



Ann Widdecombe opens new garden at Hunton Pre-school



On the 8th June, Ann Widdecombe opened the new garden at Hunton Pre-school. In spite of a dismal weather forecast the sun shone and the event was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. Ann helped to plant an apple tree and was shown around the beautiful garden currently full of flowers, fruit and vegetables nurtured by the children.

The opening celebrated the completion of an ambitious project to convert a previously disused piece of land into a garden that provides stimulating and enriching experiences for the children. Ann performed the cutting of the ribbon and took part in making a stepping stone with the children to be placed in the garden.

The new garden is located next to the children's existing outdoor play area adjacent to the village hall. The potential for this scrap piece of land was realised by taking part in a project called "Using Your Space" lead by "Learning through Landscapes", (the UK school grounds charity). The charity provided funding, training and practical support. Further funding came through local Borough Councillors. The garden was really made possible by the hard work and dedication of the playgroup staff and volunteers who took the disused space and created this wonderful resource for the children. The project took nearly one year from conception to completion and the result is a fantastic area that stimulates the children's language, communication and social skills and gives them enriching experiences through contact with the natural world. The project is also underpinned by the environmental principle "Reduce, Re-use, Recycle."

Hunton and Linton Pre-school has much to offer children aged 2.5 to 5 years, and with the addition of the garden, can provide a stimulating environment not only indoors but outdoors as well. The garden, which is unique to the local area, will bring much pleasure and diverse learning opportunities for all children who attend the Pre-school, now and in the future. To contact the Pre-school call Pippa Fordham (Supervisor) on 01622 820309.

Michael Devas

As most of you know, Michael Devas of Hunton Court died a few weeks ago. He had a very distinguished career both in the Second World War and in Civilian life. He was born in Wateringbury in 1924 and after leaving Eton in 1942 joined the Household Cavalry. Following training for the invasion of France, his regiment landed on D+1 (June 7th 1944). Despite the seriousness of the impending battle, the regiment relaxed on D Day by going greyhound racing at Brighton: history does not relate whether this was a financial success or not! In April 1945 his troop was engaged in a very difficult and dangerous operation in Normandy for which Michael was awarded the Military Cross.

After demobilisation in 1947 he joined Samuels Merchant Bank, becoming their youngest Director. He moved to Kleinwort Benson in 1966 and married his second wife Gilly the following year (their son Geordie was born a couple of years later), moving to Switzerland for business reasons in the early seventies before returning to Hunton Court in 1977 on the death of Michael's mother.

Michael was Chairman of Trustees of the Peace Cottages charity for many years, following in the steps of his father. He also served as Churchwarden for 8 years. Although Michael was a keen sailor and fisherman, his greatest love was Hunton Court with its two wonderful parks and mass of wild fowl on the lake.

John Scott

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:

Wednesday 11th July, Bell Ringing, St Mary's Church, Hunton 6.30-8.30pm (see back page for details).
Saturday 14th July, Barn Dance, Hunton School, 7.30-11pm (820598)
Sunday 12th August, East Street v West Street cricket match, 2pm (820628)
Saturday 18th August, Rubbish Freighter, Hall car park 7.45am-8.45am

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

Dear Friends

On July 15th at 6pm in East Farleigh Church we are having a Confirmation and Holy Communion Service. This will be conducted by the Rt Reverend Michael Gear, Honorary Assistant Bishop in our Diocese and who lives just down the road in Yalding! It was Bishop Michael who took my service of Institution and Induction in Hunton Church.

As the Bishop prepares to lay his hands on the head of each candidate he prays for a strengthening of the seven gifts of the Holy spirit – Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude (inward strength), Knowledge, Piety, (true godliness) and Fear (delight) of the Lord.

'God has called you by name and made you His own' prays the Bishop – and then placing his hands on the candidate's head prays: ; *'Confirm O Lord, your servant with your Holy Spirit'.*

Do we recall our own confirmation? In my own case I had made a deliberate choice at age 14 to be confirmed. But then I discovered that I had never been baptised. At our baptism our parents and godparents make certain promises on our behalf – promises about following Jesus. At our confirmation we take on those same promises and make them our own. Promises which mean we intend, with God's help – the Holy Spirit – to devote our lives to following God in Jesus Christ.

Four days before I was confirmed I was baptised. It was the turning point in my life. Naturally I well remember it to this day, and then later that week I knelt before the Bishop of Lewes and was prayed over. On two more occasions I would kneel before a Bishop to be prayed over with the prayer of strengthening of the Holy Spirit for the Ministry which has taken me to the present. Little did I know that this 'turning point' at age 14 would lead me to what God was going to later ask me!

