



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

## Hunton gets the Gold

On Saturday 19th November, four of the volunteers who help look after Hunton Churchyards travelled to St George's Church, Chilham, to attend an Award Ceremony.

This year's entry under the Kent Wildlife Scheme was passed on to a larger countrywide organisation, the 'God's Acre Project'.

Chilham hosted this Award Ceremony for entrants from Kent. All our volunteers must be congratulated; their collective efforts have been rewarded with a Gold Award! Only one other entrant reached this level, The Friends of Margate Cemetery, an 18 acre site still in use as a burial ground dating from Victorian times. Rev. Caroline Pinchbeck, responsible for this project in Kent for 3 years, stressed how valuable this work is for both wildlife and the volunteers. She remarked that so often it was the wider community's participation which made it such a success.

## Parish Council News

### Faster Broadband for Users

Yalding Parish Council Chairman, Geraldine Brown, has outlined a scheme for upgrading broadband coverage in the area which could benefit Hunton users.

She told the November Parish Council meeting that Yalding had gained a £50,000 community grant to go towards the improvement process, which had seen a 'sub-loop unbundling' system being installed by Callflow Solutions Ltd.

"We may never get BT's 'Infinity' installation, but this latest system will give us up to 20Mbps or more, perhaps double the speed that some users are currently experiencing. We are still in the early stages with a great deal of research to be completed."

Hunton users can get into the system through the use of one of five cabinets sited within the Parish. If users cannot benefit from a direct connection, they may have to have individual aerials installed measuring just over 12 inches.

The infrastructure costs have currently been covered for Yalding, but Ms Brown was not sure if there would be extra costs for Hunton users. "There are three levels of payment but because there has been such awful coverage in Yalding in the past, users can start on the lowest rate which will be upgraded for no extra charge.

"It is a unique way of speeding up broadband which has been successfully introduced in other areas such as Kings Hill, West Malling."

### Footpath Saga Continues

The ongoing saga of the footpath between Bensted Close and the Village Hall continues, with the signature on an agreement still awaited from one of the landowners involved.

"We cannot move onto the land until this is done, however as soon as it is completed we should be underway," reported Parish Council Chairman Roger Sawtell. "The Kent Highways authority has the necessary bridges ready for installation for use by the footpath users."

*Continued over page*



**Christmas Carol Service** Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December 6pm  
with organist and 'The Huntones' followed by mulled wine and mince pies

## Hunton Village Club New Year's Eve Party

Want to celebrate the New Year but don't want to drive? Want to have a good time but don't want it to cost the earth? Why not stroll down to your Village Club? Bring your family and catch up with friends and neighbours. There will be music playing and you can dance the night away. So mark the date in your diary, the last one for 2011!



### 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
Non Stipendiary Minister: 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

### Diary Dates

See the insert in this Hunton Herald for Diary Dates for December & January. Check out [www.hunton.org.uk/diary](http://www.hunton.org.uk/diary) to see the latest up-to-date version. Look out for copies on the local notice boards.

### Parish Councillors contact details

<b>Parish Council Chairman</b> – Roger Sawtell	820731
<b>Clerk to the Parish Council</b> – Sharon Goodwin	681238
Cllr Les Leonard	820858
Cllr David Heaton	820678
Cllr Moira Walter	745765
Cllr Gary Thomas	820691
Cllr Ron Porter	820220

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

Dear Friends,

‘On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me.....’

We know the song so well! The Twelve Days of Christmas is often seen as a song of secular origin for children. Others have said it is a song of Christian instruction, perhaps dating back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century religious wars in England, with hidden references to the basic teachings of the Christian faith. ‘True love’ mentioned in the song is not an earthly suitor, but rather a reference to God Himself. The ‘me’ who receives the presents refers to every baptized person who is part of the Christian faith. Each of the ‘days’ represents some aspect of the faith that was important for children (and adults!) to learn.

Many have questioned the historical accuracy of the origin of this delightful Christmas song, yet even if it was written all those years ago as a secular nonsense song for children it is still today a song which serves as a timely reminder of the basic tenets of Christian belief.

