



Editors: Sue & David Heaton, 3 New Cottages, Barn Hill, Hunton, ME15 0QT 01622 820678 herald@hunton.org.uk

Parish Plan

Off to Flying Start

The meeting on February 17th formalised the steering group and some of its members. The constitution was agreed, which now enables us to hold funds in our own right. We have confirmed the following positions: Sue Heaton as Chair, Barbara Wright as Secretary and Kathy Allington as Treasurer. Di Martin has agreed to be the Events Coordinator and Guy Oliver will assist with the Communication and Marketing. Many more people have agreed to offer assistance as and when, which is fantastic.

At the next meeting 17th March at 8pm in the Village Club we will be planning the project time scales and identifying the tasks and Plan dates. It will then be clear what help we specifically require and when. We should be in a position to share this with you after the next meeting.

We will use the Hunton Herald to ask for assistance as we go along. The idea is that this Parish Action Plan will be completed within 18 months, so there is a lot to do if we are to keep on target and we will need as much help as we can get. Click on www.hunton.org.uk to view the Parish Plan section of the website. Stay in the know on-line with our regular updates. If you feel you can help with planning the plan, no matter how small, complete an on-line skills survey - it's simple and it's quick!

Sue Heaton and Barbara Wright

Out and Out - Hunton Snowdrops

The snowdrops in Hunton Churchyard were a picture of loveliness on St Valentine's Day this year. For the first time, and with thanks to The Friends of St Mary's Church, there was an invitation to enjoy the swathes of flowers in good company with the welcome benefit of a hot drink provided.

These colonies of snowdrops have been carefully nurtured over the last few years with special care taken not to mow these areas until the snowdrop foliage has faded. The spread has also been helped by volunteers lifting

and splitting clumps then replanting them over a wider area. If you would like to have a master class and some firsthand experience of spreading snowdrops 'in the green' then the next Churchyard working party would be well worth a visit, this is one of the major jobs at this time of year. For information about the next working party phone David Way on 01622 820876 or email the editor.

Snowdrops have been associated with churches since the Middle Ages when they were first associated with Candlemas. Their early flowering and flawless show of cleanliness and purity made them the perfect flower to symbolise the Purification of the Virgin 40 days after Christmas.

Christine McSweeney



Your Local Contacts:

Parish Council Chairman: Roger Sawtell	820731	Clerk to Parish Council: Vikki Stancombe	842782
School: Secretary/Head Teacher	820360	Village Hall Booking: Jane Crane	820127
Under 5's Pre-School:	820309	Maidstone Police:	608186
Pre-School Supervisor: Nicola Julier	07972067110	Neighbourhood Watch:	608173
Pond and Tree Warden: Anne Bishop	820683	'Potholes' concern (KCC): Kim Hills	0845 824 7800
Rector: Revd Peter Walker	747570**	Churchwarden: Alison Ellman-Brown	820288
Associate Rector: Revd David Jones	741474*	Organist: Philip Moore	749356
Village Club: Doug Redfarn	820495	PCSO Jo Watts	01622 604392

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

Dates for Diaries:

Thursday 11th March Parish Council 8.00pm Hunton Village Hall
Wednesday 17th March Hunton parish plan meeting 8.00pm Hunton Village Club
Thursday 13th May Parish Council AGM Hunton Village Hall

Parish Councillors contact details

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

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

Dear Friends,

It was a very moving service on Sunday February 7th at Coxheath church when a hundred folk gathered to celebrate the Confirmation of six young adults:- four from Coxheath, one from Linton and one from West Malling.

I have been remembering my own Confirmation 45 years ago (!). A mere lad with many others of similar age who knelt in pairs before the Bishop of Lewes in the parish church of St.Mary, Shoreham-by-Sea, Sussex. I met the lad who had knelt with me some years later at the memorial service of the minister who had prepared us. He was in an office job in London and was surprised to see me in a dog collar!

Memories of past events shape our future too. Recently I was listening on Radio 4 to an interview with Clive James, the Australian broadcaster and journalist, who has published his autobiography entitled 'Unreliable Memoirs' in which he recalls his early years 'Down Under' and his subsequent move to London and his journalistic career.

