



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

## Feedback from the Parish Council Meeting

**Lughorse Lane:** A report to Maidstone Borough Councillors on a new application for siting two gipsy families in Lughorse Lane, has stated that the site is poorly screened. However, with the need to provide sites in the region, Councillors have been recommended to grant the planning bid for a limited period of three years subject to conditions. Borough Councillor, Brian Mortimer of Coxheath, was angered by the recommendation and felt that checks had not been made to ensure that the families were authentic gipsies.

Parish Councillor, Gary Thomas, felt that although conditions were applied, once families were on the site these recommendations were often ignored.

“Anger is building among local residents about the plans and the Council needs to act fast to oppose them. Once the go-ahead is given to one or two families, the number will soon multiply and then it will be difficult to move them.”

The Council is to oppose the bid “in the strongest possible terms.”

**Potholes:** Action to get dangerous potholes repaired at the foot of Hunton Hill has been delayed after BT denied that water aggravating the problem was leaking from its roadside inspection cover.

In view of this denial, Kent Highways is putting forward a plan to ease the drainage problems before the road can be resurfaced.

**Gateways:** No date has been given by the highways authority to begin work on the installation of Gateways in a bid to reduce the speed of motorists using West Street when driving through the Village.

**Solar Panels for the Village Hall:** Hunton Village Hall Committee is looking into the possibility of installing roof solar panels and has gained a quote of £15,678 for the work, which would be beneficial with income received from power generated. However they have been advised that, perhaps, they should first gain a structural report to see if any strengthening work was needed in advance of the installation. Parish Councillors felt that further quotes and more details about any work should be obtained. Councillor Ron Porter reported that the Village School is also looking into installing solar panels and perhaps both bids could be combined to gain preferential quotes.

**Footpath delays continue:** Chairman Roger Sawtell said that legal agreements from the landowners were still to be finalised before the go-ahead could be given for the footpath between Bensted Close and the Village Hall.

**Local business employs more staff:** Councillors accepted an invite by farmer Clive Baxter to visit Amsbury Farm where a large new warehouse was erected despite Councillors objections. Mr Baxter said that he had installed a cherry grader, the first of its kind in the UK, and a pear ripening plant which had led to the farm gaining a contract with Sainsbury's. Ten new full-time employees had been taken on bringing the workforce to 65.

**Theft in Barn Hill:** Hunton Parish Councillor Gary Thomas reported a mower and digger being stolen from a garden shed at his Barn Hill home after thieves cut through a boundary fence to gain access. He reported the crime to the police who said that the equipment could be up for sale across the county border in Sussex the following day.

**STOP PRESS Unanimous decision to refuse planning permission by Maidstone Borough Council Planning Committee for the development of Plot 5 on Lughorse Lane**

It is with sadness that we note the death of Mr. Brian Parnell and Mr. Bob Parker

## Friends of St Mary's Barn Dance is back by popular demand!

Hunton Village Hall, 7.00pm, 29<sup>th</sup> October, Tickets £10.00 including supper, Children under 12 free Bar, Entrance by ticket only available from the trustees, Call 820508, 820678, 820220

### 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 Tom Mepstead/Richard Chainey       | 604392        |
| Village Club: Doug Redfarn             | 820495      | Hunton Bell Ringers, Michael Webb       | 745716        |

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

### Dates for Diaries:

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August **Quiz Night** Hunton Village Club 7.45pm start  
 Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August – **Organ music and tea for John Day St.** Mary's Church 3.30pm  
 Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> August **Caribbean Cook-out** Village Club (*change of date from previously advised*)  
 Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> August Parish **Plan Steering Committee** 8pm Village Club  
 Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> August **Knit and Natter Group** Yalding Gardens from 2.30-4.30pm  
 Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September **Parish Council Meeting** 8pm Village Hall  
 Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September **Sponsored Bike Ride** Churches open all over Kent  
 Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September Applause Event-Kit **Holmes** Hunton Village Hall

### 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 September edition to the Editors as soon as possible, and by 15th August, please**

Hi Folks

I am sitting at my desk during another hot spell and thinking about writing this letter. It's too hot to think, let alone type, I'm thinking. Then I cast my mind back to the wet, dark and cold days of winter when I had the same thoughts. Summed up very simply in the words 'why bother?' We simply feel weary of life and want to break out of the routine yet can't find the will to do so. 'Why bother' is an expression that I suspect comes into our minds many times during the day as perhaps having cleaned the house someone comes in and scatters dirt everywhere again. You've tidied your desk and now can't find anything. You've done something for someone and no word of thanks has followed and on it goes. There's a tedium of life that some see as comforting, others as challenging and yet more perhaps who get depressed.

