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State of the Art Equipment for Teens and Toddlers

Ambitious plans for a new play equipment area in Hunton for use by children from toddlers to teens, have been unveiled and could cost up to £65,000 - but a bid will be made to cover a large part of the outlay in grants.

Revealing the proposals, Keith Eatwell, Chairman of the King George V Playing Fields Committee, told Parish Councillors at their November meeting that the quote for the equipment had come from the Monster Play Company.

The state-of-the-art design included everything from swings for juniors and toddlers up to sports goals and a youth shelter for older children. The whole area would have a wetpour surface and be surrounded by a timber rail safety fence and include a park bench and picnic table. There is a 15 year guarantee.

"This is a total figure for everything but we need not go for the complete work straightaway. Perhaps we could look at completing it step by step," said fellow Committee Member Lorraine Redfarn.

They were told by Maidstone Councillor Brian Mortimer that this cost could possibly be reduced considerably if the Borough Council became involved as had happened at nearby Coxheath when they installed a new play area for around £45,000. "Then, as Coxheath did, Hunton can approach other organisations for grants," he added.

A suggestion was raised that Hunton should again have an annual Summer Fair - there has not been one in the village for four years - and the proceeds could go towards the play area cost. But such an event requires months of planning and preparation. "Is there any new blood in the village prepared to take on such a project?" it was asked.

Parish History

David Way, Chairman of St Mary's Church Fabric Committee, says: "The Parish has been left, principally by the late John Butcher of Bridge House, a fascinating collection of documentary material, photographs and maps.

"This collection reveals an interesting history of Hunton going back over many decades and up to the present day. Some of the material has been put together in story-telling form but currently none is readily available for those who might be interested.

"Those concerned about the future of this resource may well consider that it could be a starting point for a new interest group which could then add further variety of life to Hunton.

"This year saw the birth of a new Parish-based activity group - the Hunton Book Club. Is anyone interested in the development of another group brought together by the many faceted subjects of local history? If so the John Butcher bequest to the Parish could form a springboard." Contact the Editors

ZubopGambia Saturday 2nd December 8pm

ZubopGambia, an eight piece worldbeat music group brings together the musical influences of traditional West African, jazz, township, reggae, blues and many other styles (new release ZubopGambia - The Observer CD of the week). This promises to be an exuberant night of music. Tickets £9 (£6 schoolchildren) available from Jackie 820226 or Alan 820683/820775 - please order your tickets early.

CHRISTMAS

Come and join us to make your own Christmas wreath
SATURDAY 16th DECEMBER 10.00am to 12.00pm

HUNTON VILLAGE HALL.

Demonstration by Jackie Brooks

Rings and moss will be provided, bring your own decorations, baubles, ribbons, fir cones etc.

£7.50 PER PERSON

TO BOOK: TELEPHONE 01622 753053

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 2nd December, 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

Saturday 17th February, 10am-3pm Open Garden, Southover, Grove Lane

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

Dear Friends,

*'The Lord will give you a sign – a virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son,
and will call him Emmanuel' (Isaiah 7:14)*

A parishioner once said to me that he lamented the fact that so many people today buy artificial Christmas trees. I asked why he preferred a real tree. 'Because', he said 'it reminds me of my childhood'. As I thought about that answer, I said to myself, 'that's true for me too'.

I remember an old black and white photo long lost which my Mother would have taken of my Sister and I when we were but infants looking at our real Christmas tree all lit up. The sheer look of wonder and amazement on our faces, our eyes sparkling. Treasured memories.

The season of Christmas has, for most, happy memories. Sights, sounds, colours, smells, and music are often the keys which open doors of the memory. They are part of the 'common-stuff' of life itself, the ordinary, everyday 'run of the mill' activities which make up the sort of people we are. As someone said: 'we are the sum of all our experiences'.

The birth of a baby over 2,000 years ago was a very ordinary, every day occurrence. Millions before that birth and millions since, to this very moment in time a mother is giving birth.

That birth, of which we are now thinking, was the birth of the very Son of God, whose parents having had divine visitations telling them of the Holy Spirit's intervention, subsequently found themselves in a very ordinary old stable surrounded by animals!

It is in the ordinary things of life that God came, and God comes. The Bible talks about 'Emmanuel' – 'God with us'. God with you and me in the ordinary run of life, the everyday activity.

Jesus used ordinary activities to illustrate heavenly truths: a man sowing seed, a father worried about a wayward son, a shepherd looking for a lost sheep.

This Christmas let us look for the God who comes to us in the ordinary, but also glimpse in the ordinary the holiness of the divine, and understand a little more of the truth of 'Emmanuel – God with us'!

Have a Happy and Holy Christmas.

PETER

Organising an event?

