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LARGE SNOWDROP DISPLAY

SOUTHOVER GARDEN OPEN IN HUNTON

SATURDAY 17th FEBRUARY

10.30 am - 3.30 pm

Get out and about in February. See an increasing range of different kinds of snowdrops in a variety of settings.

Admission £3. Children free.

Proceeds in aid of Hunton School and charities supported by the National Gardens Scheme.

Refreshments

Hellebores and Snowdrops for sale.

Southover garden is in Grove Lane, off West Street opposite the School.

Parking nearby

(Last year Anke and David Way raised £1,300 in aid of the Tsunami Appeal Fund)

Scarecrow Competition

As part of the Open Garden at Southover, Hunton School PTA will be holding a scarecrow competition which will be open to children from the school and village. Visitors to the garden will be able to vote for their favourite scarecrow and the owner of the most popular scarecrow will win a prize. Anyone wishing to enter needs to bring their scarecrow to Southover before 10.15am on 17th February.

Hunton School PTA will also be providing refreshments at the Open garden, with all proceeds going directly to benefit the school. We would be extremely grateful for any donations of cakes that could be sold on the day, please bring them along to the Garden.

Triumphant End to Asbestos Saga

The highly regarded Father Willis pipe organ (dating from 1864) has been successfully decontaminated and declared fit for use. This has cleared the way for a new blowerbox to be fitted.

Once again the organ can fill the church with sound. You can hear it playing on Sunday 11th February, when it is scheduled to come back into regular use.

David Way

Anyone for Croquet?

Last Summer a group of intrepid players had some fun learning the rudiments of croquet.

If anyone is interested this year please come to an inaugural meeting in Hunton Village Hall on Sunday March 11th 2:00pm until 4:00pm. We can see who is interested, what equipment we need and the best time to play (last year we played on Sunday afternoons when there was no cricket).

If you missed last year - no problem. Those of us who did play may have forgotten the rules anyway! All adults or older teenagers are welcome.

If you are interested but can't make the meeting please ring Chris Bostock on 01622 710881 or let one of the Ministry team know.

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 March issue to the Editors as soon as possible, and by 15th February, please

February, the shortest month in the year, is upon us. Christmas seems a distant memory and Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, soon to arrive. Another year is well under way. The older I get, the faster time seems to pass by. The seasons no longer seem to be so defined with primroses in the churchyard at St Mary's already in bloom and many of the bulbs well through.

Each year I promise myself that I will enjoy each day, each season as it comes along rather than be forever looking forward to the next. I love snow, or the thought of it. But after the first fall, when everything is white and the sounds muffled, the slush arrives. Then I want the warmth to return and the melting, dirty snow to disappear.

I've booked my holidays already this year. Something I've seldom done before. Already we've decided what needs decorating in the house and doing in the garden. The year is planned and all we want is the weather to go with our dreams.

Are you, like me always, looking forward? Always wanting the next thing to happen because it ought to be better than the present. Worrying about things that might never happen. Always trying to be prepared for the worst? No wonder the years go by so fast as we fill the time with looking behind us and worrying about what we've done or preparing for the future rather than living in the present.

Luke tells us how Jesus told his disciples not to be forever worrying about everyday things; food, clothing etc, for life is more important than that. God wants us to have faith in Him and to trust in Him for the things of everyday.

Trusting in God means being concerned with his Kingdom and in doing that He provides for our daily needs. That's not easy in the World today when self-survival is valued so highly. Yet to be concerned with God's Kingdom is to be focused on those around us. As Ruth wrote last month it is in part being concerned and involved with 'Justice for all', but in one sense not being overwhelmed by the global picture rather seeing our concern and involvement in the community we live in and the people we meet and see each day.

Don't let us in 2007, and especially as Lent approaches, be so focused on rushing through life. Stop and marvel at God's goodness in his creation. In the seasons as they arrive and depart. And in our stopping and looking we need also to respond to the brokenness of relationships that result when mankind fails to obey God's commandment to love Him and our neighbour with all our hearts, soul, mind and strength.

David

OUT AND OUT Snowdrop Mania?