It's sad really when we get that way and the holiday season is meant to break us out of that mould and bring us back to the many opportunities and pleasures that life offers. So often though, we find it hard to stop long enough or, to have a satisfactory break, which allows us to recharge our battery and to reflect on what life is all about.

*Continued on back page*

## **Hunton Wanderers Cricket Club – A Month of Mixed Success**

June and early July saw a series of mixed results for the three Hunton Wanderers cricket teams, with many games being affected by the wet weather in what should have been the start of summer. The 1<sup>st</sup> X1 under captain Dave Niblett saw their fortunes turn with an excellent win by 84 runs against Bapchild in early July with wicket keeper John Aldous maintaining a batting average of just under 90 for the season. The 2<sup>nd</sup> X1 under captain Ashley Maguire made a good start to the month with three wins in a row and James Kidner the team's opening batsmen averaging 60 for the season but their run ended in defeat away at Sandwich. The Sunday team under captain Dan Taylor are still seeking their first league win of the season but not for want of trying by the team and the skipper in particular, with Dan scoring an outstanding 145 not out against rivals Selling in a closely fought match in June, which ended with Selling overhauling Hunton's total with one ball to spare. For anyone interested in cricket, either playing or watching, there is always a game to watch at the ground every Saturday afternoon and every other Sunday with practice nets on a Wednesday evening, so why not come along and introduce yourself to one of the club members as we are always looking for new players both young & old to join us?

## **School Intruders**

Unfortunately recently we have had 'visitors' to our school grounds during the weekends and light evenings. They have now begun to damage property. Sunflowers, which our 4 and 5 year olds had planted and were taking delight in watching grow, were snapped off and wood was thrown into the pond which could have resulted in the liner being damaged.

If you do see anyone on the school site would you please phone the police for us as they are trespassing. The number to phone is 01622 604392.

## **Hunton Village Club Charity Race Night**

Hunton Village Club Committee has several entertainment events planned throughout this coming year. Volunteers from the committee have been working hard to offer something a little different, these are being advertised through the Hunton Herald and Saturday 2 July saw the first of these events taking place.

It was, therefore, disappointing that besides most of the committee very few members or villagers came along to the race night. Despite the low turn-out, win or lose, everyone enjoyed the evening and managed to raise an amazing amount of £350 for the Childrens' Trust charity.

**Quiz Night** - Saturday 6 August in Hunton Village Club at 7:45pm. Teams of 2-6 people. Come along and test your knowledge.

**Caribbean BBQ Cook Out Evening** - Saturday 20 August in Hunton Village Club. 7:30pm onwards. We will waive the usual Club dress-code for this 1 night to allow you to come along in your casual, colourful, Caribbean clothes. Join us for a fun night of cocktails, BBQ, flowery shirts, shorts and sarongs.

## **Applause Autumn Season - at Hunton Village Hall**

**Friday 30 September-Kit Holmes**

Enjoy an uplifting evening of Kit's gorgeous guitar, poignant lyrics and feisty fiddle playing all with Kit's incredible sense of fun. Kit will be accompanied by Allan Greenwood on guitar.

Start time 7.45pm for 8pm. Tickets now available £10 Under 21's £5 Available from 01622 820683 or 820678

Licensed bar. All proceeds go toward the Village Hall maintenance fund. Next major project - working towards a more sustainable heating provision.

## **Hunton Art Group**

Heather Smith is hoping to set up a local art group for those that are interested,. This is aimed at all abilities, but particularly no one need be put off. Please contact Heather on 820640 for more details.

