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Parish Council Elections May 2016

Your Chance to be Involved!

Hunton Parish Councillors are up for re-election this year in May. The council comprises seven seats. Some longstanding members are keen to stand down after many years of serving the parish. It is important, therefore, that we have a good selection of candidates from which to form the next council. If you are interested in contributing to our community here in Hunton, why not consider becoming a parish councillor? For more information about what is involved and to register interest, please contact the parish clerk, Sharon Goodwin, on 01622 681238 or email huntonpc@googlemail.com. For general information about the role of parish councillor a copy of the 'Good Councillor's Guide' is available in the parish council section of the Hunton website – www.hunton.org.uk/council. Further information about each candidate will be included in the April edition of the Herald. Prospective candidates will therefore need to provide this to the editor, Helen Ward, by 15th March 2016.

Parish Council News

You may have noticed that the bus stop at the Hunton Hill/East Street junction has been moved to the triangle of grass on the other side of East Street. This was a result of representations made by Hunton Parish Council following a number of requests from bus users who found the original position dangerous - particularly in the darker evenings. The new position is much safer for bus users to board/leave the bus and to cross the road towards Lughorse Lane.

For some time the corner of Lughorse Lane and West Street has been dangerous when leaves have been allowed to fall and rot without being cleared. Several requests to sweep this corner had been made but no action had been taken so the parish council took this up at the highest levels within Maidstone Borough Council and Kent County Council. As a result we have been informed that the contractor who failed to sweep the road has been fined and we have a commitment to have this dangerous corner swept 4 times a year (and more if needed - especially in the autumn).

We have also been very active in liaising with KCC Highways about the conditions of the roads and you will have noticed that a number of potholes have been filled. In early March work is scheduled to attack the increasing number of potholes on Hunton Hill and we are pushing to get the road edges repaired where they are crumbling away.

Hunton Parish Council

Champs Retain Title

It was great fun to have a mixture of regular and occasional players as well as complete novices at the recent mixed-doubles darts night at the village club. Congratulations to defending champions, Dee and Len, on retaining their title despite some stiff competition from Tricia and Phil, who had fought their way through to the final in a play-off against Bridget and Mark. Many thanks to everyone who came along to support this good-natured and light-hearted contest.

Your Local Contacts:		Village Hall Booking:	www.huntonvillagehall.co.uk
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: Revd. Peter Callway	747570*	PCSO - Matthew Judges	101 (or via Huntonwatch)
Hon Associate Rector: Revd. David Jones	741474*	Helen Grant MP helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk	0207 219 7107
Associate Rector: Revd Eileen Doyle	204241**	Hunton Bell Ringers, Michael Webb	745716
Village Club: Philip Nichols	820804	<i>*not available on Fridays; **not available on Mondays or Tuesdays</i>	
Contact details for other village clubs and organisations are available at www.hunton.org.uk/contacts			

Diary Dates		Parish Council Contacts
Tuesday 1 st March	Hunton WI Village Club 7.30pm	Parish Council Chairman – Gary Thomas 820691
Thursday 3 rd March	Light Lunches Village Club 12pm	Clerk to the Parish Council – Sharon Goodwin 681238
Saturday 5 th March	Litter Pick Village Hall Car Park 10am	Cllr Roger Sawtell 820731
	Cream Teas Linton Church 2.30-5pm	Cllr Ron Porter 820220
Sunday 6 th March	Farmers' Market East Farleigh 10am-1pm	Cllr David Heaton 820678
Friday 11 th March	Pre School Quiz Night Village Club 7.15pm	Cllr Tony Stanbridge 820761
Tuesday 15 th March	Parish Council Meeting Village Hall 7.30pm	Cllr Steve Wyles 820403
Saturday 26 th March	Pop-Up Shop St Mary's Church 9-11am	Cllr Annette Trought 820448
Thursday 31 st March	Pantomime Village Hall 7.30pm	
Friday 1 st April	Pantomime Village Hall 7.30pm	
Saturday 2 nd April	Pantomime Village Hall 2pm & 7.30pm	
Check out www.hunton.org.uk/diary for the latest events.		
If you would like to add an event, email huntondiary@btinternet.com .		

This month's pastoral article comes from Michael Cooper, member of Coxheath church and National Director of Christian Vision for Men.