Snowdrops are one of the best known, most eagerly awaited flowers in the garden. Very few people would not recognise this delicate, elegant flower which is incredibly robust and has leaves adapted to pushing their way through unyielding frozen ground. The common Snowdrop (*Galanthus Nivalis*) is the true harbinger of Spring, marking the very beginning of the gardening year. However, there are also twentyone other species and many, many more cultivars.

At first glance Snowdrops all look pretty similar with their strap like leaves and white tear drop flowers but it is the subtle differences which turn normal gardeners into fanatical galanthophiles (Snowdrop collectors).

If you are going to the Snowdrop day at Southover in Hunton you may get a taste for these subtle differences. Look for differences in leaf colour and shape, are they glaucous or shiny green, thin or wide, smooth or pleated? Then consider the flower, do they have the standard three petals (tepals) on the outside and three smaller petals on the inside? Look for differences in the shape, size and movement of the flower, then look at the markings, usually a green smudge on the inner tepals, some are yellow and some even appear on the outer tepals. It doesn't take long to get addicted.

If your preference it to just take in a mass of these delicate flowers Southover has this, as does the churchyard in Hunton where snowdrops have gently spread over the years to carpet areas near the main door and in the new churchyard. However you like to see your Snowdrops Hunton can accommodate you.

Christine McSweeney

Pygmy goats stolen on Christmas Eve

Police in Mid Kent are appealing for information after two pygmy goats were stolen from the rear garden of a house in Darman Lane, near Paddock Wood on Christmas Eve. The pygmy goats are described as a brown and white male and a black and white female goat.

It is believed the male and female goats were taken at around 8pm on December 24th 2006, by two or three male offenders, who were possibly using a blue coloured 4x4 vehicle.

Anyone with information about this incident should contact Mid Kent Police in Maidstone on 01622 604180, or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111 - this call is free and confidential.

Just to let you know that the next freighter visits to Hunton Parish Hall car park will be on Saturday 3rd February 2007 and Saturday 24th March from 0745 to 0845 am.

HUNTON CLUB BOOK GROUP

DECEMBER BOOK REVIEW

TOUCHING THE VOID BY JOE SIMPSON

In June 1985 Joe Simpson and Simon Yates, two young, but experienced, climbers set out to ascend the unclimbed west face of the remote 21,000 ft Siula Grande in the Peruvian Andes. They managed to achieve the summit before disaster struck, leaving Simon Yates with an agonising decision to make - to cut the rope holding Joe or to surely die with him. A few days later Simon staggered into base camp, exhausted and frostbitten, to tell their non-climbing companion that Joe was dead. For three days he wrestled with guilt. Then, a cry in the night woke them and they found Joe, badly injured, crawling through the snowstorm in a delirium.

Our members looked forward to reading of Joe's struggle for survival and the seemingly impossible journey he was forced to make. However, we were all disappointed in the book. We felt very little emotion was captured and that something vital was missing throughout the story. We also felt that the two climbers were rather reckless and irresponsible. We were baffled by some of the technical terms used in the book and several of us felt we should have gone to fetch a dictionary whilst reading but agreed that we really couldn't be bothered. A glossary would have been a help.

Two of us did not finish the book with one member only reading to the end of the first chapter. It was interesting to note that those of us who had seen the film thoroughly enjoyed it and felt it was far better than the book.

The score we awarded was $5\frac{1}{2}$ out of 10.

Our book for January is My Sister's Keeper by Jodi Picoult.

Flower Arranging

A group of ladies met up in the Village Hall on Saturday 16th December to learn how to make their own Christmas wreath. A very successful time was had and everyone enjoyed the experience, taking home their own wreath for display over the Christmas period.

The new term for the flower arranging classes starts on Monday 15th January in the Village Hall from 1.00pm to 3.00pm. If you are interested to learn something about flower arranging come along and join a friendly group.

For more information contact Jackie on 01622 753053.

Results of Operation Cubit

In Yalding 2 untaxed vehicles paid fines of £400, in Nettlestead 1 untaxed vehicle was removed from the road by the DVLA, which also removed 2 untaxed vehicles from the road in Coxheath.

