

| Services at John the Baptist Halling & the Jubilee Hall Upper Halling |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> June<br>Trinity Sunday                                | 8.00 Holy Communion<br>Jubilee Hall   | Revelation 4 <sup>1-11</sup> p1236<br>Mark 1 <sup>1-13</sup> p1002  |
|   | 11.00 Holy Communion  | Isaiah 6 <sup>1-8</sup> p690<br>Romans 8 <sup>12-17</sup> p1134<br>John 3 <sup>1-17</sup> p1065                     |
| <b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June</b>                                     | <b>11.00 Service for the Diamond Jubilee<br/>(followed by street party)</b>                               | <b>Psalm 121<br/>Joshua 1<sup>1-9</sup> p216<br/>Romans 13<sup>1-10</sup> p1140</b>                                 |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> June<br>Trinity 1                                    | 11.00 Holy Communion  | Genesis 3 <sup>8-15</sup> p5<br>II Corinthians 4 <sup>13-5<sup>1</sup></sup> p1160<br>Mark 3 <sup>20-35</sup> p1005 |
|   | 5.30 Evening Prayer<br>Jubilee Hall   | Jeremiah 6 <sup>16-21</sup> p763<br>Revelation 9 <sup>1-13</sup> p1239  |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> June<br>Trinity 2                                    | 11.00 Holy Communion & Stop! Look! Listen!  | Ezekiel 17 <sup>22-24</sup> p844<br>II Corinthians 5 <sup>6-17</sup> p1160<br>Mark 4 <sup>26-34</sup> p1006         |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> June<br>Nativity of St John the Baptist              | 11.00 Holy Communion<br>Preacher the Archdeacon   | Isaiah 40 <sup>1-11</sup> p723<br>Galatians 3 <sup>23-29</sup> p1170<br>Luke 1 <sup>57-66&amp;80</sup> p1027        |
|   | 3.00 Richard Jones from Bible Lands Society will give a presentation, followed by tea and Evening Prayer. |   |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> July<br>Trinity 4                                     | 8.00 Holy Communion<br>Jubilee Hall   | Romans 13 <sup>1-10</sup> p1140<br>Luke 9 <sup>51-62</sup> p1040  |
|   | 11.00 Holy Communion  | Lamentations 3 <sup>22-33</sup> p826<br>II Corinthians 8 <sup>7-24</sup> p1163<br>Mark 5 <sup>21-43</sup> p1007     |
| Services at St Michael & All Angels Cuxton                            |   |   |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> June<br>Trinity Sunday                                | 9.30 Family Communion   | Isaiah 6 <sup>1-8</sup> p690<br>Romans 8 <sup>12-17</sup> p1134<br>John 3 <sup>1-17</sup> p1065                     |
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| 17 <sup>th</sup> June<br>Trinity 2                                    | 8.00 Holy Communion   | Epistle & Gospel BCP Trinity 2  |
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## Celebrating the Diamond Jubilee

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 11.00 am  
Festival Morning Service  
St John the Baptist Halling.**

**From 12.00 onwards there will be a major street party  
arranged by the Parish Council in the surrounding area.**

| Wednesday Holy Communion 9.30 Cuxton |   | Thursday Holy Communion 9.30 Halling   |  |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| 6 <sup>th</sup> June                 | II Timothy 1 <sup>1-12</sup><br>Mark 12 <sup>18-27</sup>              | 7 <sup>th</sup> June<br>Corpus Christi | I Corinthians 11 <sup>23-26</sup><br>John 6 <sup>51-58</sup> |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> June                | I Kings 18 <sup>20-39</sup><br>Matthew 5 <sup>17-19</sup>             | 14 <sup>th</sup> June                  | I Kings 18 <sup>41-46</sup><br>Matthew 5 <sup>20-26</sup>    |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> June                | II Kings 2 <sup>1-14</sup><br>Matthew 6 <sup>1-18</sup>               | 21 <sup>st</sup> June                  | Isaiah 63 <sup>7-9</sup><br>Matthew 6 <sup>7-15</sup>        |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> June<br>Ember Day   | II Kings 22 <sup>8-23<sup>3</sup></sup><br>Matthew 7 <sup>15-20</sup> | 28 <sup>th</sup> June<br>S Irenaeus    | II Kings 24 <sup>8-17</sup><br>Matthew 7 <sup>21-29</sup>    |

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June: S Peter & S Paul: Holy Communion 7.30 am at St Michael's

**Thursday's Children** for pre-school children takes place at St John's at 2.00. There is an **After School Club** at St John's on Thursdays at 3.45. **Saints Alive** (formerly Sunday School) meets in the Church Hall, Cuxton at 9.30 on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month in term time. **St Michael's Angels** meet at Cuxton Church at 2.00 as announced for a short service for pre-school children, followed by refreshments and toys in the Church Hall.

