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See all the Blooms in June on Garden Safari

It's time to go on safari and see the Blooms in June. Visit some of Hunton's 'hidden treasures' as village homes open their gardens to the public.

In what promises to be one of the early summer attractions for the green fingered fraternity and visitors, who will be allowed to "pop in and wander round," the Hunton Open Gardens Scheme takes place on Sunday 12th June from 2 to 5pm.

Fourteen gardens will be on show in Grove Lane, Bishops Lane and Barn Hill as well as the local manor house Hunton Court, the house of former Prime Minister Henry Campbell-Bannerman in the early 20th century and now home of Michael and Gilly Devas. There will also be a plant sale at the school.

Our Out & Out correspondent Christine McSweeney, who has been helping to organise the event, says: "These gardens are all well tended but this is not just a case of showing off exquisitely manicured lawns and flower beds. This is all about getting involved and welcoming others to share in the results of their efforts, perhaps enjoying plants not seen elsewhere, together with other highlights."

Christine (820852) is keen to hear from anyone prepared to help with making cakes, serving teas and helping with car parking and other duties. Tickets are £3 per adult (children free). Proceeds will go to the church, village hall and school.

Teams ready to battle it out on the field

The pitch will be marked out, the whites will be washed, boots cleaned, bats oiled and everything prepared for the eagerly-awaited annual Hunton East Street versus West Street cricket match.

And the date has now been set for Sunday 31st July, starting at 2pm, so all the village sportsmen, women, children - and others - should enter this date in their diaries.

Organiser James Forster says: "The match is expected to follow the usual format with teams consisting of a mix of ages and abilities playing in the 25 over match. There will be a £10 match fee (£5 for children) to include a splendid tea for players, helpers and their families. Money raised will go to local causes in the normal way.

"Would all those who are keen to play, umpire, act as scorers or help with the tea, please contact myself or my wife Andrea (820628). New players are welcome, and for those who just want to watch, we look forward to seeing you on the day. Providing the weather shines on us it is bound to be an enjoyable occasion, as in the past, when all the village can get together."

New garden to mark 10th anniversary - and it's free

Yalding Organic Gardens will be celebrating its 10th anniversary by opening a new garden to inspire people to grow their own vegetables and fruit - and offering local villagers free entry!

HDRA, the organic organisation, will be launching the Organic Food for All garden, as part of a whole weekend of festivities, demonstrating what can be achieved through HDRA's latest project. It is training 100 mentors across the country to help beginners to grow their own organic vegetables and fruit.

Local councillor Fred Winckless is performing the opening ceremony on Saturday, June 18 at 12pm - as he originally opened the gardens as Mayor of Maidstone in 1995. HDRA is keen for local people to join in these celebrations and those living in Hunton, will enjoy free entry - as long as they bring along a utility bill. Regular admission charges are £3.50 for adults and £3 for concessions and children under 16 enjoy free entry.

Your Local Contacts:

Parish Council Chairman: Roger Sawtell	820731	Clerk to Parish Council: David Swan	814445
School: Secretary/Head Teacher	820360	Village Hall Booking: Jackie Crooks	820226
Under 5's Pre-School:	820309	Under-5s Playgroup:	741951
Maidstone Police:	608186	Pre-School Supervisor: Pippa Fordham	746829
Pond and Tree Warden: Anne Bishop	820683	Neighbourhood Watch:	608173
Associate Rector: Revd Ruth Bierbaum	743866**	'Potholes' concern (MBC): Adrian Hygate	602000
also: Revd David Jones	741474**	Churchwarden: Alison Ellman-Brown	820288
Hon PCC Secretary: Nicky Grainger	813527	Joy McLoughlin	820551
Rectory:	747570	Organist: Philip Moore	749356

**not available on Fridays

Dates for Diaries:

12th June	Hunton Open Gardens (820852)	31st July	Hunton East v West Street
2nd July	Straight Eight Summer Concert (820551)		Annual Cricket Match (820628)

All items for the July issue to the Editor as soon as possible, and by 15th June, please

'Then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known'

19 Westerhill Road, Coxheath, ME17 4DQ

Here's a list of people. What images come to your mind as you picture them? A football supporter; a pensioner; a Muslim; an unmarried mother; a divorcee; a person with cancer; and a vicar.