Message from Mid Kent Police Area Events Organiser, PC Kerry Charlton

Please, if you have anything planned that you feel the police should be made aware of, consult PC Charlton who will provide you with advice.

It may be that you need the police to be in attendance, and if so, we do need plenty of notice to organise shift changes to ensure that we have the manpower to deal with it.

Any person holding an event on a public highway MUST contact Highways on **08458 247 800** and request an event pack. This pack will give them advice on how to organise their event and will tell them who to notify (Police KAT KFB, Buses and Taxis, Councils etc)

It will also ensure they are covered with insurance and have properly risk assessed their event. This applies to any event, however small. They generally require 8 weeks notice.

Please also ask the organiser to contact myself on 01622 604293 to update me and ask advice if necessary.

Thank you, Kerry

School News

On Tuesday 14th November we were joined by Year 5 and 6 pupils from Laddingford Primary School and Leeds and Broomfield Primary School here at Hunton for a visit by children's author Nigel Hinton. He gave a very entertaining talk on what it's like to be an author, and gave tips on how to be a writer. The children were then able to buy copies of his books which he had signed. All the children thoroughly enjoyed the morning.

We would like to thank members of our PTA Committee who held a second-hand toy sale at school on 2nd November, and raised £42.

Our PTA Committee also organised a quiz night on 11th November, held jointly with Hunton Pre-School. The evening was enjoyed by everybody and a great success, raising £260 each for the School and Pre-School.

Hunton School are taking part in the Blue Peter Shoe Biz appeal. Anybody can bring their unwanted shoes to the school, but no shoes in need of repair please. This will raise money to help the many orphans and other children made vulnerable by HIV and AIDS in Malawi.

CHURCH PEW - Looking for a new home. Measurements – 6ft long and 3ft high. There is slight damage to the left facing side. Needs to be collected. Telephone Frank or Vera May on 01622 820704

WANTED - Old Singer sewing machines (not electric) for refurbishment and exporting to Africa. 'Workaid' based in Amersham desperately need such machines. Please contact the Rector (747570) to arrange collection.

Christmas Fair at the White House Pub 9th and 10th December during opening hours.

Will Our Church Organ Pipe Up Soon?

For over a year not a sound has been heard from any of the 800 pipes in our organ. All because of an over exaggerated asbestos scare.

But there are signs that this 150 year old instrument, a splendid example of early Victorian technology, may come to life again sometime in the New Year. Investigations by the Health and Safety Laboratory at Buxton, have revealed the surprising fact that, although the electric blower fitted as a modernisation in 1946 contained asbestos, very little was blown into the organ. The blower was removed some month ago and now licensed contactors are scheduled to conduct the delicate task of removing all the traces of asbestos from the only position where it was found. The Health and Safety Laboratory will then carry out final clearance tests, with the organ running. They expect the organ to pass. Hallelujah!

David & Anke Way

Lughorse Lane – Enforcement Notice

The future of the mobile home sited in a field off Lughorse Lane was undecided at the end of last month as Maidstone Borough Council awaited the results of two enforcement and stop notices due to come into effect on 23rd November.

The notices relate to the change of use of the land from agriculture to a mixed use including the stationing of caravans for residential occupation, storage of motor vehicles and the operation of a tree surgery and landscape gardening business. A hard surface access has also been constructed without permission.

Residents from the Gennings estate had expressed alarm that the caravans could be joined by others and become an unlawful site for travellers descending on the Parish.

Borough Councillor Brian Mortimer reported to the Parish Council that he had been trying to keep the residents and others up to date on the latest actions, but felt that nothing more could be done until the notices were observed.

"If they appeal it could go to the Secretary of State for a planning inquiry but if they do not then the Council will have to consider its options and whether or not a prosecution is in the public interest.

"In the meantime I would urge local residents to keep watch and log all activities on the site such as the lighting of bonfires and other incidents."

Parish Councillor Gary Thomas commenting on the Kent County Council document on the need for sites to accommodate gipsies, felt there was a great deal of difference between travellers moving around the county and those who suddenly take over a site – "they should be liable to the same planning laws as the general public."

HUNTON CLUB BOOK GROUP

BOOK REVIEW OF "THE STAND" BY STEPHEN KING

The year is 1990 and when a lethal virus, developed in a secret military laboratory installation, accidentally filters into the general population a devastating plague ravishes the globe, leaving bands of roving survivors. A new world order emerges from the chaos, leading to an immense winner-takes-all battle between good and evil.

Members were unable to review this book at the end of September as many of us needed more time to finish the huge tome. I am afraid to admit that, one month on, only half of us managed to muster the enthusiasm to finish it. Some of us felt that the sheer size of the novel was daunting and many found it a chore to pick it up rather than a pleasure. Those of us that finished it felt that a mountain was made out of a molehill and one member cleverly described it as being like a game of cricket – it can go on for five days and still end without a result.

