



Mobile Home Worries Residents

Real fear has been expressed by residents living in the extensive grounds of Jennings country house about a mobile home that has been positioned on a nearby plot of land off Lughorse Lane and believed to be used by travellers.

Heather Larman, one of a dozen worried residents overlooking the site, voiced her fears at the September Parish Council meeting. She said hardcore had been laid at the field entrance and could lead to more travellers descending on Hunton.

Asked what action was being taken she was told that the leader of Maidstone Borough Council's enforcement team, Hilary Orr, had been contacted. She said the ownership of the land 'housing' the mobile home had to be established.

"If, as we suspect, the land has been sold to the home occupier, or the home is permanently sited with the owner's permission, then the council will serve a temporary stop notice against additional caravans. This will be followed by an enforcement notice."

But Borough Councillor Brian Mortimer warned that this would not happen overnight and could take several weeks or months to be finalised. Meanwhile he urged local people to form a Residents' Association to give them strength in stating their objections and to lobby all those in authority.

Residents' concerns included tipping; no system for getting rid of waste; bonfires at all hours, and other serious health and safety factors. One summed it up saying: "It's a nightmare in which this field beside a lovely country lane could soon become a real eyesore."

'Message in a Bottle'

'Message in a Bottle' by Company Gavin Robertson -www.gavinrobertson.com - Hunton Village Hall Saturday 7th October at 7pm. A rare opportunity locally to see an imaginative theatre show for children (and parents) by a respected professional company. The show is scheduled to last for about 55 minutes and there will be refreshments available beforehand. Tickets £4 children, £5 adults available from Jackie 820226 or Alan 820683/820775. Further Applause event 'ZubopGambia' - exciting 7 piece band. Saturday 2nd December at 8pm.

Be Alert

The Mid Kent police area is still suffering from overnight crime. The offenders are regularly changing their vehicles and usually drive around the area during the day. If challenged they state that they are looking for scrap metal, looking for their lost dog, reminiscing about when they went hop picking in the area, or they just totally ignore you, laugh and keep looking around for something to come back that night and steal. Please keep an eye out for anything suspicious and, if possible, obtain vehicle registration numbers and any distinguishing marks the vehicle may have like signage or a repaired wing in a different colour. It may help the police to locate and identify the offenders.

Also..... there has been a spate of thefts of satellite navigation equipment and mobile phones from vehicles parked at the Village Hall and cars parked by fishermen. An alarm did not deter one theft. Please do not leave valuables such as these in your vehicles!

The offender is described as white male, ginger hair about 17 to 19 yrs old driving a silver coloured Ford Escort van. Crime report CZ/10958/06 refers.

Gary Shaw

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
Pre-School Supervisor: Pippa Fordham	746829	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

*not available on Fridays **not available on Mondays

Dates for Diaries:

Saturday 7th October "Message in a Bottle— Applause Event 6.45pm Village Hall (820226/820683)

Saturday 11th November Bulky refuse freighter, Village Hall car park 7.45-8.45am

Saturday 2nd December, 8pm Village Hall - ZubopGambia an 8 piece tour de force band.

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

Dear Friends,

I mentioned in the August letter about our forthcoming chaplaincy work in France. I thought you may like to know what we actually did - or at least a summary of the work. I had to submit two reports to the 'Intercontinental Church Society' who sponsor seasonal chaplaincies. One report is more detailed the other less so. The latter I reprint here so that you have some idea of what Diana and I actually did. PETER.

SAUMUR SEASONAL CHAPLAINCY - 8TH -22ND August 2006.

Arrived safely at Ile d'Offard site and the CIS youth hostel. Met some staff we had seen on the previous visit two years ago. Next day called on Father Joseph at Villbernier and had a truncated conversation in my schoolboy French and his non-existent English! Visited L'Etang de la Breche site and met staff who had the chaplaincy bags ready for us. Leafleted cars on the site and spoke to a number of the folk. Some, if not all, were surprised that there was a chaplain in the area!

