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THE VILLAGE FETE - a really great day for the whole village

Date: Saturday 28th June **Time:** 2-5pm **At:** King George V Playing Field

Roll up for all the usual fun of the fair! -marching bands, barbeque, beer tent and numerous side shows and stalls including - Children's Lucky Dip - Tombola - Raffle - Welly Throwing Competition - Coconut Shy - Penalty Shoot Outs - Golf Games and much much more.

Proceeds will go to support the much needed 'missing link' footpath from Bensted Close to the Hall and the Church

Out and Out - June Gardens

If you are not happy with the look of your garden in June, they say, it is time to have a good long think about it. June is such a fantastic month for gardening, everything still looks fresh and plants are throwing out flowers and scent with careless abandon, leaves can be had in all shapes and colours, and veg show great promise. If a garden is going to give pleasure it will be doing it now.

So what to do if you find you would like your garden to give you more? Visiting other gardens is always a good source of inspiration and visiting local gardens can be especially good as they will often be gardening in similar conditions as you. Make notes, or take pictures of things you like, perhaps a plant, or group of plants, a particular pot or placement of a seat, try to think why you like something then take that thought back to your own garden.

It can also be reassuring to see how most gardens have areas of careful abandon (!) and this can be the joy of seeing gardens which are not generally open to the public. Hunton looks forward to welcoming you on 15 June between 11am and 5pm to see 5 of its gardens open under the National Garden Scheme. *Christine McSweeney*

Hunton Gardens Open - NGS

Five gardens in Hunton will be opening for the NGS on Sunday 15th June from 11am-5pm. Combined admission fee of £4 and children are free. The five gardens are: 2 Bishops Oast, Elphicks Farmhouse, Southover, Hillside and 3 New Cottages. Teas will be available at Southover and 3 New Cottages, 25% of the money from the teas will go towards St Mary's Church.

Yalding Scout Group's Garden Safari

Sunday June 8th 2 - 5.30pm, Admission, £4 (children free) in Yalding High Street

Wander around 9 great gardens, all within walking distance of each other in the centre of the village. Refreshments, plants, flowers and vegetables stalls will also be available.

All the proceeds will go to Yalding scout group. Nearly 100 six to eighteen year old children in the village benefit from Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorer Scouts; this thriving group provides entertainment and challenges.

Contact Karen Martin, 01622 814444 for more details.

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:

Friday 6th June, 7.30pm, Barn Dance, West Farleigh Church (814445)
Sunday 8th June, 2-5.30pm, Yalding Garden Safari Yalding (814444)
Sunday 15th June, 11am-5pm, Hunton Gardens open with the NGS, Hunton Village
Saturday 21st June, Quiet Day, 10.30am-4.30pm, St Nicholas Church, Linton, (741318)
21st and 22nd June, Delting 2008 - Together, contact David Jones (741474)
Saturday 28th June, Village Fete, Hunton (745569)
Friday 27th June 6-8pm, Yalding Flower Festival, St Peters & St Pauls Church, (815403)
Saturday 28th June, 10am-5pm, Yalding Flower Festival
Sunday 29th June, 11am-5pm, Yalding Flower Festival
Sunday 3rd August, Cricket Match East Street Versus West Street, 2pm, (820628)

Parish Councillors contact details

Parish Council Chairman

- Roger Sawtell 820731

Clerk to the Parish Council

- Vikki Stancombe 842782

Cllr Les Leonard 820858

Cllr Moira Walter 745765

Cllr Gary Thomas 820691

Cllr David Heaton 820678

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

Dear Friends,

As I write this we are in the middle of The Maidstone Bible Convention being held at the Maidstone Baptist church. The speakers over the four evenings are Richard Bewes, former Rector of 'All Souls', Langham Place, London, and Graham Cray, Bishop of Maidstone.

There was also a special meeting with Richard Bewes for those in church leadership and Ruth, David and I attended that. The question being addressed was: 'Facing a New Pre-Christian Era'.

It has long been said that we live in a 'Post Christian Era'. Sundays have never been quite the same with the influx of supermarkets open, sport, and more recently allowing betting shops to be open, to name but three. Many people know very little or even nothing about God and Jesus. Don't want to know!

Looking at Acts of the Apostles chapter 17 verses 16 onwards, we are told of the encounter of Paul with the leaders of the city of Athens. Paul *'was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols.... Some of them asked what is this babbler trying to say?'*

Speaking to the men at a place known as the 'Areopagus', Paul said that as he walked around and looked carefully at their objects of worship *'I found an altar with the inscription: 'To an unknown god'. 'Now' said Paul, 'what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you'.*

We face, not a 'Post-Christian' era, but a new 'Pre-Christian era'. For in a sense we are right back into Athens and the altar to the unknown god. God who is truly unknown by countless people the world over. The search is on for the God we know, yet so many who seek a spiritual dimension to their lives, wander down all sorts of peculiar roads to what one has said seeking 'to fill the God-shaped blank'.

