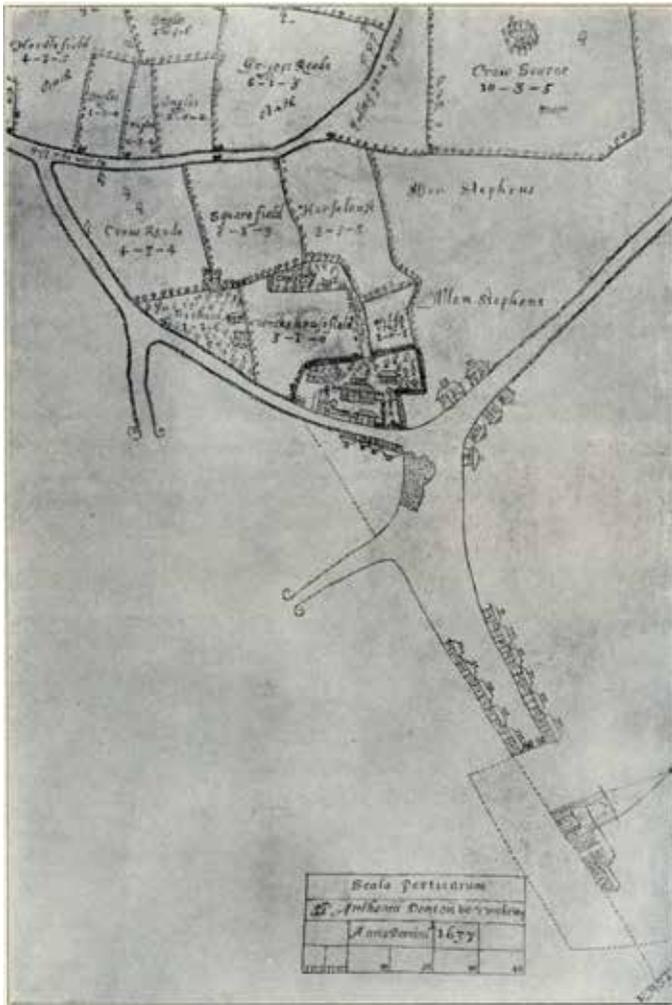
In 1760 Parliament put forward a new initiative to improve the country's road system, not least the deplorable examples in the Weald. It was necessary to have a separate Act of Parliament to make any new road or even adapt one, imagine if that were the case today! As far as Goudhurst is concerned, two Acts published in 1760 and 1765 respectively enable us to see what was suggested.

For the 1760 Act, a Board of some 154 trustees was appointed to regulate the road from Kippings Cross through to Wilsley Green in Cranbrook. Trustees were expected to acquire or commandeer land and raise funds for the work, which they could recoup by erecting tollhouses and gates, where charges were imposed for using the new facility. They were also liable for arranging regular maintenance. The second Act, which was local to Goudhurst, had 83 trustees and ten clerks to conduct operations. Qualification to become a trustee was an annual income of at least £50 or 'heir apparent' to someone with an estate with a yearly value of £200 or entitled to a personal estate worth £1,000.

There were seven toll or gate houses established in and around Goudhurst - at Iden Green, Tattlebury (at the top of Maypole Lane), Whites, Clay Hill (Bell Farm), North Road, Risebridge (at the crossroads) and Winchet Hill.

The work required to transform the road was enormous, and all carried out without the aid of modern earthmoving equipment. It entailed levelling out the gradient of the road where it met a plateau at the top of the hill where a weekly market was held on Wednesdays. Two permanent shops backed onto the churchyard at this point, both of which had to be demolished to clear the way around the north west side. Although some of the soil was redistributed to reduce the steep gradient, steps up to many of the buildings on each side of the road are evidence today of the road lowering.

The houses in Church Road once adjoined the churchyard with just a narrow footpath bounding the front fences. Here, the road was cut through along the northern extreme of the Churchyard creating the two distinctive 90° bends. Many graves must have been disturbed during the process, and plenty of bones were discovered when water pipes were later being laid under the road.



There seems to be no logic to this major transformation of the centre of Goudhurst unless one takes into account another consideration. In 1637 St Mary's Church spire was struck by lightning and the tower below destroyed by fire. The rebuilding plan agreed in 1638 moved the main entrance from the south side to the west of the building, as it is today. It could be suggested that the Church Authorities had more than a little input into the road plans in order to create a more impressive approach to the Church.

