



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

## Do you mind what happens to Hunton?

What would happen if Hunton was threatened by a new development of a 500-house estate on a green field site on the outskirts of the village?

Or a new by-pass road was planned carving its way through the surrounding countryside?

These scenarios were raised at the November Parish Council meeting when members tried to highlight the threat of such developments and discussed what defensive action the village should be preparing.

Chairman Roger Sawtell felt that it was vital for Hunton to design a Parish Plan - as already created by other villages in the neighbourhood - with such a move instigated by the parishioners rather than the parish council.

"We desperately need a Plan to highlight where possible changes and improvement might be acceptable but equally importantly where we don't want to see any development."

Agreeing, Alan Bishop, Hall Chairman, said: "The village is changing so much at the moment. Hunton Court, where the squire of the parish has always lived, could change hands; the school is expanding; and footpath plans have been put forward."

It was agreed that a draft plan should be prepared using an Ordinance Survey map to highlight various areas of the parish and then villagers be invited to attend a sociable get together in the hall to peruse the map and discuss any action contemplated for the future.

## Vikki Stancombe takes on the Baton

New Parish Council Clerk Vikki Stancombe was welcomed by Chairman Roger Sawtell to her first meeting at the village hall in mid-November.

The mother of two has lived in Sutton Valence for seven years and having stepped down from a high position with Citibank in London - where she worked for an Executive Vice President who is currently Prime Minister in Pakistan - gives support to husband Maurice an experienced chef running a contract catering business.

Vikki, who has also taken over as clerk with West Farleigh, while holding a similar post at Chart Sutton, says: "I have already been well received in Hunton and look forward to my time working with the Parish Council."

Retiring after 11 years as clerk, David Swan was thanked by Roger for his loyal dedication and presented with a framed picture of Chatham Town Hall and an acer tree for his garden.

David said: "The painting is appropriate as it features a vintage double decker bus and during retirement I am planning to work on the restoration of a similar type of vehicle that is being driven down to Kent from Barnsley."

A lifetime career in the civil service put David in good standing for his council work having gained experience working in the health service and the DHSS, finally operating as a controller of a region from North London down to Bournemouth.



### 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:

Saturday 8th December 10am-12pm, Christmas Wreath Session, Hunton Village Hall, 753053.

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

Dear Friends,

*'.. The star which they had seen in the East went before them. till it came and stood over where the young child was...'* (St. Matthew 2:9)

A number of explanations have been given for the appearance of the star, each with its own difficulties. Amongst these are that the star was a supernova or a comet or a conjunction of Saturn and Jupiter. Because Scripture does not explain or identify the star, we cannot state categorically what it was.

It may simply have been the glory of the Lord - the same experience which the shepherds saw when the angels appeared to them.

The Bible often equates the manifestation of God's glory with some sort of light. (Eg: the book of Numbers 24:17 'a star shall come forth from the house of Jacob' or Revelation 22:16 Jesus is the 'Bright and Morning Star'). So we may well identify the light of the star as the glory of God.

The Magi or 'Wise Men' were not following the star for their entire journey because they had to ask where Jesus was born. It wasn't until the Jews told them of the prophesied place of Christ's birth that the star reappeared and guided them on to Bethlehem and the exact spot where the baby lay.

These wise men being learned men and acquainted with the literature of their time, including parts of the Jewish writings had correctly made the assumption that a star which they would see would be the herald of the coming of the long awaited Messiah.

The wise men made their long journey with one purpose in mind, to find the Saviour and worship Him.

They were true seekers after God, and though they had limited spiritual light, they immediately heard God's voice and they responded in faith and obedience. These wise men had the type of genuine seeking hearts that God promises always to reward. ('You will seek me and find me; when you seek me with all your heart' - Jeremiah 29:13).

The coming of the Messiah was also the beginning of the New Age. St. Matthew, who is the only Gospel writer to report the journey of the wise men, uses a word in its original text meaning 'genesis'. He begins his Gospel: 'The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham'. If we look further in chapter one at verse 18 we read: 'Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way...' Here was beginning that which the prophets had foretold. Here was the new book of Genesis being written - here was the arrival of the new Adam!

Rivals to power are not welcome. So it was with Herod, a cruel man who ruled Judea as king by grant of the Roman senate from 37 to 4b.c. An ageing and failing tyrant he ordered the slaughter of the innocent children of Bethlehem in the hope of killing the Messiah.

*Continued on back page*

## Looking for the Harlequin Ladybird

Have you heard of the new visitor to the country? The Kent and Medway Biological Records Centre would like to introduce the Harlequin ladybird (*Harmonia axyridis*), the ladybird alien to the UK which is extremely invasive.

According to some authors, this species competes with our native ladybirds and might replace our native ladybirds as the grey squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*) did in Kent with the red squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*). However, as a ladybird, it can still help the gardener by eating aphids.

Originating from Asia, this ladybird was first recorded in Britain in Essex, 2004. Since then, Kent has become a "hotspot" for the species. The species is currently being surveyed by members of the public and entomologists such as Helen Roy of the Anglia Ruskin University who says it has been described as "the most invasive ladybird on earth".

