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All the Fun of the Fête

What a wonderful atmosphere and a great turnout for our village fete on 20th June. As the bells of St Mary's rang out, proceedings kicked off with the official opening of the new cricket pavilion. We were delighted to welcome along County Cllr Paulina Stockell who, together with Parish Council Chairman, Gary Thomas, presented the keys to Simon Taylor, Chairman of Hunton Wanderers CC, to symbolise the formal handover of the building into the cricket club's control. Paulina then cut the ceremonial tape and invited everyone inside to see the progress to date.



Dr Jazz, provided a superb musical backdrop to the afternoon with their Dixieland jazz whilst visitors browsed an array of stalls, enjoyed the fun and games or just sat back and relaxed with a Pimms or a drink from the bar.



The star of the fete was undoubtedly Michael Imerson with his fabulous Giant Balloon Show. A very funny and talented performer of the kind you would expect to find in Covent Garden, Michael brought us much hilarity, silliness and audience participation before finally inflating and climbing inside his eagerly anticipated and very impressive giant balloon.

In the arena the fun dog show attracted so many furry entrants that it was an almost impossible task for the judges, Gilly Devas, Lynda Desmarais and David Jones, to identify the waggiest tail or to choose between all those pairs of very appealing eyes. There were traditional games for the children with the boys beating the girls in the tug-of-war (but only just!) and some very determined faces in the egg and spoon race.

In the baking contest the winner of best chocolate cake was Claire Taylor, Ali Adams impressed with her Victoria sandwich, and James Redman was crowned Hunton's Best Baker.

There were pony rides from Pukka Ponies Equine Rescue, which raised over £150 to support their work with these beautiful animals, whilst John Brown, a committee member and one of the founders of the charity, added another £200 in donations by publicly having his hair (which had not been cut for six years!) and beard shaved off by local hairdresser, Sharon Parnell.



Many of our village clubs and organisations were involved with the football club running "kick a goal", the bowls club a target bowls challenge, the cricket club serving tea and cakes, the village club providing the bar and Pimms stall, the Friends of St Mary's their superb BBQ, the WI a cake and pastry stall and the gardening club a beautifully stocked plant and produce stall. Thanks must go to them as well as the local businesses who donated prizes for the raffle and the dog show, those who donated bottles, cakes, plants and produce and to everyone who helped out on the day. A very special thank you to Phil Nichols for his marvellous compering and, of course, to our fete committee who worked tirelessly to bring us another fabulous community event. If you would like to see more there are lots of photos on the Facebook page and the Hunton website.

Your Local Contacts:

School: Secretary/Head Teacher	820360	Maidstone Police	690690 or 101
Under 5's Pre-School:	820309	Neighbourhood Watch: huntonwatch@gmail.com	820403,820429, 820731
Pre-School Supervisor:	07972067110	'Potholes' Hotline (KCC)	03000 418181
Pond and Tree Warden: Mike Summersgill	820429	Churchwarden: Alison Ellman-Brown	820288
Rector: Peter Callway	747570**	PCSO - Matthew Judges	101 (or via Huntonwatch)
Non-Stipendiary Minister Revd David Jones	741474*	Helen Grant MP helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk	0207 219 7107
Village Club: Philip Nichols	820804	Hunton Bell Ringers, Michael Webb	745716
Village Hall Booking: Kathy Reid	820092	*not available on Fridays; **not available on Mondays	
Contact details for other village clubs and organisations are available at www.hunton.org.uk/contacts			

Diary Dates

Saturday 4th July	Hunton School Summer Fair 12-4pm
Sunday 5th July	East Farleigh Farmers' Market 10am-1pm
Tuesday 7th July	Hunton WI Village Club 7.30pm
Monday 13th July	Parish Council Meeting Village Hall 7.30pm
Sunday 26th July	Train Day Wayside, Amsbury Road 2pm

Check out www.hunton.org.uk/diary for the latest events.
If you would like to add an event, email huntondiary@btinternet.com.

Parish Council Contacts

Parish Council Chairman – Gary Thomas	820691
Clerk to the Parish Council – Sharon Goodwin	681238
Cllr Roger Sawtell	820731
Cllr Ron Porter	820220
Cllr David Heaton	820678
Cllr Tony Stanbridge	820761
Cllr Steve Wyles	820403
Cllr Annette Trought	820448

Abide with Me

Watching the FA Cup Final, I was struck by the enthusiasm of that huge crowd as they joined the 'fans choir' to sing 'Abide With Me'. It is the favourite hymn of Queen Elizabeth, it has been sung on sinking ships, at major sporting events and at the passing of loved ones. Hymns are a powerful way to draw near to God and I began to wonder what the story was behind this great hymn and why it continues to be so popular.

