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Positive Progress for Pedestrian Path

The long-awaited footpath from Bensted Close to the Village Hall is gradually getting nearer to being installed, Hunton Parish Councillors heard at their November meeting.

Chairman Roger Sawtell reported that the two landowners involved had been approached about giving the go-ahead for their land alongside West Street to be used for the path installation.

One had said that he had "got the interest of the Village at heart" and would like to see the footpath laid, making it a great deal safer for pedestrians walking from the Village to the church and hall.

Hunton Primary School is also keen to see the path completed, allowing parents to park at the hall and walk safely to the school, eliminating a lot of the parking congestion problems arising outside the school.

Mr Sawtell said that once the land issues had been resolved the Council could go ahead with obtaining funding, although he was not yet certain how much the work would cost. There was already nearly £1000 in the kitty with funds having been raised at last year's fete.

Village Ramble

On a bright, sunny, late October day 20 people set off for the first Hunton Village ramble in aid of the Friends of St Mary's. The walk encompassed Hunton at the foot of the Hill and across the top of Hunton as well, where with the clear weather the views were quite spectacular. At the end of the walk many quenched their thirst at the Club. Another walk is to take place on Sunday 27th December, so if you want to blow away the Christmas cobwebs in good company join us at 10.45am at the Village Hall car park for a ramble of about one and half hours. Again there will be a collection £2.00 per head to go to the Friends of St Mary's. Dogs and children free!

Quiz Night

The Friends of St Mary's will hold a quiz night at the Village Hall on Saturday February 13th. Ideally teams of about 6-8 people are invited to come along. There will be a bar and supper will be provided within the entry price. See the January issue of the Herald for more details.

Don't forget the Introductory Talk about the Parish Plan

Do come along! Wednesday 9th December, 8pm in the Village Club. This is your chance to help shape what we want for our Village and to be pro active about the things that matter to us.

Flower Festival DVD

A delightful short film of the flower festival held in Hunton Church in October is now available on DVD. It shows all the principal flower arrangements linking each one to the part of the stained glass windows it represents. In addition all the smaller arrangements on the pew ends and elsewhere are included. The film is set to attractive music and lasts just under 15 minutes. It provides a lasting memento for anyone who took part in the festival and a wonderful Christmas present for anyone who enjoyed visiting it. The DVD was made for Hunton by Hannelore Biro from East Farleigh who made it because she was so impressed by the festival. The DVD is available price £5 (£4 of which will go to The Friends of St. Mary's) from Liz Oliver on 01622 820200 or liz.oliver@waitrose.com.

Your Local Contacts:

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

*not available on Fridays **not available on Mondays

Dates for Diaries:

Saturday 5th December, Yalding Yuletide Market 5-8pm
Wednesday 9th December, Parish Plan Introductory Meeting, 8pm, Village Club
Sunday 20th December, Freighter Visit 1415-1500 Village Hall
Next year Hunton Parish Council will be meeting on January 14th; March 11th;
May 13th; July 8th; September 9th and November 11th.

Parish Councillors contact details

Parish Council Chairman			
- Roger Sawtell	820731		
Clerk to the Parish Council			
- Vikki Stancombe	842782		
Cllr Les Leonard	820858	Cllr David Heaton	820678
Cllr Moira Walter	745765	Cllr Keith Eatwell	745569
Cllr Gary Thomas	820691	Cllr Ron Porter	820220

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

Dear Friends,

'When the time had fully come, God sent His Son' (Galatians 4:4)

I remember well when my parents bought me my first watch - a 'Timex'. I have had a number of watches since, but that first one still lingers in the memory.

The word 'time' has a number of different words in the New Testament: 'Chronos' the time we measure with a watch or clock and 'Kairos' meaning 'the right time', to mention but two.

St.Paul records for us in his Galatian letter that when the 'Kairos' time had come, God sent His Son. Thus Old Testament prophecies began to be realised and the dawn of the time of the Messiah began. The plan of salvation unfolded and the New Adam walked on the world's stage to redress what the first Adam had done.

