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Footpath Edges Closer

The proposed footpath from Bensted Close to the Village hall edges closer to being started. Parish Councillors were told by Chairman Roger Sawtell at the September meeting that he had had a favourable response from one landowner and that the other was considering the request. The Parish Council had also had a letter from the KCC Footpath Officer giving his support with the possibility of funding, as the proposal "ticked all the right boxes".

West Street Traffic Calming A number of Councillors met with Michael Heath of Kent Highways Service to discuss traffic calming measures in West Street. He was supportive of discrete calming measures such as new extended 30mph zone and carriageway edge white lining; however Councillors were disappointed to learn that this would have to be submitted for a bid in the next financial year, contrary to what Councillors believed had been promised at the meeting. County Councillor Paulina Stockell offered financial support for the project and the Clerk would contact the KHS to establish how quickly the work could be carried out if funding was available.

At the same site meeting with Michael Heath the problems of verge erosion to the George Street/Redwall Lane triangle were discussed. As a result KHS will install posts at each corner of the triangle to prevent the erosion. Parish Councillors also resolved, following representations from a resident, to purchase a salt bin for the junction.

Friends of St Mary's Village Ramble The Friends of St Mary's Hunton will hold a village ramble on Sunday 25th October. All are invited to come and join in and spend a couple of hours walking the footpaths around our beautiful village in the company of fellow parishioners. Meeting at the Village Club at 10.00 am, the walk will be interesting but not too strenuous and will return to the club enabling walkers to quench their thirst! There will be a charge of £2 to go to the Charity. For details please contact Ron Porter or David Heaton. 820220/820678

Welcome to Applause - Atongo Zimba Saturday 17 October at 8pm

About Applause - Applause offers communities such as ours the opportunity to enjoy high quality professional entertainment. Based in Tunbridge Wells Applause organises a superb range of exciting performances from brilliant live music to professional small scale theatre shows using funding from the Arts Council and local Government subsidy. Applause works with volunteer promoters (such as myself) across Kent and East Sussex in order to bring great performances to rural venues. We have been promoting entertainment in Hunton Village Hall for over 7 years. As many of you who attend the shows will testify they are enthusiastically received and have led to some memorable evenings. If you haven't been to any of the shows then you will have missed the magic that only live performance in an intimate venue can bring.

Atongo Zimba - is a highly talented Ghanaian musician who has toured extensively in Europe and appeared at major festivals all over the world including Womad. Recently playing in London he was mentioned as gig of the week in the Independent. He plays a koliko, a two stringed calabash lute and is supported by a percussionist/singer and guitarist. Being a promoter requires a fair dash of enthusiasm and the desire to bring great performances to your Village Hall. Use it or lose it as the saying goes... It promises to be a great evening. Please contact us for tickets (£8 - under 21 £5) which will include a buffet at the interval. There will be a bar with good wine and real ale.

Bookings: Jane on 820127 (j.crane@virgin.net) Alan on 820683 (abcon_@hotmail.com)

Your Local Contacts:		Clerk to Parish Council: Vikki Stancombe	842782
Parish Council Chairman: Roger Sawtell	820731	Village Hall Booking: Jane Crane	820127
School: Secretary/Head Teacher	820360	Maidstone Police:	608186
Under 5's Pre-School:	820309	Neighbourhood Watch:	608173
Pre-School Supervisor: Nicola Julier	07972067110	'Potholes' concern (KCC): Kim Hills	0845 824 7800
Pond and Tree Warden: Anne Bishop	820683	Churchwarden: Alison Ellman-Brown	820288
Rector: Revd Peter Walker	747570**	Organist: Philip Moore	749356
Associate Rector: Revd David Jones	741474*	PCSO Jo Watts	07772 225983
Village Club: Doug Redfarn	820495		

*not available on Fridays **not available on Mondays

Dates for Diaries:

2nd, 3rd & 4th October from 10.00-5.00 (5.30 on Saturday). Flower Festival Hunton Village Church
Saturday 3rd October at 2.30pm. The John Briggs Memorial Lecture in the Village Hall
Saturday 3rd October from 10.00 to 2.00 pm. Demonstrations on stained glass
Saturday 17th October at 8pm Applause Event Atongo Zimba
Sunday 25th October at 10.00 Village Ramble
Sunday 25th October, Freighter Visit 1415-1500, Village Hall
Sunday 20th December, Freighter Visit 1415-1500 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
Cllr Keith Eatwell	745569
Cllr Ron Porter	820220

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

Dear Friends,

Nat King Cole had many hits in his singing career. I was thinking about one of them recently whilst sitting on a bench in the remembrance garden of our local crematorium waiting to take a service.

