



## Parish News

### Costly and confusing – working party to report on footpath

An initial costing of £70,000 given by Kent Highways for installing the much-needed footpath between Bensted Close and the Village Hall, has now more than doubled to £175,000.

The figures for a length of 500 metres, include excavation and soil removal (£18,000); to replant a new hedgerow (£3,000); new highway construction (£75,000); drainage works (£27,000); and carriageway re-profiling (£52,000).

Hearing these details given to the November Parish Council meeting, Chairman Roger Sawtell, felt there was still confusion over the exact work and the ownership of the land involved. As it was such a major project he felt that a working party needed to further analyse exactly what was involved and make a report.

### A call too far – phone box to go

Hunton's only telephone box in West Street, outside the village club, is to be removed by BT after a questionnaire sent to villagers failed to raise enough support for keeping the service.

There were only 27 replies from the 350 residencies contacted through the Hunton Herald and just six of those wanted to keep the phone after hearing that it would cost an annual payment of £500 for a term of agreement over 15 years.

BT decided on the removal after giving figures showing that during the past year there were only 216 calls made from the kiosk.

### Exploring play equipment and upgrading facilities

The King George Playing Fields Committee is looking into a scheme to upgrade the children's play equipment at a cost of around £1,740.

Committee Chairman Keith Eatwell reported the costing from M&M of Marden, (on the approved suppliers list), for resurfacing beneath the swings and climbing frame and carrying out other essential work.

The committee is also considering installing CCTV equipment to prevent vandalism; the Bowls Club is planning an extension to the front of their pavilion; and a volunteer work party has carried out resurfacing work and pothole filling in the playing fields car park, with materials costing £96.

The Hunton Village Fete is to be held again in 2009 – an early date for diaries is Saturday June 27<sup>th</sup>.

#### 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 David Jones     | 741474*     | Churchwarden: Alison Ellman-Brown        | 820288        |
|  |             | Organist: Philip Moore                   | 749356        |
|  |             | PCSO Hannah Percival                     | 07772226032   |

\*not available on Fridays \*\*not available on Mondays

#### Dates for Diaries:

November to 13 December, Lee Miller Portraits will be at Mascalls Gallery, Paddock Wood,  
Opening times are Monday to Thursday 10am to 5pm, Friday and Saturday 11pm to 4pm.  
Saturday 6th December, Yultide Market, Yalding, 5-8pm  
Sunday 7th December, Gift service in aid of the school in Malawi, St Mary's Church  
Wednesday 10th December, Graham Kendrick's Dreaming of a Holy Night, All Saints Church, Maidstone, 7.30pm  
Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th December, Christmas Bazaar, White House Pub  
Wednesday 24th December, Blues Night with the Booze Brothers, White House Pub  
Wednesday 31st December, New Years Eve Party, White House Pub  
Thursday 15th January, Hunton Parish Council meeting, 8pm, Village Hall  
Friday 30th January, Jack & the Beanstalk Pantomime, Hunton School, 7.30pm (820598)

#### Parish Councillors contact details

|                                    |        |
|------------------------------------|--------|
| <b>Parish Council Chairman</b>     |        |
| - Roger Sawtell                    | 820731 |
| <b>Clerk to the Parish Council</b> |        |
| - Vikki Stancombe                  | 842782 |
| Cllr Les Leonard                   | 820858 |
| Cllr Moira Walter                  | 745765 |
| Cllr Gary Thomas                   | 820691 |
| Cllr David Heaton                  | 820678 |
| Cllr Keith Eatwell                 | 745569 |
| Cllr Ron Porter                    | 820220 |

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

Dear Friends,

I guess I must have been about 8 years old when one Christmas I hoped that Father Christmas would bring me a train set. And yes, there it was that Christmas morning! What a great present that was!

Only years later did I discover that my Dad and Uncle Jeffrey had laboured many hours to lay track on a board and get all the bits and pieces together so that an electric train and carriages could travel along its railway.