To celebrate my wife's 'significant' birthday I decided to book us a short break in Iceland (not the one endorsed by Peter Andre). This was a desolate, stony expanse of God's world, haunted by howling winds, bubbling geysers and fiery eruptions – I sure know how to treat a lady! Catherine had always wanted to see the Northern Lights, one of those 'bucket list' things, so I figured this would be the ideal present.

The planning was meticulous; children packed off to family for the weekend, cold weather gear filled our suitcases and the vital Icelandic phrase learnt: "*Við viljum stórt glas af Sauvignon Blanc og jafnvel stærri glas af bjór vinsamlegast*" – you could look it up, but I'm guessing you won't need to! We'd hired a car and booked a cracking little self-catering apartment, so everything was set for five days of exploring by day and at night, chasing that elusive light show we hoped to see.

The days were filled with some of the most spectacular scenes we'd ever encountered. Despite, on the face of things, an inhospitable land outside of the main city Reykjavik, it was heartening to discover places and stories of men and women thriving alongside some of the most challenging features of God's creation. Each afternoon we would check the Aurora Borealis app to determine the best location and time to see the magnificent display, and would plan our evening accordingly.

How much effort do we put into seeking the one true light of the world, fully available every day (and night)? "In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:4-5). Christ, creator of life, is that light of the world. When we follow in his light we can avoid walking blindly and messing up. He lights the path ahead of us so we can see how to live. Of all the lights we can seek, allowing Christ's to shine in our lives is the perfect guide we need to stop us from stumbling.

On the third evening, and after much searching, we were blessed with flickering green lights over a crystal clear ocean. The show wasn't as spectacular as it might've been, but great reward for patience and still sufficiently stunning to render us in awe of God's amazing creation. On the plane coming home Catherine shared with me another 'bucket list' ambition. It turns out she'd really like to hand milk a cow – if only she'd mentioned that sooner!

An Exciting New Gallery Opening in Yalding

From April until September 2016 and thereafter, RIVERSIDEpopupGALLERY will be featuring local artists, photographers and sculptors. New exhibitors will be showcased regularly, so make sure you pay us a visit every month! Our first exhibitors will be David Jenner, prize winning photographer and Cheryl Johnson, an equine artist, whose large canvases are a must see.

The venue is at Riverside, Lees Road, Yalding, ME18 6HB and will be open every Monday, Thursday and Saturday from 2-5pm. Private viewings can be requested by enquiring at Yalding Post Office or by text to 07925 201617.

www.RIVERSIDEpopupGALLERY.weebly.com

Hunton Pantomime



Thursday 31st March 7.30pm
Friday 1st April 7.30pm
Saturday 2nd April 7.30pm
Saturday 2nd April 2pm Matinee

Hunton Village Hall

Adult £8.50. Under 14 £5.00 ~ Under 5 Free

Tickets Available from 1st March From
Ann Sawtell 01622 820731

Email: ann.sawtell@btinternet.com
Licensed Bar

There are two mini flashing blue lights on top of the Crazy Cops' helmets in this production

Road Closure – 9th March

Hunton Hill will be closed between East Street and Heath Road on Wednesday 9th March in order to fill the potholes that have appeared over the winter.

Readers Wanted

Hunton Book Group B would welcome new members. We are a small, sociable group who meet at the village club on the second Thursday of each month at 8pm to discuss the book we have read during the previous month. The books are saved for us by the library and this month we are reading "The Road Home" by Rose Tremain. If you fancy joining us please contact Chris Summersgill on 01622 820429 for further information.

FREE Microchipping

From the beginning of April it will be a legal requirement for all dogs to be microchipped. The Dogs Trust is offering free microchipping at Coxheath Village Hall on Tuesday 8th March from 11am-3pm.

Thinking of Taking Up a New Activity?

Have you thought of trying outdoor bowls? Hunton Bowls Club welcomes anyone who would like to give it a go. Experience is not necessary – come along, you might enjoy it! Club bowls are available for you to use whilst deciding if you would like to take it up and join as a member.

We are a small, friendly club situated behind Hunton Village Hall at the King George V Playing Fields in West Street. We play mixed friendly matches, league and ladies games. We practice on Thursday evenings at 6pm starting in May, so do come and give it a try. For more information please contact John Apsey 01622 743813 or Diane Cheeseman 01622 745642.