'The Autumn leaves drift by your window'. As I sat there the leaves were fluttering down and the vibrant green of our trees were showing signs of reds and browns.

I love Autumn with its array of colours and the promise of perhaps an Indian Summer.

I have never really understood why we call a period of sunny, warm weather as Autumn emerges an 'Indian Summer'. Further investigation reveals a number of different explanations.

Why Indian? When European settlers first came across the phenomenon in America it became known as the 'Indian's Summer' is one explanation. Another it is said has its origin from the raids on European settlements by Indian war parties, which usually ended in Autumn.

The incidence of Indian summers has increased significantly over recent years and could be attributed to what we now call global warming.

The English already had names for the occurrence: St. Luke's Summer (coinciding with St. Luke's Day on October 18th), or St. Martin's Summer (his day being November 11th).

Whatever we call a season of warm, dry and calm weather at this time of year, one thing is certain, the leaves are beginning to fall and Winter is just around the corner.

The hearty singing of such hymns as 'We plough the fields and scatter' and the decorating of our churches with Harvest goods and flowers heralds that time of the church year when we especially give thanks to God for 'all good gifts around us'.

The practice of such festivals began in the late 18th century when the eccentric Vicar of Morewenstow in Cornwall, the Revd. R.S. Hawker set aside the first Sunday in October as an opportunity for thanking God for their good harvest. It is also an opportunity today to focus our attention and prayers on those less fortunate than ourselves. These prayers are part of the ongoing cycle of prayer throughout the year for those in under-developed countries and countries torn apart by war and unrest. For the homeless and the refugees near and far.

We also remember the words of the book of Genesis: *'while earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease'*

In this, God promises never again to destroy everything on earth until the judgement day when Christ returns.

Every change of season is a reminder of that promise. Enjoy the 'Indian Summer' (if we have one!)

All good wishes,

PETER

St Mary's Church News

Preparations for the festival at the beginning of October have increased the number of people interested in the church and its condition. Because it has always been there, we assume it always will be there.

But Hunton's oldest building and institution needs lots of vigilant attention. Behind the scenes management naturally goes unnoticed to those not directly involved, so news about the building may interest a wider audience.

The Parochial Church Council carries ultimate responsibility for the building, its management and use. But the physical activities of caring for the building, the church cottage and the churchyards are delegated to a Fabric Committee. Although lengthy periods of time may elapse when nothing appears to change, the Fabric Committee is very active. It deals with all manner of topics from small items like fixing a broken lock to preparing major schemes of work costing very large sums of money. Pinpoint examples are mending the West Door when the ancient lock failed, sorting out the asbestos scare (which closed the church) and pushing the long cherished desire to restore the windows with ancient stained glass to a successful conclusion. This can also mean finding outside money; the PCC's own funds are quite limited.

So what is in the pipeline? Here is a short list which indicates the broad spectrum of activity.

Re-roofing the south aisle and re-pointing the south elevation of the tower; both are expensive tasks scheduled for late autumn 2009 to Spring /Summer 2010. Other major external work involves a drainage scheme for the very damp tower base, but this is not yet time scheduled. These works may temporarily give the church the appearance of a building site.

What about the interior? For nearly a decade efforts have been made to introduce modern facilities for example a toilet. A servery where refreshments can be offered, as well as better storage facilities for flower arrangers, documents and cleaning equipment are being planned too. A fresh study of how this can best be done now offers real hope that an acceptable scheme can be presented for approval.

We all like the interior of a church to look well cared for. So what about the great chunks of plaster missing from the walls and the state of the interior decoration?