His early memories, he says, are as clear as if the events happened yesterday and yet events of even last week are somewhat hazy! It is, (I am told!) an affliction of the more senior amongst us - hence the term 'a senior moment' I guess.

Memory lies at the centre of our Eucharistic liturgy. The word that characterises this is 'anamnesis' which is an ancient Greek word meaning 'recollection', literally 'loss of forgetfulness'. The Holy Communion service is an act of anamnesis when we recall and remember the events of the Last Supper and fulfil our Lord's request 'do this in memory of me'.

So as we watched the six adults kneeling before Bishop Michael Gear and receiving the laying on of hands, then to receive Holy Communion for the first time, my memories flashed past and I thanked God that their memories of that day will be forever emblazoned on their minds as they continue on their Christian pilgrimage with us and receive, in memory of He who died on the Cross for us, the bread and the wine of the Holy Communion; His body and blood shed for us and then crowned by the events of the first Easter Day which we will remember next month.

With good wishes and prayers, PETER

School News

Preparing the Pond The School had a pond day and volunteers from Medway Partnership were undertaking the refurbishment of the pond with the eco-council filming, reporting and photographing the event.

In the afternoon all the children started activities linked to the refurbishing of the pond. Upper School made bug hotels whilst Middle School made bird feeders. Lower School made Tibetan prayer flags that will be hung up so the prayers are blown to God with the wind. Reception helped make bug homes using leaves and foliage.

During this year, as well as refurbishing the pond area, we are planning a Reception garden, a wildlife area and outdoor classroom (this will be a fenced area at the front of the school and will only be used with adult supervision). We are also planning to build a small outdoor stage for alfresco performances! All these ideas come from suggestions by the children and we aim to complete this, this year.

Raising Money for Haiti The children are made aware of current affairs through the watching of children's BBC news programmes at various times in the school week. After the dreadful Haiti earthquake disaster our older children were very keen to raise money to support the charities involved in the rescue operation. After much thought by staff and children it was decided that the children could learn a great deal about humanity and living their lives in the path of Jesus by not just asking you for donations but by earning money through a range of events. Our final sum for the Haiti appeal is £631.33. How amazing that such a small school can raise such a huge amount of money.

Maidstone Symphony Orchestra

Conductor, Brian Wright, Saturday 27th March 2010, 7.30pm, Mote Hall, Maidstone Leisure Centre, Mote Park.

The Elgar - Overture, Cockaigne

Beethoven - Piano Concerto No.1. Soloist Ching-Yun Hu, Piano

Tchaikovsky - Symphony No.6 "Pathetique".

Born in Taiwan and educated in the USA, Ching-Yun Hu won the top prize at the 2008 Arthur Rubinstein Competition, and for us she plays the finest of Beethoven's earlier concertos. Surrounding are Elgar's portrait of Edwardian London, his overture Cockaigne, and Tchaikovsky's ever-popular, heart-wrenching Pathetique Symphony.

Concert tickets £12, £16 and £21, seats for full time students with a Student card £5, available from Membership Secretaries on 01622 736392, paid for and collected on the concert evening at Mote Hall, or from Maidstone Leisure Centre Mote Hall Box office on 0845 1552277 when payment can be made by credit card.

Bookings can be taken on www.mso.org.uk using the booking form on the 'Performance' page.

This is a Muriel Tassell memorial Concert. MOS Registered Charity No. 287986.

HUNTON CLUB BOOK CLUB

January 2010 Review - 'The Outcast' by Sadie Jones

'The Outcast' starts in 1957 when nineteen year old Lewis is released from prison and returns to his family home in Surrey. We are told how his father returned from the Second World War and, in Lewis' eyes, intruded into the relationship he had with his mother whom he idolised. We learn of the events which lead to Lewis being cast out of his family and community, which started with the tragic drowning of Lewis' mother which he witnessed but was unable to prevent.

