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West Street Footpath

An urgent call has been sounded - yet again - for a roadside footpath to be constructed from the village to the church, in a bid to make it safer for those walking to St Mary's and the village hall.

Parish Councillors have been pressing for years for a path as the road is used by speeding motorists making it dangerous for pedestrians - especially younger walkers.

In the past plans have been suggested for placing the path on the north side of the road, but with several different landowners this proved a problem. Lorraine Redfarn raised the possibility of siting it on the opposite side of the road.

Gary Thomas, giving a report from the TRAMPS transportation group to the Annual Parish Meeting, said that plans for a footpath - either to the church or from there to the foot of Hunton Hill - were included on a list of schemes needing priority action.

However, he added: "It could be several years before such a scheme finally gets the go-ahead - if ever! Walkways and cycle paths always seem to get the go-ahead for new housing estates in the area but villages like ours don't get improvements."

When Councillors discussed the possible installation of a sports wall for youngsters - similar to the one at Loose - at the King George V Playing Fields in Hunton, it was stressed that a footpath would then be vital for youngsters visiting the site from the village.

Hunton Gardens on Display

The success of last year's event has encouraged five of Hunton's gardeners to raise funds for charity again by collectively opening their gardens on Sunday 18th June under the National Gardens Scheme.

All gardens will be open from 11.00am to 5.00pm.

Teas and coffees are available at Elphicks Farmhouse.

Combined entry for all gardens is £3.00 (children are free). Map provided on first entry also shows parking.

- 2 Bishops Oast
- Elphicks Farmhouse
- Hillside
- 3 New Cottages
- Southover

Full details of all gardens are printed in NGS "Yellow Book" or county leaflets, which are widely available.

David Way

Has anyone lost a Cat?

A stray black and white neutered cat has been found in East Street.

Please contact Lesley Townsend
01622 820155.

Use it or Lose it!

Mobile Library visits: WEDNESDAY

Hunton School 1.35-2.05 (weekly)

Bensted Close 2.10-2.25 (weekly)

Village Hall 2.30-2.50 (alternate weeks only)

Tel 07740 183756 for more information

It is free to join - all are welcome

Your Local Contacts:

Parish Council Chairman: Roger Sawtell
School: Secretary/Head Teacher
Under 5's Pre-School:
Maidstone Police:
Pond and Tree Warden: Anne Bishop
Rector: Revd Peter Walker
Associate Rector: Revd Ruth Bierbaum
also: Revd David Jones

820731
820360
820309
608186
820683
747570
743866*
741474*

*not available on Fridays

Village Club: Doug Redfarn 820495
Clerk to Parish Council: David Swan 814445
Village Hall Booking: Jackie Crooks 820226
Under-5s Playgroup: 741951
Pre-School Supervisor: Pippa Fordham 746829
Neighbourhood Watch: 608173
'Potholes' concern (KCC): Kim Hills 0845 824 7800
Churchwarden: Alison Ellman-Brown 820288
Organist: Philip Moore 749356

Dates for Diaries:

Saturday 10th June Council Freighter Visit, 7.45am to 8.45am Village Hall car park.

Sunday 18th June Open Gardens 11am-5pm

Sunday 2nd July Annual East Street v West Street cricket match 2pm (820628)

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

Dear Friends,

Jesus praying to the Father said: 'as you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world' (St. John 17:18)

What a commission! Jesus was speaking of the disciples, yet these words are just as relevant to us today. Jesus is 'the man with a mission'.

Sometimes he is described as the 'sent-one'. 'My food, said Jesus, is to do the will of Him who sent me'. From the beginning of all time God has been the missionary God reaching out to men and women with his love and truth, seeking people to call them back to Himself.

God sent Jesus to do this very thing. As Jesus hung on the cross he cried: 'it is finished'. The work was complete in the saving of all humanity. Before Jesus ascended to the Father he equipped the disciples and sent them forth to preach and teach and bring others to the knowledge of the Saviour. 'As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world'.

The Lord wants to equip each and every one of us for the rest of our lives. Wherever you are, God is at hand to help us on our journey in life. God leads us where we are meant to be if we listen to Him and look for the signposts along the way. The prophet Isaiah felt unable to do God's will at first, but once God had given him a real assurance he said: 'here am I Lord, send me'.

It was a special commission too at our recent Confirmation service held at Linton Church when Bishop Brian confirmed seven adults and three youngsters. Throughout the many weeks of confirmation preparation all began to understand a little more about God's commission to the Christian way of life. It was a great joy to see them affirm their belief and receive the laying-on of hands.

We were all asked in the service to re-commit our lives to God in our affirmation of the Creed - that is, our belief in the missionary God who comes to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He who seeks us out and asks (as we sang in the Confirmation service): *'will you come and follow me if I but call your name? Will you go where you don't know and never be the same? Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known, will you let my life be grown in you, and you in me?'* Peter.

Full Programme at Hunton School

This term the children have had a variety of safety talks including one from the Kent Fire Brigade who talked to the children about the dangers of fire. The Smart Brothers gave a memorable performance about road safety which the children thoroughly enjoyed and from which they gained a great deal of knowledge.

