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Applause - New Budapest Cafe Orchestra - 3 December

There was something special about this event which sets it apart from all the other excellent shows we have put on. On a bitterly cold and icy evening with car temperature gauges showing about -8C it was truly heart warming to see the hall filled with more than 80 people.

On behalf of the promotion team many thanks to all of you who showed the determination to make the show such a success. It was a pity that some who had hoped to come were snowed in. Many thanks to those who nevertheless contributed to the hall fund.

The day started fairly early. A gang of four got snow clearing with shovels with the aim of getting the entrance in working order. Unfortunately no snow ploughs passed by otherwise they would have been collared. The hall was then beautifully laid out cafe style with chequered table covers and the stage set 1950's style with a portrait of a young Queen Elizabeth looking out approvingly from the wall behind the stage.

The band arrived from Lincolnshire at about 4pm, relieved to have made it in good time and even more pleased when revived by a fine, late afternoon plate of goulash. The hard work put in by the cooking team deserves particular thanks. The warming aroma of the goulash began to pervade the hall and set the scene for an excellent evening of music.



The 4 piece NBCO were on unstoppable form. Crackling east European dance music mixed with slow, moving pieces delivered with real musical panache. Chris Garrick, the leader on violin, with a warm and personable stage presence, showed why he is rated as one of Europe's best with Eddie Hession, British champion on accordion, stealing the show with his dazzling mastery of the instrument.

The performance was rewarded with two standing ovations and the band, clearly enjoying themselves, duly responded.

Hopefully everyone got out of the car park without too much difficulty and home safely. Warm thanks once again to the snow clearers, hall arrangers, cooks, bar staff and all who got there on the night. With contributions still coming in the hall fund will have benefited by about £430. It was a terrific evening.

Alan Bishop

Update on the Plan

With a lot of comments still to capture the Parish Plan questionnaire analysis is well under way. We will be sharing the outcome at the February event on Saturday 12th - "Hunton Calling - We're listening!!"

Christmas Quiz Night

A very successful quiz night was held on 11 December at the club. There was a good turn out despite it being the night of the X Factor Final! Seven teams took part in a competitive, but friendly, quiz with the Quiz Master being Philip Nichols. The quiz had a festive feel with the marathon round being made up of jumbled Christmassy terms including Chestnut Stuffing and Brussel Sprouts and the Jokers being replaced by Santas. Thanks to everyone who turned up and made the evening such a success.

Your Local Contacts:

| | | | |
|--|-------------|---|---------------|
| Parish Council Chairman: Roger Sawtell | 820731 | Clerk to Parish Council: Sharon Goodwin | 681238 |
| School: Secretary/Head Teacher | 820360 | Village Hall Booking: Jane Crane | 820127 |
| Under 5's Pre-School: | 820309 | Maidstone Police: | 608186 |
| Pre-School Supervisor: | 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* | PCSO Jo Watts/Gary Shaw | 604392 |
| Village Club: Doug Redfarn | 820495 | | |

*not available on Fridays **not available on Mondays

Dates for Diaries:

Saturday 12th February "Hunton Calling - We're Listening!!" Village Hall 1-3pm
 Thursday 13th January Parish Council Meeting Village Hall 8pm
 Wednesday 12th January Parish Plan Meeting Village Club 8pm
 Sunday 20th February Snow drop day - details next month
 Sunday 20th March Applause Event Village Hall - details next month
 Friday 13th May Applause Event Village Hall - details next month

Parish Councillors contact details

Parish Council Chairman
 - Roger Sawtell 820731
Clerk to the Parish Council
 - Sharon Goodwin 681238
 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 February edition to the Editors as soon as possible, and by 15th January, please

Dear Friends,

What a great day it was when on Saturday December 11th saw the welcome and inauguration of James Langstaff as the 107th Bishop of Rochester. The Cathedral was full of parish representatives, clergy, bishops, the local mayor, the High Sheriff, the Lord Lieutenant of Kent. There seemed no end of the procession of dignitaries! There is no doubt that at these sorts of events, the Church of England excels in putting on such proceedings.

As the Dean of Rochester said at the opening of the service:

'Today we have come gathered in the presence of Almighty God to inaugurate the ministry of James, 107th Bishop of Rochester, and to place him in the Episcopal chair of his cathedral church as the chief shepherd of Christ's flock in this Diocese and as the guardian of the faith that we have received from the apostles'.

