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Proposed Amalgamation of Schools

With regard to the proposed amalgamation of Laddingford and Hunton Schools, the School Governing Body has issued the following statement:

"We believe strongly in the value of small, local schools serving the children in their communities. We are pleased that the Local Education Authority recognises that Hunton and Laddingford are both strong, successful schools with rising rolls.

We are currently considering our response to the LEA proposal that the two schools amalgamate at Hunton. Rev Canon John Smith of the Rochester Diocesan Board of Education has proposed that Hunton and Laddingford schools look at the possibility of a Federation where both schools would stay at their respective sites but with a joint governing body. Our Chairman is contacting Laddingford to explore this. Throughout all this, the children remain our priority".

THE WHITE HOUSE CONTINUES TO RAISE MONEY FOR CHARITY

The White House in Hunton raises money to provide hampers for the elderly in Maidstone at Christmas through the Charity Dart Team.

The Pub has second hand books that can be borrowed at 50p-£1 a time and has already raised £25 through this. There is also a fortnightly meat raffle.

May's **plant sale** raised £600. June's event was an evening of '**Midsummer Madness**' with entertainment and outside bar and BBQ.

TRIP TO KEW GARDENS

Takes place on 6th August. Adults £22.00, O.A.P.s £19.50 and Under 17's £12.00.

Price includes return coach travel and entrance to the Gardens. Pick up and drop off will be at the White House Pub. Leaving at 8.00am and arriving back at approx 7.00pm (times to be confirmed).

Payment to be made in full by 16th July to secure your place, this is strictly on a first come first served basis.

AND DON'T FORGET THE PUMPKIN COMPETITION

Entry is £1.00 and the Pumpkin Plants are 50p at the bar - judging to take place in October!

Family History - Can any one help? Theresa Winter has been exploring her family history to find that most of her ancestors came from Hunton. Does any one know of any information that goes back to 1700 with the name 'Winter'?

If you can help - please contact Theresa at theresawinter@blueyonder.co.uk

Learning through Landscape - The Pre-School project

The Village Hall Garden is steadily developing. There is still some ground work to do but the children are already nurturing a variety of plants which they will later harvest. Your readers may wish to take a look at the garden if they happen to be at the village hall and see what has been achieved so far. Funding is still required to complete the ground work and to purchase some further equipment. Donations of old/unused garden tools, decent sized pots and adult sized wellies (for planting in) would be much appreciated.

Julia Eley

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
Pre-School Supervisor: Pippa Fordham	746829	Maidstone Police:	608186
Pond and Tree Warden: Anne Bishop	820683	Neighbourhood Watch:	608173
Rector: Revd Peter Walker	747570**	'Potholes' concern (KCC): Kim Hills	0845 824 7800
Associate Rector: Revd Ruth Bierbaum	743866*	Churchwarden: Alison Ellman-Brown	820288
also: Revd David Jones	741474*	Organist: Philip Moore	749356

*not available on Fridays **not available on Mondays

Dates for Diaries:

Sunday 2nd July Annual East Street v West Street cricket match 2pm (820628)

Saturday 29th July - Weekend refuse freighter 7.45-8.45am, Village Hall car park.

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

Dear Friends,

In the early days of my ministry in Australia I was introduced to the Healing Ministry of the Church. It was an area of which I had little knowledge. I was aware of the commission Jesus had given his disciples: *'go into all the world, preach the Gospel and heal the sick'*. I began asking questions about the latter part of that commission.

I attended some teaching and training seminars and conferences, and thus began my involvement and taking seriously the command: *'heal the sick'*. Some years later I knew the validity of that command as I became very ill and through the laying on of hands was healed completely. It's a story that I will tell at a later date.

The term 'Healing Ministry' or 'Healing Service' is not altogether a fortunate one, since it may cloud the fact that every act of worship should in some way be a healing service which changes us for the better and hastens the coming of God's Kingdom.

This terminology was a point of discussion at the recent 'Benefice United' meeting at the Coxheath Centre when I gave a talk about the Healing Ministry. I did make the point that everyone for whom healing was prayed for are spiritually blessed, of which some are cured. There is that distinction to be made here. I do not understand why this is so, for there are a number of leading preachers and teachers in the past who have succumbed to illness and have gone to be with God far too soon as we would see it.

The fact however is that God wants His church, His people to be 'whole' in every way - body, mind and spirit. Usually when one of those three is out of kilter all the others are too. Illness and sickness is not God's will. We thank God for the ministry of our doctors, nurses and hospitals. They have the God-given gift of bringing healing. St. Luke, the Gospel writer and the writer of Acts was a doctor. Sometimes God intervenes supernaturally and a miraculous healing takes place.

There will be an opportunity later in July - the 23rd at 6pm in Coxheath Church to explore a form of healing service. By the time you read this there will have been a Bible study on the subject of healing. It is an area of ministry that I am keen to promote and help each of us grasp a better understanding of the Scriptures, and to understand what Jesus meant when he said: *'preach the Gospel and heal the sick'*

Peter.

HUNTON CLUB BOOK GROUP - MAY BOOK REVIEW

THE KITE RUNNER BY KHALED HOSSEINI

Unfolding against Afghanistan's destructive history, from the fall of the monarchy to the advent of the Taliban, *The Kite Runner* is a story of fathers and sons, friendship and betrayal and the casualties of fate.

One chilly Afghan winter's day in 1975 Amir witnesses a dreadful act that irrevocably changes both his life and the life of his dear friend Hassan. It's not simply Amir's presence that scars him, it is his failure to act, a failure that will haunt him until he gathers his courage and confronts his demons.

