



Editor: Helen Ward, Old School Farm, East Street, Hunton, ME15 0RA Tel: 01622 820810 herald@hunton.org.uk

HGV in Hit and Run

A foreign registered articulated lorry was involved in a hit and run collision in East Street on Thursday 9th March. The incident occurred at around 3.15pm when the lorry struck a car in the narrow section of road just above the Redwall Lane junction. The lady driving the car, who had just collected her two children from school, was reversing back to allow the lorry to pass but the driver, who was reportedly on his phone, didn't slow down or even acknowledge the car. The lorry hit the car's wheel, took off the door mirror and scraped along the side of the car and didn't stop. The occupants of the car were very shaken but, fortunately, uninjured. The car driver was able to get the registration of the trailer and reported the incident to the police, but they were unable to trace the owners of the lorry so no action could be taken.

This incident came only a day after East Street was blocked for five minutes at around 4.30pm with three articulated lorries trying to manoeuvre past each other at the Amsbury Farm entrance, and a car crashed on West Street having lost control on the bend heading towards the water mill, possibly due to mud on the road following excavations on the verge.

Concerned at the increasing number of serious traffic incidents in the village, the parish council was due to discuss the issue at its meeting on Monday 20th March.

Wines for Summer

Hunton Village Club will be hosting a Wines for Summer tasting and supper on Saturday 6th May. Come along to support this excellent value event, which aims to raise funds towards the costs of the roof refurbishment and provision of kitchen facilities. Starting at 7pm for 7.30pm ticket holders will be welcomed with a glass of sparkling wine to accompany the first of their three course supper followed by a selection of summer wines to taste with the rest of the meal. Limited tickets will be available only in advance for a donation of £15, which includes free entry to a prize draw. An additional prize could be won from a small blind tasting during the evening. Contact Tricia on 01622 820804 email tricia.nichols@btinternet.com or Lesley 01622 820210 email Lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com for further details and tickets.

Hunton Gets a Spring Clean

The first litter pick of this year took place on 3rd and 4th March. It was arranged to coincide with the very successful Great British Spring Clean. Many thanks to the 15 members of the team who gave up their time and collected 25 sacks of general rubbish, 16 car tyres, 12 commercial gas cylinders and some miscellaneous car parts, garden rubbish etc. Thanks also to Natasha and Jeremy who went out under their own steam and did a very good job in clearing Lughorse Lane.

The next litter pick will be on Saturday 10th June commencing at 10am from the village hall. If you would be interested in joining this very friendly group, please phone Di Martin on 01622 820115.

Your Local Contacts:		Village Hall Booking:	
School: Secretary/Head Teacher	820360	Maidstone Police	www.huntonvillagehall.co.uk
Under 5's Pre-School:	820309	Neighbourhood Watch: huntonwatch@gmail.com	690690 or 101
Pre-School Supervisor:	07972067110	'Potholes' Hotline (KCC)	820403, 820429, 820731
Pond and Tree Warden: Mike Summersgill	820429	Community Warden: Adam McKinley	03000 418181
Rector: Revd. Peter Callway	747570*	PCSO - Megan Day	07811 271021
Hon Associate Rector: Revd. David Jones	741474*	Helen Grant MP helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk	101 (or via Huntonwatch)
Associate Rector: Revd Eileen Doyle	204241**	Hunton Bell Ringers, Michael Webb	0207 219 7107
Churchwarden: Alison Ellman-Brown	820288		745716
Village Club: Philip Nichols	820804	*not available on Fridays; **not available on Mondays or Tuesdays	

Contact details for other village clubs and organisations are available at www.hunton.org.uk/contacts

Diary Dates		Parish Council Contacts	
Tues 4 th April	Hunton WI Village Club 7.15pm	Parish Council Chairman – Gary Thomas	820691
Fri 7 th April	Hunton FC Cup Final Gallagher Stadium 7.30pm	Clerk to the Parish Council – Sharon Goodwin	681238
Sat 8 th April	Church & Churchyard Clean Up 9am-12pm	Cllr Jonny Goddard	820096
	Bowls Club Coffee Morning Clubhouse 10am	Cllr David Heaton	820678
	Quiz Night Village Club 8.15pm	Cllr Roger Lee	820210
Sun 9 th April	Parochial Church Meeting St Mary's Church 10.45am	Cllr Tony Stanbridge	820721
Sat 15 th April	Pop-Up Shop & Café Village Club 9.30am-12pm	Cllr Annette Trought	820448
	Parish Council Surgery Village Club 9.30am-12pm	Cllr Helen Ward	820810
Fri 21 st April	Needles & Natter Village Club 8pm		
Sat 6 th May	Wines for Summer Village Club 7 for 7.30pm		

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

Pastoral Letter

"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. John 15 v13."

There are many amazing people through history who have done just that. I want to tell you of one of them.

