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'Roll up - Roll up' - Hunton Village Fete is Back

Get out the banners and bunting. Hunton Fete is back after a break of several years as a day when everyone in the village can get together and enjoy themselves - on Saturday June 28th.

Organiser Keith Eatwell, a Parish Councillor and leader of the group running the King George V Playing Fields, where the event will be held, says "It will be a really great day for the whole village and plans are well under way.

"We already have volunteers from the football and cricket clubs as well as sponsors - but we could always do with more!" he said adding that the Maidstone Air Cadets had offered to carry out preparation work, erecting marquees and marshalling on the entrance gate and car park.

The fete will be colourful and impressive with displays by a marching band, the Maidstone Classic Car club, a Jazz Band as well as the usual stalls, sideshows, barbeque and beer tent.

"We are looking into the possibility of using the village hall for a craft show, art exhibition or that kind of attraction, possibly going on later with a disco or some other evening event."

Initially it was suggested that money raised could go towards the £60,000 equipment scheme for the playing fields but then it was felt that before this project could be started, the 'Missing Link' footpath from Bensted Close to the hall needs to be carried out.

Parish Council Chairman Roger Sawtell said: "This is a dangerous stretch of road for pedestrians and we have been pressing for many years for a path to be built so that villagers - especially youngsters - can walk in safety to and from the hall and church. "If we can go to the highway authority and say that we have cash in the kitty, perhaps it will sway them into going ahead with the scheme. Kent County and Maidstone Borough Councillors have promised financial support."

Hunton Village Club

Are you a member of Hunton Village Club? Now is the time to join. A years membership for 2008 is just £10.00. With no pub in Hunton, the Club in West Street is as close to a pub-like atmosphere as you will find, but with Club not pub prices. You will always receive a warm welcome particularly with the recently installed new central heating system! Soft drinks, tea, coffee, beers, including real ale, wines and most spirits as available as well as two dart boards, cards, cribbage boards and bar billiards should you fancy some sedate action. Monday night is Bingo night (8:00pm to about 10:00pm). The Club is open from 7:30pm 6 days a week (closed on Tuesdays) and from midday on Sunday until 2:30pm. Closing time is 11:00pm and 10:30pm on Sundays.

If you would like to join come along to the club as a visitor and ask for a form. We look forward to welcoming you. If you are already a member and have not yet rejoined, forms are available at the Club. We are still in need of voluntary bar staff for 1 or 2 nights per month. Please call Doug Redfarn (820495) if you feel you can help.

Calling all Hunton Businesses

Would you like to advertise in the Hunton Herald?

We are now looking for 2008/9 advertisers and if you do not already do so, please consider us. Rates are very reasonable and the fee pays for the printing costs of the Hunton Herald. Excess profit goes to village causes. If you do not currently advertise but would like to do so, please either email the editors or ring Mike Taylor on 01622 820449.

Cake Sale

A big thank you to the residents of Bensted Close who bought homemade cakes that were being sold by Sarah Newman and Kate Sparkhall, in aid of Breast Cancer Research on Sunday 13th January. The cake sale raised £25.84.

Your Local Contacts:

Parish Council Chairman: Roger Sawtell	820731	Village Club: Doug Redfarn	820495
School: Secretary/Head Teacher	820360	Clerk to Parish Council: Vikki Stancombe	842782
Under 5's Pre-School:	820309	Village Hall Booking: Jane Crane	820127
Pre-School Supervisor: Nicola Julier	07972067110	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
		PCSO Hannah Percival	07772226032

*not available on Fridays **not available on Mondays

Dates for Diaries:

Saturday 2nd February 7.30pm Barbishop, Village Hall, £10 (01622) 814267

Saturday 15th March, Bulky Refuse Collection, 7.45-8.45am, Hunton Village Hall

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

Dear All

Here we are at the beginning of February with still a few distant memories of Christmas and the New Year. Yet within six days we will be in Lent with Ash Wednesday on February 6th and Easter next month! . It's all getting very confusing with the shops having the New Year Sales before Christmas and now schools having their Easter holiday not at Easter this year. Still, I saw the first snowdrops and primroses on Christmas Day, so who knows, maybe the daffs will be out before the end of the month?

Time is a strange concept. It occurs naturally in the cycle of day and night, months and years and is constant and unchanging. Yet we know time can drag or fly by depending on what is happening to us. The saying, 'A watched kettle never boils' comes to mind.

Whilst at work tasks were departmentalized, the working day, the weekends and evenings all seemed to fit a pattern and it was only when that pattern was disturbed that real stress points arose and then I really felt under pressure. Now in retirement I'm sure that when I was working and had less 'free' time in the day, I did more. As I get older the long days of summer never seem as long and major events such as birthdays and Christmas seem to come around so much quicker and days seem shorter.

Now, with no regular pattern to the week, the days, months and years roll by and it is easier to think it is possible to put off things because the deadlines are more self-defined. But is that really true? What now happens is that life loses the cycle and we have to really think about how we use our time, what is important, who is important, what really needs to be done and why? Is the stress self-inflicted by my own laziness, by the demands I put on myself, by the demands I perceive others place upon me? So I get 'ratty' and 'snappy' with those I feel put the greatest demands upon me?

