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'Missing Link' Foot Path - One Step Along the Way

The long-awaited 'missing link' footpath to make journeys safer for pedestrians walking from Bensted Close to the Village Hall, is one step nearer.

Parish Council Chairman, Roger Sawtell, and Maidstone Borough Councillor, Colin Parr, attended a site meeting with a Kent County Council highways officer who agreed to expedite the preparation of scheme options and costings for the work.

"We have been trying to get the KCC to work with us collectively to advance these long-overdue improvements and to get a feedback on their feasibility. We are now nearer to achieving that goal," said Mr Parr. "We are not just asking for money - the funding and grant raising will come later."

The county officer also viewed the road outside Peace Cottages off West Street where the residents have been experiencing difficulties with parents parking cars and blocking their home entrances while delivering children to the school on the other side of the road.

A total estimate of around £7500 was given for a new paved area outside the cottages and repair of the road drainage system. A combined community effort to pay for the scheme may be sought with input from the KCC, Borough and Parish Councils as well as the school authorities and almshouse trustees.

Village Hall Car Park in Need of Repair

After a spend of around £12,000 several years ago for repairs to the Village Hall car park, further work needs to be completed to upgrade the deteriorating parking area.

Keith Eatwell, chairman of the King George V Playing Fields, reported that this work needs to be completed before the winter, and parish councillors agreed to seek estimates.

He sought assistance in paying a £360 bill for repairs to the leaking roof of the football club changing rooms while reporting that the Bowls Club is planning a small extension to their facilities.

Village Fete - A Success

Mr Eatwell said that the sun had come out, bringing visitors out to the June Village Fete which raised £760 with further proceeds still coming in. "We feel that the day was a success and there have already been enquiries about next year's event!"

Co-Opted on Council

Ron Porter, a former parish council clerk for half of his 30 years in Hunton, is due to be co-opted to fill a casual vacancy on the council, arising after David St John decided to step down.

He told the July council meeting: "I live in West Street, opposite the school where I am a governor, and if I become a councillor I would be campaigning for a footpath from the village to the church as well as action to stop cars speeding through the village - I am seriously worried that it will only be a matter of time before there is a fatality."

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:

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)
 Saturday 9th August, Freighter Service, 7.45-8.30am, Hunton Village Hall
 Thursday 14th August, Police Surgery, 1-3pm, Coxheath Library
 Tuesday 26th, Police Surgery, Coxheath Shops, 2 to 3pm
 Sunday 31st August, Hunton Church Talk & Cream Teas, 3pm, Hunton Church
 Saturday 13th September, Sponsored Ride and Walk, 10am-6pm, (820288)
 Sunday 14th September, All Aboard, 2-5.30pm, Wayside, Hunton
 Saturday 27th September, Freighter Service, 7.45-8.30am, Hunton Village Hall

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 September edition to the Editors as soon as possible, and by 15th August, please

Hi All,

National Health Service Diamond Jubilee

July saw two significant events. One nationally and the other locally. On July 4th the National Health Service reached its Diamond Jubilee and later in the month we marked the tenth anniversary of the death of three paramedics who died in the Air Ambulance crash on July 26th. Both these events, I believe, focus our attention on those who provide us with emergency and 365/24/7 care throughout our lives, and the gratitude we owe to the men and women of the NHS.

Which one of us gathered here hasn't had some experience of the National Health Service? I can tell you that the pressures within our NHS are always great. We expect, and rightly so, to be treated according to need, yet money is limited, resources stretched and medical staff overworked.

I am a volunteer chaplain at Maidstone Hospital and was working before, during and after last year's report on the many patients who died of hospital borne infection. I believe that throughout the problems the levels of commitment and professionalism from all staff was high and patient care the best that medical staff could provide. That is not to say that things were right! However, imagine yourself working in a hospital at the centre of national media attention and people in the community losing trust in their local hospital. Remember also that this media attention came at a time when consultation was taking place about reorganising services between Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells and feelings were running high. To work in such an environment, when all around you is the constant negative publicity, a demoralising experience for all. The criticism hurts even if the truth was sometimes misdirected. It was to the credit of staff, that patients in the hospital being treated found the care they received at odds with the publicity. Chaplaincy played its part in supporting staff and reassuring patients at a time when paid Chaplaincy in the Trust was at an all time low and volunteers were doing the service. Since then the paid Chaplaincy is almost back to full strength. At the centre of the NHS are people and people trying to do their best.