The accounts for the work still survive and start in 1789 with twelve shillings paid to 'Mr Harman for fetching stones for the Churchyard wall.' This

had to be substantial to hold back the higher level of soil. The stones can be seen today as uneven sizes and probably quarried locally, and in fact in 1790 Mr Springett charged eight shillings for bringing more stones from Kilndown for repairs. There were regular deliveries of sand brought by cart by Messrs. Penfold, Wickham and Standen, plus wagon loads of gravel to complete the task. The accounts were closed in 1801 and the trustees probably felt proud of their achievement. Little did they know what problems they had created for residents in the age of motor transport.

Local History Society

Email: info@goudhurstlocalhistorysociety.org

Website: www.goudhurstlocalhistorysociety.org

Tel: 01580 211711



Enquiries: 01580 212457

Email: goudhurstanddistrict.u3a@gmail.com

Website: <http://u3asites.org.uk/goudhurst>

**“Acting – The Profession and Personal Experiences”
by David Kerby-Kendall
2.30 p.m. Wednesday, 17th February,
St. Mary’s Church, Top of the High Street, Goudhurst**

David Kerby-Kendall combines two professions –actor and writer which he describes as “Two fabulous jobs. I get to make up stories and pretend to be other people.” He has appeared in the première of Jack Shepherd’s play “Half Moon” as well as many other rôles including Elyot in “Private Lives”, Lawrence in “Abigail’s Party” and Angelo in “Comedy of Errors”. He is a novelist and playwright with “The Last Taboo” and “20:40” to his credit plus adaptations of several novels including “Pride and Prejudice” and “The Secret Garden”. He has adapted David Walliam’s “Mr. Stink” for a national tour and is beginning work on “Ratburger” by the same author. He is therefore well-qualified to describe all aspects of the acting profession.

Non-members welcome - £2.50

Future Talks:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 16th March | “Running a different race – people with intellectual disabilities and the Paralympics” by Jan Burns |
| 20th April | “Bruges - It’s More Than Just Chocolate” by Melanie Gibson-Barton |
| 18th May | “Some Mother’s Son –A Project of Discovery” by Peter Ewart |
| 15th June | “World without Vision” by Steve Pendleton |
| 20th July | “Biggin on The Bump – the story of Kent’s premier fighter station” by Bob Ogly |
| 17th August | “Save the Children’ in Tanzania” by Jane Cobley |
| 21st September | “Tax, Care & Toy Boys” by Collective Legal Solutions |
| 19th October | “My Solo Walk Across Africa” by Fran Sandham |
| 16th November | “The Plant Hunters” by Dr. Mick Lynn |
| 21st December | Talk title to follow. Victoria Aldwinckle |

Outings:

Thursday, 4th February. “Shakespeare’s Globe – The Elizabethan Experience” Light refreshments included at The Swan overlooking the Thames with views to St. Paul’s. £15.00. Travel at own expense.

Thursday, 14th April. “Coach Tour of Romney Marsh Churches” Travel and a Ploughman’s Lunch included. £35 (to be confirmed).

Outings in Preparation:

May – Portsmouth Historic Dockyard

June – Eltham Palace. Childhood home of Henry VIII transformed in 1930s into one of the finest examples of Art Deco architecture and design surviving in Britain today.

September – Buckingham Palace

HOSPICE IN THE WEALD CHOIR OF THE YEAR 2016

Six local choirs are set to make music and have fun as they battle it out to be crowned the Hospice in the Weald's latest Choir of the Year.

Music fans who filled the Assembly Hall, Tunbridge Wells, when the event was first staged last year will be looking forward to another lively and entertaining contest. All the choirs must perform before a panel of expert judges who give their verdicts on each group, X Factor-style, before announcing the winners.

The final will be staged at the Assembly Hall on Saturday 27 to raise funds towards the £7million needed each year to maintain Hospice in the Weald's vital services.

One choir hoping to build on a run of success will be an all-female group, Green Street Blues from Badgers Mount, who were named choir of the year at the Bournemouth Festival in June with their wide range of song styles, including modern, show tunes and pop. They will be up against five rivals with a wide range of styles.

