



Downpour ends finely balanced match

Luck ran out for the organisers of the East Street versus West Street annual cricket match when the rains came down - in bucket loads - putting an early end to the match for the first time in six years.

The early 'stumps' was a great shame as the pitch and outfield were in superb condition and the match was both evenly balanced and well supported with 14 players each side and an enthusiastic crowd.

For the first time the Kent Messenger carried a photo and report while an unusually large number of people new to the village played - it was good to see them all and it is hoped they enjoyed it enough to play again next year!



Photograph: Kent Messenger

Children, aged between 10 and 16, all batted, bowled, fielded and even kept wicket with a good deal of style, commitment and energy! In fact they created such an impression there is talk of a challenge match next year for the children of the village to take on a mixed district and club Second XI side.

By the premature close of the main match, East Street had scored 156 with James Redman (35 not out) and Marco Marsh (18) top scoring. Key wicket takers for West Street were Peter Moss with his subtle leg breaks (5 for 3) and Timothy Forster with a rather more direct approach (3 for 2). In reply West Street had scored 83 for 3 when the heavens opened, Timothy Forster featuring again (26 not out) and Patrick Wilson (18 n.o).

Thanks to Andrea Forster and all those who provided the match tea; and to the groundsman, John Adams, and his wife and son Chris for their support and hard work, also to scorers (Vikki and Alice). Money raised has been divided equally between the Hunton Herald and the Cricket Club.

Hell and High Water by Blue Chicken

Blue Chicken Theatre presents 'Hell and High Water' at the Village Hall on Saturday October 1st using a cast of four, masks, puppets, and the latest in trailing edge technology.

They have created a "swashbuckling yarn for the whole family," guaranteed to be fun and including a popular 'behind the scenes' tour after the show for anyone who would like to have a go with a mask or puppet.

Book early for this latest Applause event with tickets £5 adults £3 children available from Alan Bishop 820775 day, 820683 evenings. and Jackie Crooks 820226.

Your Local Contacts:			
Parish Council Chairman: Roger Sawtell	820731	Village Club Doug Redfarn	820495
School: Secretary/Head Teacher	820360	Clerk to Parish Council: David Swan	814445
Under 5's Pre-School:	820309	Village Hall Booking: Jackie Crooks	820226
Maidstone Police:	608186	Under-5s Playgroup:	741951
Pond and Tree Warden: Anne Bishop	820683	Pre-School Supervisor: Pippa Fordham	746829
Associate Rector: Revd Ruth Bierbaum	743866**	Neighbourhood Watch:	608173
also: Revd David Jones	741474**	'Potholes' concern (MBC): Adrian Hygate	0845 824 7800
Hon PCC Secretary: Nicky Grainger	813527	Churchwarden: Alison Ellman-Brown	820288
Rectory:	747570	supported by Joy McLoughlin	820551
		Organist: Philip Moore	749356

**not available on Fridays

Dates for Diaries:

7th September, Parish Council meeting, village hall

24th September, rubbish freighter 7.45am to 8.45am in the Hall car park.

1st October 'Hell and High Water' The Blue Chicken Theatre Company, village hall (820683/820226)

26th October Bridge Drive and Tea, Village Hall 2-5pm, £6, proceeds to church restoration (813527/820369)

26th November ZUM, village hall (820683)

All items for the October issue to the Editor as soon as possible, and by 15th September, please

Welcoming strangers with open hearts

19 Westerhill Road, Coxheath, ME17 4DQ

This month we welcome our new Rector Peter and his wife Diana to the Benefice, and by the time you read this, everything will have been already prepared for his Induction service with all the special rituals and visiting dignitaries that involves.

And in the Rectory, Kim & Aggie's understudies have done a fine job making sure everything is spotless. So all the right things have hopefully been said and done. But surely welcoming is more than doing and saying the right things.

When Abraham in the Old Testament welcomed three strangers, he not only welcomed them like Kings, but when they left Abraham was changed. He and Sarah had been challenged in their faith.

In these three men God had come to them and proclaimed an important truth: a word of hope about God's promise. Abraham, with the eyes of faith, knew that God himself had visited him and that experience informed the rest of his life. You can read the ups and downs of Abraham and Sarah's journey in faith, for yourself in Genesis chapters 12-25.

And I hope that we too, might not just welcome Peter and Diana with our words and actions, but with open hearts and minds. For when you do this, listening to the word of hope and challenge they bring, you too might find yourself welcoming God.