'The Outcast' is a story of middle class life in the 1950s, where Lewis is offered no support after his mother's death, and he gradually alienates himself from his father, his very young stepmother, and his neighbours. As we see Lewis' life unravelling into problems with alcohol, underage trips to London clubs with an older woman and eventually to self harm, we realise that the community surrounding Lewis isn't the wonderful world of cocktail parties and Sunday lunches that it appears at first.

This is an incredibly powerful book that deals with some extremely difficult issues such as self harm and physical abuse. The group felt that these issues were dealt with very sensitively and gave a great insight into them and the sometimes claustrophobic and tense atmosphere of middle class England in the 1950s. We all felt (and it is very unusual for us all to agree!) that Sadie Jones' rather sparse style of writing showed incredible understanding of the issues, and that she managed to weave the relationships between the characters into a very readable love story. Although one member of the group felt it was sometimes a little repetitive, we were all able to feel real empathy for Lewis and some of the other characters, and all of us thoroughly enjoyed this book, even though it was heart wrenching at times! The group gave this book an average score of 8 out of 10. *Lorraine Redfarn*

Friends of St Mary's

Quiz Night Saturday 13th February saw 60 or so people exercising their grey matter in the Village Hall at the Friends Quiz night. A very enjoyable evening was had by all and the winning laurels went to the 'Barn Hillies' with a quite stunning performance and knowledge of trivia! Somewhere in the region of £300 was raised in aid of the Friends of St Mary's. Thanks must go to the Club for providing the bar and very special thanks to Phil Nicholls and his assistant Samantha (Trish) for devising, hosting and keeping order on the evening.

Snowdrop Sunday On the 14th February the Church was open for tea and cakes to refresh those who had braved the weather observing the snowdrops in the churchyard. Old photographs of the village were displayed in the church which generated interest. Special thanks to Lisa Halliday and daughters for manning the tea table for the whole day. About £80 was raised for the Friends.

Blooming Green

Jennifer Stuart-Smith and Rebekah Bibby, otherwise known as the flower growers and florists Blooming Green will be selling English flower bouquets for Mothering Sunday. They can be collected from Loddington Farm, Linton on Friday 12 or Saturday 13 March, but need to be ordered in advance (07903683017). The pair decorated the pillars for last year's flower festival and also offers PYO flowers, for local church flower ladies. This will be starting again in April.

Hunton History - Hunton Wills

Until surprisingly recently, 12 January 1858, all wills had to be proved in ecclesiastical courts as the last will and testament were seen as part of the individuals move from this world to the next. Depending on the circumstances of the testator these wills were proved in an Archdeacon's court, a Bishop's court or most importantly the Archbishop's prerogative court. The Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC) proved all wills that met certain criteria between 1384 and 1858 for southern England and Wales. The criteria for having a will proved in the Canterbury Court were that the property was in more than one diocese and/or the value of goods was in excess of £5 in more than one diocese. Therefore with the exception of seamen's wills most were of people of property and some wealth.

Fortunately for us about one million of these wills have been preserved in the National Archives and of these about 100 are of Hunton residents and are available to be downloaded as part of the National Archives documents online service. They are photostat copies of the original registered copy wills as entered when the probate was granted. As can be imagined they are not always easy to read as they consist of handwritten entries: handwriting styles from before the mid 18th century spellings, varied enormously. However they are worth looking at as they give an insight into the personalities and concerns of our forebears living in Hunton back to the medieval period.

Most wills will start by naming the person and his profession or status in society, given the criteria for PCC wills it is not surprising that the majority of Hunton wills are for farmers, yeomen and gentlemen, but there are also some for tanners, weavers, carpenters, smiths among others and of course spinsters and widows. They vary in length from a few lines to a few pages and though they follow the same format generally, there are enormous variations in the nature of the detail contained within them. Some are highly legalistic whereas others are very