Antiphony, from the Marden area, sing a cappella arrangements of popular songs, jazz standards and original material. Mumma Mia, a group of school mums, have had such success since they formed that they were featured in Woman magazine and Meridian News. Hilden Grange School choir has 84 members currently and regularly takes part in festivals. CREATE Community Choir was born out of community arts staged around Camden Road, Tunbridge Wells. And Kilndown Community Choir, with members aged from 10 to 90, perform everything from pop songs to sacred music.

Tickets for the final are £15 per adult, £12 concessions and £5 for under-16s. Music lovers can book at the Assembly Hall, call Ellie Sawyer on 01892 820547 or email ellie.sawyer@hospiceintheweald.org.uk.

LAMBERHURST MUSIC FESTIVAL

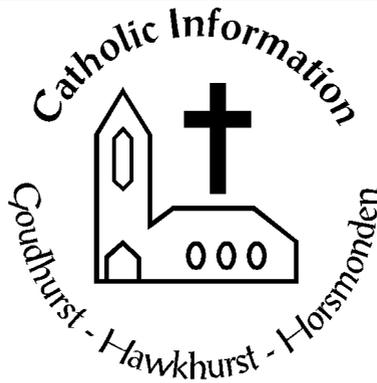
The 2016 programme starts with a concert by Steven Devine playing Bach's Goldberg Variations on the harpsichord. He will be joined by soprano Kate Semmens. Steven was until recently the curator of Finchcocks Musical Museum, and performed last year at Lamberhurst as part of the London Baroque.

Venue: St Mary's Church, Lamberhurst

Date: Friday, 12th

Time: 7.30 pm

Tickets at www.lamberhurstmusic.co.uk or by cheque to LMF I, Down Farm Oasts, Lamberhurst Down, Tunbridge Wells, TN3 8HF



Parish Priest

Fr. Victor McClean - The Presbytery, Beresford Road Goudhurst TN17 1DN

Phone: 01580 211268 Email: vic.mcclean@btconnect.com

Website <http://www.rcgoudhurst.org.uk>

Masses

Saturday:	5.30pm	Sacred Heart Church, Goudhurst
Sunday:	8.30am	St Barnabas, Hawkhurst
	10.30am	Goudhurst
Monday to Thursday:	9.30am	Goudhurst
Friday:	10.00am	Goudhurst

Baptisms and Confessions by arrangement

Parish Contacts

Chris Roome 01580 891686 Churches Together

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The Union Flag will be raised at the Goudhurst Social Club on 6th February to mark the Queen's accession to the throne in 1952.

The next branch meeting will be held on Monday 22nd February at 2.30 pm in the Star and Eagle.

One hundred years ago the months from December 1915 saw grievous losses suffered by the East Kent Regiment in which a number of Goudhurst and Kildown men were serving. In the attempt to relieve the British garrison at Kut the regiment lost 600 men in a campaign widely acknowledged to have been one of the most mismanaged of the war.



WASTE COLLECTION AND RECYCLING

The Tunbridge Wells Borough Council Amenity Lorry (Cory) will be at these locations:

Goudhurst, Balcombes Hill Car Park, 8.00 am to 11.00 am

07

21

06 March

Kilndown, Beresford Close, 12 noon to 1.45 pm

21

Curtisdan Green, Outside Bethany School 2.00 pm to 3.00 pm

21

This service is meant for the disposal of small household rubbish items. No trade waste please.

If you have large items for disposal such as bulky furniture, old cookers, washing machines and fridges, or potentially hazardous items, please phone Tunbridge Wells Borough Council (01892 526121) for advice and to arrange a special collection (for which there is a small charge).

Everybody is invited to use the Recycling Facilities at:

Balcombes Hill Car Park – glass

Bethany School – glass, cans, paper and cardboard

Finchcocks – glass, cans, plastic bottles, paper and cardboard. Please note that the Finchcocks facility is open during daylight hours only and domestic rubbish should not be left there.

The Peacock – glass and textiles

Globe & Rainbow, Kilndown – glass and cans

Goudhurst & Kilndown CE Primary School (big yellow container) – clothing including socks and underwear, paired shoes, belts, handbags, soft toys, perfume, cosmetics, net curtains, towels and aprons. This facility is a school fund raiser.

Harpers Farm, Summerhill, Curtisdan Green – textiles and shoes. This is a charity facility.

Please phone Tunbridge Wells Borough Council 01892 526121 if you have any queries about waste collection and recycling.