If you are any of the above, do you think you fit the stereotype? Do you want to fit the stereotype, or are you, like me, quite pleased to break it?

The problem with pre-judgments or prejudices, is that they don't give us time to be recognised for who we are. People assume they know who we are, and therefore stop listening or looking. I'm sure you know how it feels to be on the receiving end of that sort of treatment.

To be known is *such* a basic human desire, that it could even be described as a need. I don't mean that we all want to be famous but the feeling that comes from being really understood is so powerful that it can change a person's life.

Saint Paul in his first letter to the Christians in Corinth, spoke of the nature of Love, and about us being fully known, fully understood. *For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known,* (1 Corinthians 13:12).

God is the only one who completely knows us and understands us better than we do ourselves. And despite this God still completely loves us.

And in another letter, this time to the Church in Rome, St. Paul explains how in Jesus, nothing at all can separate us from that perfect love. *"For I am convinced" he says "that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord".*

If you're going through life, waiting to find someone who understands, who listens, consider this: the Bible proclaims that Jesus is the beginning and the end of your search. He knows you better than you or anyone ever has or ever will, and he died so that, trusting in him, you can know that love for all eternity. *Ruth Bierbaum*

Herald reaches latest milestone with call for support

Our 30th issue has now been produced making the Herald two and a half years old! During this time, since the take-over from the former church gazette, we would like to think that the various magazine contributions have provided a welcome service for the community.

We have published articles from most of the village organisations, from the school and hall to the church and the sports clubs, as well as regular reports from the bi-monthly parish council meetings. There have been fascinating stories such as that of the centenarian, a former resident, returning to the village in a high powered sports car, and of the young grass track rider scoring success on his first outing.

We have received messages from Old Huntonians now living in various parts of the country, receiving the Herald and saying how they enjoy catching up on the latest news from their former home village.

So once again it is time to thank those whose support has made this possible. We are particularly pleased to report that two new members have joined the production team, Dawn Dixon and Dudley Farman, to provide welcome help and new ideas to editor Les Leonard, who already has invaluable backing from Kathleen Moore in producing the magazine.

Please do not hesitate to send articles to the editor (820858 or e-mail les@wooloast.fsnet.co.uk) and financial contributions to James Forster at Hunton Lodge, Hunton Court Farm.

*** Marion Leonard, her daughter Catherine and team raised £2,000 for Cancer Research when they completed the Race for Life in Mote Park, Maidstone, and would like to thank all those who supported them.***

Dog owners make life a misery for kids

Lindsey Gordon of Mistletoe Cottage, Grove Lane has made an impassioned plea for dog owners to clean up after their pets. She said: "My five-year-old daughter stepped in a pile of dog mess by the post box on her way to school and was very upset at getting into such a state. This is the third time this has happened in a month." Mrs Gordon has tried to cultivate the bank opposite her house by laying turf and planting tulips which looked splendid in recent weeks but this has not deterred some dog owners.

She said: "The children at this end of Grove Lane play near the bank and there have been many dog mess related incidents. I love dogs but I do have a problem with owners who do not take responsibility for their pets."

Reserve a seat to hear Straight Eight choir

Early interest has been shown and parishioners should now reserve their tickets for the Summer Concert at Hunton Church on Saturday 2nd July at 7.00 p.m when Straight Eight choir will be performing led by their lively conductor Peter Brice.

The programme will feature "something for everyone," from the Rutter Requiem to much loved pieces from Lloyd-Webber and Elgar plus spicy modern arrangements of Cole Porter and Lennon/McCartney.

Tickets at £7.50 are available from Joy McLoughlin (820551) and will include a glass of wine and tasty bites in the interval. Proceeds to the ancient village church.

