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Drama comes to Hunton

Normally, at 6.30 in the morning, there is little activity in the village to interrupt the June chorus of birdsong, but on Friday 8th there was a flurry of activity in and around the parish church as an ITV Production Company sprang into action to film sequences for a TV drama.



Huge 200kw generator trucks were quickly in place to supply the power needed on a wet early morning to illuminate the church interior to the level needed for filming. The massive lighting sets beamed down on two characters, a rector and a thief. In the background was a retinue of 20 or more technicians and support staff. When the rain stopped, filming continued outside and by mid-afternoon the peaceful surroundings were dominated by bird song once more. The main location for this drama is Boughton Monchelsea Place, with village scenes shot in Teston and Hunton. Nicholas Le Provost (who lives in Tunbridge Wells) plays one of the leading roles as the rector of a parish in Norfolk. The drama, entitled 'Half Broken Things' is expected to be screened in October this year. *David Way*



Three Huntons Walk

Six of us, Steve Adams, Lisa Graham, Joe Gransden, Nick Underdown, Sylvia Underdown and Mike Taylor, left Hunton (Kent) at 11am on Saturday 12th May for Hunton (Yorkshire). Our aim was to beat the parish bounds of the three Huntons of England in 24 hrs and raise money for our school, only the second such event in the history of mankind. We arrived in Hunton (Yorkshire) at 4.30pm and set the clock going. The weather was sunny and warm but rain was forecast so we set off at a good pace and got half way round in three hours flat, taking in the Hunton Clump for good measure. A swift meal in 'The Countryman's Inn' and we were off again for the second half - all except Steve who needed some shut-eye prior to the overnight drive to Hunton (Hampshire). Then it started to rain, and rain, and rain. By this time it was also dark and we managed to get lost in the middle of a wheat field, the path whimpering out into a furrow, then into wet wheat. The only way out was to work our way to the hedge and follow this as best we could until we met a road. In the pub again at 11.30pm, the locals marveled at our daring to walk across this farm which had a reputation for poorly maintained footpaths. A change of clothes later and we were headed for Hunton (Hampshire). We arrived there at 5am Sunday and almost ran round this small but very beautiful parish. The trees were dripping wet from the rain and apart from the footwear we stayed mainly dry. We found another Hunton Clump! Back to the minibus and a mad drive to Hunton (Kent). After a swift breakfast of bacon sandwiches, we were then joined by seven other jolly locals at Hunton Bridge who were pleased to walk in the rain with us to the White House pub. A nice lunch washed down with Goacher's beer and strengthened by as many as forty others, we set off just as the rain started in earnest. It absolutely tipped down and we lost several families en route, whose younger members looked like drowned rats after enjoying every puddle on the way. At 4pm, we squelched to the finish at Hunton Bridge - only half an hour in hand. Money is still coming in, but we have raised around £800. Not bad for a soggy walk in the country. Thanks to all for their sterling efforts and support. Watch this space for your opportunity to join in next time round!

Mike Taylor

'Mermaid' Shimmering Tales Cat Weatherill presents 'Mermaid' Shimmering Tales from beneath the waves. Following her performance of 'Ghost' on Halloween some 5 years ago we are delighted that Cat is returning to present what she considers to be her favourite show. Booking shortly for 10th November, details next edition *Alan*.

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 12th August, East Street v West Street cricket match, 2pm (820628)
Sunday 12th August, Tea and Trains, Amesbury Road, 2pm-5pm (7901945)
Saturday 18th August, Rubbish Freighter, Hall car park 7.45am-8.45am

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

Dear fellow readers

During June there was a series on BBC1 called 'Andrew Marr's History of Modern Britain'. Presented by Andrew Marr himself, it was Andrew's personal review of the years since the 2nd World War. It was a remarkable series as it looked at most of the events that had taken place during my lifetime. It didn't take me long to realise that time had coloured my memory. People and events had become blurred. My memory had emphasised what I wanted to remember, discarding what it didn't.

I'd forgotten the mood in the country during certain periods. The 'I'm backing Britain campaign', the 4 day week, the 'winter of discontent', the Poll Tax riots, the power cuts and miners dispute. One could go on.