There is a parish lunch to which all are invited every first Wednesday at 12.00 in the Church Hall.

If you are prepared to *gift aid* your monetary contributions to the Church, please use one of the envelopes provided or speak to Jack Payne for a longer term arrangement.

Copy Date July Magazine: 8<sup>th</sup> June 8.30 am Rectory.  
[roger@cuxtonandhalling.org.uk](mailto:roger@cuxtonandhalling.org.uk) <http://www.cuxtonandhalling.org.uk>

Parish Barbecue  
 Rectory Grounds  
 30<sup>th</sup> June  
 From 6.00 pm.

#### Forthcoming Attractions 2012

June 24<sup>th</sup> (St John the Baptist's Day): 11.00 HC at St John's preacher will be the Archdeacon. At 3.00 there will be a presentation by Philip Jones of the Bible Lands Society, followed by tea at St John's church.

June 30<sup>th</sup> 6.00: Parish Barbecue in Rectory Grounds

August 8<sup>th</sup> 12.00: Barbecue 95, Pilgrims Rd, North Halling.

August 24<sup>th</sup> (St Bartholomew's Day): 7.30pm BCP Celebration HC at St Michael's to mark 350th anniversary BCP.

September 2<sup>nd</sup>: 11.00 am Bishop James presides and preaches at St John's.

September 29<sup>th</sup> (Michaelmas): 11.00 am HC at St Michael's preacher Canon Alan Vousden - followed by lunch in church hall, church tour @ 3.00

30<sup>th</sup> September Back to Church Sunday 9.30 & 11.00

October 7<sup>th</sup> Harvest Festival: 6.30 St Michael's Evening Service and Harvest Supper.

October 13<sup>th</sup>: 7.30 Quiz in Church Hall.

October 27<sup>th</sup>: 2.00 Sale of Work Halling Church.

December 7<sup>th</sup>: WI District Carol Service at St Michael's.

December 8<sup>th</sup>: Christmas Minimarket Church Hall 10.00.



### From the Rector

The picture here is the Baptism of Jesus by St John the Baptist. On June 24<sup>th</sup>, we celebrate John's birthday and of course Halling Church is dedicated to St John the Baptist. So 24<sup>th</sup> is our Patronal Festival and a very special day for us. The Archdeacon of Rochester will be preaching at our 11.00 service and at 3.00 Philip Jones of the Bible Lands Society will be putting on a presentation of their work and there will be an opportunity to buy some of their products. This will be followed by tea and Evening Prayer.

John is the one who prepares the way for Jesus. Humanity desperately needs a Saviour and John proclaimed the Good News that the Kingdom of God is at hand. In order to be ready, people have to repent and to be baptised. Repentance means turning from sin and turning to God. Sin is

falling short of God's perfect law of love. Sin is violence, dishonesty, infidelity, indifference to the needs of others. Sin is whatever love is not. God is love. So to turn to God is to turn away from sin and to embrace humanity and all of creation in a perfect work of love. What is required of us is faith. God does the rest. Faith is the gift of God's grace. Come to Him in faith and hope and love. John proclaimed the Good News of the Kingdom of God. Jesus fulfils all the promises of God. Jesus is baptised with us and for us so that we may dwell in Him and He in us. God affirms His children in baptism. He pours out upon them His Holy Spirit. He makes us members of His Church, members of the Body of His Son. He gives His children eternal life here and now in Baptism so that we may know that God is our Father and live in the knowledge that all human beings are our brothers and sisters. So we fulfil the message of John to repent and to be baptised and we are prepared with and through Jesus to live in the Kingdom of God for evermore. Roger.