I am reminded of that phrase in the Creed when we affirm belief in 'One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic church'. Yes, we are in the line of the first Apostles commissioned by Jesus to 'go out into all the world making disciples'. The Apostolic succession is seen in that unbroken line of the laying-on of hands of those who became the first ministers of the early church, as the Apostles placed their hands on the heads of those 'ordained' leaders. So those ordained as Deacons, Priests and Bishops are in that direct line.

That faith received from the Apostles is that which Bishop James and all of us seek to proclaim. In his first sermon Bishop James spoke on the Gospel read that day about the feeding of the five thousand. In this he spoke of how Jesus gave more than enough to feed the multitude with much left over. This was a sign of the very generosity of God. Generosity was the key word at the heart of the sermon, not least the generosity of so many people coming together to welcome he and his wife, Bridget.

(The Diocese were very generous too in providing a packed lunch in boxes so that we could all sit down afterwards and have lunch together, and there was more than enough!)

Advent, which we were then observing was, and is, that time of the year when we remember and prepare for the generosity of God in sending His Son Jesus as a babe in Bethlehem. 'God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son'.

It is that gift and generosity of giving which should inspire and help us to live out our Christian lives.

The Bishop concluded thus: 'Dioceses sometimes come up with strap lines to describe themselves and their aspirations. We could do worse than being: 'The Diocese of Rochester: a generous people' - Just so long as it is true. There will, I am sure, be a copy of the complete sermon in a future Rochester Link.

With all good wishes for 2011 with our new Bishop as the chief shepherd of Christ's flock in this Diocese, and his leading us forward in that Apostolic faith.

Peter

Charlie Hunton Realises a Dream

Charles Hunton wrote that he has had a long time dream that one day he would be able to visit Hunton Village to trace his roots. He is an eighth generation Hunton from Thomas who emigrated to Virginia from Southern England in the late 1600s. His DNA results from the National Geographic database indicate that 90% of the men with a match to him live in Southern England.

Charles and his partner, Sharon, arrived in London September 10th for a short trip to England and returned home September 16th. On the afternoon of September 11th the week before "Hunton Calling!!" they made their way to Hunton and met Tricia and Phil at the Club who kindly showed them around the village. Charles wrote "We were very fortunate to encounter Phil and Tricia Nichols who were tidying up in front of Hunton Village Club. They were most kind and told us to send the taxi back to Maidstone. They helped us with a very nice tour and then drove us to Maidstone. It was an event I shall always treasure and I am sure to tell everyone about it as well as how helpful and friendly everyone was during our brief visit to England" Tricia and Phil have been exchanging emails with Charles. Charles and Sharon got married over the Thanks Giving weekend and had their honeymoon at the Biltmore Estate in North Carolina. The picture shows his best man Tyler, Sharon's only grandson and Charles' only granddaughter, Eden, was Sharon's maid of honour. Congratulations to Charles and Sharon who will be reading this on our website!



Part-time Co-ordinator Needed The trustees of the Peace Cottages' Almshouses are looking for a man or woman to be available on an ad-hoc basis to contact companies for minor repairs when necessary. Some-one with good organisational skills would be ideal. Payment to be discussed. Contact Roger Sawtell on 01622 820731.

School News Olympic Day Following on from the school trip to the Olympic stadium 2012, a Schools Sports Partnership Olympic Day was organised. An opening ceremony started the day and each class participated in a range of 'Olympic' type tasks. The school participated in a Basketball Tournament and played the first match against Molehill and won 10-1. Hunton then drew with Wateringbury, 3-3, but unfortunately they lost to Barming 1-5. Hunton then won 4-0 to East Farleigh and came second out of five teams. The day ended with a closing ceremony with awards given to the children who displayed the Olympic values.

Hunton Club Book Club December 2010 Review – Dissolution by C.J. Sansom

The novel *Dissolution* is set in 1537. Henry VIII has proclaimed himself Supreme Head of the Church and is set on a path of breaking all ties with Rome. Under the orders of his Vicar General, Thomas Cromwell, a team of commissioners has been sent to investigate the monasteries with the aim of closing them down. Part detective story and part historical novel, the book opens when Cromwell receives a letter informing him that one such commissioner has been murdered at a monastery on the Sussex coast. A second commissioner, Matthew Shardlake and his assistant are sent through the snowy countryside of Kent and Sussex to investigate.

