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Flooding on the Agenda

The topic of flooding was high on the agenda at the July parish council meeting. A presentation by Stephen Day, chair of the Medway, Beult and Teise (MBT) flood group on which Hunton has two representatives, set out the current position regarding the promised flood defences for Yalding, Collier Street, Laddingford and of course Hunton. Sadly the news was not good. After the 2013 floods promises were made to take measures that would prevent us seeing that sort of event again, but the final definition of what these measures will be has yet to be agreed and finding the estimated £35m funding required is proving difficult.

The MBT flood group has very many concerns, not only about the time all this is taking but also about what the likely package of measures will be. Since the meeting it seems like the Environment Agency (EA) has decided that it can no longer recommend the building of a flood storage area (FSA) on the Beult because insufficient numbers of properties would be protected in order for the cost/benefit analysis to support the expenditure - this in spite of several reassurances from the EA that a Beult FSA was an essential part of the entire scheme. It seems now that property specific protection is being considered instead. For further information, or if you have any questions, you can e-mail flood@yalding.com.

So what can be done? The flood group is upping its efforts through numerous channels (media and political) to ensure that we get the best protection we can from an ever-increasing threat. But we can help too. Land and house owners are responsible for keeping drainage ditches that are on their property free of vegetation and blockages so that water can drain into the rivers and away to the sea. So if you have a drainage ditch on your property, and have not already done so, please will you ensure that it is cleared of all vegetation, rubbish etc as soon as you can.

Hunton Parish Council

Hunton Mini Olympics. Fun For Kids of All Ages From 5 to 105!

Come along and get in the Olympic spirit at Hunton Club on Saturday 13th August. We've got a host of silly team games such as Drinking Straw Javelin, Sock Put, Indoor Rowing, Random Relay, 10m Hurdles, Froggy Long Jump, Balloon Volleyball and many more. There'll be an opening ceremony with torch relay, live action and scores on our hi-tech digital scoreboard and medals for the winners. We're opening early at 7pm sharp, there will be Olympic themed refreshments for all competitors and the bar will open early too. Come along and join a team or bring your own, choose your country (first in gets GB!) and go for gold!



Bishops Lane Latest Venue for Pop-Up Shop

This year the pop-up shop is popping up all over the village, with a different food attraction each time. The Easter venue was outside the church where it all began with freshly made bacon butties being served for those wanting a cooked breakfast. The July shop 'popped up' in a new venue – Bishops Lane – alongside a delicious cream tea, which attracted over 50 people and raised just over £205 to go towards the purchase of a picnic table in the community orchard. Shoppers were able to buy local pork products, fresh vegetables, plants, jams and homemade jewellery and a good time was had by all. Keep your eyes open for the next shop. This will pop up on the playing fields on Saturday 24th September as part of the Beer and Cider Festival and there will be a BBQ to still any hunger pangs.

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	Community Warden: Adam McKinley	07811 271021
Rector: Revd. Peter Callway	747570*	PCSO - Megan Day	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
Churchwarden: Alison Ellman-Brown	820288	*not available on Fridays; **not available on Mondays or Tuesdays	
Village Club: Philip Nichols	820804		
Contact details for other village clubs and organisations are available at www.hunton.org.uk/contacts			

Diary Dates		Parish Council Contacts	
Tues 2 nd August	WI Meeting Village Club 7.30pm	Parish Council Chairman – Gary Thomas	820691
Sun 7 th August	Farmers' Market East Farleigh 10am-1pm	Clerk to the Parish Council – Sharon Goodwin	681238
Sat 13 th August	Mini Olympics Village Club 7pm	Cllr Jonny Goddard	820096
Sun 21 st August	Musicals on the Green Playing Field 4-7pm	Cllr David Heaton	820678
Sat 24 th September	Hunton Beer and Cider Festival	Cllr Tony Stanbridge	820761
Sun 25 th September	East St v West St Cricket Match	Cllr Annette Trought	820448
Check out www.hunton.org.uk/diary for the latest events.		Cllr Steve Wyles	820403
If you would like to add an event, email huntondiary@btinternet.com .			