### Kierkegaard and the Tame Geese

(as told by Aaron Edwards in *Theology* May/June 2012)

In this parable, Kierkegaard imagines a church of geese gathering every Sunday to hear a sermon preached from a high pulpit, where an Old Gander exhorts the congregation that the Creator intended a greater purpose for them. He proclaims that they are strangers there, and that their wings were so designed that they might fly away to distant lands. Every Sunday the geese would hear the sermon and waddle home, before returning the following Sunday for the same lofty speech about the use of their wings. Whenever one of them asked why no one actually flew anywhere, various geese responded with nuanced arguments about the dangers of what happens to those who *actually* attempt it, pointing to those who are suffering and thin among them: 'There, you see what it leads to when flying is taken seriously!' they say. They subsequently point to those who are plump and delicate among the congregation as those having the grace of God. The following Sunday the Old Gander returns to the pulpit and again preaches about this 'greater purpose' the Creator has for them – and their wings – and the cycle of inactivity continues.



Christian Aid Walk  
23<sup>rd</sup> June – 8-10 miles North Downs countryside. Everybody welcome to take part or to sponsor someone who is. Details from Rector or Linda Bromley - [thebromleyfamily@hotmail.com](mailto:thebromleyfamily@hotmail.com).

*God bless to us our bread,  
And give bread to all those who are hungry,  
And hunger for justice to those who are fed.  
God bless to us our bread.*

### Cranmer's Understanding

"In fact he thought worship had no ulterior purpose. Worship was its own justification. His approach to liturgy assumed that human beings needed to worship in order to be human beings. Just as birds have to fly and fish have to swim, so the children of God have to worship."

Bishop Anthony Burton in *Faith & Worship* Easter 2012.

St Michael's Draw: £15 Jan Cheesmer, £5 each David Gates and Tracey Taylor – drawn by Jenny Beaney.

St John's Draw: £5 each Mrs Chidwick (30), Mr Silver (76), Mr Brown (60) & Mrs Garrot (123) – drawn by Mr Brown.

### Whom Will You Invite?

Back to Church Sunday is 30<sup>th</sup> September. Nearer the time prayer and invitation cards will be available, but it is not too soon to start thinking and praying whom you will invite to our 9.30 at St Michael's or 11.00 at St John's. If everyone invited only one person, our congregations would double!



### Halling WI

Our April meeting turned out to be a Fun Filled Foody evening, even the correspondence was interesting. We started as usual with Jerusalem, but not one birthday in April. We make up for it in May. Correspondence from the National Office, Where to hold the centenary A.G.M. in 2015? Please, please not the O<sub>2</sub>, it is much too big, the Albert Hall, it is much too small, Wembley Arena, more promising. It may be big enough for a delegate from every W.I. in the country. We could always go for Hyde Park, especially if it is pouring hard. Resolution this year at the Albert Hall "Recruiting more midwives", I can't see many objections to this one. Over 50 years ago, a resolution was passed at the Albert Hall which started off the Keep Britain Tidy Group going. Do we think it should be resurrected in 2012? Yes it should. Things are hotting up for this busy year, District wise. East Malling W.I. are hosting a meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> May with a talk about the Olympic Games and Kingshill W.I. are hosting a meeting for the Diamond Jubilee at Ryarsh on 6th July. We were informed that Sheila Miles of Ham Hill and Snodland W.I. is our new County Chairman.

Then the fun began. We all had to move to the vicinity of the hall kitchen. Wanich (that was her name) a happy young Asian lady from Strood who has some connection with Halling school started to cook. Wanich is not a demonstrator. She was great fun. One medium saucepan, into which she put very odd unusual ingredients. What was she making? a green curry, fish sauce, chicken, bamboo shoots, something else out of a big bottle. The smell was lovely, and it tasted great. Then out came the WOK. I've got a wok but it doesn't come out very often. Into this one yet more exotic ingredients, and a big bag of raw

prawns, with a flick of the wrist and a shake or two. Yet another very tasty dish was served up. Is your mouth watering yet? While we all got stuck into that, Wanich set to and made the quickest unusual mushroom soup I have ever seen or tasted. I found bits of what I thought was quill pen but she hadn't put any feathers in it, turned out to be lemon grass, very good for the stomach according to Wanich. I was very taken by the big green papaya. Apparently you can buy all these odd foods from the Thai market in Gravesend. We must invite Wanich to come again to show us how she cooks Indian food. It couldn't taste any nicer than the Chinese. She was warmly thanked by Jemma.