In fact one of the questions asked by the Bishop of confirmees is; 'Do you turn to Christ as a Saviour?' Answer: 'I turn to Christ.'
(continued on the back page)

Hunton Sports Clubs – More Hunton Players Wanted

Hunton sports clubs report strong membership but have urged young village residents to take an interest and enlist.

Simon Taylor of the Cricket Club said that in the next few years there could be an exodus from the club which might be faced with fielding just one league team compared with the current three sides.

"We have had players from Australia, New Zealand and South Africa but at present there is an increasing deficit of local young players," said Simon adding that when he joined in 1989 the club had been a wandering side but returned to the village pitch, now one of the best in the Maidstone area.

This was due in recent seasons to the efforts of groundsman John Adams. He has suffered a heart attack and was due to undergo triple by-pass surgery but members hoped to see him back before the end of the season.

Keith Eatwell said that although the Football Club had 60 members fielding two teams – one coming fourth in Division One and the other fifth in Division 5 – there were only two players from Hunton. Again the village pitch is "the envy of a lot of local teams playing on council pitches."

Mike Nichols of the Bowls Club, founded in 1936 and a founder of the Weald League, has 50 members but would welcome local Hunton residents of any age.

Parish AGM

Parish Council Chairman Roger Sawtell reported to a well-attended AGM the need for villagers to get together to produce a Parish Plan in coming months, in the style of one designed in Bredhurst.

A meeting is to be held on July 12th to discuss suggestions for the plan with a possible questionnaire going to every Hunton resident to ascertain their views of what they feel is important for the future of the village.

"Issues like new facilities for the youth, parking, speed limits, affordable housing and many more subjects could be included," he said.

The Council is looking into a letter from resident Mike Taylor on the poor state of street furniture such as the lights and finger sign directions, as well as the modern village telephone box which he felt could be replaced by an old style one.

They will also consider complaints by Michael Elmore Brown about the "appalling state" of the roads from the hall to Hunton Hill and Vicarage Road to Yalding with the "awful surface being a nightmare for cyclists."

King George V Playing Fields Chairman Keith Eatwell reported a successful year in which the village sports clubs had united with the Hall Committee and Parish Council. Health and safety risks had been assessed and improved.

The Committee's biggest project was for planned new play equipment and youth shelter for 2008. Fund-raising would be carried out, possibly with the return of a village fete next year.

Barn Dance

Hunton School PTA are holding a Barn Dance on **Saturday 14th July** in the School Hall from 7.30pm until 11pm. Tickets are £5 per person and there will be a licensed bar and BBQ available to purchase drinks and food. If you would like to come along, to what promises to be a fun-filled evening, please phone (01622) 820598 to reserve your tickets.



Have you seen the TV Crews around Hunton?

Filming has taken place in St Mary's Church for scenes from a drama called "Half Broken Things" which is to be shown on I TV in the Autumn.

IN HAND and SHOWING HORSE SHOW, SUNDAY 29th JULY 2007

At Fox Pitt Farm, Shingle Barn Lane, West Farleigh, by kind permission of Mr & Mrs Devenish. Details available at www.nwba.co.uk, NORTH WEALD BRIDLEWAYS ASSOCIATION. Supporting local charities and local access.

HUNTON CLUB BOOK GROUP MAY BOOK REVIEW

The Catcher in the Rye by J D Salinger

Superficially this is the story of a young man's expulsion from yet another school, The Catcher in the Rye is in fact a perceptive study of one individual's understanding of his human condition. Holden Caulfield, a teenager growing up in 1950s New York, has been expelled from school for poor achievement once again. In an attempt to deal with this he leaves school a few days prior to the end of term, and goes to New York to 'take a vacation' before returning to his parents' inevitable wrath. Told as a monologue, the book describes Holden's thoughts and activities over these few days, during which he describes a developing nervous breakdown, symptomised by his bouts of unexplained depression, impulsive spending and generally odd, erratic behaviour, prior to his eventual nervous collapse.

"Strangely compelling", "boring" and "repetitive" were just a few of the opinions of our group when describing their thoughts on the Catcher in the Rye. Others included "tedious initially - then enjoyable", "interesting because different" and "ahead of it's time". It certainly was thought provoking, fascinating and enlightening too, although not comforting or easy reading. Our scores out of 10 ranged from 2 to 7 to giving an average of 5½.

Our book for June is The Woman in White by Wilkie Collins.

Out and Out

Lazy Days Ahead?

The gardening months up to July always seem to be busy with the garden taking more time than is available. As July arrives the pace slackens and it is good to look at the garden and see if there are easy ways to keep the borders looking good with minimal maintenance.

A favourite of mine is to add structure to borders with an 'ornamental feature', this could be an urn, a statue, an obelisk or a large boulder. It is important that your ornament does not need any attention once sited so I rule out planted pots (need watering) and climbers planted on obelisks (need tying in) but would add a bird bath.