Maximilian Kolbe was a Polish Franciscan friar whose church provided shelter to thousands of refugees including Jews during World War II. He was eventually arrested and imprisoned in 1941 and placed in the notorious Auschwitz concentration camp. In July of that year, three men escaped, and as a punishment the SS commander ordered ten men to be starved, to deter further escapees. Kolbe was not one of these men, but when one of the chosen begged for mercy, he volunteered to take his place. During the entire time, he calmly led the others in prayer and after three weeks he was the only one left. Eventually the commander ordered Fr. Kolbe to be killed by lethal injection. Kolbe willingly offered his arm for the injection. This was indeed a sacrifice of one's life for another. Maximilian Kolbe was a man of faith who knew with certainty that death was not the end, but a doorway to a new way of living with his saviour.

On April 16th, Christians around the world will be remembering another great sacrifice, not for one person, but for the whole human race. We celebrate again the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Reading the Bible accounts leaves you in no doubt about the life-transforming experience upon those disciples who witnessed the resurrected Jesus. Yes, doubt to begin with but then transformed into confident and strong witnesses of what humanly seemed impossible. Their confidence was infectious and their energy and joy was unquenchable. It was the driving force behind the incredible growth and expansion of the early church.

So this year when you are eating your Easter eggs, (symbolic of new life bursting from the egg) spare a thought for the real meaning of Easter and the hope and joy that the amazing sacrifice of love brings to millions of folk around the world.

Wishing you all a blessed Easter.

Rev Eileen Doyle

Annual Parochial Church Meeting – Sunday 9th April

On Sunday 9th April at 10.45am, after the normal Holy Communion Service, St Mary's will be holding their Annual Parochial Church Meeting in the church. This is the meeting at which the members of the Church Council are elected and the Annual Financial Report presented together with the reports for the years given. Just before the meeting the two churchwardens are elected. This is an open meeting for everyone interested in St Mary's Hunton.

Hunton FC Reach Cup Final

Hunton Football Club will be playing at Maidstone United's Gallagher Stadium on Friday 7th April in the Benevolent Cup Final 7.30pm kick off, all supporters welcome. In a good season for the team so far, Hunton still has 2 semi finals to contest, one in the Tunbridge Wells Cup against FC Revolution on 25th March and the other in the Maidstone Charity Cup (date yet to be arranged). The team is also well placed in the Maidstone Premier League to have a serious chance of winning the league.

Any persons interested in getting involved with the club should pop along to the team's matches on Saturday afternoons or phone club chairman Dave Elliott on 07766 732259.



The 2016 winning team

Pop-Up Shop, Café & Parish Councillors' Surgery

Saturday 15th April 9.30am-12pm

The Pop-Up Shop will be at our village club for a special Easter themed event. There will be Hunton produce including Hunton's own Spot on Produce; bacon, sausages and joints and Hunton bred lamb too; local eggs; handmade pasties and cakes; artisan sourdough bread from West Farleigh and more! Maybe some very young vegetable plants if possible.

The Pop-Up Café will return and will feature a Parish Councillors' Surgery. You can drop in and talk to Helen Ward or David Heaton about your concerns.

Gardening Club Visits

Join members of Hunton Gardening Club on the following visits:

Laurence J Betts Farm – Tuesday 20th June

Following the last Gardening Club meeting when Andrew Howe from Laurence J Betts Ltd talked about the salad crops grown around Hunton, he has arranged a visit to their site at Church Farm, Offham. The tour will start at 5pm (or earlier once those attending are all present) and will include an introductory talk about the farm and current activities followed by a tour of the pack house, cold stores, trials area, workshop and farm operations. Places on this tour are restricted to a maximum of 30 people. If you have restricted mobility Andrew has offered to arrange assistance.

Allington Castle – Tuesday 6th June

There are a few spaces left on a tour of the castle and grounds costing £17 each including tea and cake. Meet at the venue at 1.45pm for a tour of about two and a half hours. Allington Castle dates back to medieval times and is surrounded by a moat. The private castle has fully furnished interiors including tapestries, antique furniture and a Great Hall where Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn dined with Sir Thomas Wyatt. Set in 42 acres of land next to the river Medway it has restored gardens including ornamental ponds and fountains, a lavender walk and walled tiltyard garden. Numbers for this tour are limited to a maximum of 40 people.

Please let Lesley know as soon as possible if you are interested in either or both of these tours as places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com 01622 820210

Village Lunches

Thanks to all those who supported the recent six village lunches. These events were started in 2013 by Louise Ferns, who quickly persuaded Ann Sawtell to help her cook for and organise the first seven soup, bread and cheese events and they were gradually joined by other volunteers. There are now more than thirty people who help in one way or another. Over 200 meals were enjoyed at the recent six lunches and just under 1,700 since 2013. Clearly these are now established community events and much appreciated by those lucky enough not to work on the 12 Thursdays a year when they take place.