Just before Easter the children, parents and governors joined together for the end of term Easter Service at St. Mary's Church where the older children gave a performance of the 'The Three Trees'. Middle School read the Bible readings with clarity and our younger children closed the service with prayers. Reverend Walker spoke to the children about the significance of the cross and why we have hot cross buns.

The local elections saw our children once again writing and delivering manifestos for our annual elections to the School Council. The School Council is now firmly embedded in our school providing the children with a voice. Over the past year they have discussed the possibility of new playground equipment and restructured playtimes, a new stage and a water chiller. All these requests were very reasonable and have resulted in these items now being in school.

Linda and David Twaite

Linda and David are leaving the village after 19 years of taking an active part in all aspect of Hunton village life including supporting the church, school and village hall.

David was Church Treasurer for nine years and Linda was a Church Warden for seven years, both have been trustees of the alms houses for 10 years. Linda was a School Governor at Hunton Primary School for 18 years, and was involved in the appointment of the Rector and the school Head Teacher. Linda organised the distribution of the Parish News in Hunton before the Hunton Herald came into being and recently served as a local magistrate.

Linda and David, who have been retired for seven years, are now moving to a farmstead near Chilham only seven miles from Canterbury where they hope this will be their final move. They are moving to be near their youngest daughter Helen and her French husband 'Romney' who are expecting twins in August!

Linda and David will be sad to leave Hunton where they will be greatly missed leaving a large gap within the Hunton community.

Eileen Bishop of Peace Cottage would like to say a 'big thank you' to all who supported her through the recent loss of her husband George.

HUNTON CLUB BOOK GROUP

APRIL BOOK REVIEW - MISS GARNETT'S ANGEL BY SALLY VICKERS

Miss Garnett's Angel is the story of a respectable, middle-aged English woman who is overwhelmed by her first visit to Venice. Art, one of the themes that weaves through the book, links the story of Tobias and the Angel with the greatest emotional crisis in the life of the cool, retiring Miss Garnett.

Not all members enjoyed the way the two stories intertwined. Some members found it intriguing whilst others were disappointed with the storyline. Some felt that the story fizzled out at the end. However, most liked the fact that Miss Garnett's experience changed her life.

The group gave a very mixed response ranging from 2/10 to 8/10 for this book. Overall, we give it 7/10.

May's chosen book is the Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini. It is set in Afghanistan in the 1970's.

'Are the needs of our youngsters being ignored?'

Hunton Parish Councillors are being asked to consider providing the youth of the village - aged from 11 to mid teens - with a shelter and sports facilities to "keep the youngsters off the streets."

The idea for such a scheme has come from a meeting in Coxheath, called by the village community warden Claire Roberts and PC Gary Shaw. It was agreed to press for a steel framed sports wall with provision for basketball and football, linked with a youth shelter for Coxheath. This would be similar to the one provided in Loose - at a cost of around £25,000 and after a six-year battle by parish councillors.

"I know of youths in Hunton who have made their way to Loose just to play on the equipment," said Hunton councillor Lorraine Redfarn, who attended the Coxheath meeting with fellow members Keith Eatwell and Les Leonard. They were impressed with what they heard and agreed to raise the issue at the May Annual Meeting.

Mrs Totts the Coxheath Council Chairman reported that she had approached village youths and asked them what they would like. "They said that they wanted somewhere to sit and talk without being disturbed or moved on by the police. They often felt they were being ignored and adults were letting them down."

A Maidstone YMCA worker felt that every village had a duty to provide facilities for this age group, who were often over-looked and blamed for any outbreaks of vandalism. However, play equipment was nearly always provided for younger toddlers.

PC Shaw said that in most communities youngsters gather at a central point - in Coxheath at the main crossroads and can be viewed with alarm by villagers. "They need to be diverted into a 'safe' location where they can meet and enjoy themselves." The Loose Chairman explained that Open Days were held to promote the youth scheme while questionnaires were circulated. Finance was available from many sources including the County and Borough Councils as well as from the Lottery Fund.

Out and Out Alliums, a bulb for summer.

Most gardens manage a show of spring bulbs, they are easy to plant and return each year without too much bother, so why not extend the season with a summer flowering bulb? The most ornamental Alliums are just coming into flower now, my favourites have mauve globular flower heads which float or bob above their neighbouring plants. Allium 'Purple Sensation' has tall flowers and a rich purple colouring. These are good amongst herbaceous plants as they hide the leaves which will be dying off as the flowers start to open. Planted in widely spaced drifts these flowers will give uniformity to the border.

Another excellent Allium is *Cristophii* which has shorter stems but much larger mauve flowers with a wonderful metallic sheen. Also try *Shubertii* which has flowers that look like a firework frozen in mid-burst. These are slightly tender but survived in my garden through last winter although I did plant more to ensure a show this year. These alliums, planted in Autumn, prefer to be in sun with well drained soil, the dying leaves can be cut off as the flowers open if they are visible. Lastly don't be too quick to clear away the seed heads as these hold their shape once dead giving a further season of interest and seedlings if you're lucky.

All three alliums can be seen in gardens open for the National Garden Scheme in Hunton on the 18 June.

