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A Band in Full Swing

ZubopGambia Performs to a Full House

ZubopGambia put on an exuberant show at the Village Hall in early December as part of the Autumn Applause Rural Touring Season. A full house enjoyed a range of powerful and rhythmic riffs as the band got into full swing in the second half driven by some excellent percussion work and a lively brass section.

Thank you to all who supported the event and made the evening happen. You raised £550 for the Village Hall store extension project. We have submitted an application for a Maidstone Borough Council grant and with luck hope to be in a position shortly to announce a start date for the work.

The next Applause event is on Saturday 3rd February 2007 and features Mas Y Mas who are an acoustic 3 piece band performing original and some standard Latin songs. The trio are extremely accomplished musicians who have toured extensively and make regular appearances at the National Theatre (www.masymas.co.uk).

This event sounds some way in the future but is only a matter of weeks away. Book your tickets early - please - (Alan 820683/820775 or Jackie 820226) and enjoy sun drenched rhythms on a Hunton February evening.

Alan Bishop

Letter from the Editors

Just a reminder, that in order to get the Parish magazine out early in the month we need any articles for the Herald by the 15th of the preceding month.

Many thanks for all those that contribute and have contributed to help keep this magazine going. Do feel free to send in any items relating to the Village that you are involved with and keep us all posted as to what is going on locally, or you may just like to have your say. This is your local rag.

Tour De France

As you may be aware the Tour de France will be taking place in our area on 8th July 2007, timings yet to be confirmed.

This will have a massive impact on the area. People will need to start to think about how they will get to work as they will not be able to cross the route at anytime during the closure, this will affect shop opening hours, staffing, the list is endless.

Please also be aware that the police are unlikely to be able to facilitate other events that happen on that day due to the staff commitment to the Tour de France.

Anyone who may be planning an event will need to contact the following number: **08458 247 800**

This is the telephone number for Highways, who will record all events and be aware of the various stages of the Tour de France. They will also disseminate any event information to all relevant agencies for their information.

(This number is to be used for any event that will have an impact on the highway, road closure needed or **not**).

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 3rd February, Bulky refuse freighter, Village Hall car park 7.45-8.45am

Saturday 3rd February, Mas y Mas, Village Hall, tickets 820683/820775/820226

Saturday 17th February, 10am-3pm Open Garden, Southover, Grove Lane

Saturday 24th March, Bulky refuse freighter, Village Hall car park 7.45-8.45am

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

Letter from Ruth

We are still in the midst of our Christmas services as I write this. At one such service our Rector, Peter asked the children 'What is on your Christmas Wish list?', and instead of the usual material gifts, a couple of children expressed the desire for people to be nice to each other, and for no one to be hungry.

I suppose you could put these sort of wishes under the umbrella heading of 'Justice for All' for surely war comes out of a sense of injustice: and if the world markets were truly fair..would any need to starve?

Although the sentiments for Justice are there in many of us, as we get older we tend to become cynical, and often sacrifice such good desires for more immediate concerns - like our own health and happiness. But the verse we have chosen for our 2007 motto card, reminds us of Gods unswerving passion for justice.

"I, the Lord, have called you and given you power to see that Justice is done on earth" Isaiah 42 v 6

Did you realise that the coming of Jesus Christ is at the heart of God's plan for justice and that still today, what Jesus did on the cross holds the power of God to execute Justice?

I believe that one day his Justice will once and for all; overcome the wrongs this world has seen...but in the meantime he calls us to share his passion.

In 2007, we will see 200th anniversary of William Wilberforce's campaign to stop slave labour. But now in our supposedly more enlightened era, there are thought to be more slaves than there were then. The UN estimates that 1.2 million children are trafficked each year. (UNICEF UK 2003)

The good news is that there is something we can do about it - why not add your voice to the **Stop the Traffik** Campaign, by signing the global declaration on the website stopthetraffik.org or coming along to local events, such as our February Benefice United meeting.