Ruth Bierbaum

**The Herald is pleased to be
among the first to welcome the
Rev Peter Walker
who is the newly appointed
Rector for the Benefice of
Coxheath, East Farleigh, Hunton,
Linton, and West Farleigh.**



Seen here with his wife Diana, Peter will take up his post on **Friday 2 September 2005** following his Induction service at **St Mary's Church, Hunton**. This will be at **7.30 pm** and all are most welcome to attend the service and the refreshments afterwards in Hunton Village Hall.

Peter was ordained in Tasmania Australia in 1981, having moved there in 1976 from the UK, following a career in banking. While in Tasmania he served as Rector and Priest in Charge in rural farming and mining parishes.

On his return to the UK in 1989, he took up positions as Rector in Lincolnshire and Somerset, with up to seven churches, so Peter is well qualified for his role of Rector looking after the five parishes here. He was also a part time chaplain to Butlins Holiday Camp in Somerset. His last position was as Chaplain in the Costa del Sol, with ministry to the 'ex-pat' and holidaymaker community, a job that was not all 'sun, sea, and beaches' as Peter is quick to point out!

Peter lists his interests as singing with choral societies, cricket (he is a trained umpire to county level), browsing for antiques, reading, and some gardening. Diana is a trained nurse and is from Tasmania originally.

We look forward to meeting Peter and Diana, and welcoming them as they settle into life at the Rectory in Coxheath.

Watch out for suspicious characters

Hunton residents, especially the elderly who may be more vulnerable, have been warned to be on their guard after a burglary in a neighbouring village.

Two men called on a house in Headcorn saying they needed water for their car. One went with the house owner to a tap in the garden while the other said he wanted to use the toilet. The resident later found money and a purse stolen. The two were in a white VW Golf registration E156 WKJ.

And in Wateringbury a 90 year old woman was approached by a man who beckoned her to her side gate where he asked if he could check the garden for his child's toy.

He dithered for about 15 minutes and also made a mobile phone call - probably to his colleague. The man left and the lady subsequently found a search had been made of her house.

Parish officer PC Gary Shaw says: "Residents, especially the elderly, must watch out because these criminals are in the area. These were horrible incidents involving the vulnerable."

Delicious & Slim reach their goal

Thanks to local support, Delicious & Slim (formally Deliciously Slim) is going from strength to strength. The group, run by Alison Adams and her partner Jaquie, now run three classes - two at Coxheath and one at Kings Hill - and many of their clients have reached their goal weight.

The pair have continuing support from the health service, especially the diabetic sector, and their diabetic clients have been especially successful in controlling their blood sugars, many being able to reduce their medication as a result.

Alison says: "Our most exciting moment to date came last month when we were featured both in the health and beauty magazine Top Sante and the Daily Express national newspaper. We now have postal clients from all over the country."

"And Herald readers were the first to learn about our venture. Those who would like to know more and possibly change their lives, should give us a call on 07913972231 or e-mail on dslim@tiscali.co.uk."

Call for parking ban outside school

Hunton Parish Council's calls for parking restrictions in West Street outside the school have been answered by Kent Highways who say the village is on their list of assessments and action could be taken "if there is sufficient funding."

Chairman Roger Sawtell has expressed alarm over the danger to ramblers using the Greensand Way and emerging onto Hunton Hill which is narrow at this point with no pavements. The highways authority is being informed. "The path is steep with no handrail support so it is particularly dangerous for walkers, often with dogs, coming onto the busy hill with vehicles passing close by. It also requires better sign posting."

Parishioner Judy Vickery has expressed concern over parking on both sides of the road in Bensted Close saying that at times it would be difficult for emergency vehicles to get through. She is contacting Maidstone Housing with her suggestion that all cars should park on the house side not by the green.

The council is still looking to fill the vacancy left by Liz Oliver who stepped down this summer after many years' loyal service, and members will discuss a replacement at their September meeting.

Anyone hit any potholes?

Judy Vickery of Bensted Close, is fighting for compensation for the cost of a tyre damaged when her car hit a pothole at the foot of Hunton Hill.

Maidstone council has now told her that they do not feel the claim is valid as they have not received any other pothole complaints from motorists. Anyone who reported potholes to either Maidstone Borough Council or KCC between 20 February and 13 May please contact Mrs Vickery on 820524.

Cubit clampdown on vehicle tax dodgers

Operation Cubit, a clampdown on untaxed or abandoned vehicles, began in the Maidstone area in August.

