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Hunton Open Gardens with the NGS

What a fantastic day . . . and the weather held out!

We estimated around three hundred ticket holders toured round the gardens and raised a total of £1664.50, of which £426.50 was made on the tea and cakes and this will be going to St Mary's Church.

Thank you to all the army of helpers, family and friends. Many people, particularly from the church, helped with the teas, the cake baking and attending visitors on the gates and car parks. Thank you. Sue Heaton

Hunton School News - Global Awareness Week

The school had a fantastic week where the children learnt a great deal about other countries, cultures and environmental issues.

Nous avons passé un jour fantastique! On Tuesday the children came back to school to everyone speaking French. During the day the children experienced French food tasting, learnt about French culture, found out about the geography of France and had the opportunity to play games in French, including boules. All staff spoke to the children in French and the children tried very hard to respond in French — reception had a lovely time asking each other for different coloured pencils.

Early in the morning on Wednesday a traveller wagon appeared.

Throughout the day every child had the opportunity to visit the wagon and find out about the traveller lifestyle and culture.



On Thursday - World Environment Day, the School were visited by a member of the Wider World organisation who worked with the children to learn more about the world environment and climate change. Our Reception children went off to a travel agent where they role-played booking holidays. They learned about places around the world and travel opportunities available. They returned to school excited about their trips to China to see the Olympic Games and Moulan, whilst others had chosen private villas in France with a chef. Unfortunately the school budget will not run to this but we have details if you would like to go!

Friday was Africa Day. Once again we were fortunate in being able to invite a member of Heritage Ceramics to our school. The children undertook a range of activities including African mask making, weaving using the Ghanaian method with carrier bags, researching and making posters using ICT and African beading.

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:

Tuesday July 8th, Free Concert The Bel Canto, a mixed Chamber Choir from the Ysgol John Bright in Llandudno, North Wales, 7.30 pm., Holy Trinity Coxheath

Sunday July 6th, Fun Day (Charlie Button) Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity, 2pm, Woolpack Inn

Monday 21st July, 5P Mens Club Petanque Night, 7.30pm, White House Pub, West Farleigh

Sunday 10th August, Ruth's final service in the Benefice, 5pm, Holy Trinity Coxheath.

Sunday 3rd August, Cricket Match East Street Versus West Street, 2pm, (820628)

Parish Councillors contact details

Parish Council Chairman
- Roger Sawtell 820731

Clerk to the Parish Council
- Vikki Stancombe 842782

Cllr Les Leonard 820858
Cllr Moira Walter 745765
Cllr Gary Thomas 820691
Cllr David Heaton 820678

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

Letter from Ruth

And finally...

I will give you the treasures of darkness,
and the riches hidden in secret places
so that you may know that it is
I, the Lord,
the God of Israel, who call you
by your name.

Isaiah 45 v 3

This is a promise of God to his servant(s), as spoken through the Old Testament Prophet Isaiah. It is a significant one to me because through it I have felt God calling me to minister to those with mental health problems. This is not a step I take lightly. My roots have grown down deep in this place and taking them up is not easy. I only do it because I believe this is God's will... and after all what a promise: *I will give you the treasures of darkness.* As I look at those verses from Isaiah, an unexpected truth occurs to me - that it is in darkness, in the difficult times, in the bereavements and the losses, in the valley of the shadow of death, that God says He will increase my faith, your faith! That isn't what we expect, is it? Surely suffering leads to doubt and a loss of faith! I have spoken to many who have chosen that path. Certainly, when faced with suffering the question "Why" can be dominant. We can't understand God's reasoning. We can't work out why He doesn't answer our prayers the way that, say I would, if I were God. In the Old Testament, before Samson is conceived, God appears as a man to Samson's parents to tell them about the special child they will have, and when they ask what this man's name is He says "*It is beyond understanding*"... in other words it is "*wonderful*"; in other words: *full of wonder*; in still others words *wisdom unreachable*. So maybe here is one precious jewel to be going on with, for you and for me... that we do not need to understand God's ways, for we will never do that, but rather we need to trust Him. Trust Him in the day. Trust Him in the night. That as we walk through the changes and the valleys of uncertainty, all God asks us to do is keep proclaiming his name "Wonderful". "I cannot understand you God, but I trust in your victory over death. I trust in you". And as you do that, you *will* in some very personal way hear Him calling your name and calling you "my beloved" and "my precious child". In that simple faith, may we walk as Jesus bids, together? With love and thanksgiving for all the years and all the encouragements.