They were originally organised as an opportunity for members of our community to get together but have also resulted in the donations raised providing useful funds for both St Mary's Church and Hunton Village Club. Although Louise offered those who made soup or cake a free lunch, many volunteers refused to accept this and paid for their lunches as well as donated the food they made. This generous community spirit has continued and has resulted in the basic costs of food for these events being very low. The rest of the funds donated have been used towards the refurbishment of St Mary's Church and various maintenance projects in the club including the recent roof refurbishment. So far over £8,000 has been donated.

The next series of six village lunches start on Thursday 26th October. Do try to attend one of these very friendly events if you can.

Quiz Night – Saturday 8th April 8.15pm at the Village Club

Quizmaster Phil presents another brain teasing evening for your enjoyment. Entrance is free, just come along with your ready-made team or join one at the club. Teams are usually 4-6 people. These quizzes are extremely popular and it's always a fun evening, so come early to secure your spot. The quiz will start promptly at 8.15pm. Club opens at 8pm. All welcome!



Music Scene Update

Although there are no concerts planned for the village hall in the next few months, and it's fully booked for weddings for the summer, there's plenty of things going on around here – Maidstone Fringe Festival and Rochester Sweeps are both on the May Day weekend, and Yalding's Vicar's Picnic on 14/15th July. Those of you that enjoyed **Track Dogs** or **Hannah Sanders & Ben Savage** last year can catch them at Rochester Sweeps. Track Dogs will be giving a number of performances at various locations in Rochester throughout the weekend and Hannah Sanders & Ben Savage will give two performances on Monday 1st May – see the festival website for more details: www.medway.gov.uk/leisurecultureandsport/events/sweepsfestival2017.

Jo Harman is becoming a bit of an international "star", and has released her second album "People We Become" which was recorded in Nashville. The first single from it (When We Were Young) has been on BBC Radio 2 and London's playlists for the first two weeks of February, and has also reached No. 1 in the Dutch charts; she plays her first New York gig at the end of March.

4Square are celebrating 10 years as a band (still in their twenties!), and have released a five-track CD of re-worked songs chosen by their fans; this is available (£5) from their website. **Blackheart** are recording their next CD, and are now called Blackheart Orchestra (although it's still just the two of them). And so is **Hannah Scott**, who's been laying down tracks in Tuscany...as you would, if you need Stefano della Casa's cello and mixing desk! Going back to 2014, you might recall **Fake Thackray** (John Watterson) with the songs of JakeT; he's just released a new CD of 'lost' Jake songs and played the Half Moon in Putney to great acclaim. And we're due to see **Will Pound's** harmonica work at Broadstairs Folk Week in August, as well as Ben & Hannah. Lastly, the 3-piece band **DLM** are hitting the road from Bath, and playing in London on 29th April, at the Edenbridge Pig's Ear Folk Ale festival on 2nd June and St Edith's Folk Festival in Kemsing on 22nd July.

Mike Summersgill

No-Dig Gardening: Less Work, Fewer Weeds and More Produce

Experienced gardeners will find it hard to believe that there really is an alternative to digging and tilling the soil. Double-digging, forking-over and breaking up clods of soil is so ingrained in our gardening know-how that it goes against our instinct to put down our spade or fork, take a step back from the flower or vegetable bed and *not* dig. A friend of mine, who worked at Sissinghurst Castle Garden for 17 years, said that digging is like a reflex action, and she really has to refrain from her old digging habits. At Sissinghurst they have now adopted the no-dig method for their vegetable gardens and, who knows, perhaps they will soon be doing the same in the famous flower borders.

So, who is behind this revolution in gardening? In the UK, it would be safe to say that Charles Dowding is the champion of no-dig, having brought the concept to the fore with more than 30 years of practice. In recent years he has attracted a growing band of followers including National Trust head gardeners, Sarah Raven and Monty Don who, along with *Gardener's World*, proclaimed Charles' approach as one of the key movements that has changed gardening forever.

And yet, despite his own experience, accolades from gardening big guns and mountains of luscious vegetables to show for it, his no-dig message: "No Dig: healthier soil, fewer weeds", still seems to shock the horticultural establishment. Gardeners, it seems, find it hard to put down their tools and adopt a less labour-intensive approach.

For those unfamiliar with no-dig gardening, it is both wonderfully simple (for the gardener) and fascinatingly complex – the key is having faith in nature and knowing when to leave things alone. "There's this hidden assumption that soil needs to be loosened and aerated and we need to intervene, that we can improve on nature and the natural processes, which is quite arrogant really," says Charles.

