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## Club gets facelift - and new beer!

Action is being taken in a bid to make Hunton Village Club, which dates back 100 years, more "people friendly" while bringing it into the 21st century.

It is planned to make the Club more comfortable for members, their families and guests, by installing smoke extraction machines and a new and more efficient heating system, while generally modernising the premises with new furniture, and other fittings.

Secretary and treasurer Doug Redfarn told the Herald: "We have switched brewers from Courage to Greene King who are staging an IPA promotional evening on Friday 19th August. We intend making the Club a truly family friendly place for all members - young and old - and their guests. We want to get our message over to villagers and make them aware of what we are doing. Hunton lost its only pub the Prince of Wales back in the 1990s leaving the Club, and the Church, as the last remaining village meeting place.

"Basically, we want our members and their families and friends to be able to come into a welcoming and entertaining Club, enjoy a drink of decent quality, in a pleasant and smoke-free environment."

The club is looking to the future with the backing of a dedicated committee and Rose Mitchell, the club stewardess. A new group of members has been welcomed onto the committee to help identify areas for change as well as to promote the existing plans. These include Roger Crooks, Phil Nichols and Alan Blackledge-Smith.

Roger says: "The original Working Men's Club has been tremendous for the village over the years and it's values and spirit must be retained. However, we need to get people from both within and outside the village more interested in the club and its' activities, and more importantly, ensure they are willing to give us their support. To do this we have got to present a broader and generally more exciting appeal. We hope people will contact us for membership or if they would like to help in any way." **Contact Doug on 820495.**

**New Rector - See Back Page**

## Straight Eight concert raises £900

Villagers and friends from other parishes enjoyed a memorable summer evening at St. Mary's when the Straight Eight choir and accompanying musicians performed under conductor Peter Brice. More than £900 was raised for the church.

The concert opened with John Rutter's Requiem - a beautiful but difficult piece to sing given his typical use of "dissonance (menace) to contrast with serene and beautiful melodies throughout as light triumphs over darkness" There were two lovely soprano solos and fine oboe.

The second half was a lively and varied programme from the Baroque era through to contemporary works from Lotti to Lloyd-Webber. A delighted audience sang their hearts out in the Tallis Canon and the jaunty "Honey Pie" (ace tenor solo) and "In The Mood" got every foot tapping.

### Your Local Contacts:

Parish Council Chairman: Roger Sawtell	820731	Village Club Doug Redfarn	820495
School: Secretary/Head Teacher	820360	Clerk to Parish Council: David Swan	814445
Under 5's Pre-School:	820309	Village Hall Booking: Jackie Crooks	820226
Maidstone Police:	608186	Under-5s Playgroup:	741951
Pond and Tree Warden: Anne Bishop	820683	Pre-School Supervisor: Pippa Fordham	746829
Associate Rector: Revd Ruth Bierbaum	743866**	Neighbourhood Watch:	608173
also: Revd David Jones	741474**	'Potholes' concern (MBC): Adrian Hygate	0845 824 7800
Hon PCC Secretary: Nicky Grainger	813527	Churchwarden: Alison Ellman-Brown	820288
Rectory:	747570	supported by Joy McLoughlin	820551
		Organist: Philip Moore	749356

**\*\*not available on Fridays**

### Dates for Diaries:

- 6th August and 24th September, rubbish freighter 7.45am to 8.45am in the Hall car park.
- 18th August Greene King IPA Night at The Club (820495)
- 27th August Churchyard Working Party 9am to 12pm (820876)
- 1st October 'Hell and High Water' presented by the Blue Chicken Theatre Company, village hall (820683)
- 26th October Bridge Drive and Tea, Village Hall 2-5pm, £6, proceeds to church restoration (813527/820369)

**All items for the September issue to the Editor as soon as possible, and by 15th August, please**

**Fear no evil: His Truth is unending and indestructible** 19 Westerhill Road, Coxheath, ME17 4DQ

"Sometimes it falls on a generation to be great". So says Nelson Mandela.