Over the following days we leafleted the supermarkets, 'Hypermarche' and 'leClerc', also the tourist office in Saumur. We visited a number of sites - surprisingly 'Val de Loire' did not want us to visit on the camp - different to our last visit in 2004. They did take leaflets and a poster. In 2004 we were refused entry to 'Camping Montsabert'. This time was fine, and we had a good visit there; a quieter camp and situation. We had an in-depth conversation with an older couple who had once been reps on the site. He avowed that he was an atheist - he was quite deaf, but I witnessed to him by squatting at his level and making sure he could lip-read. He seemed 'moved' and receptive.

We later visited 'Vallee Des Vignes' -Concourson sur Layon. A little far away, but worth the visit.

There seem to be not so many Brits on the sites. Many pass through and rarely here on a Sunday.

'Eureka!' A team of some 30+ 'Christians in Football' arrived at the hostel. Good talks with them. As a result the French Pastor phoned me and we subsequently attended a Saturday night outreach service at 'Eglise Evangelique' in Saumur. The footballers had been singing and witnessing in Saumur that afternoon and inviting folk to attend the service. Pastor Marc hoped that some ongoing link might be made with ICS. He said that he was wondering how he could reach-out to the Brits in the area. Great potential here I'm sure. He indicated that we could use his church building (modern) for our services!

SUNDAY AUGUST 13TH: Bible passage: St. Matthew 17:14-21

'How is your Faith doing?'

Attendance: 46 of which 10 children. Family Service and H/C. All stayed. Communicants: 38.

Great to see Emma and son Elliot in the congregation. They are regular attendees back home. Emma read the lesson. Stephen, retired Priest from Durham assisted with the chalice. Great singing - all unaccompanied! Collection: 122 Euros + £45.

During the first week I managed to break off a piece of tooth on the famous French bread! The staff at the Hostel sent me to a dentist in town. A temporary repair was done by Sophie. I spoke to her about Jesus in half French/English. Gave her a copy of 'Why Jesus?' by Nicki Gumbel.

Met two Polish lads staying at the Hostel. Had some interesting chats about life. Gave both a copies of 'Why Jesus?' Continued in second week to leaflet supermarkets. Visited all the other camps again. A small camp at Villbernier - no Brits but left leaflets.

SUNDAY AUGUST 20TH: Bible passages: Psalm 103:6-13 St Matthew 1:20-21

'Sinners Saved!'

Attendance: 23 of which 9 children. Family service with H/C. All stayed. Communicants: 23.

Steve a Baptist Minister assisted with the Chalice. We were late in starting - Fr. Joseph had a Baptism. Collection: 40 Euros.

Thanks to Lee Townend who 'prepared the way!' - my next door colleague in Kent (but different Diocese).

Thanks to ICS for this holiday ministry opportunity.

Peter and Diana Walker

Out and Out - Dryad's Saddle

For several years I have admired the large specimen of this fungus whose scientific name is *Polyporus squamosus* on an old stump on the left as one descends Hunton Hill. It may appear anytime between Spring and Autumn and in many years fruits twice. The brackets wither after some weeks and fall off, to be replaced afresh later. It also grows on one of the trees dividing the Hunton playing fields where it may be inspected rather more safely. The underside of the cap has numerous pores recalling a bee's nest although not as regularly hexagonal, and this gives the first part of its name. The cap is scaly, the Latin word for which is squama hence the second. Autumn is the classic time for fungi. Some species such as Dryad's Saddle are easy to identify, and others not. There are many good field guides to fungi, but I think the best is Roger Phillips' published by Pan as it is relatively easy to browse and the photos are stunning. He has a good website with lots of pictures at www.rogersmushrooms.com.

David Newman

Hunton Club Book Group August Book Review - Our Kid by Billy Hopkins

It was on a night in 1928 that Billy Hopkins made his first appearance. His tenement home on the outskirts of Manchester would be considered a slum today but he lived there happily with his large Catholic family, hatching money making schemes with friends. When war came and the Luftwaffe dominated the sky Billy was evacuated to Blackpool. There he lived on a starvation diet whilst his own rations went to feed his landlady's children.

Nostalgic, sad and funny, *Our Kid* recalls an upbringing and an environment now vanished.