GOUDHURST PARISH NEWS

As our Christmas festivities and the New Year recede into memory, our long run of unseasonably warm and wet weather finally gives way to a touch of winter frost. What our confused daffodils, cherry trees and wild life will make of it all only time will tell. So we must look forward to the Spring with hope. The Queens 90th birthday and Goudhurst Fete are both being celebrated on the weekend of June 10/11th. Also for the diary, the village litter pick on March 19/20th, volunteers please contact our Clerk, Anthony Farnfield 01580 212552.

Our first Parish Council Meeting of the year was held on Monday 11th January and was very much business as usual; especially for our dealings with the Tunbridge Well Borough Council and Diocese of Canterbury for whom time seems to move slowly, if at all. Our four year effort to take on responsibility and management of the Glebe Field, with a lease, still remains unrealised despite terms being long agreed. Similarly, the plan to take over the Goudhurst Car Park and Toilets remains to be implemented once the Borough gets around to passing to GPC the information necessary to allow it to happen (we have been waiting since September).

Where matters are within our control we are proceeding with a number of initiatives: upgrading of the CCTV is receiving quotations, temporary arrangements to enable play to continue on the poorly drained Glebe field are in hand and the call for quotation for desilting of Goudhurst pond will be in hand soon. Our Clerk's terms and conditions and especially his remuneration have been brought in line with those of our neighbouring parishes and with an eye to the future, a small part of our 2016 budget has been set aside to investigate options for a parish office in the village. Fund-raising is progressing well for a defibrillator to be placed in the Kiltdown telephone kiosk (Contact Georgia 07411 524814).

Two matters have been generating considerable interest in the village: Our Planning Committee meeting on the 12th was attended by some 30 members of the public. Several spoke against planning application 15/510395 for the erection of C2 Housing with care for the elderly comprising 12 x 2 bedroom apartments 7 x 2 bedroom bungalows and 3 x 2 bedroom dwellings on a site opposite the car park on Balcombes Hill. After hearing detailed objections and with due consideration it was decided to recommend refusal to TWBC with whom the final decision lies. Also raising considerable comment are the arrangements by which street trading may take place on our roads and by the pond, on a permanent or visiting basis. Goudhurst has always preferred free, unregulated and unmarked streets relying on common sense but GPC is investigating if that may need to change.

Finally, GPC Chairman attended the Marden Parish Council meeting on 12th January to take up the issue of car parking at Marden Station and surrounding streets. Marden Station is our gateway to the rail network and for many their work. As those who use the station will be aware the car park is frequently full and there is a waiting list for

season tickets. Parking is discouraged in the streets around and some legally parked cars have been vandalised. With the construction of considerable new housing in Marden this may get worse. Marden PC indeed shares our concerns but so far discussions with railway companies and Maidstone BC have produced no solution. It was agreed that it was indeed a problem shared by both Goudhurst residents but also Marden's rural residents. It was therefor agreed to work together to see what may be possible for the future.

Best wishes for 2016

Alan, Angela, Antony, Barry, Carol, David,
Georgia, Guy, Phil, Sean, Stephen, Tom.
Representing the people of Curtisden Green,
Goudhurst and Kilndown

GOUDHURST PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Dates for forthcoming Parish Council meetings are:

Parish Council	Monday 08	7.30 pm	Jessel Room
Planning Committee	Tuesday 09	6.30 pm	Jessel Room
Planning Committee	Tuesday 22	6.30 pm	Jessel Room
Highways & Footpaths Committee	Tuesday 23	7.30 pm	Jessel Room
Parish Council	Monday 14 March	7.30 pm	Jessel Room

All are welcome to attend these meetings at which time is set aside for questions from the public.

Anthony Farnfield, Clerk 01580 212552
clerk@goudhurst.co.uk www.goudhurst.co.uk



QUARRY CENTRE

We're now well into 2016 and it appears that our Trust deed paperwork is ready to be signed, but there was a 'technical hitch' and some people didn't receive emails sent in November, which would have finalised things a lot earlier. So much for relying on things sent through the ether! We have applied to TWBC for a Small Capital Grant towards the exterior refurbishment. This work WILL be done this year! With so many other events in the village this year, we're hoping there's enough 'spare money' around to help us as well! One date to put in the diary is the Craft Fair on

Saturday, October 15. Small ways to help are, buy a raffle ticket at the Saturday Shop, buy a second-hand book from our selection, collect pennies in a jar, hire the centre for meetings or just Shop on Saturday's.