On the first day of Christmas my true love (God) sent to me (the Christian) a partridge in a pear tree (Jesus).

Two turtle doves (The Old and New Testaments)

Three French hens (Faith, Hope and Love)

Four calling birds (The 4 Gospels)

Five gold rings (The first 5 books of the Old Testament)

Six geese a-laying (The six days of Creation)

Seven swans a-swimming (the 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit)

Eight maids a-milking (the Beatitudes – Matthew chapter 5)

Nine ladies dancing (the 9 fruits of the Holy Spirit)

Ten lords a-leaping (The 10 Commandments)

Eleven pipers piping (The 11 faithful disciples)

Twelve drummers drumming (The 12 points of the Apostle’s Creed)

So when is the 12<sup>th</sup> day? January 5<sup>th</sup>, is the last day of Christmas before Epiphany, January 6<sup>th</sup>, the traditional date of the Three Kings. In some cultures, especially Hispanic and Latin America culture, January 6<sup>th</sup> is observed as the Three Kings Day. I remember when we lived in Spain how January 6<sup>th</sup> seemed more popular than December 25<sup>th</sup>, with street carnivals and floats carrying men dressed as Eastern Magi throwing sweets to the children and parents as they lined the streets.

The loved song is a celebration of Christmas, and with a Christian context hidden within it, a purely secular song becomes a vehicle for reminding us once more of the grace of God working in transforming ways in our lives and in our world. After all, is not that the meaning of Christmas anyway?

My wife Diana joins me in wishing you all a Happy and Holy Christmas!

Peter

### **Cost of Resurfacing Hall Car Park**

Two private contractors have given individual quotations - £37,000 and £27,000 – for totally resurfacing the Hunton Village Hall car park.

A grant application had been made to Kent County Council but Councillor Paulina Stockell reported that this had just missed out in the allocation process. The Parish Council is to approach the highways department and ask them to give a competitive quote.

Chairman Roger Sawtell said: “In the past the work has been completed piecemeal and had not lasted any length of time. We now want a quality operation including drainage.”

King George’s playing field chairman, Danny Peacock, reported that minor repairs had been carried out and that in the meantime further temporary work could be completed with road chippings laid across the whole car park until the professional resurfacing is given the go-ahead.

### **Village Gateways**

Reporting on the construction of gateways in a bid to slow down speeding traffic in West Street, the Kent Highways design engineer said that the contractors were due to move onto the site in mid-November.

A similar date had been given for the installation of 20 mph speed limits outside Hunton Primary School; and Kent police are ready to give instructions to volunteers – five have come forward and six are needed - on how to use Speedwatch radar guns to check motorists using West Street.

### **Village Hall – Solar Panels**

Giving an update on the installation of solar panels on Hunton Village Hall, Chairman Alan Bishop said that a deadline of April 2012 had been set but this would have to be delayed due to the latest government cut in support for such schemes. The Hall Committee and Parish Council are now reviewing the situation.

### **Parish Council Supports Armco Barrier**

A request to Kent Highways service for an Armco barrier to be installed in East Street outside Stonewall Oast after the latest car accident in which the fence has been damaged, is being supported by the Parish Council.

**Pilates in the Village Hall, Hunton.** Please note that there will no Pilates Classes at the Village Hall on 5<sup>th</sup> December. The next class will be 12<sup>th</sup> December before the break for Christmas and then start again 9<sup>th</sup> January 2012. There may be a chance of a class on the 19<sup>th</sup> December, so watch out for details on the village diary - [www.hunton.org.uk/diary](http://www.hunton.org.uk/diary)

## Hunton Gardening Club



We had a big turnout for our second meeting of the gardening club.

David Heaton gave a talk on managing rabbits in the garden and blamed it all on the Normans who introduced them into this country in the first place. myxomatosis does not now appear effective in keeping rabbit numbers down as they are developing an immunity to it. David talked about fencing, electric or otherwise; shooting, gassing and ferreting and then gave a demonstration of paunching and skinning a rabbit for the pot. We would like to add that no real bunnies were hurt in this demonstration!