Sandra Finch was our delegate at the County Annual meeting held recently at Tunbridge Wells and gave us a very good report. It was the first time Sandra had been to this meeting and said how much she had enjoyed it. Now she understands why Betty and I enjoy the National Federation Annual meetings so much. W.I. has so much more to offer than our little monthly get togethers. Sandra judged our competitions. Flower of the month was won by Ann Hayward with her Dicentra, Bleeding Heart. Mine isn't even out yet. Something beginning with D was won by Betty Head with her beautiful cut glass Decanter. Pity she hadn't brought it full. It would have looked even more beautiful full of port or Sherry.

Next month is our Annual meeting. Funny having it in May but the powers that be think a change is as good as a rest. We shall see. The competition for next month, it's a tougher one E for Elephant, put your thinking caps on, girls. Phyllis.

### Clearing Up the Confusion

I was glad to see that Medway Council had supplied an article for the *Cuxton Noticeboard* at last explaining about Tree Preservation Orders. I was especially glad to read that Medway Council only expect our local Scout Group to spend £40 on a young tree from the garden centre, rather than up to a £1,000 on a fully mature tree.

Mr Cooper's article is somewhat misleading in that it says that you can cut down dead or dangerous trees without permission even if covered by a TPO. However he does not warn you that, if you do, you must inform the local authority and that you will have to plant a replacement. On the assumption that the

borough and parish councils would prefer you to have full information and not risk a fine through acting in ignorance, I have asked Neil Curtis to publish a clarification in the next issue of the *Noticeboard* and I am doing the same in this magazine. The following is excerpted from the relevant government leaflet, for a copy of which I am indebted to Michael Sankus of Medway Council.

### Protected trees A guide to tree preservation procedures

#### 13. Do I always need the local planning authority's permission to work on a tree covered by a tree preservation order?

Yes, except for: ....

2) cutting down or pruning a tree:

which presents an urgent and serious safety risk – however you must give written notice (by letter or email) of the proposed work to the local planning authority as soon as practicable after the work becomes necessary;

which is dead – however you must give at least five working days written notice (by letter or email) of the proposed work to the local planning authority;

#### 15. When will I have to plant a replacement tree?

You will have to replant:

1) if you cut down or destroy a protected tree:

- in breach of a tree preservation order, or because the tree is dead or dangerous;

To put it more simply, suppose you plant a tree in your garden. The local council can, if it so wishes, put a preservation order on it and there is almost nothing you can do to stop them. If they do put a preservation order on your tree, you can't prune it without their permission even if it has grown too big for its situation and become a nuisance to you or your neighbours. If they do allow you to prune your own tree on your own land, they will make you employ expensive contractors rather than allowing you to do the work yourself. If the tree dies, the council will make you replace it at your own expense, even if you can't afford it. You might well consider that, under the present regime, it is not worth planting trees at all. Roger.



#### Bluebell Wood Charity Walk

I would like to thank all the walkers, those donating on the day, sponsors, and all those who couldn't walk but gave a donation. £600 so far has been donated for the Eve Appeal. The final figure will be published in the local press. About 40 people enjoyed the walk, though soggy that day. Thank you all once again. Pat Lawry.

#### Nature Notes April 2012

Edith Holden, in her entry for April's Diary quotes a verse from "*The Cry of The Children*" by E B Browning:

"The young lambs are bleating in the meadows,  
The young birds are chirping in the nest,  
The young fawns are playing with the shadows,  
The young flowers are blowing toward the west-

Go out, children, from the mine and from the city;  
Sing out, children, as the little thrushes do,  
Pluck your handfuls of the meadow cowslips pretty,  
Laugh aloud to feel your fingers let them through."

Clear blue skies and golden sunshine greet the first day of the month. A north wind blows. In the afternoon I walk along Pilgrim's Road to the footpath leading to the main road at Halling. New leaves are bursting on trees and shrubs. Gardens are bright with flowers. The morning of 2<sup>nd</sup> is beautiful when we drive to Cobtree Manor Park with Murphy. There has been a frost overnight leaving the grass sparkling in its wetness. Some trees display white blossom. Early blackthorn and bluebells are blooming in the woodland. The sun shines warmly throughout the day. The next day, early morning sunshine lights up a clear blue sky. Later, as we drive to Bluewater with Murphy, grey clouds build up in the sky but the sun does not disappear. The light easterly wind blows blossom from the trees and pink and white carpets