Members enjoyed the historical aspect of this book, particularly the war years. Although there were mixed feelings about the dialogue. Overall, it was not considered to be a literary masterpiece but a good, easy read, in fact to quote, "*a nice little book*". Members scored the book 6½ out of 10.

The book for September is *The Stand* by Stephen King.

Hunton: Still a Heavy Lorry Short-Cut.

No let up on the number of heavy lorries taking shortcuts and rumbling through the narrow country lanes of Hunton. That was the depressing news received by Parish Councillors at their September meeting.

Reporting from a Traffic Management Partnership Meeting (TRAMP) Cr Gary Thomas said: "The Kent County Council has totally ignored requests from the rural areas made in 2004 on lorry management as well as calls for a reduction in the speed limits."

"In Gloucestershire and Leicestershire schemes are operating to stop lorries using country lanes. We want this example to be followed in Kent. In the other counties the Freight Transport Association has complained, but they will just have to accept that the ban is making life safer and more tolerable for residents."

The TRAMP meeting heard that a £20,000 scheme to end the misery of rat-running lorries in Maidstone's rural areas has been shelved until at least 2008. Yalding have been campaigning for nine years for 17-tonne lorries to be banned from the central Town Bridge.

Chairman John Wilson said that life had become "intolerable" in villages like East and West Farleigh, Hunton, Teston and Collier Street, as well as Yalding, because of lorries using cut-throughs and back routes to reduce journey times. "The current situation cannot be allowed to continue."

Cr Thomas also reported to the Hunton meeting on the proposed footpath between Benstead Close and the Village Hall. "If the authorities are unable to buy the land involved, they may have to go for compulsory purchase because of the safety issues."

Can PCSOs Deliver for Hunton?

Plans are being finalised confirming Hunton Parish Councillors' fears that the village is to lose its policeman, PC Gary Shaw, who has been praised for actively getting involved in parish life over the past year.

Kent police have held a briefing to inform parishes in the Maidstone rural district of a new scheme in which current officers will become part of a wider operation backed up by new Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs).

Councillors feared that the officer's workload would increase with different priorities and he might not be able to devote the time he has in the past to smaller villages like Hunton. They suggested that he might not be able to keep a friendly watch over local incidents, for instance, such as a child kicking a football against a car in Bensted Close. By April next year it was hoped that the new system would be "up and running" with an Inspector and Sergeant in charge of a team of officers in the rural area backed up by around 12 PCSOs.

Parish Councillor Gary Thomas said that it looked as though Hunton and Coxheath would have just one PCSO and with Coxheath being the larger village it would receive most attention. Boxley has its own PCSO but the Council has paid for the privilege at a cost considerably higher than the Hunton precept.

Council Chairman Roger Sawtell felt that the new operation was being introduced with the backing from Home Office authorities who want to see a network of officers playing more of a community role but members feared that this might not be achieved.

Road Tax Blitz

In October, the police in liaison with the DVLA are going to be dealing with abandoned and untaxed vehicles in the Maidstone Borough Council area.

If you have any details on such vehicles please pass them to Gary Shaw. Please could you include the make and model, registration marks and colour of any vehicle in your location. DVLA will be obtaining back duty for the road tax and/or destroying the vehicles if they are found on the road or in a public parking area.

How Can I Help a Child This Christmas?

It is difficult for men and women in prison to send Christmas presents to their children. *Angel Tree* comes to the rescue. A gift will be given to a child, on behalf of their imprisoned parent, to let them know they are still loved and not forgotten at Christmas. *Angel Tree* gives great joy to children and their mums and dads, and is a wonderful way of helping keep families together.

For past years the Mothers' Union has worked with the Prison Fellowship, who run *Angel Tree*, to supply presents for prisoners' children at Christmas.

If you wish to join with us and would like to donate presents for boys and girls ages baby to teens bring them along to the next **Benefice Service at Holy Trinity Church on October 29th. 10.30am.**

(Please do not wrap as other things will go in the parcel). Donations of Christmas wrapping paper, or donations towards postage would also be appreciated. A gift will then be given to a child on behalf of their imprisoned parent to let them know they are still loved and not forgotten at Christmas.