Christmas cards like so many cards for other occasions have sentimental words; many hit the spot to convey what we want to say to the person to whom we send such cards. Many years ago I received a Christmas card which had words which resonated with me long after that Christmas had passed.

'If God had never sent His Son to dwell with men on earth:

If there had never been a Christmas to herald the Christ child's birth,

if in this world of violence, and hatred, crime and war,

there was absolutely nothing that made life living for,

If whenever Man was troubled and lost in loneliness,

there was no heaven for his heart to calm his restlessness;

then life would be intolerable and loathsome with disgust..

for there would be no love at all just ugliness and lust..

And there would be no Easter, and no resurrected Lord,

No promise of Eternity, and no heavenly reward.

So let us thank our Father that He sent his only Son,

so after this life's ended and our work on earth is done,

There's the promise of Eternity, where our Cross becomes a Crown

when all our trials are over and we lay our burdens down'

St.John writes in his Gospel about the coming of the Saviour in words which in their way are poetic - St.John chapter 1. We call it 'the Christmas Gospel'. His Gospel is written for this reason: 'These (words) are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name' (John 20:31).

Let us make good use of what time is left to us on earth to use that time well in His service, and celebrate this Christmas rejoicing that God sent the Son at the right time!

My wife Diana joins me in wishing you a Blessed and Holy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

PETER

School News

Sponsored skip helps pay for pond regeneration

We had a sponsored skip to raise money for our pond regeneration project.

Our pond has been very sad for a long time and in February will be completely re-dug, lined and re-planted by the Medway Valley Country Partnership. All the children will be involved in the regeneration work during the day. After the pond is back in working order, the Partnership will then undertake pond dipping with us and teach us about caring for our pond. It will be lovely to have a working pond for science learning.

Anne Widdecombe opens the new entrance and classroom

On Tuesday the official opening of the new entrance and classroom took place. It was a very exciting day with The Rt. Hon. Ann Widdecombe MP officiating, also attended by local councillors, the builders and officers from Rochester Diocese. We had a film crew from BBC2 who filmed the whole event including the assembly, the releasing of balloons and the cutting of the ribbon. Some of our older children were interviewed about their knowledge of politics and Westminster. Our children were superbly behaved, they presented with confidence during the assembly despite the guests and camera and were articulate and polite. This was commented on by all our visitors and the BBC. Tuesday was the first day of four weeks filming with Ms Widdecombe and at this early stage the producer was unsure what will be included in the final programme. However, they will contact us with more information about the title and when the programme will be aired on TV; we will also receive a DVD. For the children of Hunton School I am sure this will be a lovely memory of a very special time at school.



YALDING YULETIDE MARKET

SATURDAY 5th DECEMBER 5-8pm

The High Street will be closed to traffic and alive with street entertainers, festive food and gifts.

More details from the website: www.yaldingfarmersmarket.co.uk

Book Review October 2009

The Boy in Striped Pyjamas

Bruno is a nine-year-old boy growing up in Berlin during World War II. He lives in a five-storey house with servants, his mother and father and 12-year-old sister, Gretel. His father wears a fancy uniform and they have just been visited by a very important personage called the Fury, a pun which adult readers should have no trouble deciphering. As a consequence of this visit, Bruno's father gets a new uniform, his title changes to Commandment and, to Bruno's chagrin, they find themselves moving to a new home at a place called Out-With.

When Bruno gets there he is immediately homesick. He has left his school, his three best friends, his house, his grandparents and the bustling street life of urban Berlin with its cafes, fruit and veg stalls, and Saturday jostle. His new home is smaller, full of soldiers and there is no one to play with. From his bedroom window, however, he notices a town of people dressed in striped pyjamas separated from him by a wire fence. When he asks his father who those people are, he responds that they aren't really people.

