



Council Seeks Support from KCC to Clean Up

After complaints by local resident Guy Oliver about the heavy amounts of litter by the roadside in East Street, the Parish Council is to contact the KCC to ask for its 'hit squad' to carry out a tidying up operation.

School Supports Footpath Away from the Road

The latest option for making it safer for pedestrians walking between Bensted Close and the Village Hall, is for a footpath to be installed back from the roadside and behind the hedge on the northern side.

Parish Council Chairman, Roger Sawtell, reported that it would require small bridges at either end to cross ditches while the hedge would have to be cut to a uniform height.

"This would make it more secure for pedestrians who would be further from the roadside and not be splashed by water from passing cars; and importantly this scheme would only be a fraction of the cost of a roadside path."

Hunton school is keen for the footpath to be installed as it would relieve the parking situation as parents could park at the Village Hall and walk down West Street.

Accident Black Spot in East Street

Two residents have complained about dangerous hairpin bends in East Street, where several accidents have occurred in recent years with cars spinning off the road and colliding with property walls and knocking down fences. Richard Furlong of Stonewall Oasthouse has written to the Parish Council seeking action from the Kent Highways to rectify the problem.

"We have lived here since 1967 with the threat of vehicles losing control leaving the highway and damaging our fence. We can recall around eight such accidents and those involved have included an Army scout car and a police car being used for advanced driving instruction. "Quite clearly we should not be put to the repeated costs of fence repairs. We would like to see a suitable Armco barrier, the restoration of chevrons and reflector posts."

The Parish Council is to press Kent Highways to carry out work at this bend and the next one towards Marden after a further complaint from resident Carole Manley about damage from crashing vehicles to the wall of her Grade II listed property. She would also like to see a grit box installed by the road for motorists getting into difficulty in snowy and icy conditions.

Floral Display for Window Restoration

A combined demonstration of stained glass window restoration and a flower festival is to be staged at St Mary's Church, Hunton from Friday to Sunday October 2-4th.

The organisers explain that the idea is to take a theme or subject from the windows at St Mary's - now undergoing restoration - and use them to create a flower display. The windows could be photographed and the image detail - such as birds and flowers - 'blown up' so that they can be incorporated in the arrangements.

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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 - Jo Watts	07772 225983

*not available on Fridays **not available on Mondays

Dates for Diaries:

Saturday 25 April, Quiz Night 7.30pm Hunton School
 Thursday 14 May 8pm Annual Meeting Hunton Parish Council at the Village Hall
 Saturday 16 May 7.30pm Childe Rolande in concert at Hunton Village Hall
 Sunday 17 May, 11.30am-3.30pm, Hunton School May Fayre
 Tuesday 19 May at 8pm AGM Village Hall Committee at the Village Hall
 Sunday 7 June 2009, 2-6pm, Linton Garden Gala, Linton Village
 Sunday 14 June 11-5pm NGS Garden openings: The Old Stables, Queen Anne House, Southover
 Saturday 27 June, Hunton Village Fete
 Sunday 9 August Train Event in Hunton
 2,3, and 4 October, Flower Festival, Hunton Church

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
Cllr Keith Eatwell	745569
Cllr Ron Porter	820220

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

Dear Friends,

The Gospel of John reports: 'on the first day of the week Jesus came and stood among them'. So it was Easter Day night. The disciples were unsure as to what was happening - some had said that Jesus was alive again - the women at the tomb had brought strange news; two men on the Emmaus road had encountered Jesus - and now, if doubt existed, doubt was to be removed, certainly for all but Thomas, for there was Jesus among them, though the doors were locked. Yes, Jesus accomplished many things in just a few minutes: He came to them- he spoke with the disciples - he showed them his wounds - he commissioned them and gave them a special gift.

Yes, the doors were locked, but Jesus still came to them. If death couldn't hold him, locked doors couldn't! 'Jesus came and stood among them'. Jesus spoke to them: 'peace be with you'. How the disciples needed to hear those words - those days of the past week were so totally perplexing, and yet, here was Jesus with them again offering words of peace. And Jesus showed them his wounds, his hands, his side. There was no doubt about it - Jesus certainly suffered that cruel death on a cross; here where the cruel nails impress. The immediate result of this appearance of Jesus? 'Then were the disciples overjoyed to see their Lord' Then came the commissioning: 'As the Father has sent me, even so I send you'.