To make a donation or find out more please contact Lesley Marsh 01622 745702 or Vera Figgins 01622 745950 or look on the website www.prisonfellowship.org.uk

At St Mary's Church in October

Notices

Brass Cleaning: Anke Way and Ruth Porter
Flowers: 1st October Harvest Festival - All helpers
 8th October All helpers
 15th October Mrs Ellman-Brown
 22nd October Mrs Ellman-Brown
Church Family Service Coffee Rota:
 1st October Sara Anscombe and Anke Way
Hunton Sunday Club:
 15th October is at Buston Manor Farm Cottages, Lughorse Lane 5.15-6.45pm
The Club is open to all primary school age children and normally meets on the third Sunday evening of each month. Contact David Jones 741474 for details.

Services

Sunday 1st October - 16th Sunday after Trinity
 11.00am Harvest Festival Revd David Jones
 Reading: Harvest Special
 (arranged by the person taking the service)
Sunday 8th October - 17th Sunday after Trinity
 9.15am Holy Communion Revd Ruth Bierbaum
 Readings: Genesis 2v 18-24 and Mark 10 v 2-16
Sunday 15th October - 18th Sunday after Trinity
 11.00am Morning Prayer Revd David Jones
 Readings: Amos 5 v 6-7, 10-15 and Hebrews 4 v 12 - 16
Sunday 22nd October - 19th Sunday after Trinity
 9.15am Holy Communion Revd Peter Walker
 Readings: Hebrews 5 v 1 - 10 and Mark 10 v 35 - 45
Sunday 29th October - Last Sunday after Trinity
 10.30am Benefice Service at Coxheath

Desmond Tutu

"Join me in a prayer for Darfur"

We pray for the people of Darfur who have been terrorised and forced from their homes - for those who have fled to refugee camps;

We pray for those who have died and for their families;

We pray for the women in Darfur who face danger every day as they leave their camps for firewood - may You watch over Your daughters;

We pray for the children of Darfur, especially those who face a frightening world without one or both of their parents - may they be protected and comforted;

We pray for the safety of the humanitarian workers as they feed and care for the people of Darfur;

We pray for the safety of the African Union's mission in Darfur as they work in difficult circumstances;

We pray for the safety of the United Nations peace keepers when they begin their duties in Darfur;

We pray that the world leaders will be guided by You in their quest for justice and safety for Darfur's people - may they be inspired by your humanity;

Remind us that we are all your children, and teach us to listen;

We pray that those who are causing death and misery in Darfur will turn away from racism and violence - may they be forgiven when they turn to You for guidance instead;

Teach us to rejoice in all things we have in common and respect each others' differences;

We pray that people every where will strive to live in peace, tolerance, and respect no matter what their faith or race - may we gain in wisdom, grace and generosity of spirit to overcome our differences and live as one

Living Word

A Bible study series

October 24th - Ministry of Encouragement
 At the Coxheath Centre, 7.30 for 7.45pm
 prompt start. Finishing 9.00pm

Alpha continues each Wednesday, 7.15pm in Coxheath Centre.

This month we will be looking at:

4th October - Why & how should I pray?

11 October - How does God guide us today?

18th October - How can I resist evil?

25th October - Does God heal today?

All welcome.

Wednesday Communion at St. Nicholas, Linton

A simple service of Holy Communion will be held in Linton Church on Wednesday 25th October at 12 noon. Lifts will be arranged on request.

Did you know... if you can't get to church, we can bring you Holy Communion in your own home. Just call the Rectory to arrange a visit from Peter, Ruth or David.

October	1st	8th	15th	22nd	29th
Coxheath	11.00 Harvest Festival	9.30MP	11.00 HC	11.00 CFS	Holy Communion Benefice Service at 10.30 Coxheath
E. Farleigh	10.30 Harvest Festival 6.00pm Choral Evensong & Harvest Supper	8.00 HC 10.30 MP	11.00 PW	8.00 HC 10.30 MP (1662)	
Linton	9.15 HC	8.00 HC (1662) 11.00 Harvest Festival & Lunch	9.15 HC	9.15 HC	
W. Farleigh	Church Closed	11.00 Harvest at the White House Pub	Church Closed	Church Closed	

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)