Yours in faith

Ruth

HUNTON CLUB BOOK GROUP NOVEMBER BOOK REVIEW BIRDSONG BY SEBASTIAN FAULKS

This is a simple story of love and the nightmare of Flanders mud, neither sensational nor sentimental. The book takes us into the grim horrors of trench warfare, the murderous first day on the Somme, the loony schemes of the general staff, the pains and fears of ordinary men and their officers, the letters to and from home and the incomprehension of war.

Most members of the group found the first quarter of the book, the affair between Isobelle and Stephen, quite tedious and were relieved as Stephen's character developed when he went to war. Faulks' graphic account of the war was amazing and from an historical point of view we found it fascinating and incredibly moving, particularly how the monotony and horror of the fighting affected the soldiers and dehumanised them.

Some members found the story of the war intertwined with a modern story irritating and it almost interfered with the real message of the book.

Overall, we found this book to be incredibly moving, thought provoking and educational as far as events of the war were concerned. Our score came out as 8/10 with many wanting to read more of Sebastian Faulks' work.

The book for December is Touching the Void by Joe Simpson.

Letter to Editor

From Ron Porter on behalf of Roland Day

Roland Day, who must be known to nearly all readers of this journal, called me this weekend with a confession.

You will all know that Roland has now reached that stage of life where perhaps sitting in a chair in front of the television would be acceptable behaviour for him, after all that he has done for the village of Hunton.

However, that is not Roland, he is often seen in his green pick up, clearing rubbish, tidying the Church yard and even attempting to fill pot holes. His telephone call to me was to express his concern about the increasing damage to our environment caused by the constant heavy speeding traffic through our Village, and to ask me to write on his behalf to the Herald.

Recently a lorry went through the hedge at the playing field causing much damage to the hedge. Roland had some time ago put a whole row of plastic cones along West Street at the playing field to try and slow traffic down and to protect the hedge, which had been damaged several times before. Those cones were thrown over the hedge into the ditch and had remained there ever since. Roland has now asked me to tell all that he retrieved some of those cones and placed them by the hedge where the lorry went through. He acknowledges that it will be futile but feels that it is the only way he can do something tangible to attempt to draw the authorities' attention to the deteriorating state of affairs.

I hope that Roland's gesture will be greeted in the manner it was meant.

Ron L Porter

Operation Cubit

Op Cubit which is where the police work with the DVLA to clamp and remove untaxed vehicles found on the road, public car parks or on Housing Association car parks. This is running from 8th January to 12th January 2007.

Please could you start to pass me details of any vehicles you know are untaxed. I will then forward it to the unit operating on those dates.

Gary Shaw

Crime Rates Rise

PC Shaw reported that there had been four crimes in the area in the previous two months. Two thefts were from sheds and two of field equipment.

The neighbouring parishes are also experiencing a rise in crime rates.

News from the School

All our children participated in our Nativity and Christingle service at Hunton Church. The children were word perfect and sang beautifully.

We are collecting shoes for the Blue Peter Malawi appeal. Thank you for all the shoes that have arrived so far, we have over a hundred and are still collecting!

The school has gained Healthy Schools status. The whole school has been incredibly busy with 'Skip2B Fit'. Every child has increased their personal target for skipping and we skip daily to make our bodies and brains healthier.

Calling anyone who wants to Play Cricket!

From Sunday 29th January and every Sunday for about 8 weeks there will be a chance to practice your skills at the nets at Maidstone Grammar School from 5-7pm.

We would love to encourage local players and who knows we might get enough for a Hunton team! Here's an opportunity not to be missed. For further details contact John Adams 07783 716344.

Symphony Orchestra

Maidstone Symphony Orchestra, Conductor Brian Wright, will perform on **Saturday 3rd February 2007**

7.30pm at Mote Hall, Maidstone Leisure Centre, Mote Park, Maidstone.

The programme consists of three works:-

Weber - Overture, Der Freischutz

Grieg - Piano Concerto Soloist, Benjamin Grosvenor Piano

Beethoven - Symphony No. 6. "Pastoral"

14-year-old Benjamin Grosvenor won the "audience choice" at the 2004 BBC Young Musician competition, and in 2006 he made his New York debut at the Carnegie Hall.

In an unashamedly popular programme to suit young people he joins us for Grieg's Concerto along with Weber's superb Overture and the wonders of Beethoven's "Pastoral" Symphony.