We'd like to invite you to track the species by keeping an eye out and telling us if you see one. You can also record your sighting on the national website for the species: [www.ladybird-survey.org](http://www.ladybird-survey.org).

How to recognise a Harlequin ladybird

- It is usually bigger than other ladybirds (6-8mm long, which is at least as big as a 7-spot ladybird);
- It may be a variety of colours, which explains its name 'harlequin' which means 'colourful' or 'changing-colour';
- It may have lots of black spots (15 to 20) or 2 or 4 orange or red spots;
- It normally has brown legs.

As a recording centre, we collect, collate and disseminate wildlife information specifically for Kent & Medway. Essentially if we know where species are we can work towards protecting them. You can get involved in wildlife recording by letting us know about the Harlequin ladybird in your area or anywhere in Kent & Medway!

In addition to the Harlequin, we are interested to know about all species (plants, fungi, birds, spiders, etc.) occurring in Kent. Common species such as rabbits and blackbirds are as informative as rare species!

To be a useful record, information needs to contain the 4 'W's to meet national standards. These are **Who** (the Recorder's name = you), **What** (the recorded species), **Where** (the record location) and finally, **When** (date of the sighting).

If you think recording may interest you, please do not hesitate to contact us at:

Kent & Medway Biological Records Centre (KMBRC), Tyland Barn, Sandling, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 3BD.

Tel: (01622) 685780/685646, Fax: (01622) 671390, E-mail: [info@kmbrc.org.uk](mailto:info@kmbrc.org.uk). Website: [www.kmbrc.org.uk](http://www.kmbrc.org.uk).

# HUNTON CLUB BOOK GROUP

## OCTOBER BOOK REVIEW

### **Snow Flower and the Secret Fan by Lisa See**

This is a story of two extraordinary women surviving in rural China in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, a time of strict rules and ancient customs. Lily and Snow Flower are *laotong*, "old-sames", from the age of seven. Their *laotong* relationship is made by a matchmaker for the purpose of emotional companionship and is a lifelong commitment. Lily's family consult a diviner to find an auspicious date to begin her footbinding. He sees potential in Lily and brings the matchmaker from the best village in the county to see her; they inform her parents that her feet could become the most perfect in the region. Tiny bound feet, "golden lilies", are highly prized and mean that Lily, a girl from a modest background, can marry into a family with a much higher social standing.

The two girls use *nu shu*, a secret women's language, written in the folds of a fan to communicate and record their friendship. The book chronicles their relationship, their marriages and children and brings to life not just the characters but a whole culture.

The American author's great-grandfather came from China. Lisa See has travelled extensively in China and researched the historical background to the story in great depth. She writes very powerfully from the perspective of Lily. The description of the footbinding ordeal is unforgettable. Some of the group felt that "enjoyed" was not the term they would use about reading this novel as it described such harsh times, particularly for girls and women; however most people found the book fascinating, compelling and thought-provoking.

We gave the book a score of 8 out of 10.

Our book for November is Tell No One by Harlan Coben.

### **Mermaids Beneath the Sea**



It was a fantastic evening on Saturday night as Cat Weatherill returned to Hunton with another instalment of her stories. Her take on the traditional Celtic tales shows us that story telling is an art that is far from dead.

Cat captivated a packed village hall with her shimmering sea stories. We were taken to the depths of the sea with the mermaids and back to the cosy fisherman cottages in the bay.

The next "Applause" event at the village hall will be the world class guitar and violin jazz duo: John Etheridge and Chris Garrick on May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2008.



### **Maidstone Symphony Orchestra**

Conductor, Brian Wright, will perform on **Saturday 1st December 2007, 7.30pm** at Mote Hall, Maidstone Leisure Centre, Mote Park, Maidstone.

Brahms Piano Concerto No.2 and Bruckner's Symphony No.6.

Concert tickets £10, £16 and £20, seats for children or 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 on 0845 1552277 when payment can be made by credit card.

### **Out and Out**

#### **No time to dig?**

Recently I was telling you what a wonderful activity digging is, but for those of you who have no time or inclination to dig there is an alternative to annually digging vegetable beds and that is to adopt the 'no dig' system. Rather than digging, a thick (2-4") mulch of organic matter is spread over the soil and the worms are left to do the hard work. The soil structure develops naturally and worms are left undisturbed, cultivation is limited to digging up vegetables and hoeing weeds.

This sounded an ideal method to me and I have experimented with it, unfortunately my soil is not ideal for this system, it is solid clay with a burgeoning population of slugs who relish a nice mulch to shelter under. On top of this the soil had a very low level of organic matter in it and had barely been cultivated before starting the trial. Having said that the soil is slowly improving and the worms are increasing. Looking back it would have been better to have dug the soil over initially, added lots of organic matter then stopped digging.

Don't let this put you off; if your soil has been cultivated already and is not too solid then this method is certainly worth a try.

Christine McSweeney