Yes, Jesus had come from the Father with a special commission; that commission *had not* just begun at the birth of Jesus, it had begun before all time, and it saw its fulfilment in the birth, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus. So Jesus commissions the disciples. The original Greek word is 'Apostello' - but it means more than to just 'send' - no, the disciples were being sent with a special mission: to teach, preach and baptise. We get the word 'Apostle' from this - a person sent with a specific goal and duty. This duty and goal could only be achieved with the very special gift that Jesus was to Give. He breathed on them and said: 'receive the Holy Spirit; if you forgive the sins of any they are forgiven and if you retain the sins of any, they are retained'. It is no coincidence that these words are used at the Ordination of a new Priest.

So not in their own strength, but always in God's strength through the Holy Spirit, that gentle breath of God breathing life into all. Jesus 'breathed on them'. We can think of other instances of breath being the means of giving life and power, not least the story of creation when God formed man and breathed life in to him.

So for you and I Jesus comes to us - He has come to you, for why ever else would you have faith? Jesus speaks to us - have you not heard in that still inner being the voice of he who calls and leads us? Jesus shows us - have we not 'seen' the Living Lord active in our lives and in the lives of others? Jesus commissions us too - 'so I send you'. We may not feel anything like those first disciples, but God has always had a plan for your life and mine. Jesus also gives us - he promises never to leave us, though we often leave him - 'I will not leave you desolate' - what a desolate place the cross was for Jesus hanging there with the sins of the whole world on him - yet he was never left there - the resurrection proved that. The Gospel writer says: 'these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name'.

Jesus Christ comes into *our* upper room - our lives, and speaks words of peace and asks of us to live for him and in so doing gives us the power to do these things. And we have the promise: 'Lo, I am with you always even to the end of time'.

With Easter blessings, Peter

Church flower arrangers are to be involved with the show as well as the village school and hopefully the pre-school while the Hunton Club and sports clubs are also being approached to give their support.

Inevitably this will cost money to stage, believed to be in the region of £1500 for flowers, staging, accessories, printing of photographs and other expenses. Local firms and residents are being asked to sponsor arrangements and the Parish Council is considering a donation. In addition to the exhibition, Lawrence and Sue Martin are kindly arranging a money-raising Train Day at their light railway at the top of Hunton Hill on August 9th.

Hunton Parish Council Annual General Meeting

Village clubs, associations and sports groups will be making their reports to the annual meeting of Hunton Parish Council being held at the Village Hall on Thursday May 14th - book the date in your diary.

Hunton Pre-School looking for Green Fingers

Hunton & Linton Pre-school have had a great few months. We have been making gifts for Mothers Day and also doing lots of singing, as we will be attending St Mary's Church for a mini Easter Service on Friday 3rd April 2009. Now that the weather is on the change the children have been able to get out into the beautiful garden area to see the spring flowers pushing through and it is great that they are all taking an interest in their environment and learning, through the garden, about the different seasons.

Hunton and Linton Pre-school are looking for a green fingered volunteer from the village or surrounding area, to come down and help us with the up-keep of maintaining the garden. So if there are any green fingered volunteers within the village that enjoy getting their hands dirty and would like to help, then please contact Sally Clifton on 01622 820309 or 07972 067110. If there are any new residents to the village who have children of pre-school age or existing parents with children coming up to 2 years who would like to come down and visit our setting and meet the staff, then again, please give us a call on the numbers above, we look forward to hearing from you.

The Hunton Club Book Club Book Review.

'The Olive Readers' by Christine Aziz was the winner of the Richard and Judy 'How to Get Published' Prize. It was one of 45,000 books entered for this competition. The story is best described as science fiction based in a world where a few huge corporations govern the country with the company controlling the water supply having a strangle hold. In this world are a group of people with a hidden resource of books to read and discover a halcyon past which they vow to recreate.