Next meeting of the Gardening Club will be Thursday 29th March 2012 at 8.30pm in the Village Club. If anyone is interested in joining please contact Lesley Lee on 820210, [Lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com](mailto:Lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com)

## Hunton Club Book Club October Review

### Old Possum's Book of Cats by T. S. Eliot

This book is a collection of whimsical poems about feline psychology and sociology. The poems were written during the 1930s and included by Eliot under his assumed name 'Old Possum' in letters to his godchildren. It is the basis for the setting of the musical, Cats.

Most of the group agreed that the poems were easy to read, amusing and quite charming, although one member enjoyed the illustrations by Edward Gorey more than the poems. Growltiger's Last Stand was popular as well as Macavity and Mr Mistoffelees. We noted that those poems with rhyming lines were more popular with the group, also that the poems could be appreciated more when read aloud. Cat lovers in the group appreciated the humanisation of the characters while others thought this was overemphasised and overall the cat lovers enjoyed the poems more.

Scores for this book varied between 4 and 7 giving an average of 6.

Next month's book is 'Washington Square' by Henry James

## Hunton Bag - A Christmas Present

How about giving a Hunton bag as a present or stocking filler for Christmas? The design depicts the picture from the Parish Plan and is for Sale at £4.50.

All proceeds go to fund the Parish Plan Actions. Contact Sue Heaton 01622 820678 or email [susan.heaton1@virgin.net](mailto:susan.heaton1@virgin.net)



## Hunton Village Club - Quiz Night

Saturday 10th December - 8pm.

Make a note of this date, Phil has prepared another superb quiz for you. Remember how popular the last quiz was? So, come early to secure your seat. The quiz will start promptly at 8pm.

## Halloween at Hunton Club

West Street was busy as the sun went down on Halloween. Ghosts, vampires and zombies came out to terrorise the householders with playful threats of tricks and hopes of treats!

With their cauldrons full of treats, the monsters came to the club, which was decorated with ghosts, witches and broomsticks. From an early opening at 7.00pm until 8.30pm the little devils enjoyed making ghosts to "fly" behind a shadow screen. There was also a fancy dress competition with prizes awarded to three different age groups.

The Club was really busy with a wonderful family atmosphere. Every monster had a great time and left with a treat. It was lovely to have everyone gather together at the Club for an occasion that is sure to be repeated next year. Tricia

## 'Rock n Roll' & Retro Raffle

Hunton Club took a step back in time and the themed night of the 50's proved a success. Some members dressed in retro style for the occasion with bobby socks, neckties and even a member of the "T Birds" turned up. Before long Elvis, Buddy Holly and Bill Haley had us rockin 'n reeling in the aisles. A retro raffle offered prizes of a joint of beef, bottles of Babycham and a jar of Ovaltine. Unbelievably, the beef was won by a vegetarian! Finally, just for fun and keeping within the theme, Spam sandwiches were offered around and were a hit, surprisingly!

## Mushrooms

In France they say, if you find a mushroom 15 minutes after daybreak it is probably poisonous because all the good ones have already been found. In Britain we are neither so keen nor so brave about hunting wild mushrooms. It is tempting to have a go, mushrooms all look so edible but the price of getting it wrong is very high with the possibility of kidney failure or death. There are books which give guidance but nearly every edible mushroom seems to have a poisonous counterpart which it is difficult to distinguish between. It would take many guided trips with an expert before I could feel confident enough to pick and eat a wild mushroom.

Purchasing wild and less usual mushrooms is much easier now and is to be recommended. I recently tried Ceps, bought at a market, the cost was eye watering, and the discovery of a slug was ironic, it is hard for a gardener to pay so much for a slug.

Fried in a little olive oil and gently seasoned, the Ceps' texture was meaty and the flavour reminiscent of a misty, moist autumnal walk in the woods. It would be good to collect your own mushrooms but there is much to be said for eating in confidence!