What he advocates is using plenty of compost, manure, cardboard and / or fabric to cover the surface of the soil and so suppress weeds by starving them of light. "Fertility building up from on top is a copy of natural processes, like on a forest floor, or animal droppings on pasture," he says. At the same time, worms and soil fauna are encouraged and, as they increase in number, the soil becomes better aerated, without the loss of moisture and soil structure that digging promotes. Weeds are discouraged and gardeners get more time for cups of tea and perusing. What's not to like?

If you would like to know more about no-dig gardening, Charles will be visiting Kent on Sunday 14th May. For more information visit www.bloominggreenflowers.co.uk

Jennifer Stuart-Smith

At St Mary's Church in April

Flowers

2nd	No flowers	9th	No flowers
16th	Easter - All	23rd	All
30th	Benefice at West Farleigh		

Services

Sunday 2nd April – Lent 5
11.00am Morning Prayer – Rev Eileen Doyle

Sunday 9th April – Palm Sunday
9.30am Holy Communion 1662 – Rev David Jones

Thursday 13th April – Maundy Thursday
7:30pm Maundy Thursday Service and Watch Hour – Rev Eileen Doyle

Sunday 16th April – Easter Sunday
11.00am Holy Communion – Rev Peter Callway

Sunday 23rd April – Easter 2
11.00am Holy Communion – Rev David Jones

Sunday 30th April – Easter 3
10.30am Benefice Service at West Farleigh

Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

Wed-Fri 8-11pm
Sun 12-2.30pm & 8-10.30pm

Good Friday Services in the Benefice

At West Farleigh at 10am is a service of dramatic readings, the Passion account brought to life through the eyes of a variety of perspectives. At Coxheath at 11am is an All Age service which will involve visual elements and an accessible telling of the story, and at Linton at 2pm there is a reflective service, where there will be time to contemplate the message and meaning of Easter.

Pop-Up Gallery Returns

Yalding's Riverside Pop-Up Gallery returns for a second season from Saturday 1st April. Showcasing work by local artists, with exhibitions changing monthly, April's display will feature personalised ceramics by Cheryl Summers, highly original sculptures from Charlie Samuells, merged digital art by Edward Weaver-Coles, and Sarah Ledger's mixed media animal portraits and sports studies. The gallery, just behind the post office next to Yalding Bridge, is open on Monday, Thursday and Saturday 2-5pm. Entrance free. **Don't miss Hunton's Desmond Sturdee**, who will be exhibiting from 29th April until 22nd May. A passionate observer of people and places, his black and white photographs shot in London, Paris and Athens in the early 1980s give a timeless glimpse into the past.

Hunton Bowls Club Coffee Morning

Saturday 8th April 10am

At the clubhouse (Situated behind the village hall)

Plant Stall, Tombola, Cake Stall, Bric a Brac

Please come and support us!

Any donations of plants and cakes would be most welcome!

Baptism

We welcome Bobby Dylan Langridge as he is baptised at St Mary's on 2nd April 2017.

Lock Up Your Tractors

Kent Police is reminding residents living in rural Kent to ensure their valuables are locked and secured following a spate of high value thefts in Marden, Yalding and East and West Farleigh.

On Wednesday 8th March 2017 a Ford Transit van was found burned out on Broomfield Road, Kingswood, where it is believed to have been stolen from Lower Road in East Farleigh between Monday 6th and Tuesday 7th March. Officers also received a report that between 12pm on Friday 3rd March and 10.30am on Monday 6th March that a tractor was stolen from a field in Shingle Barn Lane, West Farleigh. And between Wednesday 1st March and Thursday 2nd March a trailer was reported stolen from Claygate Road in Laddingford.

Those living in rural communities are encouraged to be aware of strangers or incidents that raise suspicion and to report crime via 101 so it can be investigated thoroughly.

Community Orchard Clear Up

The Orchard Group met on Sunday 12th March to tidy up the Orchard. Jobs tackled included repairing the gate to ensure it closes without the aid of twine; tidying up of the trees close to Hunton Engineering; cutting the grass; raking up leaves and debris; hand weeding and composting around the trees. The weather was good and the afternoon's efforts were rounded off with a homemade picnic. Plans for the coming year include providing some tables and seating. There will be more on that in the next edition of the Herald.

Church and Churchyard Working Party - Saturday 8th April 9am-12pm

Please spare an hour or more to join in with other volunteers tackling various jobs both inside and outside St Mary's Church. This session we hope to divide and replant some snowdrops as well as tidy up the graveyard and clean up in the church ready for Easter. As usual there will be a break mid morning for coffee, tea and homemade biscuits or cakes so please let Lesley know if you can attend so she can take enough supplies. lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com

April	2 nd	9 th	16 th	23 rd	30 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	09.30 HC	
W. Farleigh	08.00 HC 1662	11.00 MP Mod	09.30 HC Mod	09.30 MP Trad	10.30 Benefice Service
HC Holy Communion, MP Morning Prayer, FS Family Service					

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