The group thought that the book was a great insight into life in Afghanistan and all agreed it was well written and particularly good for the author's first book. There was some disagreement as to whether Amir was a horrible child or simply a victim of his culture and upbringing. The group also had mixed views as to whether Amir redeemed himself and became a better adult. There was no doubt that everyone enjoyed the book immensely and the score overall was 8/10. The book for June is **The Robber Bride by Margaret Atwood**.

Hunton School News

Dance Production Four of our Year 6 children have taken part in a dance project with New Line Learning Cornwallis and their other feeder primary schools. They worked extremely hard and attended several rehearsals at Cornwallis, Oldborough Manor and Senacre schools. The project culminated in a wonderful performance at Cornwallis on Friday 9th June, which was enjoyed by family and friends. Well done to all involved!

Safety in Action Our Year 6 children attended 'Safety in Action' at the Army Barracks in Maidstone on Monday 12th June. This is run by the Mid Kent Business Education Partnership (now renamed Kent Works) in conjunction with Kent County Council and the emergency services. This is an annual event, and gives the children the opportunity to develop their competence and confidence in responsible citizenship and safety skills. The children thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon, and learnt a great deal about safety issues.

Rounders Tournament A team of children will take part in the Small Schools Rounders Tournament at Laddingford School on Wednesday 21st June.

Rochester Cathedral Our Year 5 and 6 children will travel to Rochester Cathedral on Thursday 22nd June to participate in the Church Schools' Festival. They will be at the cathedral all day and will perform a drama related to John Ch. 24 verses 13 -32. They will also be presenting a scrap book of 'memories' of Hunton School.

Pedestrian Entrance Our plans to improve the pedestrian entrance into school are now with Kent County Council and we wait to hear whether planning permission has been granted. If so, the work will start in the summer holidays. The proposal is that the entrance be taken back from the road, with better barriers, to make it safer for our children. There will also be a ramp as well as the steps. From 19th June we will have staggered times for pupils coming into school, which will support our travel plan and help keep our pupils safer.

Out and Out - Off with their Heads!

Is dead heading spent rose blooms worth the effort? Does it produce more flowers or just tidy up the plants? The answer depends on the type of roses you have.

Hybrid Teas and Floribundas are definitely worth deadheading to improve later flowering. Roses which only produce one flush of flowers such as the old shrub roses aren't worth doing except to improve the look of the shrubs. Some old roses, such as Rosas Rugosa and Moyesii, have spectacular hips in the Autumn which would be lost if dead headed.

Climbing roses should have spent blooms removed but ramblers can be left to their own devices.

Deadheading can be done with secateurs, cutting just above a strong shoot or outward facing bud. Recent research has suggested that removing just the dead head is sufficient and needs only a thumb and finger and a deft snapping motion.

The best part of this job is that it can be done in a long floaty skirt and wide brimmed hat, dropping the blooms into a trug as you waft about the garden on a balmy evening. Romantic gardening at its best but perhaps forget the skirt if you're a chap!

ADVICE FROM PC GARY SHAW - SUSPICIOUS VEHICLES

Please bear in mind a suspicious vehicle seen in Loose and Bearsted. The occupants were knocking on doors and saying they were cleaning cars. This could be a ploy to commit crime. The vehicle is an M registration Audi car.

The vehicles listed below may be linked to recent thefts in the rural south area of Maidstone and may be worth bearing in mind as they have been seen acting suspiciously in the area of The White House pub in Hunton.

- A small green van — it may have also been fly tipping.
- Transit sized vehicle with white cab and blue pickup/flat back area, registration "T20...J.", two male occupants.
- Mercedes high top van white registration "R20...T", the occupants were asking about the ownership of tractors and who owned mobile homes and/or land.

All these were daytime visits.

Musical Bumps

A new Musical Bumps class is to be held in Yalding at the Baptist Chapel, Vicarage Road on Tuesdays.

Maria Cooper is a fully qualified pre-school music teacher, local mother and musician and has enhanced CRB certificate, insurance etc

Maria says 'My classes are fun, friendly and relaxed and help to lay the foundations for an early music education. We all have a laugh and there is time for a chat and refreshment. I am offering free taster sessions during this summer term and 10% off full term booking in September'.

E-mail maria.cooper@musicalbumps.com Tel: 01892 730652 website: www.musicalbumps.com.

House Share Quiet Location. 10 Minutes to the local Train Station. 10 minutes to Maidstone. Own double bedroom, furnished, good parking. Mature female or couple, professional and non-smoker. Short-term. £395.00 per month. Phone Mobile; 07913084644 or Home: Margaret 01622 745886

Budo in Hunton

The Hagakure Budo Club was formed to further promote the Kyu-shin Do philosophy. To provide a facility where both senior and junior members can enjoy judo and other Japanese martial arts, in a friendly, social atmosphere. The majority of members are from the local community including Hunton CofE Primary School.

We believe that every person, young and old, has the right to achieve. This is created by a stable training programme in Budo.

Our daily thoughts and actions should be directed towards the benefit of others - the mountains, trees and rivers change their appearance with the vicissitudes of time and seasons, as man changes with growth, emotion and experience. We, the instructors, will carry the flickering lantern of light for those who wish to follow the path to Budo. We will aid those who stumble and fall unable to proceed by themselves.

Yours in Budo

Mike O'Hare Shodan & Mike Clapp Yodan

For more information contact Sensei Mike O'Hare (01622) 693503. E-mail enquires@judomaidstone.com.

Website: www.judomaidstone.com