We were encouraged at the conference to re-kindle our hope in that, in a positive sense we have all to play for as we look forward to what can be done to address the question of 'who is the unknown God?'

The starting point is always Jesus. We were reminded of the great Saint Augustine who said that 'this child of the manger fills the whole world'. At his Ascension into heaven Jesus filled, and fills, the whole universe; there is no part which cannot be reached.

For Christians we need to heed the words of that hymn: 'stand up, stand up for Jesus'. We sing that hymn with great gusto! As we strive to address all that would criticise and try to undermine the Christian faith and set up false idols, let's 'nail our colours to the mast' and help others to find that for which they seek - a Living Faith in Jesus Christ, and in so doing encourage ourselves as we grow in Him.

Peter

Hunton Village Book Club 'Fingersmith' by Sarah Waters

Sue Trinder is an orphaned fingersmith, or petty thief, who grows up amongst a large extended family of thieves. Shortly before her eighteenth birthday she discovers that her fate is linked to that of another orphan growing up in a gloomy mansion not too many miles away.

'Fingersmith' is a love story, cleverly woven into a mystery, with many twists and turns in the plot that most of our reading group found gripping, although some felt it was rather tedious in the middle. Although some thought the love scenes a little too explicit in places, and the language stronger than necessary (and not always authentic for a Victorian story) Sarah Waters is undoubtedly an excellent storyteller and gave a fascinating account of the seedier side of Victorian life. Her description of life in a 'madhouse' and of working class life on the streets of London was compelling, and her characterisation was excellent - two readers were reminded of Wilkie Collins. Although some of the group thought the story was a little confusing, most agreed that 'Fingersmith' was a very good read, and our score for the book was 7 out of 10.

Charlie Button - Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity

Charlie Button was one year old on January 11th. He was diagnosed with cancer on January 3rd and is being treated at GOSH for sick children. Please help us to help him enjoy his second birthday.

Charlie's Nanny and Gramps are holding a fun day and auction at their pub - The Woolpack Inn, Benover on July 6th. Any donations of time or gifts will be greatly appreciated. Please ring 01892 730452 or 01892 730328.

East Street v West Street Cricket Match: Sunday 3rd August at 2pm - Save the Date!

Yes it's that "East Street v West Street" time of year again when those of us who enjoy a very occasional game of cricket have the opportunity to play on our own village ground ... and enjoy an excellent tea!

Anyone is welcome whatever your age, sex or ability as we try to ensure that there is a reasonably even game that can be enjoyed by all. Umpires, scorers, spectators and supporters are also very welcome. Please call Andrea and James Forster on 01622 820628 if you would like to play, umpire, score or help out with the tea.

'Friends of St Mary's' The Group is non denominational open to all who have an interest in preserving the fabric and craftsmanship displayed in the church. The first event for late July will be a guided walk around the church followed by tea. See the July issue for details. Anyone interested please contact the editors in the first instance.

Local Police Surgeries - Dates for your Diary

03 Jun 2008 2 to 3pm	Surgery at Coxheath Shops
09 Jun 2008 2 to 3pm	Surgery at Coxheath Shops
26 June 2008 1 to 3pm	Coxheath Library
01 July 2008 2 to 3pm	Surgery at Coxheath Shops
07 July 2008 2 to 3pm	Surgery at Coxheath Shops

BUSY ANNUAL MEETING CALL FOR SUPPORT

One of the best-attended annual Parish Council meetings saw all village sports clubs and associations give encouraging reports but calling for renewed support from villagers.

School headmistress Sue Wood revealed that plans have been agreed for a fourth classroom at Hunton. She urged interested volunteers to spend half an hour with young pupils in morning reading sessions.

The school has acquired more IT equipment and now has a computerised weather station sharing reports with other schools across Kent and around the world.

King George V Playing Fields chairman Keith Eatwell reported improvements in the grounds while risk assessments have been carried out on the children's play equipment. There is now better liaison between the sports clubs which had led to the village fete being re-organised after a gap of several years.

Alan Bishop reported the village hall is in "really good shape" and being used by a wide range of organisations. The hall is used by the pre-school and parents were urged by organiser Nicola Julier to bring their youngsters along. She made an appeal for funding support.

Alison Ellman-Brown reported that the average St Mary's Church congregation is just 18 but numbers could rise to 150/200 for special occasions. "If Hunton wishes to keep its church they must support it," she said while also making a plea for donations for stained glass window restoration work.

John Scott reported that the residents of Peace Cottages were all happy with the facilities but that the heating system is not adequate and would need improving in the future.

Hunton Club's Alan Peckham said the year had been one of transformation with new bar equipment and gas fired central heating. But there had been a drop in visitors, possibly due to the smoking ban although membership had remained strong at 150. The club is on a sound footing due to volunteer helpers.

Mike Nichols of the Bowls Club said that since foundation in 1936, it had gained a "marvellous reputation." Membership is running at 50, which is good for a club with four greens but 'new blood' was always welcome.