One thing for me came from the series, and that was how each Prime Minister had been initially welcomed and hailed with optimism, but how within a very few years that enthusiasm had waned and ended, in many cases, with strong and quite violent reaction from vast numbers in the country. There seemed no escape; from Attlee to Blair without exception all followed the same pattern. They came into power, in some cases with huge majorities, offering freshness and expectation yet very quickly they were just hanging on to an authority they no longer enjoyed. It made me ask myself, do we have such high hopes and expectation of leaders that when they fail to deliver 'our expectations' we feel let down? This is certainly true of the early leaders within the history of Israel, Moses led the people out of captivity in Egypt but when the 'promised land' failed to materialise as quickly as the people had hoped they gave him a hard time. Jesus himself did not escape. The crowds flocked to hear him teach and to see him heal. They welcomed him to Jerusalem yet one week later they called for his crucifixion because he wasn't the king they wanted or expected.

We have started another cycle with a new Prime Minister. How quickly will he fail? Or do we lose confidence, as perhaps our expectations are not lived up to? Or in another area of our lives do you feel the Church, the body of Jesus here on earth, has failed to deliver the message of Christ, of repentance, forgiveness and restoration, to a world that is so full of hatred, sadness and greed? The Christian message is a call to examine ourselves, not others. To forgive, not ourselves, but others and not to excuse ourselves from so much that is wrong in the world that God created so perfectly and which we have taken for granted and damaged.

David

Pedal Power Police

The new PCSO, Hannah Percival, introduced herself at the recent Parish Council Meeting. Hannah aims to be in Hunton and is available to meet residents at 'Surgeries' to be arranged, which will be notified in the Hunton Herald. The Council and the Public attending the meeting were dismayed and disappointed to learn that the Kent police are only providing Hannah with a bicycle. Given that she has some 52 miles of road to cover in her five parishes, namely Hunton, Linton, the Farleighs and Coxheath, it was thought that this was not acceptable for adequate policing. The Parish Clerk will be writing to the Chief Constable to express this disappointment and to ask how Kent Police thought this policy was suitable to meet the needs of a rural area.

Supporting The Heart of Kent Hospice: Teas and Trains

Sunday 12th August, 2.00pm - 5.00pm at Wayside, Amesbury Road, Hunton, ME15 0QH

Tickets £10.00 adults £6.00 children

Enjoy as many train rides as you like

Delicious tea, juice and jellies. Craft stall and children's games

Please bring chairs or picnic rug

by kind permission of Sue and Lawrence Martin,

for further information and tickets Tel: 01622 790195.

All proceeds to The Heart of Kent Hospice

The Residents of Buttercups need your help!

Buttercups Sanctuary for Goats, Wierton, Boughton Monchelsea are holding a Charity Walk and Open Day on Sunday 7th September.

The Sanctuary was started in 1989 when just two goats were taken in from the RSPCA. Before long many badly treated, neglected, abandoned and homeless goats began arriving and Buttercups became the only registered goat charity in the UK in 2003. There are now over 100 goats living in the safe and loving care of Buttercups who depend entirely on the help of their friends and supporters.

Buttercups are holding their Charity Sponsored Walk and Open Day, to coincide with the annual World War II Commemorative Spitfire Fly-past Ceremony at Chart Sutton, to help raise much needed funds. The walk starts from 10:00am onwards and the September Open Day is from 1:00pm to 4:00pm. The charity walk of either 4 or 8 miles from Buttercups along the picturesque Greensand Way, is for walkers of all ages.

More details and registration forms for walkers are available from: www.buttercups.org.uk, E-mail: ButtercupsGoats@aol.com or Jo c/o Millennium Lifestyle Property Services 01622 815222

Buttercups will also be holding their normal summer open day on Sunday 5th August from 1:00 - 4:00 pm. Please make a note in your diary and bring along your family and friends!

Resident voices concerns over traffic in East Street

A resident of East Street attending the Parish Council meeting has voiced concerns over the traffic speeds in East Street. Whilst it has been right for the Parish Council to push for speed limits in West Street, other areas should not be forgotten. HGVs were using the road as well.