Bruno is forbidden to explore but boredom, isolation and sheer curiosity become too much for him. One day, he follows the wire fence cordoning off the area where these people live from his house. He spots a dot in the distance on the other side of the fence and as he gets closer, he sees it's a boy. Excited by the prospect of a friend, Bruno introduces himself. The Jewish boy's name is Shmuel. Almost every day, they meet at the same spot and talk. Eventually, for a variety of reasons, Bruno decides to climb under the fence and explore Shmuel's world. The majority of our members agreed that once we had got used to how immaturely this book had been written, as it is written from a child's point of view, we all enjoyed it very much. We were fascinated by the childhood innocence when viewed against the holocaust and the devastating outcome of the story.

We scored the book an overall 6.

Jackie.

Slippery Road Surface Poses Hazard for Horses

Maidstone Borough Councillor Brian Mortimer has warned Hunton Parish Councillors about the dangers of a stretch of road when it was re-surfaced at Barn Hill using stone mastic asphalt (SMA).

"For several months after it is laid, this new formula surface, can prove really slippery and dangerous for motor cyclists and horse riders," he told the Council's November meeting, adding that he had pressed for warning signs to be erected. "It's great having our roads repaired but they have got to be safe."

Coxheath resident Angela Lawrence has reported that her horse Roo had taken a tumble at Barn Hill and was seriously injured. Six months after the accident the horse was still in pain and may have to be put down.

A petition was sent to Kent Highway Services with the names of 14 other horse riders protesting about the surface at Barn Hill. The authority had admitted there was a problem and stated that quartzite grit should be put on the surface but the petitioners felt that this action would be too late.

Out and Out Mysterious, Magical Mistletoe

Mistletoe is a plant of mystery, it is almost unique in its growing requirements and it is probably this unusual nature which has historically made it revered by Druids and fostered its place in folklore. Believed to avert witchcraft and wizardry along with lightning and thunderbolts, put out fires, cure ulcers and stimulate fertility in women and cattle!

This native plant is semi parasitic, it clings to soft barked trees, such as apple, ash and lime, only taking its mineral requirements from the tree and otherwise doing it no harm. The plant gets into the boughs of these trees when a Mistle thrush rubs its beak, made sticky by eating the white mistletoe berries, on the bark so depositing the seed. You can try to copy this action by rubbing a berry into a crack in tree bark, it may germinate, it may not, so do try lots of times.

The only mistletoe bearing tree which I have seen in Hunton has now gone, I would be pleased to hear that there are others, the sight of this unruly ball of unearthly vitality is intriguing and worth venturing out in the cold to see.

Christine McSweeney

Atongo and his Two Stringed Koliko

Atongo Zimba played a sparkling set at the latest Applause concert in the Village hall. Accompanied by an excellent percussionist and guitarist Atongo played his two stringed koliko with fire, humour and warmth. It was a thoroughly entertaining evening. With thanks to all who attended and especially to the Village Hall team. The all round support raised over £400 for the Village Hall fund.

By popular request we are very pleased to host an additional Applause concert on Friday 19 February at 8pm.

Jeff Lang is a hugely talented guitarist, singer/songwriter from Australia. He tours world-wide and is a definite winter warmer on a February evening. Have a look at his website: www.jefflang.com.au

Alan Bishop



At St Mary's Church in December

Notices

Coffee Rota

6th December - The Dixon family

Brass Cleaning

December - Marion Leonard

Flower Rota

December 8th - Mrs McLoughlin

December 13th - Mrs McLoughlin

December 20th CAROL SERVICE - ALL

Hunton Sunday Club

The December meeting of the Hunton Sunday Club will take place on Sunday December 13th at The Gudgeon Farm House, West Street starting at 5.15pm. The annual party will be held on Wednesday December 30th from 4.30pm to 6.30pm in the Village Hall. A reminder that the Club is open to all children of primary school age either living or attending school in Hunton.