We found this book disappointing, badly structured and even amateurish. We liked the themes and felt we could recognise the world as one which our present could become. There were a few flashes of brilliant prose like the description of nights as 'brittle and metallic like embroidered silk'. Overall though the story meandered about trying to cover too much ground and contained confusing threads woven in for no real reason. Our score of 3.5 out of ten is probably the lowest score yet.

Christine Mc Sweeney

Known unto God Exhibition

Fundraising coffee morning — February & March. **We raised £150.00.** Thank you to all that came and supported these two events in support of OPTIONS Pregnancy Crisis and Post Abortion Centre.

This small exhibition held in February & March contained a short Film, my Textile Art of Four Muslin Gowns, Four Charcoal Drawings, an Acrylic painting on Canvas, and my research journal and was enjoyed by all who came. Most commented that they had not expected to experience such a powerful message, as my art is able to portray nor the beauty of the four gowns. One commented, "Your art work is powerful and gives a truthful presentation of feelings and life". It was a greatest pleasure to share my art again with all of those who came along—and well done for raising the much needed funds for **OPTIONS**, THANK YOU.

Kay Mason

Lilies for Easter If anyone would like to make a donation towards lilies for Easter in memory of someone special, please contact Sue Scott on 820369

Hunton School News

Upper School After a delay due to bad weather Upper School eventually made it to Horton Kirby. They walked around the village of Horton Kirby looking at evidence of the Victorian village, followed by an afternoon in a Victorian classroom where writing on blackboards, the cane (!!!) and a dunce's hat were all the order of the day. Following on from this work the children have produced some wonderful pieces of writing about the punishments in a Victorian School. The children and staff fully took on the role, wearing Victorian era clothes and had a superb day. Upper School are continuing to learn about life in Victorian Britain, focusing on schooling and the games children played in their free time. They will also study Victorian and modern maps of Hunton and Coxheath in order to learn how the area has changed and developed since Victorian times.

Reception Class Reception's topic this term is 'growing' and they enjoyed a fantastic trip to Brookside Garden Centre. They have been studying caterpillars and have planted some potatoes. They will also be growing other produce in their garden in time for their 'Grand Reception Lunch' in the summer term.

Lower School's topic is 'Global Gardens' and they are learning about the impact of global warming both in the UK and abroad. The children will use Google Earth to look at a variety of terrains around the world, looking at the similarities and differences between continents. They will think about what plants, including foods, are grown in the UK and the impact of food miles. The children will use a range of data to investigate temperatures around the world and temperature changes. During the term Lower School will be visiting Yalding Organic Gardens to look at the greenhouses and plants grown.

Middle School are learning about space; they will be learning facts about the planets and what it would be like to be an astronaut in space. They will be considering the great space race and the latest progress with space travel. They will use shadow puppets to recreate a moon landing and write about the night using poetic images. In science they will be learning about light sources and day and night, how shadows are made and that light travels.

The **Quiz Night** at the school has been changed to Saturday 25th April at 7.30pm tickets are £2.50 per person and there will be a licensed bar and nibbles. To reserve your place contact Dawn Dixon 820598.

Out and Out - The Worm that Turns

In average garden soil there is likely to be 53,767 worms per acre, these worms will turn around 14 tons of soil annually, depositing two tenths of an inch of nutrient rich castings on the soil surface. These castings are 5-7 times richer in essential plant nutrients (nitrogen, potash and phosphates) than the surrounding soil and are rich in calcium and magnesium. And to top all this, the worms' burrows help to aerate and drain the soil.

This astounding information was discovered by Charles Darwin whose bicentenary is being celebrated this year. Better known for his work on evolution his book on worms sold more copies, more quickly than 'On The Origin of Species'. A fitting gardening celebration of Darwin's life would be to get out and spread rotted garden compost on the surface of the soil to encourage these beasts. And perhaps as the worm quietly turns your soil you may have time to visit Down House, near Biggin Hill, the house where Darwin carried out his research on worms, and also wrote 'On The Origin of Species'.