Reserved Brits sang and danced to Senegalese rhythms

Hunton village hall may seem like an unlikely venue to experience traditional African music but on a Saturday in May we did just that.

Seckou Keita, a 28 year old Senegalese musician, sang and played the kora, otherwise known as the lute-harp. It is a 22 stringed instrument made from a big gourd, mahogany and fishing line played with two fingers and two thumbs offering great harmonies and rhythms. Seckou's international backing group consisted of an Italian double bass player, a Gambian percussionist and an Egyptian fiddle player!

Seckou, who was taught to play the Kora by his grandfather, encouraged audience participation and by the end of the evening he had us reserved Brits singing and even dancing!! He explained that where he comes from, audiences generally listen to the music during the first half of a programme but in the second half it is a shared experience with the audience dancing while the musicians play.

It was a fun, joyful evening proving that music is indeed an international language to be shared. **Karen Martin**

Hall chairman Alan Bishop, thanking those who attended and praising the hard working committee who set up the evening and provided supper, explained the work of Applause, the name given to the rural touring scheme for West Kent and one of 35 nationwide in the National Rural Touring Forum promoting professional arts.

Applause is based at Trinity Arts, Tunbridge Wells and has been instrumental in bringing several top artists to Hunton. Under the umbrella of the NRTF the aim is to make more people aware of the importance of the touring scheme, to prove the value of the arts to rural and other communities and to bring their work to the attention of national policy making organisations and funding bodies.

Six highly successful events have been promoted under the scheme in Hunton. We are working on this Autumn/Winter schedule and welcome any feedback on the events so far and on what people would like to see in the future. Some drama perhaps? It has been great fun putting on arts events in the village hall and with your continuing support we look forward to the next ones – dates to follow! **Alan Bishop (820683)**

Swim pool manifesto as pupils go to polls

As the country went to the polls in May, election fever gripped the children of Hunton School. Manifestos promising swimming pools and luxury staff and games rooms were drawn up by Years Four, Five and Six and all the children got a chance to visit the ballot box. It was an excellent introduction to politics and made the whole election experience more real for the children.

Links with Cornwallis continue to strengthen. The secondary school's performance of 'Bugsy Malone' went down a storm with middle school (years 2 and 3) children who went to Maidstone's Hazlitt Theatre to see the show. Hunton pupils have also been introduced to the LITNUM website which helps to prepare them for life at secondary school.

After school clubs are thriving this term, with children staying behind to take part in line-dancing, football and netball. The netball team celebrated third place in the recent small school's tournament.

Headteacher Sue Wood would like to remind everyone that the school is private property and is therefore out of bounds when school is not in session.

If your son or daughter came home recently from Hunton School wanting to become an astronaut, they were probably inspired by Kent Astrodome's visit. The children took "one giant leap into outer space," learning about the planets and constellations while witnessing the first moon landings.

The Wild, Wild West was the theme of this year's May Fair - more next month. The Salsa evening was a resounding success, raising £450 for school funds. The school was the ideal rural setting to launch the Kent Wildlife Trust's "Gardening for Wildlife Award 2005".

Calling all shoppers! The school is collecting both Sainsburys and Tesco's vouchers for kids. All donations gratefully received.

Out & Out *Dormouse - a surprise guest in the bird box*

In late November 2004 I decided to clean out my bird-boxes and found that in one a new nest had been built on top of the blue-tit's old one. Surprised, I looked more closely and found curled up in the feathers, dry grass and fur, the sleeping head of a dormouse.

Famed for its role in the Mad Hatter's tea-party, most of us never see them for they are strictly nocturnal. They are heavily dependent on hazel-nuts and leave a characteristic smooth round hole in the end of the nut – often the only sign of their presence.

They spend from October to April in hibernation, usually in nests below the ground; the summer nests are usually in shrubs and not infrequently in bird-boxes, and may result in two broods.

It is rare for them to live more than four years in the wild; most succumb to hard weather during hibernation. At 40g maximum weight in the autumn, they would not make much of a banquet!