These ornaments will draw together an otherwise over exuberant bed and give your eye something to rest on. Adding more than one ornament can increase the effect, two should be placed symmetrically, one on each side of the start of a path for instance, but three can be more random. Do try to get them sitting upright in the bed and don't be afraid to move them about to experiment with the effect.

Now for the best bit - sit back, relax and enjoy the sun!

Christine McSweeney

Hunton Organisations - Annual Reports

Hunton village organisations, reporting a nucleus of keen members, have called for 'new blood' to come forward to help run the groups.

Village Hall Committee Chairman Alan Bishop praised his hard-working members but said that they were few in number and could do with more support. Lettings were healthy because of the good condition of the hall after recent redecorations. The planned store at the side of the hall has been given the go-ahead with a near £10,000 grant from Maidstone Borough Council and work was due to start in June.

Phil Nichols reported the **Village Club** was "turning the corner" and now clear of debt thanks to voluntary assistance in running the bar and other duties. The facilities have been improved with some cash remaining for future projects. "Despite the better finances we are still unlikely to be able to afford a steward," he said adding: "It would be great to see more villagers supporting the club."

John Scott reported the **Peace Cottages** were in good shape with the "millstone loan" of a few years ago having been cleared. He said that Michael Devas and his family had been instrumental in helping the almshouses, like several other village buildings. There would be a major re-think of the heating this autumn.

School head Sue Wood said that last year's amalgamation threat with Laddingford had been overcome. Hunton had carried out a lot of work with other local schools and was able to invite visitors to use their spacious hall. A new pedestrian entrance is now being fully utilised.

At St Mary's Church in July

Notices

Brass Cleaning: Liz Oliver

Flowers: 1st July Mrs Pullham

8th July Mrs Pullham

15th July Mrs Scott (Wedding)

22nd July Mrs Scott (Wedding)

Church Family Service Coffee Rota:

1st July The Leonard Family

Hunton Sunday Club

We are coming to the end of another year and some of our regulars will be moving on to Secondary education in September and will no longer be eligible to come to Club. We wish them well in their new schools. We also look forward in September to the younger ones returning and new children joining. If you live in Hunton or attend primary school in the village, give me a ring (741474) and hopefully we can meet up in time for our September meeting

David Jones

Services

Sunday 1st July - Trinity 4

11.00am Family Service

Revd Peter Walker

Reading: At the preacher's discretion

Sunday 8th July - Trinity 5

9.15am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

Revd David Jones

Readings: Galatians 6 v1-16 and Luke 10 v1-11 & 16-20

Sunday 15th July - Trinity 6

11.00am Morning Prayer

Miss C Bostock

Readings: Colossians 1 v1-14 and Luke 10 v25-37

Sunday 22nd July - Trinity 7

9.15am Holy Communion

Revd Ruth Bierbaum

Readings: Colossians 1v15-28 and Luke 10 v38-42

Pull the other one!



Come and have a go!

Bell ringing; good fun, good company, good exercise; good purpose, good for all ages.

St. Mary's, Hunton will be open

On Wednesday 11th July

6.30 p.m – 8.30 p.m.

for you to drop in and try your hand at a bit of Campanology.

Refreshments provided.

(continued from page 2) Every confirmation service serves to remind ourselves of the day we were confirmed. I hope you can attend and support – at the time of writing this – our one adult candidate Karine, who sings in Hunton choir, and who incidentally wrote some poetry which Hunton Organist Philip Moore set to music and we sang at the concert recently; and also Becky who has been attending 'Youth Alfa' and sings in East Farleigh choir. We also will be welcoming some candidates from the Parish of Ditton.

'God of Mercy,

By whose grace alone we are accepted

and equipped for our service:

stir up in us the gifts of your Holy Spirit

and make us worthy of your calling:

that we may bring forth the fruit of the Holy Spirit

in love and joy and peace; through Jesus Christ Our Lord Amen

With My prayers, Peter

<i>July</i>	<i>1st</i>	<i>8th</i>	<i>15th</i>	<i>22nd</i>
Coxheath	11.00 HC	9.30 MP	11.00 HC	11.00 FS
E. Farleigh	9.15 HC	8.00 HC (bcp) 10.30 MP	11.00 FS 6.00pm FS + confirmation	8.00 HC (bcp) 10.30 MP
Linton	9.15 HC	8.00 HC (bcp) 11.00 FS + baptism	9.15 HC	9.15 HC
W. Farleigh	8.00 HC 11.00 SW	11.00 FS + baptism	9.15 HC	11.00 MP

HC: Holy Communion, MP: Morning Prayer, (bcp) Book of Common Prayer, FS: Family Service, SW: Service of Word
APCM Annual Parish Council Meeting

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