Lent is a time in the Christian calendar that has become lost in its purpose. We have come to think of it traditionally as a time for 'giving up' the luxuries of living. Maybe this year we should reflect on the life that God has given us and to seek how best to use that life personally and within the communities in which we live and work. Jesus took time out. He didn't give up things but he was always seeking to do his Father's will and taking time to seek that direction for his life. Lent this year could be a time of doing that, seeking God's purpose for our lives so that the time we have may be used aright and used to greater effect in His service. I believe it is not about 'giving up' but about giving out' so that we may experience the richness of our humanity in Christ Jesus our Lord and Saviour.

David Jones

Barbishop

GamBLE (Gambia: Building Links in Education, www.gamble.co.uk) is holding a concert, "Barbishop" to raise funds for the school that my small charity, based in Yalding runs. Since 2000 we have built 4 classrooms for children aged 3-7 in a small village in The Gambia and last year we opened the primary school on the same site that will give children from 8-13 a good education. We need 6 classrooms and have so far built 4.

Barbishop is an all female close harmony group formed in 1999 with a broad repertoire of music from Palestrina through to more modern numbers made popular by artists such as The Andrews Sisters, Bette Midler, The Carpenters and Frank Sinatra. The concert is on Saturday 2nd February at Hunton Village Hall from 7.30pm. Tickets available from: 01622 814267, £10 including Ploughman's Supper.

Karen Di Marco

Apologies that the telephone number was misprinted in the last issue of the Hunton Herald

News from Hunton School

The Greeks and Romans

This term Upper School 'Meet the Greeks' - the children will be learning about Ancient Greece in history and geography, including the story of the Trojan Horse and the history of the Olympic Games with comparisons between the original games and the Beijing Games which will take place later this year

In art the children will be appraising the work of Ancient Greek potters and using collage and printing techniques to explore Greek pottery. They will look at a range of books including extracts from 'Homer' which tell them about Ancient Greece and use the internet as a source of research.

Middle School will be looking at the Romans and learning about the rise of Rome. They will learn about the various ruling systems of Rome and the conquering of other countries to make the Roman Empire. This will then lead on to the children learning about life in Roman Britain, what a Roman villa was like and the importance of the introduction of sewers, toilets and baths to Britain. They will research the importance of archaeology and the characteristics of Roman pottery. In art the children will design and make pots in the Roman style.

Reception children are learning all about space, about the moon, our galaxy and rocket maths.

A big thank you from the PTA to everyone who came to see Dick Whittington on Thursday 17th January - it was a fantastic evening with everyone thoroughly enjoying themselves and over £200 was raised for PTA funds.

HUNTON CLUB BOOK GROUP

DECEMBER BOOK REVIEW

The Girls by Lori Lansen

In 29 years Rose Darlen has never spent a moment apart from her twin sister Ruby. She's never gone for a solitary walk or had a private conversation. Yet, in all that time she has never once looked into Ruby's eyes. Joined at the head, the girls attempt to lead a normal life but can't help being extraordinary. Now almost 30 Rose and Ruby are on the verge of becoming the oldest craniopagus twins in history but they are remarkable for a lot more than their unusual sisterly bond.

This book churned up a mixed bag of opinions - of the subject: "uncomfortable", "boring", "an interesting read", "a little distasteful" and of the writing style: "juvenile", "uninspiring", "likeable", "so realistic, it seemed a true story". The main story was interspersed with bizarre side tales that annoyed some of us who found them to be superfluous. The book switched back and forth in time causing a little confusion and many of us became irritated with Ruby. Most of us finished the book, some with difficulty and some said they couldn't be bothered. However, it was agreed that the book gave us a valuable insight into the lives of people with disabilities and the way the girls' relationship developed was complimented. Our score for *The Girls* was 4 out of 10.

Our book for January is *Case Histories* by Kate Atkinson.

A Hunton Village Calendar

It has been suggested that a village calendar be put together for 2009. The idea is to have photographs of the village during each month. The calendar would then be sold from September with all profits going to village causes. If you have any favourite photographs of Hunton, please email them to fourthesquare@btinternet.com with a short inscription detailing who took it, where it is and any other interesting facts. Also, please indicate the month the photo was taken! If you prefer hard copies, please post them to 4 The Square, West Street, Hunton - they can be returned. Submissions by end of April please.

Out and Out

Hellebores

Early flowers are always appreciated in the garden and hellebores have a lot to give. Their simple flowers range from green or white through pink to deepest dusky purple, the flowers are tough enough to stand up to February's weather yet have a charming nodding delicacy. Their flower heads are often turned down which is an invitation to gently cup the bloom and turn its face upwards; you will be rewarded with a tracery of dots to study or a cupful of further petals on a double flower.

There is no doubt that the very dark purple, almost black, flowers have a luscious attraction but for sheer visibility and mass impact the paler colours are the best.

Hellebores like to live in shade which is not too dry and with a rich diet of compost, if the soil is slightly alkaline so much the better. Happy plants will seed freely; I just thin out over crowded clumps and when they flower remove any whose colour does not please me.