The NHS always seems to be undergoing review and re-organisation. Within the NHS Ambulance Trust the Kent merger with the counties of Sussex and Surrey brought with it a sense of uncertainty of direction as the change has taken place over a very short period of time. The merger is bedding in and only time will tell if the obvious advantages of size results in better patient care. The demands on the NHS Ambulance Service have changed since the chaplaincy service started some ten years ago. No longer is the aim to transfer the patient to the nearest hospital for treatment as quickly as possible. Treatment is now provided at the scene by highly trained paramedics equipped with the latest drugs and equipment and only when the patient is stable is the move to hospital considered. The air ambulance can transfer very sick patients needing specialist treatment right into the heart of London within minutes from anywhere in the region. The Service is changing and the demands are increasing on all staff (from those in the Control Centres to the crews on the road), to meet strict time constraints as well as providing the public with the best health care available. Chaplaincy to this service is changing, crews are no longer in the station but on the road during their 12-hour shift, so chaplains are increasingly going with the crew in the ambulance during their shift.

The NHS doesn't always live up to our expectations. Improvements in drugs and equipment are costly, the rapid changes in treatments, the shorter stays in hospital, and training costs, all place a strain on budgets and yet at the heart of the NHS are people demonstrating their professional skills, giving of themselves in time and energy well above the call of duty and for what they are paid to do. And this is often in a climate of criticism and expectation that is misplaced and unfair.

This is our NHS Health Service today. Composed of men and women dedicated as they have always been to providing the public, us, with a service that is the best. Pray for those who serve us so well. *David*

Out and Out

Keeping the Colour.

After a sumptuous June in the garden things can start to tail off into August so it is good to have included some plants in the garden which will keep the colour going and inject some glamour into your scheme.

Dahlias are once more fashionable coming in a range of colours and flower shape to suit most gardens. The Bishop of Llandaff is still a favourite of mine but dark maroon 'Rip City' and 'Arabian Nights' are tempting and apricot/orange 'David Howard' has much to offer. Dahlias do need lifting and frost free storage over winter but the effort is worth the reward.

Much less trouble and a good companion for Dahlias are Asters. Aster Frikartii 'Monch' has a large mauve flower with a sunny yellow centre which would contrast well with the red Dahlias mentioned above. Aster 'Little Carlow' is also mauve but with an absolute cloud of much smaller flowers a good foil for the flowers of Dahlia 'David Howard'. Ornamental Grasses are really coming into their own at this time and Penstemons and Phlox will usually keep flowering into September. Pots of Agapanthus would be good, and now I'm convinced that August is going to be almost as good as June!

Christine McSweeney

Hunton Club Book Group Review for June 2008

'The Post-Birthday World' by Lionel Shriver

Irina, the central character, is living in London in the 1990s with her partner Lawrence in a long-term and hitherto fairly contented relationship. At the end of the first chapter Irina is alarmingly drawn to kissing Ramsey, a flamboyant snooker player, after they celebrate his birthday together in a restaurant. Thereafter the narrative splits into two parallel universes: the one in which she succumbed to temptation and kissed him and the one in which she remained faithful to Lawrence and demurred. After a single first chapter there are two Chapter 2s, two Chapter 3s and so on, until the final chapter concludes both stories at once. The author explores the implications, both professional and personal, of Irina's decision.

The group was divided between the majority who found it not to their taste and a sizeable minority who found it compelling reading. This is reflected in our scores which varied from 1 to 8 out of 10, giving an average score of five.

Our book for July is "An Absolute Scandal" by Penny Vincenzi.

Fiona Newman

Grateful Thanks

David Jones and family would like to thank everyone for their kindness and support following the death of his wife, Anne, in July. Donations amounting to over £1200.00 were given for research work into Scleroderma and Pulmonary Hypertension (the two major illnesses that Anne had) at the Royal Free Hospital.

Kent Free Trees Scheme

The Scheme organised by Kent County Council offers up to 25 trees completely free of charge. All the trees are species native to the area. All you need to do is collect the trees from a designated collection point, plant them yourself and care for them as they grow. The trees that are available are Alder, Beech, Birch, Hawthorn, Hazel, Holly, Hornbeam, Oak Sessile, Mountain Ash or Sandy Soil hedge.

The closing date for applications to be returned is 31st October, so if you are interested do not delay, call 08458 247 600 to obtain an application booklet that gives all the information you need to claim your free trees.

School News

Summer Production

The whole school took part in the end of term production of *Grease* as pink ladies and T-birds, doing two excellent performances to family and friends, all the children thoroughly enjoyed singing and dancing to the songs.

River project

During term 4, Year 5 pupils undertook a project with a number of Kent schools where they studied the local rivers including the Medway.

Leavers' Service

At the end of another school year the school had a leavers' church service at St Mary's Church on Wednesday 23rd July at 9.00am.