are formed on the grass. Golden dandelions and pale yellow cowslips adorn the green banks and more trees are bursting into leaf. Broom is in flower. A Canada goose leaves its position on an island in the road and sidles down the bank to the lake where a pair of coots are gliding. The afternoon brings a shower of rain. Then more rain falls during the evening. So much rain is needed for marsh and wetlands are drying up and the earth is dry and cracked. This will affect the flora and fauna. On 4<sup>th</sup>, early morning skies are a clear blue after overnight rain has filled the garden water butts. Billowing clouds drift across the sky from the north east. The morning of 5<sup>th</sup> is grey and cold with winds still from the north east. I feed the birds and watch a blackbird hopping across the grass, two great tits on the

feeders, a magpie tucking into bread and a pair of wood pigeons foraging for seed on the patio wall. Later, collared doves come for their share of seed and two robins join them. The sun eventually shines from a pale blue sky but it remains very cold. As the light fades in the evening, a bright full moon rides up the eastern sky. The next three days are generally grey and chilly although there are occasional rays of sunshine. The beautiful blossom on the trees at Bluewater is fading but cowslips are bringing their special beauty along the grassy banks. Much needed rain falls on 9<sup>th</sup>. The morning of 10<sup>th</sup> is sunny with blue skies and white clouds drifting across the sky from the south. We walk with Murphy near Chatham Dockyard where there is a chill wind blowing off the river. Showers of rain fall during the afternoon when the Eastern skies are full of dark clouds. The sun shines again but there is no rainbow. As the sun dips down the evening sky, the clouds become salmon pink, then when there is little light, a bank of white cloud over Bluebell Hill, resembles snow-capped mountains. The morning of 11<sup>th</sup> is bright with golden sunshine and blue skies across which drift white and rather menacing grey clouds. I walk to the fields beneath a grey sky and the onset of showers which punctuate the sunshine. The field is full of buttercups, dandelions and along the verges red deadnettle, daisies and speedwell bloom. Blackthorn flowers are beautiful and one hawthorn is adorned with creamy blossoms while others remain in bud. In Mays Wood, cow parsley is beginning to bloom while celandines, wood anemones and bluebells adorn the woodland floor. Further up in the wood, carpets of dog violets beautify the scene and the flowers and leaves sparkle having been washed by the showers. I see, too, dog's mercury and wild strawberry flowers, while ramsons leaves are a lush green. I hear the strident calls of great tits. I continue into Wingate Wood where I am rewarded by the sight of carpets of bluebells, a beautiful sight. Afternoon skies are grey and heavy showers fall accompanied by thunder. The 12<sup>th</sup> is a day of sunshine and showers while the morning produces the best of the sunshine. Birdsong fills the air, a beautiful sound. I watch a chaffinch gathering Murphy's fur from the patio for it will be used as nesting material. Showers fall well into the evening. The morning of the next day is grey, cold and damp with some fog patches. However, in the afternoon, the sun shines from a blue, cloud-flecked sky and I enjoy its warmth as I sit outside. I watch birds feeding and flying among the branches of trees and listen to the songs of great tits and a chiff chaff. Bees gather nectar from the comfrey flowers in both the front and back gardens. More leaves have unfurled on the trees on the embankment; they are so fresh and beautiful. There is a distinct chill in the air on 15<sup>th</sup>. On 16<sup>th</sup>, we set off for a short holiday in