Services

Sunday 6th December - 2nd of Advent

11.00 Family Service

Rev David Jones

Readings: Preachers Choice

THURSDAY 10TH DECEMBER

6PM HUNTON SCHOOL CHRISTINGLE

Sunday 13th December - 3rd of Advent

09.30am Holy Communion

Rev Peter Walker

Readings: Zephaniah 3 v 14-20 and Luke 3 v 7-18

Sunday 20th December - 4th of Advent

6pm Carol Service

Rev David Jones

Thursday 24th December - Christmas Eve

11.30pm Holy Communion

Rev Michael Shaw

Readings: Hebrews 1 v 1-4 and John 1 v 1-14

Friday 25th December - Christmas Day

09.30am Christmas Day Service followed by Holy Communion

Revd Peter Walker

Readings: Luke 2 v 1-7

Sunday 27th December - 1st Sunday after Christmas

10.30 Benefice Service

Rev David Jones at Coxheath

Readings: Exodus 33 v 7 - 11a, John 1 and John 21 v 19b to end

The Heart of Kent Hospice



With Christmas only a few weeks away, The Heart of Kent Hospice decided to celebrate Christmas by tripling the top prize in their Lottery Christmas Super Draw this year, giving away £3,000 to one lucky winner. The Super Draw lucky winners will be selected at random on Christmas Day - an extra gift that will be an added bonus to any family at this time of year. In addition to the superb 1st prize of £3,000, there are also 23 other cash prizes available; with 2nd prize of £250, 3rd prize of £100, 4th prize of £50, and 20 prizes of £10 each. Tickets are now available to buy from all Hospice shops and from December tickets will also be available to buy at the Royal Star Arcade in Maidstone. Eve Allen, Hospice Shop Manager at Headcorn said "We will be telling everybody who comes in what a lucky shop we are and that they should buy a ticket." If you are already a Hospice lottery member, you will be automatically entered into the Super Draw but why not help to raise more money by collecting extra tickets from the Hospice and selling them to your friends, family and work colleagues. The money raised from the sale of the lottery tickets will go towards the £3m annual running costs at The Heart of Kent Hospice. You can buy tickets from The Heart of Kent Hospice, Aylesford and at the Hospice shops including Borough Green, Coxheath, Headcorn, Larkfield, Lenham, Senacre, Snodland, Staplehurst, Starnes Court, Park Wood and West Malling. For more information, please contact the fundraising team on 01622 790195 or email fundraising@hokh.co.uk

For Your Diary

Confirmation Service - 7th February 2010 Five adults from the Benefice will be confirmed on Sunday February 7th 2010 at Holy Trinity church, Coxheath by the Rt Rev Michael Gear as honorary assistant Bishop in the Diocese who lives at Yalding. The service is at 10am and will include Confirmation and Holy Communion. Please pray for these five adults as they take this step on their Christian journey

Ash Wednesday - 17th February 2010 There will be a celebration of 7.30pm Holy Communion at St Mary's Hunton to mark this day and also the beginning of Lent.

Lent Study 2010 Starting on Wednesday February 14th and every Wednesday during Lent (until March 24th) the Lent Course this year will be entitled 'A Lent Study on the Healing Ministry led by the Rector, Rev Peter Walker, and will be held at Holy Trinity Church, Coxheath for the whole benefice. Each evening will commence at 7.30pm and finish at 9.00pm.

December	6th	13th	20th	24th	Christmas Day	27th
Coxheath	11.00 HC	9.30 MP	4PM CAROL SERVICE	5PM CHILDRENS SERVICE 11.15PM HC	11.00 CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE	10.30 BENEFICE SERVICE
E. Farleigh	9.30 HC	08.00 HC 11.00 FS	6PM CAROL SERVICE	4PM CHRISTINGLE 11.30PM HC	SEE OTHER CHURCHES	
Linton	9.30 HC	09.30 HC	0808.00 HC 4PM CAROL SERVICE	11.30PM HC	09.30 CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE FOLLOWED BY HC	
W. Farleigh	8.00 HC	4pm Carol Service 7.30pm Carols The White House	9.30 HC	09.30 HC	11.00 CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE	

HC: Holy Communion, MP: Morning Prayer, (bcp) Book of Common Prayer, FS: Family Service,
SW: Service of Word

APCM Annual Parish Council Meeting