*Christine McSweeney*

## At St Mary's Church in December

Notices	Services
<p><b>Coffee Rota</b></p> <p><b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December Moira Ensoll</b></p> <p><b>Flowers</b></p> <p>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December Mrs Porter</p> <p>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December Mrs Porter</p> <p>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December ALL Carol Service</p> <p>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December ALL Christmas</p> <p><b>Sunday Club</b></p> <p>We are meeting at Scotts Farm House, West Street on Sunday December 4<sup>th</sup> at 5.15pm. The club welcomes children of Primary school age either attending school in Hunton or living in Hunton. Contact David Jones 741474 for details.</p>	<p><b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December - Advent 2</b> 11.00 am Family Service (Gift Day) - Rev Peter Walker Readings: Preacher's choice</p> <p><b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December - Advent 3</b> 09.30 am Holy Communion - Rev David Jones Readings: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-end and John 1:6-8, 19-28 13.00 pm Baptism</p> <p><b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December – Advent 4</b> 18.00pm – Carol Service – Rev David Jones Readings: 2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16 and Luke 1: 26-38</p> <p><b>Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Eve</b> 21.30pm Holy Communion – Rev David Jones Readings: 2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8-11,16, Acts 13:16-26 and Luke 1: 37-79</p> <p><b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Day</b> 09.30 am Family Service and Holy Communion – Rev Peter Walker Readings: Titus 3: 4-7 and Luke 2: 1-7, 8-20</p> <p><b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January –</b> 11.00 am Family Service Readings: Preacher's choice</p>

### Tony Stanbridge

Hunton Parish Council's newly co-opted member Tony Stanbridge has been a local resident at Amsbury Farm since 2008 when his work as a chartered engineer brought him to Kent. He was raised in North Lincolnshire in a rural community facing many similar issues.

Tony, who works in the Maidstone area for South East Water as lead engineer, was until May responsible for managing a large part of Northern Ireland's water treatment schemes, a post for which he was commuting weekly.

"My recent return to living full-time in Hunton has allowed me to spend more time with my family – I am married with two children at school locally – and also consider contributing more to community issues.

"I am a firm believer that everyone in society should invest something of themselves in their community. I feel passionately about many of the issues which Hunton faces and will face in the future. I believe that the Hunton Parish Plan has provided a great foundation for future efforts based on the real concerns and aspirations of its residents."



### School News

**Borton Class'** topic this term is World War 2 focussing on life in Europe and looking closely at the life and experiences of Anne Frank. The class had a visit to the Imperial War Museum. They explored the 1940s house, bomb shelters, aircraft and flying bombs and worked in groups learning about the lives of evacuees by unpacking their suitcases and studying the evidence inside.

**Porteous** are studying electricity in science and are learning how to put an electric circuit together and what needs electricity to work.

**Bannerman** are learning about journeys, focusing on the history of air and land transport and as part of their studies visited Brooklands Museum. Each child had the opportunity to sit in a Formula One racing car, sit on a Penny Farthing and take a walk through Concorde. They had a tour around the museum where they looked at vehicles from 1800 which they found fascinating.

**Devas'** theme this term is 'Special Times and Celebrations' and they will be exploring how and what they celebrate leading up to Christmas. They will also be looking at how other cultures celebrate special occasions and their role play area will be turned into a cafe.

December	4th	11th	18th	24th Christmas Eve	25th Christmas Day	January 1st
Coxheath	11.00 HC	11.00 MP	16.00 Carol Service	17.00 Children's Service 23.15 Holy Communion	10.45 FS HC	11.00 HC
E. Farleigh	09.30 Matins 14.00 Baptism	08.00 HC 11.00 FS	18.00 Carol Service	16.00 Christingle 23.30 HC	08.00 HC	09.30 Matins
Linton	09.30 HC	9.30 HC	16.00 Carol Service	23.30 HC	09.30 FS HC	09.30 HC
W. Farleigh	08.00 HC	16.00 Carol Service	09.30 MP(Mod) 20.00 Carol Service White House	21.30 HC	10.00 FS	08.00 HC

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