What a wonderful time Christmas is to give others presents and to enjoy time to relax with family and friends. But each Christmas there is an aftermath to all this gift swapping, and it's often seen in adverts offering articles for sale followed by the words: 'unwanted gift'

We all hope that the presents we give will never be an 'unwanted gift'.

Amazingly, we might have already put this 'tag' on a gift which has been offered to us. A gift offered by God Himself.

The Bible says, 'God has given us eternal life and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life, he who does not have the Son, does not have life' (1<sup>st</sup> John 5:11-12)

God, you see, offers us eternal life (Romans 6:23). But we can only receive this gift when we accept Jesus as our Saviour. There is no other way (Acts 4:12).

What a wonderful gift for everyone without distinction!

This Christmas when we recall the coming of God's greatest gift, the Lord Jesus, it is a time to re-commit oneself to Him or accept Him for the first time. Or is it going to be, as those adverts put it 'an unwanted gift'?

No matter what presents may come your way this Christmas, none will so perfectly meet your need as Jesus, for only He can ensure that you have forgiveness of sins now and a place in Heaven for all eternity.

I loved that train set, but even at that young age I knew about a greater gift - Jesus; six years later I knew Him!

'Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift' (2 Corinthians 9:15)

We send our best wishes and prayers for a Happy and Holy Christmas and peaceful New Year,

Peter & Diana

## Houses shake as traffic continues to speed

An impassioned plea for new measures to slow down traffic in West Street before there is a fatality, has been made by new Parish Councillor Ron Porter.

He reported that for one woman living in West Street the speeding traffic was having an adverse affect on her life, while others said that their houses shake when heavy lorries rumble by.

Mr Porter queried whether the council should seek to use Speed Watch cameras to collate figures to show the speed of vehicles using West Street outside the village school. "I think the authorities would be staggered at some of the high speeds."

But John Wilson of neighbouring Farleigh said that from his experience such figures were not of help when petitioning the Highways Authority to take action.

Kent County Councillor Paulina Stockell said that she would ask Highways officers to carry out a speed survey over several days in West Street.

### Parish Council Dates 2009

January 15, March 12 & May 14 (AGM and annual parish meeting)

### Flower Arranging

Following on from the successful day last year, there will be a "Christmas Wreath" making session on Saturday the 13th December between 10.00 and 12.00 a.m.

For more details on all the Flower Arranging activities, contact Jackie on 01622 753053.

## Hunton Club Book Group

### OCTOBER BOOK REVIEW - MISTER PIP by LLOYD JONES

On an island called Bougainville in the early 1900s, civil war rages. Rebels have taken up arms and soldiers helicopter in from nearby Port Moresby. All the whites have fled the island except one, Mr Watts, a New Zealander married to a local woman. He offers to replace the departed teacher and reopens the village school except there is only one book - Great Expectations. Mr Watts uses Pip's travails in Victorian England as a way of showing the children that there is more to life than the misery that now surrounds them. We join one child, Maltilda on her journey of discovery, tragedy and hope when Mr Watts inflames the children's imaginations with dreams about Dicken's London.

This is a delightful book which we enjoyed reading. Jones' work is descriptive, multi-layered and enthralled us all, transporting us to share in the life of the islanders in the South Pacific. When the horrors of war interrupt they shock us with the starkness of atrocities. A thoroughly good read!

Our score reflects our opinions and gave us an average of 7 out of 10.

Our book for November is Water for Elephants by Sara Gruen.

# Jack and the Beanstalk

Nothing to look forward to after Christmas? Make sure you put this date in your diary. Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2009 at 7.00pm in Hunton School Hall.

Following on from the success of last year's Pantomime, Hunton School PTA have once again arranged for the same professional pantomime company to put on a performance of Jack and the Beanstalk. A line up of professional actors will be accompanied by dancers, music, sets, lighting, and all the spectacle you would expect from a Christmas Pantomime, but right here in Hunton.