The loss of plaster was caused by damp and now it is time to repair the walls. Plaster repairs consequentially mean redecoration must follow. Studies of how this work can be done and paid for are actively being pursued. As an indication of intent, refurbishment of the very shabby south porch has been pushed forward to act as a pilot scheme for the larger - scale work to come. The porch is the point of entry and where first impressions are made.

David Way, Chair: Fabric Committee

Hunton Club Book Group August Book Review *A Town Like Alice* By Nevil Shute

Jean Paget survived World War 2 as a prisoner of the Japanese in Malaya. After the war she comes into an inheritance that enables her to make choices. But a return visit to Malaya changes her life again when she discovers that an Australian soldier she thought had died had survived. She goes to Australia in search of him and of the town he described to her. Jean sets out to apply the same determination that helped her to endure the harshness of her war to turning the community into a town like Alice. She finds both her soldier and romance.

The group had mixed opinions on "Alice". Perhaps there was too much narrative, not enough depth, too shallow in feelings? Was it ageist in parts, bordering on feminism, just a little bit Mills & Boon'ish and even a little racist? May be so, however, it was also an easy read, exciting during Jean's Malaya travels, brought one member near to tears, enthralled another and generally just a mite old fashioned but charming for all that.

Our score reflects our opinions and gave us an average of 7.25 out of 10.

Our book for April is *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak.

Tricia Nichols

Getting Hunton's Parish Plan off to a Start

In Kent there are currently 69 completed plans and 31 being under taken, 42 have shown an interest in a plan for their community but Hunton has yet to get involved in the process

The Parish plan will give everyone in Hunton an opportunity to consult on all manner of issues and concerns they have living in the Parish. By doing a plan you can identify the needs and aspirations of the village and address the issues. Such issues may be to do with the traffic, transport, services, communication, affordable housing or education for example, though it does not include special planning aspects.

Developing a Parish plan is usually more successful in a smaller community which is an advantage for Hunton. A plan can take up to 18 month to complete and depends on the commitment people are able to make. It would be good if as many people are involved as possible as it will help to spread the load. There is no set time commitment to the process; it is about what people can offer and ensuring that it can work from that basis. It will be a good investment and time well spent, so any input, you will be able to make, however small, will be valuable.

The Parish Plan is not council led, but the Parish Council does need to be involved in the process throughout and knows what the Village wants. There is plenty of help to get started, and Roger Sawtell is prepared to explain what is involved at an introductory session one evening in November.

Once complete, the Parish plan is adopted by the Parish Council who use it as a mandate to plan their work. Some of the action to be achieved can be carried out by members of the community, but may involve links with other partners such as local authorities and other service providers. If you have any burning issues or ideas, or simply want to be involved in whatever way you can please come along and find out what it's all about. Further details in next month's issue

School News Learning on Laptops and the Role of the Robot

Fifteen new reception children have joined Hunton School this term and will be learning about the school environment and about being a pupil at the school. They will be learning to use the laptops and access the teaching and learning games on the Kent internet site. Meanwhile Lower School are learning about babies and their development. They will be exploring moving toys and have a chance to design and make a mobile for a baby.

Middle School is looking at robots; and learning about the development and role of robots in our technological society and will have the opportunity to design and make a robot with a moving part. Upper School will be studying the 2nd World War and learning about children at war and the life of evacuees. Their science lessons will be focussing on the earth, sun and the moon.

Religious Education will be geared towards the church as a special place and Lower school will be visiting St Mary's, whilst Middle school will be learning more about stories from the Old Testament

Maidstone Symphony Orchestra

Saturday 10th October 2009, 7.30pm at Maidstone Leisure Centre, Mote Hall, Mote Park, Maidstone

Conductor Brian Wright: Enescu - Romanian Rhapsody No.1.

Chopin - Piano Concerto No.1. Soloist Maurizio Baglini Piano

Prokofiev - Symphony No.5.

Here's a colourful opening to our season, with Romanian Gypsy rhythms in Enescu's flamboyant Rhapsody and Russian fireworks in Prokofiev's sparkling 5th Symphony. As soloist we welcome one of Italy's finest younger pianists, Maurizio Baglini, who made a much praised DVD of Chopin's well-loved 1st Concerto recently in Tokyo.