Summer picnic and rounders

As a launch to the school fundraising for the new classroom, the school is hoping to have a family fun afternoon where there is a chance to play rounders and enjoy each others' company with a barbeque. It has been decided to hold this when they return in September when hopefully the weather will be better by then!!

Rough Justice

The descendant of a Hunton resident contacted the church Warden with the story of his ancestor.

One Stephen Nash born in 1801 was transported to New South Wales, in Australia, following his conviction for stealing a sheep and a door in 1827.

He actually got off quite lightly as in 1827 stealing a sheep was still a capital offence; one of about 200 offences that carried the death penalty until Peel's reforms of the 1830's. Fortunately most felons had their sentences commuted to transportation normally for seven years or life. Unfortunately he left behind a wife and two children in Hunton and we do not know whether he ever returned.

David Heaton



All Aboard - for Tea and Trains!

Sunday 14th September 2008 2.00pm to 5.00pm At Wayside, Hunton. Tickets in advance: Adults £10, Children £6 or Family Ticket for 2 Adults & 2 Children for £30. Included in the ticket price as many train rides as you like and have a delicious afternoon tea or juice, bring chairs or picnic rugs

By kind permission of Sue and Lawrence Martin. Tickets from: Sue Martin 01622 746125. All Proceeds to Friends of St Mary's Church, Hunton.

At St Mary's Church in August

Notices	Services
Brass Cleaning: Liz Oliver and Vera May	Sunday 3rd August - 11th Sunday after Trinity 11.00am Family Service Miss C Bostock Readings - Preachers choice
Family Service Coffee Rota: 3rd August - Mary Johns and Anke Way 7th September - Andrews Family	Sunday 10th August - 12th Sunday after Trinity 09.15am Holy Communion Rev'd David Jones Readings—Romans 10: 5-15, Matthew 14: 22-33
Flowers	Sunday 17th August - 13th Sunday after Trinity 11.00 Morning Prayer (bcp) Mrs E Doyle Readings — Isaiah 56: 6-8, Matthew 15: 21-28
3 rd August Mrs Porter (Wedding)	Sunday 24th August - 14th Sunday after Trinity 9.15am Holy Communion Rev'd Peter Walker Romans 24:1-8, Matthew 16:13-20
10 th August Mrs Porter	Sunday 31st August - 15th Sunday Trinity 10.30am Benefice Service at West Farleigh
17 th August Mrs Scott	Sunday 7th September - 16th Sunday after Trinity 11.00am Family Service Peter Walker Readings - Preacher's choice
24 th August Mrs Scott	
31 st August Benefice	
7 th September Mrs McLoughlin	
Hunton Sunday Club We will meet again on Sunday September 21st. David Jones 741474	

Bloopers and Bloomers

- Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10am. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B. S. is done.
- The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.
- Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door.

On your Bike!

Friends of Kent Churches Sponsored Ride and Walk. Helping to save churches in Kent

Saturday 13th September 2008 10.00am-6pm

Bicycle or walk around Kent Churches. Sponsorship money raised will be divided equally between the friends of Kent Churches and the Church or Chapel of your choice

Event Coordinator is Alison Ellman-Brown for Sponsor forms contact her on: 01622 820288

Autumn York Course

Given the past success of (and lively discussion during!) the York courses in Hunton over the last eight years, we are embarking on a repeat of the interesting course we did in 2001 - 'Faith in the Fire' (i.e. when things are not going as well as they might).

Among the speakers (on CD!) are Archbishop David Hope, Rabbi Lionel Blue and Ann Widdecombe.

Mary Johns has very kindly agreed to lead this and the first of five weekly sessions will be on Tuesday 16th September at 7.30 (til 9.30) at Wardes Moat, Yalding.

These well-structured courses offer an opportunity to share thoughts and experiences involving wide-ranging, realistic and often amusing discussions.

All are welcome, especially newcomers.

If you'd like to join in or just to know more please ring me on 01622 820551.

Joy McLoughlin.

Hear about Hunton Church

Everyone is welcome! Come and hear a talk by Mary Johns about the church on Sunday 31st August at 3pm followed by cream teas for the benefit Friends of St Mary's church

<i>August</i>	<i>3rd</i>	<i>10th</i>	<i>17th</i>	<i>24th</i>	<i>7th September</i>
Coxheath	11.00 HC	9.30 MP 5pm Songs of Praise	11.00 HC	11.00 FS HC	
E. Farleigh	9.15 HC 3pm Baptism	8.00 HC 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	9.15 HC	
W. Farleigh	8.00 HC	11.00 MP (Mod)	9.15 HC	11.00 MP (Trad)	10.30 Benefice

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