Concert tickets £10, £15 and £20, seats for children and students with a student card, £5.

Available from Membership Secretaries on 01622 736392.

Paid for and collected on the concert evening at Mote Hall, or from Mote Hall Box Office 01622 761111 when payment can be made by credit card.

Out and Out

Birds in Hunton

Hunton with the Bult Valley, Amsbury Wood and all the little copses, patches of trees, ditches and streams, ponds and varied gardens has a surprisingly diverse range of habitats. This leads to a diverse range of wildlife. Over the last year, I have recorded the birds on a regular run around the parish. The results of my observations have been posted on the Hunton Website (www.hunton.org.uk/outout). 69 different species almost certainly breed in the parish. Some of these are Summer migrants, but they are replaced by a further 15 species that regularly spend the Winter with us. Many other species turn up just very occasionally - usually on passage. Other villagers interested in birds, have told me of their excitement at seeing Osprey, Red Kite, Hen Harrier and others within the Parish boundary. Today, as the year comes to an end, I have just seen a buzzard, harried by a crow, circle and fly over Elphicks Orchard in the bright winter sunshine looking spectacular. Long expected as its numbers increase in Kent, it is a salutary reminder in this age of doom and gloom, that there is much to look forward to.

David Newman

Editor adds:

We have also seen a pair of Buzzards on a couple of occasions circling over the woods above Buston Manor.

At St Mary's Church in January

Notices	Services
<p>Brass Cleaning: Sue Scott and Mary Johns</p> <p>Flowers: 1st January Mrs Scott 7th January Mrs Scott 14th January Mrs Grainger 28th January Mrs Grainger</p> <p>Church Family Service Coffee Rota: 7th January Jean Lemont and Moira Ensoll</p> <p>Hunton Sunday Club: Party at Hunton Village Hall - Joining with the Coxheath Sunday Club 4pm-6pm</p> <p>The Club is open to all primary school age children and normally meets on the third Sunday evening of each month. Contact David Jones 741474 for details.</p>	<p>Sunday 7th January - 1st Baptism of Christ 11.00am Family Service Revd Peter Walker Reading: Luke 3 v 15-17, 21-22</p> <p>Sunday 14th January - Epiphany 2 9.15am Holy Communion (1662) Revd Peter Walker Readings: Isaiah 62:1-5 and John 2 v 1-11</p> <p>Sunday 21st January - Epiphany 3 11.00 am Morning Prayer (1662) Revd Ruth Bierbaum Readings: Nehemiah 8 and Luke 4 v 4-21</p> <p>Sunday 28th January - Epiphany 4 9.15am Holy Communion Revd Peter Walker Readings: Ezekiel 43 v 27- 44 v 4 and Luke 2 v 22-40</p>

Churches Together in Maidstone

Pilgrimage Service

Prayer for Christian Unity

Sunday 21st January at 3.00 p.m.

Starting at Salvation Army in Union Street and then via St Francis' church, Week Street and ending at the United Reformed Church.

All the churches in the Coxheath Benefice are members of Churches Together in Maidstone and it would be good to support the work of this organisation that consists of 38 churches in and around the area of Maidstone.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

United Service at Holy Trinity Coxheath

Tuesday January 23rd at 7.30 p.m.

'He even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak'

Preacher - Revd. Derek Savage

(Derek is a well-respected preacher in the area, mainly with the free churches)

This is a united service for all Christian in the Coxheath area and is supported by the Roman Catholic congregation at Holy Trinity, the Coxheath Congregational church and all the churches in the Coxheath Benefice

January	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 PW	8.00 HC 10.30 MP
Linton	9.15 HC	8.00 HC (1662) 11.00 CFS	9.15 HC	9.15 HC
W. Farleigh	Church Closed	11.00 CFS at the White House Pub	Church Closed 3.30pm at the Hospice	Church Closed
<p>10am every Thursday — Holy Communion (1662) at Coxheath HC: Holy Communion MP: Morning Prayer CFS: Church Family Service EA: Evening Alternative</p>				

For Weddings, Thanksgivings, and Baptisms, please contact Revd David Jones (741474)