I've never been one for patriotism, but this past couple of weeks I've been surprised by the pride welling up in me. I've felt proud to be part of a nation that's been in the fore-front of calling for economic justice in the world; proud that we've been counted worthy of hosting the 2012 Olympics; and proud to be a member of a kingdom which following the London Bombing, showed her resolve by coming out in force to celebrate the 60th anniversary of VE day. What better way to fight evil than to carry on as normal?

There was once a woman who was disturbed by the presence of an ouija board in her house. She felt scared by its power but was advised that the only power that evil has is the power you give it. I think she burned it - as a sign that she rejected the darkness it symbolised.

And so this is true: the power of evil is in our choosing. In the garden of Eden the snake is present, but it has no power until Eve listens to it and believes its lies.

In my 22 year long love affair with Jesus, one word is often singing in my heart, and that is Truth. His words and promises and instructions are full of truth, and life and love. In my experience it's a truth which is unending and indestructible. It's not reliant on the depth of my faith, because that sometimes is quite weak... but the Truth of God is there anyway: it is the source of our very being, and it is Good. And so the choice always ours, between Truth or Lies, Light or Darkness, Fear of evil or Love of God.

As King David once said "Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff they comfort me".

*Yours in faith Ruth Bierbaum*

## School has outstanding features

HUNTON School is described as a "good church school with some outstanding features" according to a recent Anglican School inspection. "Relationships within the school are exemplary and characterised by Christian care and concern."

Leadership and management of the school were also judged to be "outstanding" and teachers were found to have a good knowledge and understanding of Christianity as well as openness to other religions.

As Year Six leavers said goodbye in style it was: "So long, farewell, auf Wiedersehen, adieu" and then they staged their very own mini-version of 'The Sound of Music.' The tear-jerking performance followed a raucous knees-up by the Pearly royalty of Middle School who belted out that East End classic 'My Old Man' as well as other popular numbers. The 'Showtime' end of term production began rather more sedately with 'A Trip to the Seaside' performed by the children of Lower School.

The School took part in the 'Open Gardens' day, serving teas and cakes and selling plants. Head teacher Sue Wood said: "It's great to be part of the local community."

Middle School pupils Luke Dixon and Ellie Macpherson read out prayers they had written themselves at the Family Service at St Mary's Church on July 3.

**Roger to be married in Sevenoaks** The surprise news from Bristol where the Rev Roger

Castle moved on his retirement as Rector of Hunton last September, is that he has become engaged to get married. The news has circulated quickly around the parishes including Coxheath, Linton and the two Farleighs where he was also in charge for several years.

Ann Perriman, writing from the Rectory says: "Roger is happy to confirm that he is to marry Gill Adey at St Mary's Church, Kippington Road, Sevenoaks on Saturday 17th September at 11.30 a.m.

"He would like any of their friends from the five parishes to know that they are cordially invited to their wedding ceremony. Sevenoaks is not far away and the church is within walking distance from the station."

Roger and his former wife Shirley were friends with Gill and her husband and now that Roger and Gill are on their own their friendship has developed. After getting married they will live in Bristol.

## Why not try your hand at Flower Arranging?

After the successful Belly Dancing courses in Hunton Village Hall, Kent Adult Education is now offering a course in Flower Arranging. The course will be delivered by Jackie Brooks, an excellent local florist and tutor. The course commences on Tuesday 27 September at 1.00 pm and runs for 10 weeks.

Jackie is a highly experienced florist and creates wonderful arrangements in various styles. She is also kept busy with wedding floristry and teaching and will adapt her course to suit the learners' needs. The first five weeks of the course will give learners an introduction to flower arranging and work will include a posy, a line arrangement and a hand-tied bouquet. The last five weeks will cover Christmas designs including a Topiary Tree and table arrangements. If you have ever considered trying out such a course, come along and let Jackie show you how. The cost is £55.50 for the 10 two hour sessions and some concessions are available. You can reserve a place by ringing 0845 606 5606 or call in at St Faith's Centre in Maidstone quoting course no. 4034 MAI -05-F.