The Romans enjoyed a different species five times the weight, a small population of which was released in the Chilterns in the early 20th century, and which has recently been reported in Kent. *David Newman*

At St Mary's Church in June

Notices	Services
<p>Brass cleaning: Revd David Jones and Sunday Club</p> <p>Flowers: 5th: Mrs Grainger 12th & 19th: Mrs Forster 26th: Mrs Porter</p> <p>Church Family Service Coffee Rota (11am) 5 June: the Forster family 3 July: the Leonard family</p> <p>Church Cleaning: Mrs Johns & Mrs Grainger</p> <p>Sunday Club plans to go alfresco With the mid summer fast approaching Hunton Sunday Club members are taking to the outdoors for their June meeting at Durrants, West Street on Sunday June 19th from 5.15pm until 6.45pm. Remember the active Club is open to all children of primary school age - simply contact David Jones (741474) for further details.</p>	<p>Sunday 5th - 2nd Sunday after Trinity 11.00am Church Family Service <i>Revd D Jones</i> Reading: Matthew 9:9-13</p> <p>Sunday 12th - 3rd Sunday after Trinity 9.15am Holy Communion (1662) <i>Revd D Jones</i> Readings: Exodus 19:2-8 Matthew 10:1-8</p> <p>Sunday 19th - 4th Sunday after Trinity 11.00am Morning Prayer <i>Miss C Bostock</i> Readings: Jeremiah 20:7-13 Matthew 10:24-39</p> <p>Sunday 26th - 5th Sunday after Trinity 9.15am Holy Communion (CW) <i>Revd R Bierbaum</i> Readings: Romans 6:12-23 Luke 17:20-37</p>

Ruth Bierbaum, the associate rector, broke her right ankle while playing with children at East Farleigh in mid-May and was treated in Maidstone Hospital. A plate and pin was due to be fitted to the injured ankle as soon as the swelling went down.

"Proclaiming the Faith Afresh" conference

The Diocese of Rochester is holding a conference called Proclaiming the Faith Afresh on Monday January 30th - Thursday February 2nd 2006 at Butlins Resort Centre, Bognor Regis, West Sussex.

The speakers include Dr Elaine Storkey, Senior Research Fellow, Oxford and broadcaster on BBC Radio 4 and The Rt. Rev John Hind Bishop of Chichester. For more details speak to a church warden or one of the clergy.

The cost is £250 per delegate, including full board accommodation. A deposit of £50 is required to reserve a place. The balance of £200 must be paid by 31st October 2005.

To find out more about the makepovertyhistory campaign visit www.makepovertyhistory.org

Forthcoming Church Events

3rd June	Tonbridge Christian Arts Group presents The Trumpet Call an "inspiring combination of music, drama, dance with audio and visual effects" at St Luke's Church, Maidstone at 8pm. Tel 01732 359488
11th June	2Gether4God Children's Festival at the Friars, Aylesford
18th June	Wellspring 2005 at Aylesford Priory www.wellspring2005.org.uk
22nd June	Churches Together in Maidstone AGM at 8pm, The Salvation Army, Union Street
22nd June	Strawberry and Cream Teas in Linton Church 3- 5pm

May	5th	12th	19th	26th
Coxheath	11.00 HC	9.15 MP	11.00 HC	11.00 CFS
E. Farleigh	9.15 HC	8.00 HC 10.30 MP	11.00 Parish Worship	8.00 HC 10.30 MP
Linton	9.15 HC	8.00 HC 11.00 CFS	9.15 MP	9.15 HC
W. Farleigh	8.00 HC 6.00 EA	11.00 CFS	9.15 HC	11.00 MP

10am every Thursday—Holy Communion (1662) at Coxheath
HC: Holy Communion MP: Morning Prayer CFS: Church Family Service EA: Evening Alternative

For Weddings, Thanksgivings, and Baptisms, please contact [Revd David Jones \(741474\)](mailto:Revd David Jones (741474))