"Go compare!" "Just one Cornetto!" "A Mars a day helps you work, rest and play!" "Washing machines last longer with Calgon!" "...with mild, green, Fairy liquid." "If you like a lot of chocolate on your biscuit join our Club!"

I'm quite sure that it was impossible to read these advertising slogans without at least one of them bringing to mind the accompanying tune. The tune helps us to remember the words, perfect for advertising. No surprise then that in the Bible we are told to sing to God and also to each other but what words should we use? Here is a good clue from Colossians 3:16, *"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom"*.

This tells us that we should know the word of Christ, read it, absorb it into our hearts and minds so that it dwells in us richly, so much so that we can encourage, teach and correct one another with the wisdom that it brings. The verse goes on to say, *"as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God"*.

It's true that when we start to speak about hymns and music in church everyone has an opinion and emotions can run high. It's too loud, too slow, too fast, too quiet, too modern, too repetitive, too old, and it's the wrong tune! What should really matter is that we are singing words that build us up and give glory to God, reflecting the truth about his son Jesus and all that he said and did for us. The style of music is not as important as the words. Styles come and go. We often have a preference for one or another or we might like a bit of everything. That's okay, but someone said that if we are singing "rubbish" then it will be "rubbish" that dwells in our hearts richly. So, if we want the good stuff to dwell in us we must make sure that that is what's going in! So it is right that we should be discerning when we choose hymns and songs.

Next time you sing a hymn in church or listen to Songs of Praise pay particular attention to the words. Are they biblical, edifying, giving God his worth or are they overly emotional or devoid of any real substance? When we minister to each other in song it's important that we choose words wisely and always with God's grace.

Finally, those jingles that started this letter, which joined words with a tune to make them memorable – can you create one for a Bible verse?

As you relax in your garden through the summer or whilst on holiday (with your Bible nearby, of course) see if you can come up with one and email or message me. If it works well I'll teach it to others in the Benefice.

That's your summer project! (In between watching the Olympics and following other challenges that are happening in our country at the moment!)

Many blessings to you all, *Sue Elliott - Pastoral Assistant*, elliottsuee@hotmail.com, mobile – 07799 533925

Hall Green Recycling Bin(s)

The village hall has "lost" one of its two green recycling bins that sit out the front of the hall. If anyone has ideas where it has emigrated to, please inform Mike on 01622 820429. At the same time, could users of the playing field, footpaths and graveyard please note that this bin is for recycling paper, glass and card materials from hall usage (concurrent with our home domestic collection) and is not there for convenient disposal of nappies, old flowers/wreaths and general rubbish from field usage - there are bins around the car park for those materials.

Diverse Display at Gallery

From 30th July to 31st August RIVERSIDEpopupGALLERY will be featuring works from Yalding Art Group and The Kenward Trust, plus large exhibition pieces by Hadlow Pottery, which is a pottery for learning disability adults. You may have seen a lot of hand decorated Hadlow Pottery in the Post Office, but it's exciting to now have a venue large enough to show their truly wonderful large handmade pots.

Yalding Art Group will be showing their years' work and will be working Thursday afternoons during the holidays so visitors can see what they get up to! There is a drawing workshop every Thursday morning during the exhibition. Three members of the group have already had their own exhibitions in the gallery and in August the gallery is looking forward to showing how diverse and talented they all are!

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

Bensted Close – Gate Damaged

On the night of Thursday 21st July, at around 12.30am, a dark coloured car driving into Bensted Close mounted the pavement and hit the gate at No 3, loosening the gatepost and breaking the gate. Someone got out the car to have a quick look and then drove off. It may not have been immediately obvious in the dark that the gate and gatepost were damaged, hence why no one has come forward. If anyone has any information about this incident could they please contact the residents at No 3 or contact the editor of The Herald and we will pass on the information on your behalf.

Joining Forces

For some time the number of avid book readers attending the second book group has been in decline. Likewise, recently, the original group has lost members, mostly because they have moved away. The suggestion of amalgamating was broached and happily the "B" group, as they have been called, were happy to join forces with the "A"s! To further complicate matters, the "A" group has changed their meeting night to coincide with the others. The combined "A"s and "B"s now meets on the second Thursday of each month. July saw this new (and improved) group coming together with the expectation of exciting debate awaiting us all!