## Change in Focus for the Parish Plan

Now that the consultation on the Parish Plan and the action plan has been identified, the focus now needs to be on implementation of that plan.

At our meeting on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July we managed to entice some new members to the Steering Committee and are hoping that we also now have a new Chair and Secretary. We are keen that we continue to maintain these meetings as 'Open' meetings for anyone to attend. We are all busy people and people do not always want to feel committed to becoming a formal member of a group, but want to keep pace with what is going on and help in any way they can when they can. Please do feel free to pop along to any of these meetings. The next meeting is Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> August at 8pm at the Village Club.

We are anticipating that there will be 3 main working groups to deliver on the actions. The pace and scope of what can be achieved will be dependent on how many people want to get involved. The suggested groups are:

- 1. HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT** HGVs, Potholes, Snow clearance, Speeding, Parking, Public & Community Transport
- 2. VILLAGE INFRASTRUCTURE** Central Hub, Shop, Affordable Housing
- 3. ENVIRONMENT** Footpaths, Ditches Drainage and hedges, Fly tipping & Rubbish, Recycling & Sustainability.

A few people signed up to assist with some of the areas identified but we still need a lot more people to help out in whatever way they can. Would any one like to have a go at leading any of these groups or support a group to help tackle a specific area?

The subjects of the Central Hub, Fly tipping and Rubbish and Speeding have so far captured people's imaginations.

Mike Summersgill has agreed to take the lead for **Sustainability and Recycling** which will sit as a subgroup of the Environment group. Mike would also like to include 'Biodiversity' within this remit as it all impinges on ditches (via ponds & the Beult) and also the local trees, woods, orchards & agricultural practices. If you want to find out more or would like to get involved please contact Mike on Tel: 07779-367412 or 01622-820429 or email: senseass@btinternet.com.

Is anyone interested in Fund raising? We have a vacancy for a fundraising position on the committee. Carl Adams from Action with Communities in Rural Kent explained that the Funding Buddies scheme would provide the group with a mentor that would help identify the sources of funding and give assistance with bid-writing, so there could be a lot of help on hand for this role!

If anyone is interested in any aspect of the Parish Plan please ring Sue Heaton 820678 or email susan.heaton1@virgin.net or email Barbara Wright at huntonparishplan@btinternet.com

Sue Heaton

## Sponsored Bike Ride

This summer, members of **Hunton Wanderers Cricket Club** are holding the second of their epic sponsored bike rides, aimed at raising money to restore or replace our ageing pavilion and also to support a worthwhile charitable cause. This year, we are dedicating the event to the memory of our friend **Andrew Vickers**, who played for HWCC regularly until he was tragically taken from us late in 2010. We are therefore supporting **Diabetes UK** and will donate half of the money raised to this worthwhile cause. As for the route, we have decided to **go nuclear** - we start from **Hunton Cricket Ground at 10.00am on Sunday 28th August 2011**, and will finish, cycles and muscles permitting, at **The Britannia Inn, Dungeness Point**. So please sponsor us generously.

We are hoping to raise a total of £1,500 this year and we are happy to accept sponsorship pledges by telephone or email as well as in person. To pledge your support please telephone **Simon or Dan Taylor on 01622 674193** or email thefourtaylors@blueyonder.co.uk

Simon Taylor, Chairman HWCC

## Hunton Club Book Group - Review of The Corrections by Jonathan Franzen

Enid and Alfred Lambert are elderly and although their adult children are living independent and complex lives Enid wants to arrange one last family Christmas together. This is no easy matter. Stubborn Alfred has Parkinson's disease and is gradually losing all his faculties. Their affluent elder son, Gary, is under the thumb of his manipulative wife who has no intention of spending Christmas with her parents-in-law and uses her three sons to conspire against Gary. Their younger son Chip, a disgraced university professor is stuck in Lithuania after getting involved in a fraudulent business enterprise and their bi-sexual daughter, Denise, a successful restaurateur is making mistake after mistake with her love affairs. Added to this mix is Enid and Alfred's pre-Christmas cruise during which Alfred's symptoms become horribly apparent and Enid starts to look closely at her marriage and herself.