Tickets are limited and at only £7.50 per adult and £5 per child are very good value for a professional production. To reserve your places please contact Dawn Dixon (01622 820598). All profits will directly benefit the school.



## Maidstone Symphony Orchestra

6th December 2008 at 7.30pm, Mote Hall, Maidstone Leisure Centre, 01622 736392

Tickets: Season Membership 5 concerts for: £44, £64, or £80 (Students £20)

Single Concerts: £12, £16, £21 (Students £5)

**Sibelius** -En Saga, **Richard Strauss** - Horn Concerto No2, **Tchaikovsky** - Symphony No 5

**Conductor - Brian Wright**

One of our finest horn virtuosos, Michael Thompson, returns to MSO in Richards Strauss's wonderfully wistful 2nd Horn Concerto. The musical links between Finland and Russia are tangible in the brilliance of the young Sibelius's tone-poem En Saga, with his inspiration plain to hear in Tchaikovsky's powerful 5th Symphony.

## Hunton Village Club

Join the club!

December has come around all too quickly for some, it is hard to believe that another AGM is ahead of us and of course membership renewal for 2009 is due in January.

Membership does represent good value given our bar prices in comparison with some of the pubs in the vicinity. We now serve a variety of real ales from Shepherd Neame, Adnams or Harveys. In recent weeks each new barrel has been different and we have been able to reduce the price of a pint to £2.15 for some beers. Draft cider is still just £2 per pint.

November sees the Club's lavatories being refurbished and a new carpet should be laid in time for the Christmas festivities.

A charitable Race Night was held last month and there will be a "just for fun" Quiz Night on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December. If you can't get a team together (6 max) just turn up on the night and we will form teams together where possible.

The committee continues to run the Club profitably on a voluntary basis but needs all of the help it can get from the community by way of membership and customers. It is comparable to a local pub but we cannot supplement income by serving food, so if you make any resolutions for the New Year make one to join the Club and come and have a drink with like-minded villagers.

We wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Phil Nicholls*

## Hunton School Activities

### Trip to church

On Thursday 6th November Reception Class visited St Mary's Church. Reverend Peter Walker spoke to the children about baptism and the children role played a baptism at the font. The children looked around the church which gave them an opportunity to see and learn a little bit about our church prior to the Christingle service.

### Trip to Yalding Organic Café

On Wednesday 12th November Reception Class visited the Yalding organic gardens café. They enjoyed a drink and cake and spent time looking around the garden and café, and had a guided tour of the kitchens! The children have a role play café and the trip supported their learning about a real café and gave them the opportunity to think about all the things needed in their role play.

### Kent Schools Maths Challenge

Four of our older children visited Oakwood Park Grammar School on Thursday 13th November where they participated in the Inter Schools' Maths Challenge.

### Strictly Ballroom!!

This year we spent many of our Sainsbury sport vouchers on dancing workshops for the children. Upper School have had great fun learning how to rock and roll! Middle School has been salsa dancing and next week Lower School and Reception will be undertaking fitness training.