At St Mary's Church in March

Notices	Services
Flower Rota LENT - No Flowers Coffee Rota 7 th March - The Simmons Family Mothering Sunday - Nicky Granger Brass Cleaning March - Nicky Granger Hunton Sunday Club Meets again on Sunday March 21st from 5.15pm to 6.45pm at 3 Grove Cottages, West Street. If you are of primary school age and either live in Hunton or attend school in Hunton why not come along? Contact David 741474 for more details	Sunday 7th March - 3rd Sunday of Lent 11.00am Holy Communion Revd David Jones Readings: Preachers Choice Sunday 14th March - 4th Sunday of Lent 11.00 Mothering Sunday Christine Bostock Readings: Special readings Sunday 21st March - 5th Sunday of Lent 11.00 Morning Prayer David Barnes Readings: Isaiah 43 v 16 - 21 and John 12 v 1-8 Sunday 28th March - Palm Sunday 09.30am Holy Communion Revd Peter Walker Readings: Isaiah 50 v 4-9a and Luke 19 v 28 - 40 Sunday 4th April - Easter Sunday 09.30am Family Service Revd Peter Walker Readings: Preachers Choice

Churches Together in Maidstone Easter Services 2010

Maundy Thursday April 1st. 7.30 pm, United Holy Communion Service

Maidstone Baptist Church, Knightrider Street

Good Friday April 2nd. 10.30 am March of Witness

commencing at Maidstone Baptist Church Knightrider St. and finishing at the top of Earl Street, service at approx 11.00am led by Rev Jackie Cray and the Preacher Major Grayson Williams and Salvation Army Band

11.30 approx United Good Friday Service

Salvation Army, Union Street; Preacher: Major Norman Ord (Principal of William Booth College)

7.30 pm Jerusalem Joy Musical Service with music by Roger Jones and Churches Together in Maidstone Choir, United Reformed Church, Week Street

Easter Sunday April 4th. 6.30am Sunrise Holy Communion Service

at car park, Top of Bluebell Hill led by Rev Gary Watt followed by breakfast.



Wednesday 10th March at 7.45pm. in Loose Baptist Church, Maidstone

Wim Mauritz, Tearfund's Church Relationships Manager for the South East will talk about "The local church - transforming lives" and provide an update on "Haiti and Tearfund's response". Followed by prayers for Tearfund projects and the needs of the world.

Directions: The church meets on a school site, not in Loose Village. Take the A229 (Hastings road) out of Maidstone. After passing the Fire Station turn left after a parade of shops into Boughton Lane. Follow the road round to the right and then turn left into the school site. Ample parking. Sale of Tearcraft and Fairtrade goods & refreshments at close of meeting. You can visit the website www.tearfund.org to see the wide range of their work

Hunton Wills - continued from page 3

...straightforward details of bequests to family and friends. Unfortunately they very rarely give the address or details of individual landholdings belonging to the testator, so to pinpoint where the person lived needs to be sourced elsewhere in for example tithe records. The wills though are very good at showing us what the concerns of testator were at the time: for instance in how he wants to bequeath his estate can indicate what his relationship was with his wife or with his children at the time. Wills are also interesting in that they reflect the role of women in society. Given that through most of this period married women's property became their husbands on marriage the wills are a way of both reinforcing this status and perhaps in some instances surprisingly contradicting this because of the dynamics of the marriage and wealth of some testators.

So, if you live in one of the older houses in Hunton and know that a former resident died before 1858, it might be worth looking him or her up on the documents online section on the National Archives website.

Next month I will look at a couple of examples to illustrate some of the ideas mentioned.

David Heaton

<i>March</i>	<i>7th</i>	<i>14th</i>	<i>21st</i>	<i>28th</i>	<i>April 4th Easter</i>
Coxheath	11.00 HC	11.00 HC Mothering Sunday	11.00 HC	11.00 FS	11.00 HC
E. Farleigh	09.30 HC	08.00 HC 11.00 FS Mothering Sunday	09.30 HC	08.00 HC 6.00pm Easter Music	09.30 HC
Linton	09.30 HC	11.00 FS Mothering Sunday	08.00 HC 11.00 FS	09.30 HC	09.30 HC
W. Farleigh	8.00 HC	11.00 MP Mothering Sunday	9.30 HC	11.00 MP (mod)	09.30 HC

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