East Farleigh Farmers' Market

A bright morning encouraged customers to attend our first Farmers' Market of 2016. Thank you to who all who supported us! The March market will be held on Sunday 6th March from 10am to 1pm and we hope to have a full complement of stalls. Sadly, Lisa from Hunton Bakery, who has been a stalwart for quite a long period, has decided to give up attending farmers' markets, so we are now looking for a replacement baker. Everyone will miss Lisa's delicious bread so if you have any ideas please contact Sue on 01622 726164.

Pop-Up Shop Returns for 2016

The Pop-Up Shop will be popping up on three occasions this year. The first one will be on Saturday 26th March from 9-11am outside St Mary's Church. It will be Easter themed and there will be the usual Hunton reared Gloucester Old Spot pork, bacon and sausage; local eggs, cheese and cold pressed rape seed oil from Staplehurst; small amounts of handmade hot cross buns and Easter chick bread buns, and plenty more.

The remaining dates are 10th July and 24th September; they will be summer open garden and Harvest themed respectively - more information about them in forthcoming editions of the Herald. If you would like to contribute produce to the shop, then please contact Annette on 01622 820448, annette@trought.com. All proceeds go to the Fete and Village Events Fund.

Upcoming Gigs at the Village Hall

We hope that the 32 or so people who turned up for **Blackheart** in January enjoyed their electro-pop style, somewhat Kate Bush meets Ultravox - they came all the way from Lancaster, along with their ten instruments and own lighting (all in one campervan); they did well on merchandising. Record news on a couple of our previous acts - **Jo Harman** has just returned from recording her second album in Nashville! **4Square** have their fourth album coming out in March; they're playing at Dartford Folk Club on Tuesday 15th March, so Mike & Christine will be going to that date.

Upcoming after the panto period are **The Runaways** (returning with their Shadows/50s/R'n'R songbook) on **Saturday 16th April**. Then on **Friday 20th May** the captivating vocals/guitar/dulcimer of **Hannah Sanders**, with Ben Savage on dobro (www.hannahsandersfolk.com). A four piece Americana harmony-acoustic multi-instrument band of Irish-American ex-pats from Madrid, called **TrackDogs**, appear on **Sunday July 24th** as part of their UK festival tour; we're going to make that an early evening 'picnic' event (with dancing space!). Pre-booking for these with Mike (820429) or Steve (820403) please.

Wine Tasting Evening

Hunton Village Club
Saturday 14th May
7pm for 7.30pm
£10/head including Light Supper
More details in the next Herald

Pre School Quiz Night

Hunton & Linton Pre School are holding a quiz night at the village club on Friday 11th March – 7.15 for 7.30pm start. £5 per head. Come with a team of six or join forces with others on the night. Prizes are on offer to the winning team. All proceeds will be going to improve the outdoor space at the pre school. All welcome but please RSVP to confirm numbers to huntonpreschool@hotmail.com

Little Owl Orchard Project

The People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) orchard team is joining forces with the UK Little Owl Project www.littleowlproject.uk to help discover more about their distribution decline. Little owls are a recent, and for the most part welcome, addition to the UK's fauna, making themselves particularly at home in traditional orchards over the last 130 years. Although not native, they are not 'invasive' and generally not considered to be a pest. They feed mostly on insects, worms and small mammals, and are in turn a prey species for larger birds, particularly barn owls. Recorded sightings of this charismatic bird have dropped by around half in the last ten years alone, and 65% in 25 years, so PTES are helping the UK Little Owl Project to find out more and promote good little owl habitat in orchards. By managing orchards in ways that are beneficial to insects we can benefit the entire ecosystem including little owls.

As part of this joint project they are asking people to conduct a simple survey which will let you know if little owls are in your area and report your findings back to them, and for those with orchards there is a limited number of free little owl bird boxes available for anyone who'd like to join in. For the slightly more adventurous, instructions will be provided on how to more closely monitor little owl box usage and brood numbers. Get in touch with steve@ptes.org for more information.

WI Has a Make Over

The February meeting of the WI was about caring for our skin. Debbie Griffiths, who works at Kent Adult Education, gave a make-up and skin care demonstration using one of our members as a model. Debbie gave us lots of useful tips while showing how to cleanse our face then apply creams and make-up to care for and flatter the face. We all agreed that the results on our model were very pleasing.

The next WI meeting at the village club is on Tuesday 1st March at 7.30pm. The speaker will be Stephen Harmer talking about the History of the Gardens at Sissinghurst. Ladies who are not WI members but are interested in this subject are very welcome.