Thefts of Kent Peg Tiles on the increase

This is just to warn you that we are starting to have an increase in the theft of Kent peg tiles. The latest were from East Sutton and Sutton Valence Church. Please bear this in mind if you happen to be passing any location that has these tiles.

Kent Police Website

The Kent Police are updating the Police website with contact details for Neighbourhood policing, who your Point of Contact for your Parish is and how to get hold of them. This will give an alternative way of e-mailing any problems. Should a Police officer/PCSO be unavailable, the direct e-mail facility on the website can be used. This group e-mail address is monitored by a supervisor as well as the person you wish to speak to.

The Website address is www.kent.police.uk.

Please could you ensure you have the Maidstone Police Rural office number as 01622 604392. Please remember it is not for urgent matters like crimes in progress

If you are reporting a Crime please phone 01622 690690 and ask for the Central Crime Reporting unit.

Gary Shaw Leaves Hunton - Please contact Acting Sgt Thomas on 07870 252350 or the Neighbourhood office on 01622 604391 for non urgent matters. Otherwise call Maidstone police station on 01622 690055.

Recycle to Raise Funds

You can recycle your old mobile phones and printer cartridges to raise money for the Church Funds. Please leave them at the back of the Church on Sundays or contact Alison Ellman-Brown on 01622 820288.

At St Mary's Church in February

Notices	Services
<p>Brass Cleaning: The Simmons Family</p> <p>Flowers: 4th February Mrs Cadel 11th February Mrs Cadel 18th February Mrs Scott 25th February No Flowers</p> <p>Church Family Service Coffee Rota: 4th February St John Family</p> <p>Hunton Sunday Club: After our party in January, Hunton Sunday Club returns to its normal pattern and we meet on Sunday February 25th (a week later than usual because the Bishop is coming to rededicate All Saints West Farleigh on our normal week). This month we are meeting at 1 Buston Manor Farm Cottages, Lughorse Lane from 5.15pm until 6.45pm for an evening of fun and food! If you are of primary school age and live or go to school in Hunton then you are welcome to attend - simply give me a ring on 741474 and we look forward to seeing you. David Jones</p>	<p>Sunday 4th February - 3rd Sunday before Lent 11.00am Family Service Revd David Jones Reading: Luke 5 v 1-11</p> <p>Sunday 11th February - 2nd Sunday before Lent 9.15am Holy Communion (1662) Revd Peter Walker Readings: Revelations 4 and Luke 8 v22-25</p> <p>Sunday 18th February - Sunday before Lent 11.00 am Morning Prayer (1662) Miss C Bostock Readings: Exodus 34 v29-end and Luke 9 v28-36</p> <p>Sunday 25th February - Lent 1 9.15am Holy Communion Revd Ruth Bierbaum Readings: Romans 43 v 8b-13 and Luke 4 v 1-13</p>

Lent 2007

Lent begins in 2007 on Ash Wednesday with a Holy Communion service at 7.30pm on February 21st at All Saints, West Farleigh. (All Saints is being reopened with a service attended by Bishop Michael the previous Sunday so this will be a good opportunity to use the building for a Benefice Service).

The Lent Course commences the week beginning Monday 26th and we are providing 3 venues for the Course on Monday and Tuesday evenings throughout Lent. Each evening will follow the same study and will be from 7.30pm for a 7.45pm start, finishing at 9.00pm. This year the theme is '**Can we build a better world?**' and each week a different topic is covered.

- Week 1 Slavery: then and now
- Week 2 Friendship & Prayer: then and now
- Week 3 Change & Struggle: then and now
- Week 4 The Bible: then and now
- Week 5 Redemption & Restitution: then and now.

Course dates and venues:

Mondays (February 26th, March 5th, 12th, 19th, & 26th) at various homes in HUNTON

Tuesdays (February 27th, March 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th) at Coxheath Centre, COXHEATH and All Saints WEST FARLEIGH

Contact any of the clergy for further information.

David

February	4th	11th	18th	25th
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	Re-opening 4.00pm	11.00 MP
<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)