The six of us who finished the book gave it an average score of 7 out of 10. One member who thoroughly loved it awarded 10+! The non-finishers voted 2¾ out of 10.

OCTOBER BOOK REVIEW "THE NO. 1 LADIES' DETECTIVE AGENCY"

Wayward daughters, missing husbands, philandering partners, curious comen – if you have a problem then pay a visit to Precious Ramotswe, Botswana's only – and finest – female private detective! Her methods may not be conventional, and her manner not exactly Miss Marple, but she has warmth, wit and canny intuition on her side.

"Delightfully different, delicious, atmospheric and appealing to the senses" are some of the adjectives that members used to describe this book. It was thought to be an easy, pleasant read and quite profound for a tiny book.

One member, having spent some time in Botswana, particularly enjoyed it and considered it truly reflected the life of the people and the landscape of that country.

A couple of comments were made as to the book not having any depth and that it didn't provoke much discussion. However, perhaps this was influenced by comparisons with our September book?

Our score – 7 out of 10.

The book for November is "Birdsong" by Sebastian Faulkes

At St Mary's Church in December

Notices	Services
Brass Cleaning: Mrs McSweeney and Mrs Bullivant	Sunday 3rd December – 1st Sunday of Advent 11.00am Family Service Revd David Jones Reading: Jeremiah 33 v 14 - 16
Flowers: 3rd December (Advent) Mrs Way 10th December Mrs Way 17th December All helpers for Christmas 24th December All helpers for Christmas	Sunday 10th December – 2nd Sunday of Advent 9.15am Holy Communion (1662) Revd Peter Walker Readings: Malachi 3 v 1-4 and Luke 3 v 1 - 6
Church Family Service Coffee Rota: 3rd December The Taylor family	Sunday 17th December – 3rd Sunday of Advent 6.00pm Carol service Revd David Jones
Hunton Sunday Club: 17th December is at 4 The Square, West Street 4.00pm 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.	Sunday 24th December – 4th Sunday of Advent 9.15am Holy Communion Revd Ruth Bierbaum 11.30pm Holy Communion Readings: Isaiah 52 v 7 - 10, Hebrews 1 v 1 - 4, John 1 v 1-14
	Monday 25th December – Christmas Day 9.15am Day Service for all, followed by Holy Communion Revd Peter Walker Readings: Luke 2 v 1 - 7
	Sunday 31st December – 1st Sunday of Christmas 10.30am Benefice service at Linton Readings: Samuel 2 v 18 - 20, 26, Colossians 3 v 12 - 17, Luke 2 v 41 - 52

Mothers' Union

This year Mothers' Union will once again be hosting an '**ALTERNativity** Advent Meal', This will be a simple, but symbolic meal - a time for refecton and celebration.

The event is on Tuesday 5th December at 7.30pm in The Coxheath Centre. There will be limited seating availability. If you missed this meal last year but would like to join us this time please contact Lesley on 01622 745702 for tickets and further information.

Meetings:

Wednesday December 13th. Christmas get together with quizzes and food!

Our meetings are open to all: contact Lesley Marsh 01622 745702 for more information or just turn up. You will be made welcome.

<i>December</i>	<i>3rd</i>	<i>10th</i>	<i>17th</i>	<i>24th</i>	<i>25th</i>	<i>31st</i>
Coxheath	11.00 HC	9.15 CFS	11.00 HC 19.00 Carol Service	11.00 HC 17.00 Children's Service 23.15 HC	10.45 Service for all followed by HC	10.30 Benefice Service at Linton
E. Farleigh	9.15 HC	8.00 HC 10.30 MP	11.00 PW 18.00 Carol Service	10.30 MP 16.00 Christingle 23.30 HC	10.45 HC	10.30 Benefice Service at Linton
Linton	9.15 HC	8.00 HC (1662) 11.00 CFS	9.15 HC 16.00 Carol Service	9.15 HC 23.30 HC	9.15 Service for all followed by HC	10.30 Benefice Service at Linton
W. Farleigh	Church Closed	11.00 Carol Service at the White House Pub	Church Closed	Church Closed		10.30 Benefice Service at Linton
10am every Thursday — Holy Communion (1662) at Coxheath HC: Holy Communion MP: Morning Prayer CFS: Church Family Service EA: Evening Alternative						

Tuesday 12th December Christingle Service at Coxheath at 3.45 pm with Coxheath School
 Thursday 14th December Christingle Service at East Farleigh at 2.00pm with East Farleigh School
 Thursday 14th December Christingle Service at Hunton at 6.00pm with Hunton School

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