This novel encouraged very split opinions from the group. On the one hand one person thoroughly enjoyed what they described as an excellent novel and thought that it was brilliantly written, she loved the exploration of all the family members and cared enough about them to keep reading. And did it take some reading, being both long and the description of the various business dealings quite challenging. The stories were varied and the situations often humorous and always complex.

A few others agreed it was well written with good characterisation and interestingly observational although disjointed and lacking resolution. Some of this group finished it, others didn't.

As for the rest of us, well, we gave up quite early! We didn't like the characters, found the book boring and began skipping passages in order to find something worth reading. We didn't succeed!

Scores varied from 1 – 9 resulting in an average score of 6.

Our book for July is My Family & Other Animals by Gerald Durrell

## At St Mary's Church in August

### Notices

#### Coffee Rota

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> August McSweeney Family

#### Flowers

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> August Mrs. McLaughlin

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August Mrs. Wright

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> August Mrs. Wright

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August Mrs. D Martin

### Services

#### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> August – Trinity 7

11.00 am Family Service - Rev David Jones

Readings: Preacher's choice

#### Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August - Trinity 8

09.30 am Holy Communion – Rev Peter Walker

Readings: Genesis 45:1-15 and Matthew 15: 21-18

#### Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> August -Trinity 9

11.00 am Morning Prayer – Christine Bostock

Readings: Exodus 1: 8-2:10 and Matthew 16: 13-20

#### Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August -Trinity 10

11.00 am Holy Communion – Rev David Jones

Readings: Exodus 3:1-15 and Matthew 16: 21- end

#### Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September

11.00 am Family Service -

Readings: Preachers Choice

## Vacancy on the Parish Council

There is a vacancy on the Hunton Parish Council.

If anyone is interested or would like to discuss this, please contact the Clerk, Sharon Goodwin on 01622 681238

*Continued from page 2*

I don't want to be depressing; rather I want to ask what gives us the 'kick' that motivates you into doing things when life gets wearisome? Perhaps it's a long walk, a funny story, meeting a friend or treating our self to something that you really like. It may also reflect your outlook on life and perhaps a need to feel valued and part of the bigger picture. I recall the story of a lady recently bereaved and on her first holiday abroad, since the death of her husband, found her flight home delayed so when she landed she rushed off to join the queue for the phone (no mobiles then!) only to realize when she reached the front of the queue that she had no one to ring and no one knew she was late so no one was worried about her!

That story, true I gather, reflects the feeling of so many. Who knows? Who cares? Perhaps the writer of Psalm 139 had the answer when he wrote:

O God, you search me and know me, You know my being and my doing

From far off, you read my inmost thoughts .....

The answer is simple really, God knows and cares! Have a good rest this August and come back refreshed.

David

## Sponsored Bike ride - Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September

Have you a bike hidden away, thought about going for a spin? How about taking part in the Friends of Kent Churches and raising money for St Mary's Church Hunton. Get sponsored and visit as many churches as possible on the day. Churches are open all over Kent. You can plan your own route to start and finish any time between 10am and 6pm. What an opportunity to get out and enjoy our countryside and keep fit.

Contact Allison Ellman-Brown (820288) for a sponsor form or down load one from the website by visiting [http://www.friendsofkentchurches.co.uk/bike\\_ride.php](http://www.friendsofkentchurches.co.uk/bike_ride.php)



## Musical Celebration for John Day

Come and enjoy afternoon tea and music on the organ to mark the birthday of John Day, who died on 21<sup>st</sup> May.

St. Mary's Church Hunton, Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August 3.30pm.

Any donations will go towards the restoration of St. Mary's ancient doors.