The hymn was written by Henry Francis Lyte 1793-1847. He, with his wife Ann, was a faithful pastor in Brixham in Devon. He worked tirelessly ministering to his parish, caring for his family and writing poems and hymns, including 'Praise my Soul the King of Heaven'. In 1844 he was diagnosed with TB and his health began to decline. On September 4th 1847 he gave his farewell message in his church, went for a walk along the beach, then retired to his study and penned 'Abide With Me'. A few days later he died and his last words were Joy and Peace. The music was composed by William Monk, Choir Master at York Minster, and was played at the memorial service. As he often does, God took a sad ending of a life and made something of lasting worth. The opening words of the hymn were taken from the story of the Emmaus road at the end of Luke's gospel. That first Sunday morning, following Jesus' crucifixion, two disciples were walking home. They had heard reports from the women of an empty tomb, but could not believe it. The risen Lord Jesus joined them on the road, but because of their grief and despair they did not recognise him. He spoke to them on the way, and comforted them, and when they arrived home, they asked him simply, 'stay with us', or as it is put in the old version, 'abide with us'. It was only then that they recognised him.

Maybe you are going through a tough time right now. Try giving Jesus the invitation to walk the road with you and stay with you. Perhaps you could use the words of 'Abide with me' as your prayer.

Judith Barnes, Pastoral Assistant

Paralympian Visits School

Some exciting activities took place at Hunton School in June. The children were extremely lucky to have a visit from Tom Ervin, a Paralympian in both shot-put and discus. Tom held workshops with each class where they learnt how to throw soft shot-puts and javelins and competed in teams. For the children to understand how challenging it is to be in a wheelchair and compete at such a high level they had to participate whilst sitting down. They were able to ask Tom some interesting questions about his paralympic journeys and life in a wheelchair.

Borton Class spent a fun-filled week at the Osmington Bay Adventure Centre in Dorset, taking part in activities including climbing, quad biking, abseiling, and orienteering.

Devas Class enjoyed a fabulous sunny day out at Leeds Castle as part of their castles and fairy tales topic, learning lots about the history of the castle.

Porteous Class have been out and about around the village, admiring the beautiful Hunton landscape whilst capturing local images for their photography project. They are due to visit Hampton Court Palace at the end of June to conclude their study of the tudors.

News from the WI

We were thoroughly entertained at our June meeting by Marianne Martin with "It's Good to Laugh", causing much laughter amongst the members with her amusing poetry taking a wry look at issues we all face everyday - fashion, food, weight and men. Liz Oliver had won our draw to attend the WI Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace and managed to hot foot it from the Palace to give us all an amusing account of her preparations, travel and the party itself. She was particularly impressed by the immaculate gardens and just how far some WI members had travelled to take part. One guest came along and enjoyed the meeting, promising to return in July to join.

A week later 16 members took a coach from the village hall to London to see Jersey Boys, taking in lunch at Covent Garden before the show. All agreed it was a successful day and we now have our thinking caps on for our next trip out.

Delia Taylor will be with us at next month's meeting on Tuesday 7th July, to talk on Victorian Street Life. Guests and new members most welcome.

Ann Sawtell

West Street Collision

There was a serious road traffic accident at around 7pm on Wednesday 3rd June involving two cars, one of which was carrying a young child. The head-on collision happened on West Street near the entrance to Durrants farm. Two people were taken to hospital by ambulance but it is not thought that either was seriously injured. The road was closed until around 9.30pm.

Never Ending Story

The litter pickers were out in force ahead of the fete, collecting around 30 sacks of rubbish, scrap metal and various other bits and pieces from around the village. They ventured all the way to the Heath Road crossroads at the top of Hunton Hill, as it had been looking very untidy up there for a while. Amongst the numerous cans, bottles and crisp packets, on the narrow stretch towards the top of the hill they found a (possibly unsurprising) number of car door mirrors. It was rather disheartening after all their hard work, however, that within a week the litter was starting to build up again and a pile of rubbish had been dumped in the woods next to the layby.

Yalding Art Group

Members have been busy of late with organising and exhibiting work at our annual Arts & Crafts Fair, which was held in May. A number of members also exhibited as part of the South East Open Studios, which ran from June 5th for three weeks. New to SEOS were Rebecca Glaister who makes the most beautiful glass objects (for sale in Yalding Post Office) and Charlotte Tabor who designs her own exquisite silver jewellery. Her website is www.karajewellery.co.uk.

We break for the summer on 5th July but will be returning at the beginning of September for our winter term. Feel free to join us! First session free. For more information contact June Chapman on 01622 817324, Anne Telfer on 01622 813995 or email chapman.june@btinternet.com.

Please take a look at our website and see our work and latest photos www.yaldingartgroup.weebly.com.