Speedwatch Update

The speedwatch team has been very active and has been out three times in the first six weeks of the year. The idea is not to penalise speeding drivers but to educate them and make them 'speed aware'. Recently published data for Kent shows that speedwatch does have a positive impact and the vast majority of drivers that receive letters from the police after having been recorded speeding are not recorded for a second time within a 12 month period. So how are we doing in Hunton? Alongside the school the speed limit is 30mph (with an advisory 20mph limit during school hours). The average speed of vehicles on this stretch of road in 2016 is 25.8mph, however over 9% of drivers are travelling in excess of 35mph and the highest speed we have recorded so far is 45mph. The speedwatch team will continue to go out on a regular basis, changing the days and times we are there so as not to become too predictable and we will be looking to have other locations within the village approved by the police so as to address other speeding hot spots where we can. The ultimate aim is to have a village wide 30mph speed limit and to make the 20mph outside the school mandatory at all times.

Hunton Speedwatch Team

At St Mary's Church in March

Flowers

No Flowers in Lent.

27th March – Easter – All

Services

Sunday 6th March – Mothering Sunday

11.00am Family Service – Rev Peter Callway

Sunday 13th March – Lent 5

9.30am Holy Communion 1662 – Rev David Jones

Sunday 20th March – Palm Sunday

11.00am Morning Prayer – Rev Eileen Doyle

Thursday 24th March

7.30pm Maundy Thursday Service – Rev David Jones

Sunday 27th February – Easter Sunday

11.00am Holy Communion – Rev David Jones

Last Light Lunch

The final lunch in the current series will be on Thursday 3rd March at the village club – homemade soup, bread, cheese and biscuits, homemade cakes and tea or coffee all for a donation of £5. The club opens at 12pm with lunch available from around 12.30pm. There will be a new season of lunches in the autumn, starting in October.

Japanese Lessons

Since January Porteous Class at Hunton Primary School have been enjoying weekly Japanese classes. They have learnt some simple greetings, how to say 'my name is' and how old they are, counting from 1-100 and have even had a go at decoding katakana writing.

Evening Yoga

A new Hatha yoga class has started at the village hall on Tuesday evenings from 7-8.30pm. £9 per class – bring your own mat/blanket if possible. All welcome! Contact Meg West on 07985 250690 for more details.

Cream Teas

Enjoy a delicious cream tea in the lovely surroundings of Linton Church on Saturday 5th March from 2.30-5pm. A great way to treat your mum (or anyone else) on this day before Mothering Sunday, with music from Mr Bob Caudwell, church organist, playing tunes from the shows and light classics. Free parking in the village car park behind the church.

Heritage Tree Project Reaches Target

Last July there was an article in the Herald about the 6-year Kent Heritage Trees project and their aim to plot on an interactive map some 10,000 mature and 'special'/commemorative trees in the county, and also to plant 23,000 new trees. Well, the good news is that the lottery-funded project has achieved both targets well before the project completes this June. By Christmas they had recorded 9934 trees and planted 27,000 new ones; now they have got to 10,012 trees...huzzah! Mike Summersgill (our volunteer Parish Warden) has also just been on a training course to be a tree 'identifier'/recorder. So we still have a few months to get the number of Hunton heritage trees up into double figures.

Several of you responded to the last article and Mike will be phoning again to come and 'inspect' in the spring (possibly with the Hadlow tree warden), but a couple of phone numbers were lost, so if you can try again on 01622 820429 or senseass@btinternet.com, then Mike can pop round with his large tape measure, Abney level, and tree ID book - we certainly have some historical and rare trees in the parish (although not quite as old as the 2500+ year old yew that's in Loose churchyard, which the walking group saw at Christmas). The tree map and project information is on www.btcv.org.uk/cgi-bin/kenttreemap.cgi.

Easter Egg Raffle

Its time for an Eggciting and Eggalicious
Eggstravaganza!!
There are 3 chances to win
a fabulous Easter Egg
Tickets: £1 per strip
Available from the village club
The draw will take place on
Easter Sunday
Proceeds will go to the upkeep of the club



March	6 th	13 th	20 th	27 th
Coxheath	11.00 FS	11.00 MP	11.00 HC	11.00 HC
E. Farleigh	09.30 FS	08.00 HC; 11.00 FS	09.30 HC	11.00 HC
Linton	09.30 FS	09.30 HC	08.00 HC	09.30 HC
W. Farleigh	11.00 FS	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 March, please