Lynda Shepherd

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

1

2
Local History Society
"Hanging by a Thread.
A Brief History of the
Textile Industry"
Church Room. 7.30
Alpha Course

3

4

8

9
Goudhurst Tuesday Club
8pm
Alpha Course

10
Moby Dick's
Fish & Chips
Wednesday Eve's
on the Plain

11

15

16
Quilting Group
Quarry Centre
from 10am,
Tuesdays

17
University of the Third Age
"Acting- The Profession and
Personal Experiences"
David Kerby-Kendall. St Mary's
2.30pm
Goudhurst WI
GPH 7.30
Filling Station
KVH 7.30

18
**Goudhurst & Kildown
Recorded Music
Society**
"Women in Music"
Church Room 7.45

22
Royal British Legion
Committee and
Branch Meeting
Star and Eagle.
2.30pm

23
G&K Primary School
Back to School!
Alpha Course

24

25

29

WHAT'S ON IN FEBRUARY

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

5

Café Toddler @ St Mary's
Every Friday from 9am
Evening Youth Group
DOGKS
February Beers

6

Goudhurst Village Pre-School.
Wine tasting Evening
7.30pm

7

St Mary's
Family Service at 10.45

12

G&KCP School
Break up for Half Term

13

The Hop Farm
Half Term Fun starts

14

Valentines Day

19

Kids Cinema @ St Mary's
2pm – "Annie"

Pizza Cucina
Friday Evenings On the Plain

20

Quarry Centre Shop
Every Saturday,
9-12.

21

26

G&KCP School
Y2 Victrix visit
Great Fire of London

Churches Together
Lent Course Starts
St Mary's 1.30 pm

27

Goudhurst Scout Group
Sponsored Walk in aid of
new extension.
10.30 start
Village Pond

G&KCP School
Table Top Sale
At the School

28

The Hop Farm
2016 Wedding Show

dates may change!

CLIMATE CHANGE IS HAPPENING
Pat Crawford provides the
HADLOW COLLEGE COMMENT AND ADVICE COLUMN

Many scientists and climatologists have stated that Extreme Weather Events will have the most serious consequences. People in the north of England and parts of Wales and Scotland suffered horrific weather at the tail end of 2015 and the beginning of this year. Heroic efforts were made by the various agencies - and by individuals -to limit flooding and damage but in all too many cases even their best endeavours failed. Reviewing the situation, observations are often bitter and the BBC made reference to flood water being replaced by 'a tide of recriminations'.

Who should be blamed? Way back in 2007, referring to flooding Charles Glover in The Telegraph suggested that it was ministers rather than the Environment agency that 'should carry the can'. A choice of words that causes an unfortunately inadequately sized can to spring to mind!

The Daily Mirror said that it would be 'unfair to blame the prime minister'. The Financial Times said the authorities needed to react more quickly and robustly next time flooding is forecast.

Nothing much changes. Don't we have to ask if 'reaction' will always be too slow and inadequate if and when we suffer similar deluging rain? 'Proactivity' must be the answer – but who should formulate such massive plans – and how would they be financed?

Has sufficient account been taken of the damage to farmland? What are the predictions in relation to crop damage and how will prices in the shops be affected? Do we pause to consider that other parts of the world have suffered – and are suffering? Is it possible that food shortages will occur? Businesses have suffered, something that is especially difficult for those in the small-medium-enterprise brackets. Sewage spillage is a serious health hazard; homes and business premises that have been flooded may suffer mould and other allergy-triggering results.

Shortage of land is a fundamental problem exacerbated by the need to build more houses and relative infrastructure. In the meantime we continue to build on flood plains.

COMMUNITY JAMMING EVENINGS

The first Sunday of every month

Calling all local Musicians and Singers!

Bring your instruments, voices, songbooks and enthusiasm

A fun, informal, relaxed evening of music-making

Sound system and microphones provided

All welcome, regardless of experience

Next event

Sunday 7th February 7pm

The Globe & Rainbow Pub, Kilndown

**If you have any questions, or would like your name included on the
distribution list for future events, contact Julie on 01892 891664**

The Spring Term is now well underway, and we at Little Squirrels are all still thrilled by receiving Outstanding by OFSTED . We are planning a celebratory party for all the staff, parents and people from the community who have helped us gain this incredible accreditation. Details to follow but we hope that you can join us in our celebrations!