Christine McSweeney

Quiz Evening to raise funds for Hi Kent

Hi Kent is a local registered charity that has been in existence since 1986. Working closely with Kent and Medway Councils, we serve the needs of the deaf and the hard of hearing throughout Kent, aiming to help more than 20,000 people each year. Our head office is located in Maidstone town centre at 18 Brewer Street. To help raise funds we are organising a quiz evening at Coxheath Village Hall on Saturday 1 March at 7.30pm. This will be a fun evening with a balance of questions covering a range of general knowledge topics. Tables (teams) may contain up to 6 people and cost will be just £5 per head, with a ploughmans supper provided. There will also be a raffle during the evening with great prizes. Contact Liz Layton Tel 01622 691151 Email L.Clayton@hikent.org.uk

Hunton and Linton Under Fives PreSchool

On the 9th December 2007, the PreSchool held their Christmas Bazaar and Christmas production. It was a great success. The children enjoyed performing the 'Christmas Story' and singing various Christmas songs. After the performance we held our annual Christmas Bazaar and this raised over £300 from the various stalls. This money has since been spent and the PreSchool has purchased a new four sided painting easel and some Wooden City Construction Blocks.

The new term has now started, but we are always looking for new children to join our group. We take children from 2 years upwards.

If you would like to come down to meet the staff and to have a look around our preschool environment then please contact Sally Clifton our Administrator on either 01622 820309 or 01622 746730 to make an appointment. We are open from 9.15am to 12 noon weekdays.

At St Mary's Church in February

Notices

Brass Cleaning: Mary Johns

Family Service Coffee Rota: Jean Lamont and
Moira Ensoll

Flowers:

3rd February Mrs Scott
10th February No Flowers
17th February No Flowers
24th February No Flowers

Hunton Sunday Club

Our February meeting will be held on Sunday February 17th at Durrants Farm House, West Street from 5.15pm until 6.30pm. The Club is open to children of primary school age living in Hunton or attending school in Hunton and their friends. Please give David a ring for further information on 741474.

Services

Sunday 3rd February - Sunday before Lent

11.00am Family Service Revd Ruth Bierbaum
Readings: Exodus 4: 12-18, 2 Peter 1:16-21,
Matthew 17: 1-9

Sunday 10th February - Lent 1

09.15am Holy Communion Revd Peter Walker
Readings: Genesis 2: 15-17 & 3 1-7, Romans 5 12-19,
Matthew 4: 1-11

Sunday 17th February - Lent 2

11.00 Morning Prayer (bcp) Mr D Barnes
Readings: Genesis 12 1-4a, Romans 4 1-5 & 13-17,
John 3 1-17

Sunday 24th February - Lent 3

9.15am Holy Communion Revd David Jones
Readings: Exodus 17 1-7, Romans 5 1-11, John 4 5-42

Wednesday 6th February - Ash Wednesday

7.30pm - United Benefice Service at Linton
Readings: Isaiah 58 1-12, 2 Corinthians 5 20b-6:10,
Matthew 6 1-6 & 16-21

Lent 2008

Our Lent Course this year is a study of the Lord's Prayer, 'praying it, meaning it, living it' in five parts and consists of a taped introduction, course booklet and time for discussion and questions.

In the Benefice there will be four locations during the week so that people can choose the most convenient evening and location, Each evening will be at 7.45pm for a prompt 8.00pm start.

Monday evenings we will be in Hunton - first at Mary's (tel. 01622 749496)

Tuesday at Linton at the home of John and Cilla McKenzie, Iona, Linton Hill,

also on Tuesday at All Saints, West Farleigh.

Thursday evenings in Coxheath at the Coxheath Centre.

The topic will be the same each week in each location and we begin:

Week 1 commencing February 11th with 'Our Father',
Week 2 commencing February 18th with 'Thy will be done',
Week 3 commencing February 25th with 'Our daily bread',
Week 4 commencing March 3rd with 'As we are forgiven'
and finally week 5 commencing March 10th with 'In heaven'.

Please contact any of the clergy for the exact details of the venue and any further questions.

Church Bulletins

- Bloopers and Bloomers

They're back! Those wonderful Church bulletins! Thank God for church ladies with typewriters. These sentences (with all the BLOOPERS) actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services:

- 'The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals'
- The sermon this morning: "Jesus walks on the Water." The sermon tonight: "Searching for Jesus"
- Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Ruth

<i>February</i>	<i>3rd</i>	<i>10th</i>	<i>17th</i>	<i>24th</i>
Coxheath	11.00 HC	9.30 MP	11.00 HC	11.00 FS HC
E. Farleigh	9.15 HC	8.00 HC(bcp) 10.30 MP	11.00 FS	8.00 HC 10.30 MP
Linton	9.15 HC	8.00 HC (bcp) 11.00 FS	9.15 HC 18.00 Licensing Chris B	9.15 HC
W. Farleigh	8.00 HC 11.00 White House	11.00 MW (Mod)	9.15 HC	11.00 MW (Trad) White House

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