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Road Erosion

Hunton Parish Councillors have expressed alarm at the erosion of the road bordering the King George V Playing Field and fear that there could be a major accident with the roadside hedge collapsing and causing a vehicle to veer off the highway.

Kent Highways, in replying to the Council's complaint, say that future kerbing work is being considered but the works are "dependent on funding and priorities."

Maidstone Borough Councillor, Colin Parr, pledged to raise the problem when he next meets highway authority officers and he will also raise the Council's call for a footpath between Bensted Close and the village hall.

"They have assured us that remedial work has been carried out," said Colin adding that he was trying to establish a better dialogue with Kent Highways so that mini joint transport group meetings can be held.

Signs to Stop Juggernauts Heading for Hunton

Signs have been erected outside a lorry depot in a bid to stop juggernauts trying to negotiate narrow lanes in the village.

The signs, in several languages, have been put up by Berry Gardens, the large distribution depot in Redwall Lane. This follows action by residents living at Elm Corner who contacted Berry Gardens after a huge lorry was stuck at the junction of Redwall Lane and George Street for more than four hours last month.

Fay Joyce, who has been pressing for action, said: "They have been very helpful in putting up the signs which tell the drivers not to turn right along Redwall Lane towards Hunton".

"We are very grateful and hope this will at least discourage some of the larger vehicles".

"But it is a first step. We will now be asking the parish council to urge Kent County Council to put up more signs to tell drivers that Redwall Lane is only suitable for lorries from Linton Hill up to the depot and not for its whole length."



May Fayre

Hunton School's annual May Fayre will this year be on Sunday 18th May from 11.30am until 3.30pm. The money raised from last year's Fayre was used to buy furniture for the newly refurbished library. Attractions this year will include dance displays, a licensed bar and BBQ, plant stall, bouncy slide, tombola, raffle, cake stall, lucky dip, teas, face painting and lots more. So put the date in your diaries and come along and support your local Village School.

Hunton Club Quiz Night 17 May 2008 - 8.00pm start, Free Entry - All Members and Guests Welcome

Your Local Contacts:

Parish Council Chairman: Roger Sawtell	820731	Village Club: Doug Redfarn	820495
School: Secretary/Head Teacher	820360	Clerk to Parish Council: Vikki Stancombe	842782
Under 5's Pre-School:	820309	Village Hall Booking: Jane Crane	820127
Pre-School Supervisor: Nicola Julier	07972067110	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
		PCSO Hannah Percival	07772226032

*not available on Fridays **not available on Mondays

Dates for Diaries:

Saturday 3rd May, Applause, Chris Garrick & John Etheridge 8pm, Village Hall (820683), Freight Service 7.45-8.45am

Sunday 4th May, 21st anniversary Bluebell Walk (684407)

Sunday 11th May, Nettlestead Place Cream Tea, 3-5.30pm, Nettlestead

Sunday 11th May, Relative Minors, Hunton Village Hall, 6.00pm

Saturday 17th May, Temenos Chamber Choir, 7.30pm, St Peter and St Paul Church - Yalding

Saturday 17th May - Quiz Night, Hunton Club, 8pm (820495)

Sunday 18th May, Hunton School May Fayre, 11.30am - 3.30pm

Monday 19th May, Maidstone symphony orchestra, 7.30pm, Mote Hall Maidstone

Sunday 15th June Hunton Gardens open with the NGS

21st and 22nd June, Delting 2008 - Together, contact David Jones (741474)

Saturday 28th June, Village Fete, Hunton (745569)

All items for the May to the Editors as soon as possible, and by 15th May, please

Dear Fellow Readers

I'm just back from Butlins in Minehead having attended Spring Harvest, a Christian Conference held now for 30 years and attended by about 30,000 people over a 3 week period each year in Skegness and Minehead. Six days of teaching, worship and holiday all rolled into one.

For that short period the events of the world are blotted out. Interest rates, murders, election swindles, corruptions are no longer part of life. No more thoughts about the mundane matters that take over our thinking and our lives. (Fortunately, some important news slips in over the fence, so we heard of the success of Cardiff, Chelsea, Liverpool and Manchester United!). We are taken out of our everyday existences for a moment.