## Blackadder meets Reduced Shakespeare Company

Hunton villagers and visitors can look forward to an autumn of entertainment as the Hall Committee organises two Applause events with appeal for the whole family.

The first, taking place on Saturday October 1st, is 'Hell and High Water' presented by the Blue Chicken Theatre Company now in its fourth year of production, performing high-energy epic stories. Their performance, using masks, puppets and the latest in 'trailing edge' technology has been best described as Blackadder meets Reduced Shakespeare Company. They come highly recommended and offer a behind the scenes tour after the show for anyone who would like to try their hand with a mask or puppets.

Next, on Saturday 26 November, ZUM take to the stage. Their playing is described by the BBC as "fiery, passionate, and intriguingly beautiful." The ZUM trio comprise violin, cello and accordion combining the fire and brilliance of Eastern European gypsy music with the hot blooded passion of Argentinian tango. This promises to be a vibrant and compelling show. Further details coming soon from chairman Alan Bishop 820683

## Tots race for Gold on Sports Day

Hunton Pre-School held its annual Sports Day and Barbeque on the King George V Playing Fields on the first Sunday of July. The day was described by everyone as a "resounding success" with superb weather shining on the 40 children who participated. The organisers said: "It was wonderful to see the children take part with such enthusiasm. The Yellow team were the winners consisting of Luke, Charlotte, Megan, Daniel, Abigail, Thomas and, leading out with the flag was Holly. "The running races brought out the competitiveness in all. Throughout the week the older boys were convinced they would win after their successful practice races and a few tears were shed along the way. "Tiny tots feet hardly touched the ground in the brothers and sisters' race helped along by eager mums desperate to see gold medals around their youngsters' necks!



"In the Mums and Dads' Race it seemed like 'all out war' as the most mild mannered parents showed they would be first across the line! This bodes well for 2012! "The day was rounded off by a superb barbeque organised by the parent committee with trays of strawberries generously donated by Firmins farms."

## Raiders escaped down Bishops Lane

Ram raiders who struck at a shop in Marden last month used the country lanes through Hunton to make their escape. This has been revealed by parish policeman PC Gary Shaw who reported the villains cut through the padlocks on farm field gates before racing through Bishops Lane.

He further reported four crimes in the parish in recent weeks including the theft of a vehicle. In a separate incident a chicken and a goat were stolen with a carcass later being found. A ride-on mower theft from a property in Barn Hill, led PC Shaw to warn that this is a common theft at this time of the year when householders should make sure equipment and outbuildings are secure.

## Alarm at 'volunteers with speed guns'

Plans for volunteers from the community to be issued with radar guns to carry out checks on speeding motorists travelling through Hunton have been revealed, causing concern.

Parish councillor Gary Thomas is attending a Speedwatch briefing at Kent Police College to find out more about the scheme. The Council was told the partnership with parishes was planned in a bid to reduce the speed of vehicles travelling through villages and breaking speed limits. It would be achieved by a "programme of education, engineering and enforcement measures." "Speedwatch would involve volunteers recording speeds of offending vehicles and reporting these details to the police. The launch will include a presentation on how it will be managed, including training, equipment use and funding," say organisers.

## Out & Out

### A Feast of Foliage

Dead heading flowers is such a tedious task that I find myself drawn to plants which offer theatre without flowers, plants which need a spring time hair cut then just perform with very little other attention throughout the summer. In my sunny borders there are three such beautiful plants whose main attraction is their foliage. Melianthus Major is a steely, blue-green colour with leaves that are pleated and crimped, expanding to form an architectural mound about one metre tall. Catalpa Bignonioides 'Aurea' will grow to be a tree but if the branches are cut back each spring to about 30cm from the ground then it will form a large shrub with big, golden, heart shaped leaves. Also Helianthus Salicifolius grows as a pale green multi stemmed fountain; it is light and airy giving grace and movement to the border. All three have also come through the recent hot dry weather without any signs of stress. They don't need tidying up and will continue to look good, leaving me plenty of time to dead head the rest of the garden.