Simon Taylor said that last season had been one of transition for the Cricket Club but with increased membership the committee is hoping that 2008 will be a good year. Groundsman, John Adams, has fully recovered from heart surgery and has prepared a top level wicket. Hunton youngsters are needed to join the club.

On a sad note Keith Eatwell reported the death of long-standing Football Club president Ron Elliott whose sons and grandchildren were playing for the club. Although boasting 60 members, the two teams had often struggled in the past to field full sides but the first team was now playing in the Premier division while the Reserves were placed halfway in their division.

Hunton Herald editors David and Sue Heaton praised the team of up to 30 helpers involved in deliveries while calling for all organisations and sports clubs to forward reports and lists of events.

PARISH PLAN PLEA

A year after it was first mooted that Hunton should have a Parish Plan the idea is no further advanced.

Disappointed Parish Council Chairman, Roger Sawtell, stressed that the plan should come from villagers. It would provide statistics from the Parish and what parishioners would like to see and their thoughts on any housing development, road improvements or other crucial issues.

Parish Plans from nearby Bredhurst and Thurnham and a typical questionnaire for completing a plan were presented at the May council meeting when it was agreed a stand to highlight the need for a plan will be featured at the Hunton Village Fete on 28th June.

'MISSING LINK' PATH NEEDED

A passionate plea has been made by three children on behalf of Hunton School colleagues for a 'missing link' footpath to be installed between Bensted Close and the village hall.

Their moving request was made at the May Parish Council meeting when the youngsters said it would make visits to the hall much safer while also making a saving on environmental grounds as their parents would not have to use cars for the short journey.

They were backed by Headmistress Sue Wood and hearing their plea Maidstone Borough Councillor Colin Parr said it gave vital backing to the footpath campaign.

"I've been on a walkabout in Hunton with KCC highways officers who have said that the council should re-apply for the footpath explaining why it is desperately needed.

"We've stressed that we are not seeking funding at this stage - that will come later - but will now need a feasibility study and costing. Figures in the past have been horrendous but recently a more modest cost has been indicated."

KCC's Paulina Stockell said that she had raised the issue with County Cabinet members and felt that the work needed to be included as a Rural Priority Scheme. "I hope that we can really make some progress this year with funding coming from the County and Borough."

At St Mary's Church in June

Notices	Services
Brass Cleaning: Shirley Parnell and Edna Link	Sunday 1st June - Trinity 2 11.00am Family Service Revd David Jones Readings - Preachers discretion
Family Service Coffee Rota 1 st June Lorraine Redfarn and Marion Weston	Sunday 8th June - Trinity 3 09.15am Holy Communion Revd Ruth Bierbaum Romans 4: 13-25, Matthew 9: 9-13, 18-26
Flowers 1 st June Mrs Adams and Mrs Taylor 8 th June Mrs Adams and Mrs Taylor 15 th June Mrs Pinks 22 nd June Mrs Pinks	3pm - Oddfellows - Revd David Jones Sunday 15th June - Trinity 4 11.00 Morning Prayer (bcp) Miss C Bostock Genesis 18:1-15, Matthew 9: 35-10:8
Hunton Sunday Club - The June meeting of the Hunton Sunday Club will be on Sunday June 15 th at Freelands, West Street from 5.15 pm to 6.45 pm. If the weather is dry and warm we plan an evening of outdoor activities 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 22nd June - Trinity 5 9.15am Holy Communion Revd Peter Walker Romans 6:1b-11, Matthew 10:24-39 Sunday 29th June - Trinity 5 United Benefice Zechariah 4:1-6a, Acts 12:1-11, Matthew 16:13-19 Sunday 6th July 11.00am Family Service

Church Bloopers and Bloomers

- Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.
- Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.
- The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

5 P Mens Group

The group meets regularly throughout the year and is run from Holy Trinity Coxheath for all the churches in the benefice i.e. 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. Meantime please book the dates in your diary if you are interested.

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

Monday 21st July Petanque Night at the White House Pub West Farleigh 7.30 pm

Stop! In the name of God

Find some stillness today --- a time for rest, reflection and renewal, led by Margaret Palladino.

Saturday 21st June 2008 Linton Church 10.30am - 4.30pm

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.

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

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.

The Next Step - fellowship group open to all. Bible study. Prayer. Worship and Friendship. 1st and 3rd Wednesdays: 7.30pm: Venue varies, so call Ruth 743866.

Logos Youth Group - Term time Thursdays, except 3rd one of month. Time: 7.30 - 9.15pm. Venue: 19 Westerhill Road

PSST!: Fellowship and Bible study. Every Wednesday 1.30 - 3pm. Venue varies. Phone Ruth 743866.

June	1st	8th	15th	22nd
Coxheath	11.00 HC	9.30 MP	11.00 HC 13.30 Baptism	11.00 FS HC
E. Farleigh	9.15 HC	8.00 HC 10.30 MP	11.00 FS	8.00 HC
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 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				