Wiltshire a favourite part of the country for us. Along part of the route, golden gorse blooms and along minor roads I see cuckoo flowers, bluebells, dandelions and wood anemones. We arrive at our destination of Orcheston and I walk along the track at the base of the field where new-born lambs frolic. Then I climb up the hill to the top of the fields and along to the badger sett before coming back to the cottage. A north wind blows but the sunshine is beautiful. High grey cloud drifts across the sky during the evening but there are glimpses of the setting sun. Heavy rain has fallen overnight and the wind has been strong. Clouds bowl across from the west, the sun shines and the sky is blue. We take a beautiful scenic route to Marlborough. The roadside verges are golden with dandelions and the rolling hills of Salisbury Plain are freshly green. Crows forage. Grey and white clouds march across the sky casting shadows on the Plain. In the afternoon, we drive to a part of The Ridgeway where the wind is very strong. As I walk along the track, I hear the songs of skylarks, such a beautiful sound. The views all around are magnificent; I can see for miles into the distance. On my return I am pushing against the wind. We return through showers before the sun shines again. A heavy shower falls in the late afternoon then in the brightness of the evening, I watch the lambs frolicking in the field. Rain falls the following morning and into the afternoon but there is a break when I walk up into the field and on my way espy a tiny snail bearing a yellow shell. I continue along a track to farm buildings then return for rain is falling again. The lambs are gambolling across the field. The 19<sup>th</sup>, when we go to the market town of Devizes, is wet and cold. We journey home the following day and I take a final glimpse of the rolling Plain until the next time. The 21<sup>st</sup> is sunny with billowing white clouds and a fresh westerly wind. I walk round the lake at Bluewater with Murphy. Many trees are now displaying their fresh green leaves and early vetch, buttercups, daisies speedwell and cowslips are in bloom. Pink and white blossom adorns the trees. Later in the day I listen to a blackbird singing on the embankment when the clouds are salmon pink. The 22<sup>nd</sup> is a day of sun, rain and hail. During the afternoon of 23<sup>rd</sup>, I watch a handsome jay as it feeds on the nuts then squirrels come for their share. Showery days follow then 27<sup>th</sup> is bright and breezy. I drive to Addington where I am aware of the beauty of the trees. The wind becomes very strong in the middle of the day but abates later. A jay and a great spotted woodpecker visit the garden. It rains all day on 28<sup>th</sup>. The jay returns on 29<sup>th</sup> when I stand out in the garden absorbing the beauty of the blue sky and the fresh green of the trees. The final day of the month is a sunny, blue-sky day when I walk with Murphy in Cobtree Manor Park. Trees bear their Spring foliage and bluebells bloom in the

woodland. Speedwell blooms in the grass. Along the route to the park, may blossom, broom, gorse, wayfaring tree flowers and ox eye daisies bloom. Horse chestnut trees bear their creamy, spiky flowers



### Cuxton WI

We were not really expecting many people on Thursday evening as the weather was wet and cold and it was the AGM. But we were pleasantly surprised when 33 members turned up and I am sure that it had nothing to do with the cheese and wine that was served at refreshment time! We started with the usual business session and this informed us of various interesting events and talks that are coming up at other WIs in the area. A digital photography talk sold out quickly and several people were interested in the Harvel Garden Trail in July. Clubs are doing well and the Cookery lot are working through recipes from an old WI cookery book. So all sorts of unusual dishes are coming along - most of them sound delicious but pretty fattening. We were not so diet conscious in those days. Chris has been working hard getting things organised for our Produce Show in September. There are going to be 10 different classes. We shall all be growing and preserving before then. Poetry and Craft are also included. So wet days may turn out to be a blessing when we can be busy indoors. We are looking forward to our annual June party, which this year will have a Royalty quiz evening. A competition for the best crown, tiara, sceptre or

and dandelion seed heads float on the air. While in the garden during the afternoon I hear a cuckoo's call. Elizabeth Summers

orb should result in some sights to be seen! After our wine interval etc we settled down to the AGM. Pat read the By laws and slight worries were expressed about the many urban WI that are now being formed. Although everyone is pleased to see so many women joining the organisation we must bear in mind that it was formed for rural women and make sure that we keep to the ideals that they followed. The financial statement was approved and both the President's report and the Secretary's committee report were read to the room. Pat was re-elected as President for the coming year and with three new volunteers we now have a full committee and so all looks well for the future. We have welcomed several new members over the past year but have plenty of room for more. Come along and give us a try, you will always be made welcome. Next month is our June party which is for members only but perhaps we shall see you in July. Sheila.

### Colouring the Countryside

As I write, the fields between Cuxton and Cobham are a carpet of bright yellow with oilseed rape. Parts of our local woods are just coming towards the end of the time of year when they are swathed with the deep blue of bluebells. No doubt we shall soon see fields of pale blue linseed (or flax), which from a distance can look like the rippling surface of a lake. Hedgerows are white with cow parsley and May blossom, as are areas of woodland floor with anemones. Soon bright red poppies will light up the corn fields – and all in our *green and pleasant land*

### **30th Medway Towns (Cuxton & Halling) Scout Group SCOUTANA 2012**

1.00pm - 4.00pm Saturday 30th June 2012 at the Scout Hall, Bush Road, Cuxton.