Near Miss Outside School

There was a near miss outside school recently when a car from Yalding moved to avoid an oncoming vehicle and hit the open door of a car parked in West Street near the Bishops Lane/Grove Lane junction. A mother was about to get her young son out of the parked car onto the roadway when the collision occurred. Fortunately no one was hurt. A speedwatch session a week or so later showed that one in every 20 cars passing the school was travelling at 40mph or more which is why the parish council is pressing KCC for a blanket 30mph limit throughout Hunton and a mandatory 20 mph outside the school.

Festival Weekend

Saturday 24th September – Plans are afoot for Hunton's first Beer and Cider Festival! There will be a select number of local brewers taking part, along with BBQ, apple bobbing for the kids and a chance to press your own apples into juice using a cider press. A Home Brew Competition is also planned - if you would like to enter your own bubbling concoction please email ridgwayliz@gmail.com.

Sunday 25th September – A "hangover" cricket match is planned - East v West Street on King George V Playing Field starting at 12.30pm. All welcome! Hunton Wanderers Cricket Club will be supplementing teams with players and Hunton Village Club will be providing an outdoor bar. If you or a family member fancies joining a team, please text or ring Richard on 07766 206006.



16th Annual BBQ

28th 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 Fun for all the family

Advance Tickets £7 or £25 for a family (2 adults & 2+ children)

On the Door £8 or £30 for a family

On sale from 01622 814267 or gamblegambia@gmail.com

www.gam-ble.co.uk

Free taxi service, please book in advance

Free Youth Activities

A range of free activities for young people, organised by our community warden, Adam McKinley, are running at Coxheath Village Hall and Playing Field in Stockett Lane during the summer holidays.

- **Boxing** every Thursday 2.00-3.15pm from 28th July to 1st September, ages 11-19.
- **Street Dance** every Tuesday 12.30-2.30pm from 26th July to 30th August, ages 11-17
- **Football** every Monday 7.30-8.30pm with www.kickkent.org.uk, ages 11+

No need to book, just turn up and register.

Musicals on the Green – Sunday 21st August – 4pm to 7pm. West End comes to West Street!

A late summer afternoon's musical extravaganza, with music from the shows, including Les Miserables, Grease, Mamma Mia and many more. Talented soloists will be joined by children from Hunton School and The Huntones for this lovely village event at the playing field. There's a BBQ and licensed bar with local ales. Don't worry if it rains, we'll simply move into the village hall next door! Proceeds to the British Lung Foundation and the Friends of St Mary's.

Advance tickets: £3 adult / £2 under 13, available via www.huntonevents.com or from Sharon on 07794 457426. On the day: £4 adult / £3 under 13.



Orchard Takes Shape

The Community Orchard is really starting to come together now with the recent installation of fencing and gates. There will be three gates into the orchard – a 6ft gate from the track that runs along the side of the playing field to allow access for maintenance equipment, which will be locked to prevent fly tipping, and two smaller gates for access from the playing field. Two of the gates are already in place with the third due to be installed shortly.



Exciting Announcement from Local Charity, GamBLE!

Throughout the last 18 months the trustees have been working hard to plan the future for Yalding School Farato, to enable it to run a model that other Gambian schools can follow. So we are committed to reducing our role as micro-planners, continuing our role as supporters and advisors and increasing the opportunities and projects that will enable our Gambian teachers and partnerships to function efficiently and for the long term. We have exciting new projects in the pipeline.

In view of these developments and looking to a new future, the charity is intending to rename. **School Gambia** will reflect the new outreach programme that we are planning, including creating a national reading scheme; and highlight the recognition of the work we have achieved in the past: Building Links in Education. The original name consciously implied that our actions might be a bit of a gamble. After 16 years we have proved that we are here to stay and life for the Gambians in Farato has changed radically – it is now time to share that development with the children and families of the whole nation.

More details and news in our August newsletter and we will be officially relaunching at the annual BBQ on 28th August, 12 noon onwards at Thatchers, Benover Road. You can find out more about GamBLE on their website www.gam-ble.co.uk.