Sunday Lunch BBQ

30th August 2015 from 12 noon
at Thatchers, Benover Road, Yalding, ME18 6AS

Live Music from Childe Rolande, Relative Minors & Village Voices. Gambian craft stall and Games for all the family

Advance Tickets £7 or £20 for a family (2 adults & 2 children)

On the Door £8 or £25 for a family

On sale from 01622 814267 or gambleproject@aol.com

Tree Pests and Diseases – Breaking News

The Forestry Commission have reported that oriental chestnut gall wasp (OCGW) was discovered in a woodland at Farningham, near Swanley in June, the first time this pest has been confirmed as present in the UK. OCGW is an insect of Asian origin that affects sweet chestnut trees. It does not affect horse chestnut or any other widely grown trees in Britain. Its larvae cause abnormal growths, called galls, to form on sweet chestnut leaves, twigs and petioles (the stalks which attach the leaf blades to the stems). These green or rose-coloured galls inhibit the function of the leaves, weakening the tree and making it more susceptible to other pests and diseases. The galls are the most obvious indication of infestation as the wasp itself is tiny and unlikely to be noticed. It does not sting or pose any other risk to humans or animals.

Further information can be found at www.forestry.gov.uk/gallwasp. Please be vigilant and report any suspected cases to the Forestry Commission www.forestry.gov.uk/treealert.

There's also news that Ash Dieback has now spread from East to West Kent but nothing can be done. First signs were seen in Hadlow this spring.

At St Mary's Church in July

Flowers

5th	Sandra Bullivant	12th	Wedding Sue Pinks
19th	Sue Pinks	26th	Wedding Kay Mason

Services

Sunday 5th July – Trinity 5
11.00am Family Service – Rev David Jones

Sunday 12th July – Trinity 6
9.30am Holy Communion 1662 – Rev Peter Callway

Sunday 19th July – Trinity 7
11.00am Morning Prayer – Rev Peter Callway

Sunday 26th July – Trinity 8
11.00am Holy Communion – Rev Eileen Doyle

Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

Monday – Saturday	8-11pm (Closed Tuesdays)
Sunday	12-2.30pm & 8-10.30pm

Roe Deer

There have been two recent early morning sightings of roe deer, one in a field on Elphicks Farm and another in Water Lane. Roe deer are native to mainland Britain but became extinct in the south of England by the 17th century. Re-introductions in the 19th century allowed them to re-colonise but until comparatively recently Kent has been free of wild deer, although it seems they are spreading east rapidly. The one spotted in Water Lane was a buck and may well have been the same animal as the one on Elphicks Farm. It would be interesting to know if anyone else has spotted deer around the village – something for our early morning dog walkers to look out for perhaps.

Train Day – Sunday 26th July 2pm – Don't Miss It!

Tickets are selling fast for the Friends of St Mary's Train Day to be held in the grounds of Wayside, Amsbury Road. Unlimited train rides, teas, children's entertainment and a raffle with generous prizes. The number of guests that can be accommodated is limited so to avoid disappointment book your tickets now with Mary Goddard (07871 556605) or Lucy Dickinson (07798 745301). Adults £12, under 18s £8, children 3 years and under free.



Find a 'Heritage Tree' in Hunton

As part of my new role as Tree Warden, I found out at a training course that there is a 5-year project to record 10,000 'heritage trees' in Kent; that is: old trees, big trees, rare trees, and those that have a cultural significance in communities (such as planted for Jubilee occasions, or in commemoration). The project is about to enter its final year; it has recorded over 8,000 trees and there are 220 volunteer surveyors – it is close to achieving its target, but needs some local help.

Can you help? Have a look at the interactive map on the website (www.btcv.org.uk/cgi-bin/kenttreemap.cgi) and you can see that Linton has 24 trees recorded, Farleigh has 37, Loose has 55, Yalding has 14...and Hunton 2 – those are the Yew in the Churchyard and a Cedar of Lebanon in the Court grounds!

We must have more trees that people know about or suspect are rare, old, or cherished? There's at least one down at Stoneacre at the bottom of George Street that I suspect will qualify. Hadlow's Tree Warden is going to come and visit Hunton and look around with me during the summer – can you ring me (820429) or email me (senseass@btinternet.com) with any thoughts about heritage tree possibilities in the Parish, and I'll go out and take a look (while jogging or checking the ponds!). Thanks in advance.

Mike Summersgill, volunteer Parish Tree & Pond Warden



Hawk Display @ 12.30pm & 1.30pm

Beat the Goalie Bouncy Castle Bottle Tombola BBQ Cakes Coconut Shy Dance Showcase Drinks Face Painting Glitter Tattoos 	Hook a Duck Live Music Lucky Dip Petting Zoo Ponies Raffle Shoot the Hoop Soak the Teacher Tombola Welly Wanging 	
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July	5 th	12 th	19 th	26 th
Coxheath	11.00 HC	11.00 MP	11.00 HC	11.00 FS
E. Farleigh	09.30 MP	08.00 HC; 11.00 FS	09.30 HC	08.00 HC
Linton	09.30 HC	09.30 FS	08.00 HC	09.30 HC
W. Farleigh	08.00 HC 1662	11.00 MP Mod	09.30 MP Trad	09.30 HC Mod

HC Holy Communion, MP Morning Prayer, FS Family Service

All items for the next edition of the Herald to the Editor by 15th July, please