Arriving back home to the real world, the first news on Breakfast TV was of the proposed ban by Southwark Cathedral of the hymn, Jerusalem by William Blake, being sung in the cathedral. It had, in the words of the spokesman, become words more associated with the Last Night of the Proms, football, national events and of course the anthem of the Women's Institute. It had lost its focus on the praise of God, so was not a hymn.

Our theme this year at Spring Harvest was Hope. Hope is a strange word, for in everyday usage it can focus on a 'wishful thinking' kind of hope. The hope comes without any real concrete evidence to suggest the outcome will be as we would like or wish. We use the expressions such as 'hope is fading....' or, 'we hope a drug or an operation will.....', we hope for better weather.....' etc. meaning that we are not certain of the outcome. We buy Lottery tickets in the 'hope' that we will win.

Yet, hope, when used in the Bible is never used in the 'wishful thinking, sense. Such hope is not built on the right conditions, nor on the prevailing circumstances being right, nor what man possesses, what he can do for himself or others can do for him. We perhaps don't think of the word hope being used in terms of certainty, expect, rely or trust. That hope, expressed in the Bible, is based on faith in God, in a God who sent his Son Jesus into the world to be the saviour of that world. Not a wishful thinking hope but on the sure hope found in Christ Jesus.

Blake's great hymn, is a hymn in my book because it speaks of that sure hope that comes from Jesus, the Lamb of God, coming to a world lost in human values and forever seeking happiness in the things of little lasting worth. What Blake called for is a world in which the values of the new Jerusalem would flourish based upon God's certain values of social justice and freedom.

I hope the hairs on the back of your neck rise each time you sing Jerusalem as you 'hope' for the certainty of the life based in Jesus Christ, knowing that in all your joys and sorrows, in all your pain and grief, Jesus walks with you on your journey.

David

Out and Out Orchards

The orchards of Hunton are the most important areas in the parish for wintering birds. The fallen fruit attracts large flocks of thrushes, with up to 1000 Fieldfare and smaller numbers of Redwing, Blackbirds, Song Thrushes and Mistle Thrushes. Flocks of Starlings add their ventriloquial noises to the babble. Hedges within or around the orchard attract Chaffinches and the occasional Brambling as these like to feed on the ground but close to a hide-away should a Sparrowhawk appear. Near ground-level there is a good field of view due to the regular tree spacing, but the tangle of branches at our eye-level means birds can quickly hide. Echinochloa crusgalli, an uncommon millet-like grass seems to thrive in one of the orchards and is very popular with many seed-eaters such as Linnets, Reed Buntings, Yellowhammers and Greenfinches. As Winter moves into Spring, and the fallen fruit is largely gone, the large flocks of Thrushes and Starlings move out to pastureland, or the village playing fields where they search for worms and insects in the short grass.

Freighter Services	Saturday 3rd May	07:45 - 08:45	Hunton Village Hall
	Sunday 18th May	11:15 - 12:15	Yalding Village Green, by war memorial
	Sunday 8th June	13:30 - 15:15	West Farleigh by the Green

Could you be a Friend of St Mary's Church?

Since the Anglo-Saxon era, more than a thousand years ago, there has been a church on this site in the village. The church that can be seen today has its origins in the Norman period, with later additions in the succeeding centuries right through to the nineteenth century. The church has been the centre of village life throughout this period and not just as a place of worship. It is worth remembering that it was also the centre of local government until the late nineteenth century. But these were only functions of the building, the building itself is, to a large extent, the expression in a physical form of generations of local people. The structure is built of local rag stone and the tower roof is clad in shingles; very much Kentish style. Within the church are monuments paid for and, to some extent, made by local craftsmen. Significant artefacts include the fane memorials; Prime Minister Campbell-Bannerman memorial and the stained glass, some of which dates back to the fifteenth century.