Dissolution tells, through the eyes of Matthew Shardlake, the story of the monks and the servants at the monastery and the web of intrigue and deeply held beliefs that surround them. The murder links the inhabitants of the monastery with the powerful happenings in King Henry's court.

The book demonstrates the strong emotions generated by moves to break the church away from the old order and paints an often-disturbing account of life in the mid 16th century.

Only four members of the Hunton Club Book Group managed to be at the December meeting because of deep snow, although others sent their views. Everyone very much enjoyed *Dissolution*. They liked the blend of fact, fiction, history and politics and felt that the story was well told with well drawn characters. They liked the way the book illustrated the fragility of everyday life in the 16th century - one day it was safe and stable and the next you could be in the Tower of London. The average score for the book was 7 out of 10. Next month's book is *Open: an autobiography* by Andre Agassi.

Liz Oliver

Another Silver Award

It is gratifying to record that after entering Hunton churchyards in the 2010 wildlife gardening Award Scheme (Community), organised by mainly the Kent Wildlife Trust, we have won a Silver Award for the second year running. Our churchyards are becoming recognised for their attractiveness and compliance with modern eco-friendly management policies. This is a good opportunity to thank all volunteers who have joined in with the working parties for their enthusiastic support. New volunteers are always welcome.

David Way

January Events from The Yalding Gardens

Happy New Year to you all and as it can be a rather bleak time of year we have thought up some fun events for your entertainment.

Saturday 15th January - Knit and Knatter Group- From 2.30-4pm. All abilities welcome, just come along and bring your own needles and wool. £4 includes tea and cake from the Bushel Box Cafe.

Saturday 29th January - Seed Swapping - 1-3pm free entry. Come and join us for Yalding Gardens' first Potato and Seed day. We will have dozens of seed potato varieties including organic, disease resistant and heritage seed potatoes all to buy by the tuber. We will also be having a seed swap where you can bring along your excess seeds to swap with those we have saved at the gardens including heritage seeds and seeds from fellow growing enthusiasts. There will also be growing tips, information, games, recipes and tastings.

Sunday 30th January - Big Garden Birdwatch 11am-12pm and 1pm-2pm free entry. As part of the RSPB's, 'Big Garden Birdwatch 2011', we want to see who lives in our gardens. The idea is to watch for an hour and record the birds you see. Come along to help us and we'll let you wander around the gardens afterwards for free! So clear out those winter cobwebs with a walk and don't forget to bring your wellies, binoculars and a smile. We will also be putting out games and charts to learn which birds are which, listening to birdsong and making birdfood recipes to feed our birds in the colder months.

Out and Out Nature in Action

The Chequers Centre in Maidstone is not the place you would normally go to look for an example of Nature's opportunism but look to the left next time you go up the escalator from Sainsburys and this is exactly what you will see.

Clinging to the brick wall here are several examples of fern and a buddleja. Water from a dripping gutter has carried seed, spores and just enough organic matter to allow their growth and survival. Supplies must be meagre as the ferns have not grown as large as usual but over the couple of years during which they have been there the colony has expanded and spread down the wall.

Their survival must also be thanks to their just being out of reach, the urge to lean over and hook out the buddleja is strong but just beyond possibility. Nature is constantly surprising and constantly opportunistic, given the slimmest chance She will green our urban deserts.

Christine McSweeney

Fine Example of Medieval Craftmanship Discovered in Hunton

What do windows and doors have in common? They both fill holes in the wall. Windows admit light to a building, doors admit people. When we walk through a door we are primarily aware of its convenient function. We walk through and pass on, leaving the door behind us. It is such an everyday experience; our minds do not dwell on the door itself. Perhaps because of this, one major feature of our parish church of great heritage significance has gone essentially unrecognised for 600 years. As a result of recent examination by an expert, we now know that we

Continued over page

At St Mary's Church in January

Notices

Coffee Rota

Sunday 2nd January Moira Ensell

Hunton Sunday Club – the club for children of primary school age in Hunton. Our January meeting will be held at 'Scotts Farm House' in West Street on Sunday January 16th at 5.15pm until 6.45pm. Contact David Jones 741474 for further details.

