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Concern as Hunton may lose its Village Policeman

Hunton parish councillors have expressed concern at the possibility of losing their village policeman. They heard at their summer meeting that PC Gary Shaw who covers a small manageable area, including Hunton, is likely to be moved to cover a much larger district with three other rural team officers. The parish would then come under Police Community Support Officers (PCSO) who would not have the same powers as the police. "For issues such as Speed Watch which had been suggested for Hunton in a bid to check on motorists racing through the village, the PCSOs do not have enforcement powers and would not be able to stop vehicles and issue tickets," said chairman Roger Sawtell. He added that PC Shaw had been doing an excellent job covering the village and was getting known.

"He has been keeping a watch on areas in the village, such as the hall car park, where groups tend to congregate and has also been seen on duty outside the primary school where parking can be a problem. It will be a sad day if he is moved on."

PC Shaw warns of a spate of thefts

In his latest report to the council PC Shaw said that there had been thefts including a handbag from a car in West Street; a trailer from Jennings; and golf clubs, a chain saw and mower from outbuildings in Barn Hill. There has been a theft of a wacker-plate from a house in Redwall Lane - the offenders were using a vehicle described as a Toyota/Hyunda pick up, white with green writing, and a suspicious caller at Gallants Lane East Farleigh driving a blue, P registered Volvo estate.

Award winning 'Travel Plan' aims to beat parking problems

Hunton primary school has created a platinum award winning Travel Plan in a bid to deter parents from parking in West Street and encourage them to park up safely and walk with their children to school.

Head Sue Wood said: "In a bid to ease the parking problem we have suggested a plan where parents park at the village hall and walk down to the school but in order for this to be successful there would have to be a pavement from the hall to Bensted Close."

Parish councillors have been battling for years to get such a footpath installed but it would require approval from different landowners and in the past it has been difficult to gain overall agreement.

A further attempt is to be made by the council to get highway authority backing for such a scheme. Maidstone Borough councillor John Williams suggested that perhaps grants could be obtained for a bus to carry pupils from the hall to the school.

"Other efforts to ease the school parking problem have included a campaign which has led to car sharing increasing from just six percent in February 2005 up to a current figure of 38 percent. Times when the children can arrive and leave school have also been staggered. We have worked really hard to improve the situation. If anyone can come up with any further ideas we would be grateful," said Mrs Wood adding that the school hopes work will start in the summer holidays on a new pedestrian entrance for children, staff and visitors including those in wheelchairs.

The situation at the school could be further aggravated In a few years time if the amalgamation of Laddingford primary school and Hunton is given the go-ahead, although a high profile campaign against the merger is currently being pursued by parents from the villages.

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:

- Saturday 23rd September Bulky Refuse Collection, Village Hall car park 7.45-8.45am
- Sunday 24th September Summer Garden Party and Train rides 2pm-5pm (820875)
- Saturday 7th October "Message in a Bottle— Applause Event 6.45pm Village Hall (820226/820683)
- Saturday 2nd December, 8pm Village Hall - ZubopGambia an 8 piece tour de force band.

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

Crisis, crisis everywhere and not a drop of Peace.

Whether it's at home or abroad; in our own lives or in the lives of those around us, we don't have to look far to find Crisis.

In the beginning, the Bible says, God created order, and it was good, but now all around we see disorder. That's not to deny the wonderful things that can happen in life: the joy of a loving family and friends; the beauty of the countryside... But it's hard to deny that there are some causes for great concern in the world at present. Wars in the Middle-East, global terror threats, climate change are the obvious culprits. And we only need to scratch the surface of our own community to find systems and individuals crumbling under strain. Crisis, crisis everywhere, and not a drop of peace....

So how does all this make you feel about God? Are you among those who look at the chaos and see it as proof that God either doesn't exist, or doesn't care - or is impotent to do anything? Or do you look at the state of humankind and see that what the Bible says about us and sin and the world, is right.

When the disciples were in the midst of the storm on Lake Galilee, and everything looked hopeless, Jesus didn't tell them - "Yes you're right - you're doomed. God doesn't care. Give up your faith, and accept your fate".

And before he went to the Cross, when he told his disciples about what would happen before he returned to earth again: about how nation would rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and how there would be much terror and fear on the earth, and how even creation would behave strangely, when Jesus foretold these things, he doesn't say - "at that time - lose your faith, despair and accept your fate....for God doesn't care"

No rather he says

"When you see these things begin to take place, stand up, lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near". Luke 21 v 28

I pray that you, like me, will find that faith which gives God's peace in the midst of crisis and the hope of glory, after the present darkness has passed.

Yours in faith, Ruth

PRESS RELEASE

'Message In A Bottle' - Company Gavin Robertson -

'Works on the imagination, and makes the imagination work!' *Liverpool Daily Post*

'If Tim Burton made theatre shows for children it might be something like this!' *KS2 Teacher, Kent.*

'Gavin Robertson is a master at staging shows with big intentions,' *The Guardian*

An intelligent and darkish narrative featuring a lighthouse, a young girl and 'The Spirit of the Sea' ... especially for younger folk!

Featuring a soundtrack of music by Vaughan Williams, Benjamin Britten and Eric Korngold. All told with wonderful lighting by Fiona Simpson who lit 'Festen' in London's West End and on New York's Broadway. **Devised by Gavin Robertson with Andrew Dawson and Rob Thirtle.**

Gavin is a busy Theatre Director with recent projects including the stage premiere of 'The Day Of The Triffids' at the New Wolsey Theatre, and as an actor, he also performed and toured in the hit '12 Angry Men' with comics Bill Bailey and Stephen Frost, Jeff Green and Owen O'Neill, and recently in both 2004/5 and 2006 seasons of 'One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest' with Christian Slater, Alex Kingston and Mackenzie Crook, in London's West End.