## At St Mary's Church in December

| Notices  | Services   |
|--|--|
| <b>Family Service Coffee Rota - 7th December</b><br>Sarah Anscomb and Holmes family  | <b>Sunday 7th December - 2nd of Advent</b><br>11.00am Family Service<br>Revd David Jones<br>Readings Preacher's choice   |
| <b>Brass Cleaning</b><br>Christine McSweeney   | <b>Sunday 14th December - 3rd of Advent</b><br>9.15am Holy Communion<br>Revd David Jones<br>Readings Isaiah 40 v 1-11 and Mark 1 v 1-8   |
| <b>Flowers</b><br>7th December Mrs Granger<br>14th December Mrs Granger<br>21st December Carol Service All<br>28th December Helpers for Christmas  | <b>Sunday 21st December - 4th of Advent</b><br>6.00pm Carol Service<br>Revd David Jones  |
| <b>Hunton Sunday Club</b> Hunton Sunday Club will meet on Sunday December 12th at Gudgeon Farm House, West Street from 5.15pm until 6.45pm. This Club is open to all primary school aged children living or attending the local primary school in Hunton. Our first meeting in 2009 will be on Sunday 18th January at a venue still to be arranged. For further details contact David 741474 | <b>Christmas Eve 24th December</b><br>11.30pm Holy Communion<br>Rev Canon David Grimwood<br>Readings Hebrews 1 v 1-4 and John 1 v 6-8 & 19-28  |
| On Tuesday December 30th we will be holding our annual <b>Christmas and New Year Party</b> in the Village Hall from 4.00pm to 6.00pm and we have invited the other groups in the benefice, Coxheath Sunday Club and West Farleigh Seekers, to join us.   | <b>Christmas Day 25th December</b><br>09.15am Christmas Service followed by Holy Communion<br>Revd Peter Walker<br>Reading Luke 2 v 1-7  |
|  | <b>Sunday 28th December -</b><br><b>1st Sunday After Christmas The Holy Innocents</b><br>09.15am Holy Communion<br>Revd David Jones<br>Readings Isaiah 61 v 10-62 v3 and Galatians 4 v 4-7, Luke 2 v 15-21 |
|  | <b>Sunday 4th January - Christmas 2</b><br>11.00am Family Service<br>Revd David Jones<br>Readings Preacher's choice  |

## The Captain & His Stoker

On the 13th September Steve Bishop and Alison Ellman-Brown set off on a tandem to Cycle for the Friends of Kent Churches. The weather was kind to them as they covered 23 churches and travelled 45 miles. Steve, a very experienced rider with a 'novice' on the back heard a remark "my legs don't go this fast!" from Alison, as they battled up a hill in a very high gear. Together they raised £144, half of which comes to St Mary's Church.

## Graham Kendrick Dreaming of a Holy Night

Graham Kendrick, the well known Christian song writer and composer, will be in concert at All Saints Church, Mill Street, Maidstone on Wednesday 10th December starting at 7.30pm (doors open at 7.00pm) Tickets, costing £10 (including mulled wine and mince pies) will be available either via David Jones 741474 or direct from the box office Union Street Methodist Church, weekdays 9am - 12noon or email [info@hope08maidstone.co.uk](mailto:info@hope08maidstone.co.uk)

## Quarter Peal

A quarter peal will be rung on the Hunton Bells on Sunday December 21st after the Carol Service at about 7.15pm in memory of Kathleen Moore, Anne Jones and Brenda Sussmes. Anne and Brenda's husbands, David and Ken, both started to learn to ring the bells at Hunton last year. We thank the team of ringers, lead by Graham Heath, for this tribute.

| December  | 7th       | 14th                                    | 21st                               | 24th                             | 25th   | 28th                   |
|---|-----------|---|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|------------------------|
| Coxheath  | 11.00     | 9.30 MP Baptism<br>4.00pm Carol Service | 11.15 HC                           | 5.00pm Children's Service        | 10.30am Christmas Day Service followed by HC | 10.30 Benefice service |
| E. Farleigh   | 9.15      | 8.00 HC<br>10.30 MP                     | 6.00pm Carol Service               | 4.00pm Christingle<br>11.30pm HC | 10.45 HC                                     |                        |
| Linton  | 9.15 HC   | 8.00am HC                               | 11.00am FS<br>4.00pm Carol Service | 11.30am HC                       | 09.15am followed by HC                       |                        |
| W. Farleigh   | 8.00am HC | 11.00am Carol Service<br>White House    | 4.00pm Carol Service               | 9.15am HC<br>9.30pm HC           | 11.00 Christmas Day Service                  |                        |
| HC: Holy Communion, MP: Morning Prayer, (bcp) Book of Common Prayer, FS: Family Service,<br>SW: Service of Word<br>APCM Annual Parish Council Meeting |           |   |                                    |                                  |  |                        |

For Weddings, Thanksgivings, and Baptisms, please contact Revd Peter Walker