Services

Sunday 2nd January – 1st Epiphany

11.00 am Family Service – Rev David Jones

Readings: Preachers Choice

Sunday 9th January – The Baptism of Christ and the Sunday after Epiphany

09.30 am Holy Communion – Rev Peter Walker

Readings: Isaiah 42 v 1-9 and Matthew 3 v 13 - 17

Sunday 16th January – 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

11.00 am Morning Prayer – Rev David Jones

Readings: Isaiah 49 v 1-7 and John 1 v 29 -42

Sunday 23rd January – 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

11.00 am Holy Communion (shortened slightly) – Rev Peter Walker

Readings: Isaiah 9 v1-4 and Matthew 4 v12 - 23

Sunday 30th January – Presentation of Christ

10.30 Benefice Service Coxheath – Rev Peter Walker

have truly remarkable medieval doors. Two form a pair and were originally fitted as outer doors, one in the tower and one in the nave.

Both are constructed to the same highly unusual design, leading to the conclusion that they were made by the same craftsman at the same time. They are likely to have been made and fitted between 1400 and 1420.

Later in the 15 Century the church was enlarged; the south wall of the nave was arcaded and a south aisle constructed. The original south nave door thus became redundant in its original position and was refitted in a new doorway created in the outer wall of the south aisle. Later in the same century a stone work porch was built for this doorway and probably later still fitted with its own outer porch door; this time a different design, square panelled and centre folding, thus the original exterior door to the nave became an inner door while still relatively "new", perhaps by or before it was 100 years old. Consequently it is in remarkably near pristine condition, having been exposed to the elements for a comparatively short period of its long life.

Both the tower and south aisle doorways have pointed arches in stone with recesses for the doors to shut against them. Thus the upper slope of the door has to conform closely to the curve of the stone arch. To achieve this the craftsman chose a rare and unusual technique, he used grown bent durns to form the outer framework (a durn or stile is the name given to the piece of timber used to form the outer framework of the door) By using grown bent durns he avoided the need for joints which would otherwise be necessary if the durns or stiles were cut from straight grained timber. The external surface of these doors is formed by narrow humped panels, shaped like shallow chevrons in section.

The reason the grown bent durn is so rare is that availability was purely by chance. When this church came to needing its doors, the carpenter would have known which timber merchant/woodsman would be likely to be able to help him. On the basis that trees were felled and fairly quickly logged, no curved timbers would be available off the shelf.

A durn for a door firstly required a faultless length of perfectly straight high quality timber for the hanging stile and then a curve that fitted the arch. As can be imagined, to find a curve of the right radius would be difficult enough, but the curve had to be long enough at the same radius. It would be no good if it straightened up or curved more steeply half way along the arch. To find durns that exactly fitted this order would require the right tree to be found and specially felled whose branch/trunk formation was exactly the correct curve. It could not be any small tree, it had to be a large tree to provide the dimension of the curve for at least two durns or in this case four, none affected by the shakes in the middle of the log and none affected by sap wood on the edges. Of course there were far more oaks then available and a woodsman's job was to know every tree intimately to provide his customers with exactly the dimension and quality of timber required.

Doors constructed in this manner are so rare that only one other example is known in Kent. It is the Deanery gate at Rochester Cathedral. Thus it is perhaps hardly surprising that in a recent survey this pair of doors have been (recognised) designated as of national as well as of regional importance.

Two of our three ancient doors are in serious need of repair and expert restoration. Fortunately a suitable experienced contractor has been found. As can be imagined, work of this nature is highly expensive. Robust fundraising is needed for such a project and has started in earnest already.

Anke and David Way

| January | 2nd | 9th | 16th | 23rd | 30th | 6th February |
|-------------|--------------|----------------------------------|----------|----------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| Coxheath | 11.00 HC | 11.00 MP | 11.00 HC | 11.00 FS and Baptism | 10.30 Benefice Coxheath | 11.00 HC |
| E. Farleigh | 09.30 Matins | 08.00 HC 11.00 FS and Baptism | 09.30 HC | 08.00 HC | 10.30 Benefice Coxheath | 09.30 Matins |
| Linton | 09.30 HC | 09.30 FS | 08.00 HC | 09.30 HC | 10.30 Benefice Coxheath | 09.30 HC |
| W. Farleigh | 08.00 HC | 11.00 MP | 9.30 MP | 09.30 HC | 10.30 Benefice Coxheath | 08.00 HC |

HC: Holy Communion, MP: Morning Prayer, (bcp) Book of Common Prayer, FS: Family Service, SW: Service of Word