This initiative involving the DVLA and Maidstone Borough Council involves the removal of these cars, vans and other vehicles on the road or on Housing Association property, where the necessary warnings have been given.

Parish policeman P-c Gary Shaw says: "If you know of any such vehicles please pass me details of the make, model, registration number and location.

"Or if you know of someone using a vehicle that is untaxed and kept off the road at other times and can give me an idea of when it is being used I will pass this information onto the police officers dealing with Operation Cubit."

LOGOS - the place to meet friends

Are you: between 13-18; wanting to make new friends; free on a Thursday evening; and wanting to have your say on things you see going on in the world? Then come along to LOGOS meeting in East Farleigh church hall term-time Thursdays 7.30-9.30pm for hanging out, recreation & discussion.

The first LOGOS will be September 15th. Call Revd. Ruth for more details on 743866

At St Mary's Church in September

Notices

Brass cleaning: Mrs Way and Mrs S.Scott

Flowers: 4th & 11th: Mrs Way

18th & 25th: Mrs Pulham

Church Family Service Coffee Rota (11am)

4th September: Mrs Anscomb & Mrs Gurr

2nd October: Mrs Holmes & Mrs Way

Church Cleaning: Mrs Ellman-Brown

Hunton Sunday Club

The group gets together again after the holiday break on Sunday September 18th from 5.15 - 6.45 pm. The venue has not yet been decided but the regulars and schoolchildren from Hunton will be informed. A reminder that the club meetings on the third Sunday of the month are for all primary school age children who either live in the parish or attend the school. For further details contact Rev. David Jones 741474

Services

Sunday 4th - 15th Sunday after Trinity

11.00am Church Family Service

Revd R Bierbaum

Reading: Matthew **18**: 15-20

Sunday 11th - 16th Sunday after Trinity

No morning service

6pm Patronal Evensong

Revd R Bierbaum and Revd P Walker

18 September - 17th Sunday after Trinity

11.00am Morning Prayer

Mr D.Barnes

Readings Jonah **3**: 10-4:11 Matthew **20**: 1-16

25 September - 18th Sunday after Trinity

9.15am Holy Communion (CW)

Revd D.Jones

Readings Ezekiel **18**: 1-4, 25-32 Matthew **21**: 23-32

2 October

11.00am Harvest Thanksgiving

Call to continue the campaign

It's been nearly two months since the G8 summit and the momentous march through Edinburgh for trade justice, but the campaign is far from over.

This month campaigners are targeting the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, making sure they agree to drop the harmful conditions they impose on aid and debt.

These two bodies wield immense power over poor countries' trade policies. Their annual meetings are next month when Hilary Benn, as head of the Department for International Development, can influence the decisions. Campaigners are being urged to take action and write to Hilary Benn.

The next big event, a mass lobby of Parliament, is planned in November. The trade justice campaign goes on.

The latest update on Alpha

Having completed another enjoyable Alpha course in the summer, the organisers are holding fire on announcing the next one until Rev Peter Walker has arrived.

For those who would like to register an interest in the next course (which will, most likely, be based in Coxheath), please call the Rectory on 747570 and remember to leave your name, number, and address, so the office can get back to you!

For those starting a new school this month....

May smiling faces welcome you

May helping hands welcome you

May kind teachers welcome you

May tears fly away, temper go away, lies stay away.

May you make new friends, learn new things,
grow strong limbs.

May God make you thoughtful; Jesus make you happy
Spirit make you friendly. Amen.

<i>September</i>	<i>4th</i>	<i>11th</i>	<i>18th</i>	<i>25th</i>
Coxheath	11.00 HC	9.15 MP	11.00 HC	11.00 Harvest
E. Farleigh	9.15 HC	8.00 HC 10.30 MP	11.00 Parish Worship	8.00 HC 10.30 MP
Linton	9.15 HC	8.00 HC 11.00 CFS	9.15 HC	9.15 HC
W. Farleigh	8.00 HC 6.00 EA	11.00 CFS	9.15 HC	11.00 Harvest
<p style="text-align: center;">10am every Thursday—Holy Communion (1662) at Coxheath HC: Holy Communion MP: Morning Prayer CFS: Church Family Service EA: Evening Alternative</p>				

For Weddings, Thanksgivings, and Baptisms, please contact [RevD David Jones \(741474\)](mailto:RevD.David.Jones@stmarys.org.uk)