Yours in faith

Ruth

Free Concert at Holy Trinity Coxheath on Tuesday July 8th at 7.30pm

The Bel Canto, a mixed Chamber Choir from the Ysgol John Bright in Llandudno, North Wales will be singing a wide range of music from Bach, Mozart, Faure, gospel, pop and from the shows including Les Misérables, Chess and Rent as part of their Kent Tour — African chants and Welsh folk songs are on the menu! The choir, of some 18 teenagers is lead by Mrs Susan Collins (nee Susan Kelly) who grew up in Coxheath, attended Coxheath school, Cornwallis and MGGS before studying at Bangor University. Do come to support this choir who are travelling by train and the number 89 bus from Wales. They are staying in Maidstone for a few days whilst performing at the Maidstone International Festival of Music and Dance. (Susan's Mum used to work at Stockett Lane Surgery and still lives in Coxheath). No tickets, simply turn up on the night!

David Jones

Hunton Herald Adverts

The Hunton Herald apologises to its advertisers that, in the June issue, last years' adverts went out instead of this years'. We are very sorry, but to make up, we will run this years' adverts for an extra month into 2009 (so the new run will start in May, rather than April 2009). We hope this is acceptable.

Mike Taylor

Local Police Surgeries

01 July 2008	2pm to 3pm	Surgery at Coxheath Shops
07 July 2008	2pm to 3pm	Surgery at Coxheath Shops
31 July 2008	10am to 12pm	Coxheath library
14 August 2008	1pm to 3pm	Coxheath library
26 August 2008	2pm to 3pm	Surgery at Coxheath Shops

Hunton School's May Fayre

A big thank you to everyone who came and supported Hunton School's recent May Fayre—we raised a fantastic £2,060 which will be going towards the 4th classroom fund.

A Most Astonishing Performance

- John Etheridge and Chris Garrick at the Village Hall

An audience of over 100 attended the John Etheridge and Chris Garrick concert at the Village Hall on 3 May and were treated to a sublime display of musicianship. Etheridge, recognised as one of the world's great guitarists and Garrick on violin, displaying all the qualities of a young Stephane Grappelli, played a range of numbers from their excellent album 'The Dimming of the Day'. The soloing and interplaying was astonishing and was rewarded by a rousing ovation at the end of their set. Another extremely satisfying village hall 'Applause' event and arguably the finest to date. The evening contributed over £500 to Village Hall funds. Many thanks to all those who made the evening an outstanding success.

Alan Bishop

Out and Out - A Lot of Light Weeding

The secret to enjoying weeding is to get properly tooled up for the job and two items which I swear by are Knee pads and my new best weeding friend, a daisy grubber.

The knee pads are the type used by carpet layers which attach to your knees with Velcro strips, these are always just where you need them unlike those dinky little kneelers which are always where you left them last. These pads also bring a smile to the face of friends and neighbours should you venture out of the garden in them so a bright coloured pair would be best.

The daisy grubber (bought recently from a local countryside store) with its slim profile and forked point is brilliant for levering out weeds which have grown very close to other plants, it is especially good on buttercups which loop there way into your borders out of sight before sending up their tell tale buttery flowers.

I won't say that weeding is the best job in the garden but with a bit of comfort, the right tools and the sun on your back, the task takes on a soothing, mind clearing quality.

Christine McSweeney

Hunton Village Book Club Review for May 2008

'The Old Man and the Sea' by Ernest Hemingway

The Old Man and the Sea is a tale of a man and a fish, man versus nature and of the culture of manhood, courage and bravery in the face of existence. It's also a history of what life was like when individuals were more the central actor on the human stage and not groups or organisations.

At the most basic level, after 84 days without hooking a decent fish, the very elderly fisherman, Santiago, goes out in his small fishing boat and hooks a gigantic 18 foot long sword fish. The battle then begins and the fish drags the small boat and Santiago far out to sea. For two days they battle. Santiago wins, but then loses the great fish on the way home to the scavenger sharks who find him easy prey.

A couple of the club members enjoyed this book, thought it was well written and held their imagination. The majority felt the subject matter revolving around "fishing" was a theme which was not to their taste. As such the general consensus was that the book was a light read which may well have had a deeper meaning most of us failed to find.

The book scored an average of 6.

Our "read" for June is Lionel Shriver's *"The post - birthday world"* which we will review at our next meeting on the 3rd of July 2008

2nd Edition of the Hunton Book Group

Jacqui Frances of West Street is keen to set up a second book group. The existing book group has been so successful that there have been a number of enquiries about setting up another group.