Council members were grateful for the comments. They thought that, except for local deliveries, there was no valid reason for HGVs to be using this particular section of East Street. Lorries should be using the Staplehurst Road (A229) entrance to Redwall Lane whether they came from Marden or Heath Road.

Council disappointed at the Highways letter

Councillor Gary Thomas reported that the response to his letter calling for support for traffic calming measures and a footway from the Church/Village Hall to Bensted Close was disappointing. The tone of the letter from Kent Highways claiming that this issue was not a priority flew in the face of both national Government and County Council policy. The policy aims to encourage walking and reduce the use of vehicles for short journeys. The Parish Council will continue to pursue its objective of making West Street a safer place for pedestrians.

HUNTON CLUB BOOK GROUP JUNE BOOK REVIEW

The Woman in White by Wilkie Collins

A compelling tale of madness, betrayal and greed. A chance encounter with a mysterious woman dressed in white – who seems desperate to tell him a chilling secret – changes Walter Hartright's life. For when he takes up his duties as drawing master to the beautiful Laura Fairlie and her half sister Marian, he sees in Laura's face an eerie reflection of the forlorn creature he met. What connects Laura and her fiancé, the sinister Sir Percival Glyde, with the woman in white? And is Sir Percival's charming friend Count Fosco, with his unusual taste for white mice, vanilla bonbons and poison, friend or foe?

Overall, we enjoyed this book and thought it was very much of the Dickens' era although a much easier read. Several of us thought Laura to be a helpless female in comparison to Marion and women of today and felt we wanted to shake her into action. We also made comparison to the oppressed women in some parts of the world today, particularly in two of our recent books – the Kite Runner and The Bookseller of Kabul. It certainly made us think of how some women lived their lives here in England some 150 years ago. We felt the mystery was a little weak but understand that, for its day, it was probably quite an intriguing read.

We gave this book a score of 8 out of 10. Our book for July is The Search for Christobel by Margaret Forster

Parish Plan – Poor response

Roger Sawtell, Parish Council Chairman, felt that the response to the idea of a Parish Plan for Hunton had been disappointing. As he pointed out, the Plan cannot be produced by the Parish Council, rather it has to be prepared by the residents, with the support of the Parish Council.

The Parish Plan is a way in which all residents interested in the future of Hunton can say how you would like to see the Village develop in the future. A Plan would also be a useful tool in negotiating with the Borough and County Councils on such things as the much-needed footway between Bensted Close and the Hall. Parish Plans have been established by a number of villages in the Maidstone area already so the precedent has already been set.

If any one is interested in finding out more about please contact the Hunton Herald or ring Roger on 820731.

News from Hunton School

The end of another school year seemed to come far too quickly for pupils and staff. After successful SATs results it was a very busy time with pupils from our Reception class harvesting their kitchen garden and hosting a grand Reception Lunch with new potatoes, salad, rocket, peas and carrots, all harvested and eaten within an hour! This was complemented with salmon and turkey. The older children followed this with a garden picnic where, once again, produce was harvested, prepared and served to parents at our open evening.

All the children participated in our summer production of 'Robin Hood', complete with circus skills performed by Robin's Merry Men, including juggling and a human pyramid. The older children sang solos and remembered a vast number of lines. Some of the reviews from our audience were: 'Brilliant performance!' 'The best yet!', 'It was fab!', 'Fantastic play, well done everyone', 'What a great performance from a really lovely little school'.

During the penultimate week our older children enjoyed an outward bound school journey to Bewl Water where they undertook climbing, canoeing, rafting, orienteering and team games.

Our final few days saw a sports afternoon - despite the rain - and a Leavers' Service in St Mary's Church, Hunton. All in all a busy, positive and enjoyable few weeks, bringing to a close a busy, positive and successful school year.