Season tickets are available for five concerts at £44, £64, and £80. Season Tickets for all children up to and including 18 years of age are FREE. Single tickets are £12, £16 and £21, seats for full time students with a student card £5, all available from the Membership Secretaries on 01622 736392, paid for and collected on the concert evening at Mote Hall, or from Maidstone Leisure Centre Mote Hall Box office on 0845 1552277 when payment can be made by credit card. Bookings can be taken on www.mso.org.uk using the booking form on the 'Performance' page. This concert is sponsored by The Friends of Maidstone Orchestral Society.

At St Mary's Church in October

Notices

Coffee Rota
1st November The Leonard family

Brass Cleaning
October - Lorraine Redfarn and Marion Weston

Flower Rota
Oct 1st FLOWER FESTIVAL
Oct 4th FLOWER FESTIVAL -All Helpers
Oct 11th ALL HELPERS
Oct 18th Mrs Adams
Oct 25th Mrs Adams

Hunton Sunday Club Hunton Sunday Club will meet at Scott's House, West Street on Sunday October 18th from 5.15pm until 6.45pm. A reminder that the Club is open to children of primary school age, whether living in the village or attending Hunton School. Contact David Jones for details 01622 741474

Services

Sunday 4th October - 17th Sunday after Trinity
6.00pm Songs of Praise- Revd Peter Walker
Readings: Preachers Choice

Sunday 11th October - 18th Sunday after Trinity
9.30 Holy Communion - Rev David Jones
Readings: Hebrews 4 v 12-16 and Mark 10 v 17-31

Sunday 18th October - 19th Sunday after Trinity
11.00am Morning Prayer - Rev Peter Walker
Readings: Isaiah 53 v 4-12 and Mark 10 v 35-45

Sunday 25th October - Last Sunday after Trinity Bible Sunday
09.30am Holy Communion - Rev David Jones
Readings: Hebrews 7 v 23-28 and Mark 10 v 46b-52

Churches Together in Maidstone Forum Meetings 2009

Sunday November 29th at 6.30pm

Proposed Service of Unity and AGM of Churches Together in Maidstone, further details and venue to follow

For further details of all these services/meeting please contact Rev David Jones (Chairman of Churches Together in Maidstone) on 01622 741474 or david_w_jones@talk21.com



Advanced Notice of Annual Bereavement Service

It is planned to hold our annual Service for the Bereaved on Sunday November 15th, 3.00pm. We also have a change of venue and will hold the service at All Saints, West Farleigh.

You are invited to the following:

Lunchtime Meetings at St Faith's Church, Brenchley Gardens, Maidstone

GIFTS FROM GOD

7th October Faith - Our Shield - Rev Robin Williamson St Luke's, Maidstone

4th November Hope - Our Anchor - Rev John Corbyn Holy Cross, Bearsted

2nd December Love - The Greatest Gift - Rev Nick Finlay St Mary's, Sittingbourne

Hot drinks available from 12.30pm, Bring your own lunch if you wish, Talk 1.00 - 1.30pm. Further details from Rev Jackie Cray 01622 673068

New English Orchestra Vigil 10th October 2009 St Luke's

Many of you will know that the New English Orchestra has a very high reputation for its ability to put on concerts that blend classical music and sacred music to provide a unique spiritual experience. The NEO propose a pilgrimage of 6 vigils across the South east of England - 3 during the summer and 3 during the autumn of 2009.

Father John from St Francis has kindly agreed to be co-host for the evening at St Luke's.

Eric Delve,

St. Luke's Church,

www.stlukes.org.uk St. Luke's Church Office: 01622 661169

October	4th	11th	18th	25th	1st November
Coxheath	11.00 Harvest	9.30 MP	11.00 HC	11.00 FS Baptism	11.00 HC
E. Farleigh	9.30 HC	08.00 HC 11.00 Harvest	9.30 HC	08.00 HC 09.30 Matins	9.30 HC
Linton	9.30 HC	09.30 Harvest	08.00 HC 11.00 FS	09.30 HC	9.30 HC
W. Farleigh	8.00 HC Harvest at the White House	11.00 MP Trad	9.30 HC	11.00 Harvest	08.00 HC

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