To maintain the structure and fabric of a building, which in parts is nearly a thousand years old is expensive. To help with this, the idea has been floated of forming a 'Friends of St Mary's', a charity with its own constitution acting outside the PCC, for the raising of funds, for the preservation and improvement of the structure and fabric of the church. If you feel you would like to become a Friend or even become more involved please, in the first instance, contact the editors of the Herald.

Borough Councillors' Visit to Hunton - March 2008

Borough Councillors, Brian Mortimer and Colin Parr, inspect the damaged verges at Peace Cottages, Bishop Lane with Trustees Ruth Porter and John Scott.



Post Winter Pot Hole Repair

Over the winter months there was a significant rise in the number of potholes being reported to Kent Highway Services. In response to this Kent Highway Services will be carrying out an intensive campaign to tackle the problem.

In order to deal with as many pot holes as possible, we're asking the public's help to report pot holes to us. Members of the public can contact us by visiting the www.kent.gov.uk/highways by emailing us at kent.highwayservices@kent.gov.uk or by calling us on 08458 247 800

Village Fete - Help!

We are looking for help on the day- if anyone would like to run a craft stall or pitch please let us know!

Can any one help with donations, in the form of cakes, plants, bottles and cans for the tombola, 2nd hand toys, books and anything else that we could use to raise money on the day?

We also need help with selling raffle tickets and lucky programmes.

Please contact Keith Eatwell on 01622 745569

Hunton Club Book Group March Book Review

The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho

This is the story of Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy, who dreams of travelling the world in search of a treasure as extravagant as any ever found. From his home in Spain he journeys to the exotic markets of Tangiers and then into the Egyptian desert, where a fateful encounter with the alchemist awaits him.

The critics tell us that every few decades a book is published that changes the lives of its readers forever. Paulo Coelho's The Alchemist is reputed to be such a book. Indeed 27 million copies have been sold worldwide and the novel has already achieved the status of a modern classic. So why did we fail to agree with this opinion? The majority of us were disappointed, felt the story rather weak, not stimulating and wouldn't recommend it to anyone. We did feel that perhaps something of its attraction may have been lost in translation but maybe we were clutching at straws in an effort to try to understand why we failed to share in its appeal to others.

A few of us did enjoy the read however and liked the profound messages but only one of us would sit down to read another book by this author.

Our score reflects our opinions and gave us an average of 5½ out of 10.

Our book for April is Fingersmith by Sarah Waters.

Cream Teas at Nettlestead Place

Sunday May 11th 3-5.30pm

Next to Nettlestead church on the B2015

Suggested donation for tea £4

Medieval Undercroft- walk in the 'good Garden guide' garden - raffle - end of day cake sale.

Children Roll up for Jonjo the Clown at 3.30

Parking and disabled parking

Enquiries 01622 871945 01622 813322

Proceeds to Christian Aid

Local Police Surgeries

- Dates for your Diary

12 May	2 to 3pm	Surgery at Coxheath Shops
14 May	11:00 - 12:00	Surgery at Yalding Library
17 May	10:00 - 2pm	Surgery at Yalding Farmers Market
22 May	10 to 12pm	Coxheath Library
03 June	2 to 3pm	Surgery at Coxheath Shops
09 June	2 to 3pm	Surgery at Coxheath Shops
26 June	1 to 3pm	Coxheath Library
1 July	2 to 3pm	Surgery at Coxheath Shops

Stop! In the name of God

Find some stillness today —

a time for rest, reflection and renewal

led by Margaret Palladino

Where? Linton Church When? Saturday 21st June 2008 Time? 10.30am - 4.30pm

What shall I bring? A packed lunch! (tea, coffee and juice will be available throughout the day)

also bring a bible, notebook and pencil + art materials if you use them.

How much will it cost? We suggest a £7 donation towards expenses -- but we do not wish anyone to be excluded because of cost.

Booking? To reserve your place or for more information contact Cilla McKenzie by 18th June: Tel: 01622 741318.

.Please advise of special needs when booking as facilities are limited.