The next freighter visit  
Saturday 1 October  
13:40 - 14:10

## Bell Ringing

**Did You Know** that St Mary's has it's own Team of Bellringers? If you are interested in joining the Team you are invited to come along on our practice nights on Friday's between 08:00 – 09:15pm. No experience necessary. Or for more information call Michael Webb on 01622 745716.

| August      | 7th          | 14th                 | 21st          | 28th     | 4th Sept     |
|-------------|--------------|----------------------|---------------|----------|--------------|
| Coxheath    | 11.00 HC     | 11.00 MP             | 11.00 HC      | 11.00 FS | 11.00 HC     |
| E. Farleigh | 09.30 Matins | 08.00 HC<br>11.00 FS | 09.30 HC      | 08.00 HC | 09.30 Matins |
| Linton      | 09.30 HC     | 09.30 FS             | 08.00 HC      | 09.30 HC | 09.30 HC     |
| W. Farleigh | 08.00 HC     | 11.00 MP (Trad)      | 9.30 MP (Mod) | 09.30 HC | 08.00 HC     |

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



## Hunton Fete - 25<sup>th</sup> June 2011



What a treat the fete was this year, even the weather came good for us. It was a delight to see all the hard work pay off with a real fun event with something for everyone. We are grateful for all the positive comments and thanks we have received. After costs we raised a whopping £2000 which will go

towards the fete for next year and other community based activities for the village.

A big thank you must go to Cllr Paulina Stockell who opened the fete for us as people came streaming in. Paulina spent a long time at the fete around the stalls and took time to view the Parish Plan stand and buy one of the Hunton bags!



At the art exhibition, also sharing tent space with the Parish Plan, we had a good selection of art works from 6 local artists using a variety of media and spanning many subjects.

One happy customer was pleased with his purchase. A selection of greetings cards, kindly donated by another artist, were also sold. It was a delight to learn that there was a good level of interest shown in setting up an art group in Hunton. Thank you to each artist who took part.

There was friendly and sometimes fierce competition at the welly wanging with some excellent (and some slightly dubious) wanging techniques. The Men, Ladies and Seniors threw an adult welly and for the categories of Junior and Infant a children's welly was used. Memorable moments included one or two welly throws coming close to scoring a goal instead at the next door penalty shoot out and thank goodness for the overhead netting on the coconut shy. The large tree did not go

unscathed either! The winners of each section were: Rob King (Men's category - 34.0 m), Camilla Day (Ladies - 18.90m), Jeff Waite (Senior - 19.10m), Jack Davis (Junior - 35m), and Lydia Kelly (Infant - 7.10m).

Many thanks to the Golden Boot in Maidstone for supplying the equipment and prizes.

A really big thank you must go to the Huntones who provided







the musical entertainment which was enjoyed by those all around.

Looking around the Hunton Village Fete from the strawberries & cream stall, we saw before us a traditional English fete with a fantastic atmosphere, sun shining and

masses of people thoroughly enjoying a relaxing afternoon. There was something for everyone to do or buy and then most people seemed to wander over to the 'side' where the Pimms stall, wine & beer and teas, coffee and cake were! It was a very successful event following a great deal of hard work by the committee.



But an event such as the fete doesn't happen without a huge amount of work behind the scenes. So a very very big thank you to everyone including: The Hunton Wanderers Cricket Club and the ladies who provided the wonderful teas and cakes, Hunton Engineering for powering the children's inflatables, Hunton Football Club for the kick a goal, Hunton Bowls Club for power and target bowls, Phil Nichols for being MC, Hunton Village Club for beer and Pimms – essential for any good fete!



Everyone who helped on the stalls, ran the BBQ, made cakes, donated items and volunteered on the day.



We would also like to thank the Parish Council for the loan to make this event possible, and the Hunton CE Primary School PTA for the loan of the extra tables and gazebos. Also to all the residents who attended and supported the event to make the day the success it

was, and the committee who made it all possible : Alan Bishop, Guy Oliver, Barbara Wright, Lisa Halliday, Lisa Dolman, Margaret Carpenter, Sue Heaton, David Heaton, Kathy Reid and Judi Arnold.

Editorial and photo contributors: Annette Trought (Chair Hunton Fete Committee), Kate, Grace & Anna Banks, Barbara Wright, Sue Heaton, Paulina Stockell, Kathy Reid, Liz Oliver