*Christine McSweeney*

# The Rev Peter Walker to be new Rector

Nearly a year after the Rev Roger Castle retired as the Rector of Hunton and the neighbouring four parishes, the church has announced a replacement.

The Rev Peter Walker, 55, will be installed as Rector of Coxheath Benefice at a service on 2nd September 7.30pm. It is scheduled for the service to be held at St Mary's but this still has to be confirmed.

Peter was ordained in Tasmania, and has worked in rural ministry in both Lincolnshire and Somerset. More recently he was Chaplain on the Costa del Sol, Spain. Some of his interests include cricket, choral music and gardening.

Associate Rector the Rev Ruth Bierbaum who has been ably covering Hunton, Coxheath, Linton and the two Farleighs since Roger left, along with Rev David Jones, had to obtain special dispensation from 10 Downing Street to allow the Herald to be given details of the new Rector for publication.

She told parishioners: "Please put the date in your diaries and come to the service to welcome Peter and his Australian wife Diana. It is planned for everyone to get together afterwards in the village hall for refreshments."

## At St Mary's Church in August

Notices	Services
<p><b>Brass cleaning:</b> Mr &amp; Mrs May</p> <p><b>Flowers:</b> 7th &amp; 14th: Mrs Scott 21st &amp; 28th: Mrs Johns &amp; Mrs Gurr</p> <p><b>Church Family Service Coffee Rota (11am)</b> 7th August: the McSweeney Family 4th September: Mrs Anscomb &amp; Mrs Gurr</p> <p><b>Church Cleaning:</b> Mrs Taylor &amp; Mrs Adams</p> <p><b>Churchyard Working Party</b> All helpers will be welcome at the next working party at St Mary's to be held on Saturday 27th August between 9am and 12 noon. All those interested in helping out and keeping the churchyard clean and tidy should contact David Way on 820876</p>	<p><b>Sunday 7th - 11th Sunday after Trinity</b> 11.00am Church Family Service <i>Mrs E Doyle</i> Reading: Matthew <b>14</b>: 25-33</p> <p><b>Sunday 14th - 12th Sunday after Trinity</b> 9.15am Holy Communion (1662) <i>Revd D Jones</i> Readings: Isaiah <b>56</b>: 1,6-8 Matthew <b>15</b>:21-29</p> <p><b>Sunday 21st - 13th Sunday after Trinity</b> 11.00am Morning Prayer <i>Mrs E Doyle</i> Readings: Isaiah <b>51</b>: 1-6 Matthew <b>16</b>: 13-20</p> <p><b>Sunday 28th - 14th Sunday after Trinity</b> 9.15am Holy Communion (CW) <i>Revd D Jones</i> Readings: Jeremiah <b>15</b>: 15-21 Matthew <b>16</b>: 21-28</p> <p><b>Sunday 4 September</b> 11.00am Church Family Service</p>

## Did we Make Poverty History?: here is OXFAM's response

AID - good news here but not enough. The G8 promised to increase aid by around \$50bn a year by 2010. During the next five years, the delay will keep 300 million people trapped in poverty.

DEBT - cancelling poor countries' debt is essential - so that they can invest in health and education. The G8 agreed to help 18 countries initially. That's good news but we're pressing for many more to get the same support.

TRADE JUSTICE - there was little progress to make trade fair. We urgently need the G8 to end the export subsidies that force so many millions to live in extreme poverty.

The Associate Rector Ruth Bierbaum says: "The progress that has been made will obviously mean the difference between life and death for millions and that is amazing, but we can be a more amazing generation if we keep the pressure on for the talks in December regarding Trade Justice. Why not write directly to Mr Blair to let him know you're watching and waiting?"

August	7th	14th	21st	28th
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 HC	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.Jones@stmarys.org)