An initiative of
The Retreat Association &
Churches Together in England



At St Mary's Church in May

Notices		Services	
Brass Cleaning: Marion Leonard Family Service Coffee Rota 4 th May Simmons Family Flowers		Sunday 4th May - Sunday after Ascension 11.00am Family Service	
		Revd David Jones Readings - Preachers discretion	
4 th May	Mrs Forster	Sunday 11th May - Pentecost 09.15am Holy Communion	
11th May	Mrs Forster	Revd Ruth Bierbaum Acts 2:1-21 and John 20:19-23	
18 th May	Mrs Way	Sunday 18th May - Trinity Sunday 11.00 Morning Prayer (bcp)	
25 th May	Mrs Way	Revd David Jones I saiah 40:12-17 &27-31 and Matthew 28:16-20	
Hunton Sunday Club - The May meeting of the Hunton Sunday Club will be on Sunday May 18 th at Scott's House, West Street from 5.15 pm to 6.45 pm. If the weather is dry and warmer we plan an evening of outdoor games followed by tea, A reminder the Club is open to all children of primary age living or attending school in Hunton. For further details contact David 741474		Sunday 25th May - 1st after Trinity 9.15am Holy Communion	
		Revd David Jones 1 Corinth 3:10-11 & 16-23 and Matthew 5:38-48	
		Thursday 1st May - Ascension Day 7.30pm Holy communion	
		East Farleigh Revd Peter Walker Acts 1:1-11, Ephesians 1:15-end St Luke 24:44-end	

Church Bloopers and Bloomers

These sentences actually appeared in Church Bulletins or were announced in Church Services

- A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.
- At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What Is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.
- Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

5P Men's Group The group meets regularly throughout the year and is run from Holy Trinity Coxheath for all the churches in the benefice; East Farleigh, West Farleigh Hunton and Linton. Men of all ages are welcome and we aim to provide fellowship within a Christian context through a variety of social activities.

All are welcome so why not join us for some or all of our events. Please invite your friends/neighbours.

More details for each event will follow nearer the time. In the meantime please book the following dates in you diary if you are interested.

Saturday 17th May Men's Breakfast with Guest Speaker (Brigadier Ian Dobbie RE), Hunton Village Hall, 8 am to 9.45 am. Invitations will be circulated in the churches soon.

Monday 2nd June Visit to William Harvey Hospital, Ashford, 7 pm (a look at how a major hospital functions).

For details about any of the events or to find out more about the 5 Parishes Men's Group please contact.

Mike Marsh Tel 01622 745702 / 07734 336339 / email mlmarsh@talktalk.net.

Together@Detling 12/22 June at the County Show Ground - further news of this event are in the latest edition of the Rochester Diocesan News. Admission to the even is by official free wristbands which David Jones currently has. If anyone would like to go, please give David a ring, 741474, to obtain the appropriate band for the day you wish to attend.

The programme is from 10 am to 8 pm on Saturday and from 10 am to 5 pm on Sunday. On the Sunday 22nd the Ordination of 12 deacons will take place. Each day there will be events and displays to take part in and on the Saturday evening there will be an evening of entertainment and a Hog Roast!

Maidstone Bible Convention – Monday May 12th to Thursday May 6th. Each evening at 8.00pm in the Maidstone Baptist church, Knightrider Street. The theme this year is 'Living in Hope' and the speaker on Monday & Tuesday evening is Richard Bewes, past Rector at All Souls, Langham place and on Wednesday & Thursday evening Graham Cray, Bishop of Maidstone.

<i>May</i>	<i>4th</i>	<i>11th</i>	<i>18th</i>	<i>25th</i>
Coxheath	11.00 HC	9.30 MP	11.00 HC	11.00 FS HC
E. Farleigh	9.15 HC	8.00 HC 10.30 MP	11.00 FS	8.00 HC 10.30 MP
Linton	9.15 HC	8.00 HC (bcp) 11.00 FS	9.15 HC	9.15 HC
W. Farleigh	8.00 HC 11.00 White House	11.00 MP (Mod)	9.15 HC	11.00 MP (Trad)
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 Peter Walker