Vacancy – Bookings Secretary

The Parish Hall Committee invites applications for the post of Bookings Secretary. Would suit someone living locally. On the odd occasion you may need to be available to show prospective hirers the Hall and will need to liaise with the Hall Committee and Cleaner when required. You will be the "keeper" of the Hall keys which would be collected from and returned to you at the time of and after the hiring. The post offers a monthly payment of £40.00 plus expenses. For more information contact Jackie Crooks on roger.crooks1@virgin.net, 01622 820226.

At St Mary's Church in August

Notices	Services
<p>Brass Cleaning: Nicky Grainger</p> <p>Flowers: 5th August Mrs John/Mrs Gurr 12th August Mrs John/Mrs Gurr 19th August Mrs Way (Wedding) 26th August Mrs Way (Wedding)</p> <p>Church Family Service Coffee Rota: 5th August McSweeney Family</p> <p>Hunton Sunday Club Hunton Sunday Club will meet again in September - details of venue will be in next month's Herald.</p>	<p>Sunday 5th August - Trinity 9 11.00am Family Service Revd Peter Walker Reading: At the preacher's discretion</p> <p>Sunday 12th August - Trinity 10 9.15am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) Revd Peter Walker Readings: Hebrews 11 v1-3 & 8-16 and Luke 12 v32-40</p> <p>Sunday 19th August - Trinity 11 11.00am Morning Prayer Revd Peter Walker Readings: Isaiah 5 v1-17 and Hebrews 11 v29 to 12 v2 and Luke 12 v49-56</p> <p>Sunday 26th August - Trinity 12 9.15am Holy Communion Revd David Jones Readings: Colossians 1 v15-28 and Luke 10 v38-42</p>

Freedom concert which had been planned for July in Coxheath is now scheduled for November 17th.

Pleasing God?

After a baptism service recently, I was asked my opinion on how someone could believe that driving a car full of explosives into Glasgow airport could be pleasing to God? It's an important question. That so many wars and conflicts have their roots in religious belief is good enough reason for many to have nothing to do with faith. Religious zeal is not just the domain of some Muslims. Christians have, of course, used God's name to commit barbarous acts. Hindus, even Buddhists have been fuelled by religious fervour to commit acts of violence.

St Paul, himself, was a religious zealot; passionate that the law of God should be obeyed. So concerned for God's honour, was he, that he became consumed with a crusade to wipe out those he saw as disobedient and wrong. That was, of course, until he had the life-changing encounter with the risen Jesus on the road to Damascus. Meeting Jesus converted Paul from a man who loved religious rules, to a man who genuinely loved God.

And this is the thing that is a challenge to all who seek to please God: loving God will *never* lead to us hating others. Loving God will always and only lead to us loving others - even those who think or behave in ways we do not like.

"Love", said Jesus, "is in fact the fulfilling of God's law, and this is how you do it", he says, as he lays down his life for all of us who have not loved perfectly.

Yours in faith

Ruth

Our next service at the Heart of Kent Hospice will be on 19th August at 3.30pm.

Benefice Fun Afternoon for Children

Fun Afternoon for Children aged 0 - 11 years. On Thursday August 23rd from 2.00pm - 4.00 pm we will be holding a Fun Afternoon for children on the field at Coxheath School (inside if wet). It will be an afternoon of games, sports and fun activities. Book the date in your diaries, bring the children and grandchildren or simply come yourself and enjoy watching the children having fun. Contact David 741474 for any further information.

<i>August</i>	<i>5th</i>	<i>12th</i>	<i>19th</i>	<i>26th</i>
Coxheath	11.00 HC	9.30 MP	11.00 HC	11.00 FS
E. Farleigh	9.15 HC	8.00 HC (bcp) 10.30 MP	11.00 FS	8.00 HC (bcp) 10.30 MP
Linton	9.15 HC	8.00 HC (bcp) 11.00 FS	9.15 HC	9.15 HC
W. Farleigh	8.00 HC 11.00 SW	11.00 FS	9.15 HC	11.00 MP

HC: Holy Communion, MP: Morning Prayer, (bcp) Book of Common Prayer, FS: Family Service, SW: Service of Word
APCM Annual Parish Council Meeting

For Weddings, Thanksgivings, and Baptisms, please contact Revd Peter Walker