At St Mary's Church in April

Notices

Coffee Rota

5th April - Lorraine Redfarn and Marion Weston

Brass Cleaning

April - Shirley Parnell and Edna Link

Flower Rota

April 12th - Easter Sunday all helpers

April 19th Mrs Bullivant

April 26th Mrs. Bullivant

Hunton Sunday Club

Our April meeting on Sunday April 19th will be held at Gudgeon Farmhouse, West Street from 5.15pm to 6.45pm. The Club is open to all children of primary school age either attending Hunton School or living in Hunton. Please contact David 741474 for further details.

Services

Sunday 5th April - Palm Sunday

11.00am Family Service

Revd David Jones

Readings: Preachers Choice

Friday 10th April - Good Friday

Hour at the Cross 2-3pm

Sunday 12th April - Easter Sunday

9.30 Family Service

Revd Peter Walker

Readings: Acts 10 v 34 - 43 and Mark 16 v 1 - 8

Sunday 19th April - 2nd Sunday of Easter

11.00am Morning Prayer

Mr D Barnes

Readings: Acts 4 v 32 - 35 and John 20 v 19 - end

Sunday 26th April - 3rd Sunday of Easter

08.00 Holy Communion

Revd Peter Walker

09.30 Matins

Revd David Jones

Readings: Acts 3 v 12 -19 and Luke 24 v 36b - 48

Sunday 3rd May - 4th Sunday of Easter

11.00am Family Service

Revd Peter Walker

Readings: Preachers Choice

In Aid of GamBLE



(www.gam-ble.co.uk). Childe Rolande Electric Folk Band,
(www.childe-rolande.co.uk) In Concert at Hunton Village Hall,
Saturday 16th May at 7.30pm, Tickets £8 Box Office 01622 814027

Maidstone Bible Convention

Monday May 11th to Thursday May 14th, at 8.00pm each night, at the Salvation Army Citadel, Union Street. Further details next month.



Churches Together in Maidstone 2009

EASTER

Maundy Thursday April 9th Holy Communion at St Nicholas' Allington at 7.30pm led by Rev Lesley Ludlow and the preacher Rev Brian Reed.

Good Friday April 10th March of Witness starting from Knightrider Street, Baptist Church at 10.30am followed by Open Air Service at 10.50am approx top of Earl Street/Week Street. The service will be led by Major Grayson Williams SA and the speaker

will be Rev Canon Jean Kerr, Bishop's Officer for Mission & Unity, Diocese of Rochester.

Service of Meditation and Reflection at 11.20am approx. At United Reformed Church, Week Street led by Rev Chris Esgate, Methodist Minister, Maidstone Methodist church.

Good Friday Evening Worship at 7.30pm A 'cantata for Easter in popular style' Jerusalem Joy by Roger Jones and sung by a joint choir led by Freda Crispin from churches in the Maidstone area.

Easter Sunday April 12th Sunrise Service starting at 6.30am at the top of Bluebell Hill and will take the form of a communion service led by Rev Chris Esgate and Rev Gary Watts. Meet at the viewing area/car park For further details of all these services/meeting please contact Rev David Jones (Chairman of Churches Together in Maidstone) on 01622 741474 Or david_w_jones@talk21.com

In Celebration of the Restored Windows

A series of events will take place in early October to celebrate the return of the restored windows to St Mary's, including a flower festival. An important element in floral arrangements is the use of foliage, including interesting stems and seedheads found in our gardens. We will require plenty of foliage and, should you be interested in 'donating' some, we will be happy to prune what you would like us to have. Please ring Sue Pinks on 01622 820709 for more information.

Barbara Wright

April	5 th	10 th Good Friday	12 th Easter	19 th	26 th
Coxheath	11.00 HC	Hour at the Cross 14.00pm-15.00pm	9.30 HC and Baptism	11.00 HC	11.00 FS
E. Farleigh	6.00pm Music	Hour at the Cross 9.30am-10.30am	08.00 HC 11.00 HC	9.30 HC	08.00 HC 09.30 Matins
Linton	9.30 HC	Hour at the Cross 12.00-13.00pm	09.30 HC	08.00 HC 11.00 FS	09.30 HC
W. Farleigh	8.00 HC	Hour at the Cross 12.30pm-13.30pm	11.00 HC	9.30 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