Do you Value your Local Post Office?

Voting is now open in the Kent Rural Retailers Awards 2016. Tim and June at Yalding Post Office would very much appreciate your vote in the category "Most Loved Post Office".

You can vote online at <http://kentruralretailers.co.uk/voting-form-2016-most-loved-post-office/> or pop in and pick up a voting form at the post office.

For Sale

Beautiful Edwardian piano £75 ono
Please ring 07720 080653

At St Mary's Church in August

Flowers				Services	
7 th	Ruth Porter	14 th	Ruth Porter	Sunday 7th August – Trinity 11 11.00am Family Service – Rev Eileen Doyle	
21 st	Sue Pinks (Wedding)	28 th	Sue Pinks		
Hunton Village Club Opening Hours Wed-Fri 8-11pm Sun 12-2.30pm & 8-10.30pm				Sunday 14th August – Trinity 12 9.30am Holy Communion 1662 – Rev David Jones Sunday 21st August – Trinity 13 11.00am Morning Prayer – Rev Peter Callway Sunday 28th August – Trinity 14 11.00am Holy Communion – Rev David Jones	

Keep the Date – Open WI Meeting

Following the success of the talk given by Bob Ogley on Doodlebugs and Rockets, we are pleased to give advance notice that David Tadd, retired head of forensic investigation for Scotland Yard's specialist crime directorate, will be coming to talk at an open WI meeting on Tuesday 15th November. As with the Bob Ogley meeting, non-members, both male and female are welcome to come along for a small donation of £5 each, to include coffee and refreshments. Bar open from 7pm, talk starts at 7.15pm. David will be giving two talks with a break for glasses to be replenished between. The first will be on Scotland Yard's involvement identifying missing persons in Thailand after the Tsunami. The second will give an insight into how they caught the Brighton Bomber.

Hunton on Social Media

Did you know that here in Hunton we have our own Facebook page, Twitter account and Facebook group? The Facebook page is a great way to keep up to date with news and events around the village; you'll find lots of photos too, including those from this year's fete. All the posts from our Facebook page feed directly to our Twitter account (@HuntonVillage) if that's your preferred means of communication – this is actually a really good way of ensuring you don't miss any of our Facebook posts as they may not always show up in your news feed, even if you "like" the page.

The Facebook group (Hunton, Kent – Community Group) is a bit different. Anyone who is a member can post to the group, so it's really useful for sharing information, offering or requesting help and for selling or giving away items you no longer require. People have also been using it to report suspicious activities around the village and for general, friendly village chat. It's a closed group so only members (currently numbering 90) can see what is posted here. To join the group just search for the group on Facebook and click the "join group" button at the top of the page.

Dogtastic Dog Show – Saturday 27th August 10.30am-4pm

Coxheath Village Hall Recreation Field

Entry £1 per dog, per class. Proceeds will go to Battersea Dogs Home, Cats Protection, Last Chance Animal Rescue and Buttercups Goat Sanctuary. Classes: Most handsome fella, loveliest lady, best trick, most gorgeous golden oldie, cutest puppy, most awesome eyes, most fantastic family, scruffiest mutt, best biscuit catcher, best dressed, reserve best in show, best in show. Plus side stalls and refreshments. Further information from Adam McKinley, Community Warden, on 07811 271021 or www.facebook.com/responsiblek9s.

WI Garden Party

Twenty Hunton WI members met in Ann Sawtell's garden for an informal party. In contrast to last year, it was quite a warm evening with no wind and a pretty sunset. All members brought along a plate of food, savoury or sweet, resulting in a wide variety of delicious choices. Sandra Bullivant worked her magic with the Pimms (provided by Ann) and everyone thought summer had finally arrived!

The evening was a very relaxing, social occasion, thoroughly enjoyed by all. Roger Sawtell kindly took some informal photos as well as a more formal one to be included in the 2015/16 Centenary Book.

The August WI meeting will be held at the village club on Tuesday 2nd and the speaker is Alison Surrige, who may need to drum up support from the members when she introduces them to the House of Rhythm.



August	7 th	14 th	21 st	28 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 August, please