Not to be missed-Coming to Hunton Village Hall Saturday October 7th 2006, 6.45pm for a 7pm start.

Ticket Bookings Jackie 01622 820226 and Alan 01622 820683.

£5 Adults /£4 Children - School bookings will be welcomed but please book early.

Village Hall Volunteers Needed

The Village Hall Committee would like to invite anyone interested in the Village Hall in Hunton to come along on Tuesday 19 September at 7.45pm to get involved in the its future running and upkeep. Yes, we need an injection of new ideas and people!

Don't forget the Mobile Library

Wednesdays

Hunton School - 1.35-2.05 (weekly)

Bensted Close - 2.10-2.25 (weekly)

Village Hall 2.30-2.50 (alternate weeks only)

Tel: 07740 183756

Re Hunton Church yard - calling Garry Smith

A message from David Way. Thank you for your response from last months Item. The contact telephone number you provided seems to be incorrect and we have been unsuccessful in contacting you.

Please ring 01622 820876 or 820369

Musical Bumps Bookings are now being taken for the Autumn Term. Held at the Baptist Chapel in Vicarage Road - Starting in September

First lesson Free and 10% off a full term booking. Special rates for siblings.

Maria.cooper@msical bumps.com Telephone 01892 730652. www.msical bumps.com

SEPTEMBER GARDEN PARTY

This event is by kind permission of Sue and Lawrence Martin, Wayside, Amsbury Road, Hunton.

Sunday 24th September 2pm-5pm

Have as many rides as you like and enjoy a delicious cream tea

Tickets from Wendy Simmons 01622 820875

Adults £7.50, Children over 2 year £5, Senior Citizens £5. Proceeds to St Mary's Church, Hunton

HUNTON CLUB BOOK GROUP

JULY BOOK REVIEW - THE LABYRINTH BY KATE MOSSE

July 1209: in Carcassonne a seventeen year old girl is given a mysterious book by her father which he claims contains the secret of the true Grail. Although Alais cannot understand the strange words and symbols hidden within, she knows that her destiny lies in keeping the secret of the labyrinth safe.

July 2005: Alice Tanner discovers two skeletons in a forgotten cave in the French Pyrenees. Puzzled by the labyrinth symbol carved into the rock, she realises she's disturbed something that was meant to remain hidden. Somehow, a link to an horrific past - her past - has been revealed.

Despite having looked forward to reading this book, overall, the group found it disappointing. What seemed to be promising at the start soon became unsatisfactory with too many names to remember and poor characterisation. The plot seemed rather far-fetched and the book unnecessarily long resulting in a poor score of 4½ out of 10.

The book for August is *Our Kid* by Bill Hopkins.

Hunton School Looks Back Over the Last Year

Part two... This year has once again seen a wide range of after school and lunchtime clubs offered to our children. These have included: netball, rounders, recorders, construction, line dancing, tap and modern dancing, rapid maths, story club, creative club and our very effective gardening club which shows the commitment of staff, parents and volunteers to ensure our children have a full curriculum. Trips and weekly swimming lessons for Key Stage 2 pupils once again provide clear curriculum opportunities.

In February this year we took our Upper School pupils to Arethusa for a residential trip. This was a real success with many children experiencing being away from home for the very first time. The experiences of rock climbing, kayaking and high ropes will, I hope, stay with them for a long time to come.

Our Indian Culture week saw children researching other cultures and religions and enjoying dance and food workshops where they could begin to appreciate life from another person's perspective.

We are firmly embedded in our community and an integral part of the village and life of the church. We had a beautiful Christingle Service in St Mary's Church at Christmas with our younger pupils performing the Nativity, whilst our older pupils read and enthralled us with their voices. Our Easter Service saw Upper School dramatising the story of 'The Three Trees' and younger pupils reading prayers. We have continued to participate in Family Services at the Church and tears flowed at the Leavers' Service in Church on the last day of term. The Upper School children participated in the Rochester Schools' Festival where they performed a drama as part of the concluding service.

Once again our PTA has worked incredibly hard for us. The May Fayre was a huge success and despite the inclement weather we all had a wonderful time and made a staggering £1,400 which has been used to purchase a third interactive whiteboard which will be installed in Middle School. The May Fayre is always a lovely time for parents, villagers and past friends to join together.

The Autumn Ball in October, which seems a long way away now, saw black ties and evening dresses once again entering our school hall. The live band enhanced a perfect evening thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. The Salsa evening in the spring term saw parents and friends of Hunton School once again dancing the night away.

Our wonderful large hall, which is used effectively to enhance learning and by the local community, is now so much better due to the acoustic boards and sound system.

The new heating system installed in October/November has proved very effective and efficient and will further help us with our energy costs when new windows and doors are fitted to the three rear classrooms, the front entrance and cloakroom during the summer holidays.

Our travel plan was accepted, leading to us receiving a Platinum Award. Our new pedestrian entrance with disabled access and greater visibility will be installed this summer.

Are you interested in learning about Flower Arranging?

If you are interested in learning something about Flower Arranging, come along and join a very friendly group.

Following on from the successful series of lessons last year, Jackie will be running classes starting this month on Monday the 25th September. The Course will run on Mondays, in term time, at Hunton Village Hall from 1.15 p.m. to 3.00 p.m. For more details, contact Jackie on 01622 753053.