Christine McSweeney

YALDING Garden Safari Yalding Scouts are holding a Garden Safari on Sunday June 11th 2.30-5.30pm. Visitors will be able to stroll round nine gardens near the High Street. Entry to all gardens will cost £4 (children free). Cars can be parked in the school in Vicarage Road and you can start at any garden displaying a safari sign. Plants and afternoon teas will be on sale and all proceeds will go to the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts' and Explorers groups in the village. Phone 01622 814444 for more details

Theft Warning

PC Gary Shaw our local constable is very concerned over the increasing number of thefts from gardens. The culprits are bold, are entering premises during daylight hours, and are stealing machinery then or coming back later even after being challenged. He suggests you challenge the occupants of any unknown vehicle entering your property or driveway, even if their enquiries regarding scrap or the possibilities of gardening work seem plausible. Make sure you take the details of these vehicles. He says it is important to "get the registration number, colour, and note any marking" such as a dented wing or repainting. However he stresses that people can help themselves, having had reports of tractors being left unattended with their engines running and he notes that "ride on mowers are easily moved...so consider using ground spikes to fix them". Gary Shaw also says it is important to have a record of serial numbers of the engine and chassis in a safe place. And, just as usefully, mark machinery with your post code using UV pens, etching or welding the number to the frame. If you need help and advice call John Grant of Maidstone Crime Prevention on 07980 683261

South East Plan David Swan, Parish Clerk, has a copy of the South East Plan from the Regional Assembly. It is an impressive and heavy piece of work and David is happy to loan it. Please ring David on 01622 814445

At St Mary's Church in June

Notices

Brass Cleaning: Liz Oliver and Nicky Grainger

Flowers: 4th June Mrs Forster
11th June Mrs Forster
18th June Mrs Cadel
25th June Mrs Cadel

Church Family Service Coffee Rota:

4th June Andrews Family

Hunton Sunday Club:

18th June - 1 Buston Manor Cottages, Lughorse Lane
5.15pm -6.45pm. An evening of outdoor games.

Open to all children of primary school age.

The Club is open to all primary school age children and normally meets on the third Sunday evening of each month (except for August). Contact David Jones 741474 for details

Services

Sunday 4th June - Pentecost Whit Sunday

11.00am Church Family Service Revd Ruth Bierbaum
Reading: John 15 v 26-27 & 16 v 4b-15

Sunday 11th June - Trinity Sunday

9.15am Holy Communion (1662) Revd Peter Walker
Readings: Isaiah 6 v 1-8, John 3 v 1-17

Sunday 18th June - 1st Sunday after Trinity

11.00am Morning Prayer Revd Peter Walker
Readings: Ezekiel 17 v 22-24, Mark 4 v26-34

Sunday 25th June - 2nd Sunday after Trinity

9.15am Holy Communion Revd Peter Walker
Readings: Job 38 v 1-11, Mark 4 v 35-41

WHY

Why God are the traffic lights always red?

Why God is my purse always empty?

Why God did you give me this face, this body, this brain?

Why God can't my life be easy?

Why God did you let that earthquake happen?

Why God is there a famine in Africa - again?

Why did my loved one die?

And Jesus asked....My God why have you forsaken me?

And

"Why are you crying?" the angels asked her.

"Because they have taken away my Lord", she replied,

"and I don't know where they have put him".

John 20:13-16

And God says

"You don't understand now why I am doing it;

Some day you will".

John 13:7

Revd Ruth Bierbaum

Dates for your Diary

LIVING WORD (A bible study series) on the 4th Tuesday of each month at the Coxheath Centre. A taped introduction by Canon Michael Cole. **7.45pm prompt start, finishing at 9.00pm**

Dates: 27th June: Healing,

25th July: Led by the spirit,

No AUGUST MEETING

26th September: Gifts of the Spirit,

24th October: Ministry of Encouragement,

28th November: Unity of the Church

SONGS OF PRAISE

Sunday 11th June at Holy Trinity Church, Coxheath at 6.00pm

This is our very own version of the popular BBC programme. An opportunity to come for an hour and sing the familiar, the not so familiar and something new.

QUIET DAY led by Susan Thornhill. Find some stillness today - a time for rest, reflection and renewal. **Linton Church Saturday 24th June 11am - 5pm**

Booking essential as numbers are necessarily limited. For more information about cost, what to bring with you or to reserve a place contact Revd Cilla McKenzie Tel 01622 741318 email: johncilla.mckenzie@onetel.net Please advise of special needs when booking

| <i>June</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 CFS |
| E. Farleigh | 9.15 HC | 8.00 HC 10.30 MP | 11.00 PW | 8.00 HC 10.30 MP |
| Linton | 9.15 HC | 8.00 HC (1662) 11.00 CFS | 9.15 PW | 9.15 HC |
| W. Farleigh | 8.00 HC | 11.00 CFS | 9.15 HC | 11.00 MP |

10am every Thursday—Holy Communion (1662) at Coxheath

HC: Holy Communion MP: Morning Prayer CFS: Church Family Service EA: Evening Alternative

For Weddings, Thanksgivings, and Baptisms, please contact Revd David Jones (741474)