Our new committee is also settling in well, and getting up to speed with the running of the pre-school. Our Chair, Carly Brooks, is keen to hear from anyone who is interested in helping with this wonderful charity. Enquiries can be made via her email chair@littlesquirrels.co.uk. In addition, Julie McCarmick has been recruited as Business Manager and with the rest of the committee now in place we hope that Little Squirrels will thrive and continue to deliver the incredible learning opportunities for children which have led to our Outstanding accreditation.

At Little Squirrels our children have been turning their eyes to the stars as we continue with this terms topic of Space. So far, the children have been having lots of fun planning and building their own spaceships, talking about the size of the different planets and learning all about how craters on the moon are formed. We have all been truly enthused by the wonderful coverage of Tim Peake and his adventures aboard the International Space Station, and we hope the children will continue to take inspiration from him over the coming months.

Our children are also very much enjoying the forest school inspired activities led by our wonderful Manager and Forest School practioner Karen, and they have spent the start of the term deciding that they would like to become archaeologists! They have used the abundant natural resources around them to play, dig through the mud to search for lost bones and try to find hidden treasures in the beautiful Scotney Castle grounds that we are so fortunate to have as part of our pre-school.

We would also like to invite you all to our Easter Scavenger Hunt, which will be held on Sunday 20th March. Tickets will be available from the end of the month and all monies raised from this family fun event will go towards Little Squirrels. Details will be published on our website and Facebook page and we will update you all in next month's magazine.

Finally, we would like to extend a very warm welcome to Laurel Hancock – we hope that she, like the other children, will have a wonderful time here.

If you are interested in visiting the pre-school with a view to your child attending, we would love to hear from you. Visit our website www.kilndownpreschool.co.uk or call us on 01892 891840.

Best wishes

The Little Squirrels team

Goudhurst Village Pre-school



Everyone has settled into the new term extremely well and we've been busy building junk modelled robots, learning about different kinds of weather and telling each other about our families - we even enjoyed a visit from some of our grandparents.

February will find us celebrating the Chinese New Year. As usual we will be making dragons and lanterns and listening to Chinese music. This year we will hopefully extend our experience of making and tasting Chinese food in the setting and even visit a restaurant.

For Valentine's Day the children will be baking love-heart-shaped biscuits to give to someone they love, crafting salt dough heart decorations and making Valentine's cards. This will be followed by - Oh La La! - French Week when we will be turning our home corner into a Bistro. The children will taste French food, make flags, speak French (many of them have progressed well with our weekly french tutor, Juliette, who visits every Thursday afternoon) and dancing to French music. We will talk about different, well known places throughout France and find them on a map.

The guest list is open for our Wine Tasting evening to be held on Saturday 6th February at 7.30 p.m. As you may have read on the local flyers this is a fun event with games and affordable top tips. There will also be food stalls where you can try and if you have the inclination buy. These will offer chutneys and jams from May's Kitchen, Turners Cider, produce from gluten free specialists Oast to Host and more to be confirmed. Refreshments will be provided to accompany your tipples of wine. Suggested donations are £12.50 per person. To be on the limited guest list please email alisongvp@gmail.com or pop into / ring the pre-school setting 01580 212 777.

Photos of our recent activities can be found on our Facebook Page which is on the home page of our website:

www.goudhurstvillagepreschool.co.uk

<https://www.facebook.com/GoudhurstVillagePreSchool>

FINCHCOCKS

The shutters are closed, piano lids down, there's no one tuning, no one cleaning. Antique chairs piled up unceremoniously, pictures stacked in boxes, instruments shoved into corners, all bearing an auctioneers sticker awaiting their turn. Cutlery and plates have been counted, cupboards turned out, dustbins filled up, freezers emptied. The gardens are just being kept tidy, the potting shed cleaned out, the poly- tunnel closed down, the vegetable plot abandoned, we've had to lock the gate. And still the 'phone rings, are you open today? And we have to say, no, sorry, we've closed.

Lynda

COVER PHOTO

In the Newspaper this might be accompanied by a heading like “Giant Spider attacks Goudhurst Social Club”. But fear not as this female garden cross spider was photographed outside Goudhurst Parish Hall. My thanks go to Lynette Edwards for supplying this and the photograph below.

David Denton
Editor



MATERIAL FOR THE MARCH 2016 ISSUE should be left at
Goudhurst Newsagents by
MONDAY 15th FEBRUARY.
Thank you. Keep your contributions coming in!