The theme this year will be The Olympic Games. In the arena, there will be a 'Mini Olympics' including tug of war for adults, welly boot competition for Beavers, shot put for Cubs and many other activities. There will be a fancy dress competition - any theme - open to everyone (adults too). The main raffle prizes will include a meal for two and limousine ride, a £50 voucher, a hamper and many others. Stalls will include BBQ, Candyfloss, Tombola, Plants, Treasure Map, Soft Toys, White Elephant, Cakes, Coconut Shy, Swing Boats, Face painting, Win a Day Out etc. etc.

Members of the Group will be selling programmes door to door, so please support us if you can by purchasing a programme and coming along on the day.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE. There can't be any rain left in the sky by then, surely ? !

### Halling Historical Society

The next meeting will be held at the Jubilee Hall Upper Halling at 7.30 pm on 21<sup>st</sup> June. Visitors are always welcome. The speaker will be Ms Helen Atkinson and the subject:- Poachers and Pickpockets – Crime in Victorian Kent.

## From the Registers

### Wedding:

28<sup>th</sup> April

Richard Stuart Oram and Kimberley Anne Dawson

St John's

### Funerals:

20<sup>th</sup> April

Bertie Donald Hutcheon (90)

Woodhurst Close

27<sup>th</sup> April

Margaret Rose Arms (67)

Bush Road

30<sup>th</sup> April

John Cowell

Stanford Way



### What I Did on the Bank Holiday by Max the Rectory Spaniel

Master and his friend have been walking the capital ring, footpaths around the periphery of greater London. He says it's astonishing how much green open space there is. Over several years (!) they walked from the Thames Barrier to Mottingham, from there to Crystal Palace, then across Clapham Common to Wandsworth and then over Wandsworth and Wimbledon Commons to Richmond Park and Richmond Bridge. Then they started again at Woolwich, walking through the tunnel, and thence via Becton to the Olympic Park, then Stratford to Crouch End and Crouch End to Wembley via Finchley. Then it was Wembley to Greenford, where they stopped and didn't resume till this week. There was still a gap from Greenford to Richmond to be filled in. I hadn't been taken on any of the other walks and I had never been on a bus or train before and never been to London. This time, however, Master said I was coming, even though he wondered how I might behave!

So Bank Holiday Monday morning we walked down to Cuxton Station. Train to Strood was easy. Fast train to St Pancras was quite exciting. I was actually very good on the trains, though I wasn't allowed to check out the other passengers or to sniff under all the seats for drugs or explosives like Springers do on TV and which I would quite like to have done.

The nicest way to get from St Pancras to Paddington is to walk along the towpath of the canal via Camden Lock and the Zoo and through Regents Park. The sun was shining at this time and it was great fun. There were lots of people about on the towpath. Actually, we had to run most of the way or we would have missed our train from Paddington.

We got on the Greenford train all right, having met Master's friend, but at West Ealing the driver turned round and said we weren't going any further. So we got off my third train and took two buses to Greenford. My experience of public transport was certainly increasing. From Greenford we walked through Perivale Park to the River Brent and along its banks over a golf course to rejoin the Grand Union Canal to Brentford and the River Thames. It came on to drizzle just for a change. At Syon House we went into the Garden Centre Refectory, where Master and his friend had tomato soup and haddock and chips and Master had a choux bun and I had Pedigree Chum and some fish skin.

We walked along the Thames path, over Richmond Bridge, and sat outside the "White Cross Inn" while Master and his friend drank some beer. As we sat there, the tide came in. We had to retreat to higher ground and were marooned in the pub for an hour. What an excuse!

Then Richmond Station for another train and to say goodbye to our friend. Because of engineering works we had to get out at Barnes. Another bus to Clapham Junction. Trains to Victoria, Rochester and Strood. Then he said 40 minutes was too long to wait for the Cuxton train. So we walked home – the sun shining again by this time. What a wonderful day, as near perfect as possible. Master's friend said I was very good. I wish I'd been with them for the rest of the Capital Ring. I wonder if I can persuade them to go round again and take me this time?

### Bellringers' Outing to Sussex

Saturday 16th June to Sussex - Newick, Danehill, Ardingly and West Hoathly and Uckfield to be confirmed. A coach will be laid on for the outing and parishioners are very welcome to go along. Details of timings and costs and bookings please refer to Colin Thompson.