If anyone is interested in joining this book group please contact Jacqui Frances on 01622 820781 or email jacquifrances@yahoo.co.uk.

Pre-School News

We have had a busy time at Pre-school; last term we held our annual Sponsored Obstacle Course, which raised vital funds. With money raised we will be able to purchase Squidgy Sparkle Letters, Numbers and Shapes, a Magnetic Whiteboard and Magnetic writing pads. We are also hoping to purchase 2 presentation boards.

This term's theme is space, the children have planned activities each week, making rockets, planets and learning all about space etc. Our summer outing will be a cruise and picnic in the Millennium Park, let's hope for good weather come the beginning of July.

Our Annual Sports Day / BBQ is on Sunday July 6th, the children are busy preparing for the obstacle races and are having a lot of fun practicing them.

We break up on the 14th July and return to pre-school on Monday 8th September, if there are any Mums/Dads or carers out there wishing for a pre-school place for their children, then please give us a call and come down and visit us, our telephone number is 01622 820309, we have vacancies in September 2008.

At St Mary's Church in July

Notices	Services
Brass Cleaning: Sue Scott Family Service Coffee Rota 6 th July Forster Family 3 rd August - Mary Johns and Anke Way Flowers 6 th July Mrs Leonard 13 th July Mrs Leonard 20 th July Mrs Johns/Mrs Gurr 27 th July Mrs Johns/Mrs Gurr 3 rd August Mrs Porter (Wedding) Hunton Sunday Club - for all children of primary school age living or attending school in Hunton Our next meeting is on Sunday July 20th at Durrant's Farm House, West Street from 5.15 p.m. until 6.45 p.m. I hope you will all be able to come and have a time of fun, food and ?????????? As this will be our last meeting before the summer break. We will meet again on Sunday September 21st. David Jones 741474	Sunday 6th July - Trinity 7 11.00am Family Service Revd Peter Walker Readings - Preachers choice Also Sunday 6th July at Rochester Cathedral 3.15pm Jubilee service The National Health Service - All Welcome Sunday 13th July - Trinity 8 09.15am Holy Communion Revd Ruth Bierbaum Romans 8: 1-11, Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23 Sunday 20th July - Trinity 9 11.00 Morning Prayer (bcp) Revd David Jones Isaiah 44:6-8, Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43 Sunday 27th July - Trinity 10 9.15am Holy Communion Revd David Jones Romans 8:26-39, Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 Sunday 3rd August - Trinity 11 11.00am Family Service

Church Bloopers and Bloomers

- Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.
- The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.
- This evening at 7pm there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

Farewell Songs of Praise

After 6 lovely years of ministry in the Coxheath Benefice, I will be taking on the role of Lead Mental Health Care Chaplain for Medway and Maidstone from 11th August.

Please come to my final service in the Benefice on 10th August 5pm at Holy Trinity Coxheath. It will be a Songs of Praise and I get to choose what we sing, so be prepared for an eclectic selection! All welcome.

Ruth

St Mary's Matins Service Sunday 11.00am June 15th

Roland Day Writes:

"Just one-two-three-four-five-six-seven-eight-nine-ten in the congregation at the above service, which was ably taken by Miss C Bostock with Philip Moore at the organ, and four ladies in the choir who truly and beautifully sang the anthem. Indeed a joy to hear them. Maybe a repeat on Sunday July 20th? In the congregation were two, to hear the third reading of their wedding banns, also Jean Murrell and her sister, long residents of our Parish and evergreen Rachel Smith in her regular front pew. Unfortunately Alison was unable to be present, so that John Scott who does so much took over for the service preparations. The flower arrangements were nicely displayed. Altogether a well organised and enjoyable service. Especially as June the 15th was Fathers Day and it would have been good to see more parishioners present".

July	6th	13th	20th	27th	3rd Aug
Coxheath	11.00 HC	9.30 MP	11.00 HC 3pm Baptism	11.00 FS HC	11.00 HC
E. Farleigh	9.15 HC	8.00 HC 10.30 MP 3pm Baptism	11.00 FS + Baptism 3pm Baptism	8.00 HC 10.30 MP	9.15 HC 3pm Baptism
Linton	9.15 HC	8.00 HC (bcp) 11.00 FS	9.15 HC	9.15 HC	9.15 HC
W. Farleigh	8.00 HC 6.30pm White House	11.00 MP (Mod)	9.15 HC	11.00 MP (Trad)	8.00 HC
HC: Holy Communion, MP: Morning Prayer, (bcp) Book of Common Prayer, FS: Family Service, SW: Service of Word APCM Annual Parish Council Meeting					