



Annual Village Meeting

The Annual Village Meeting on 22nd May was well attended, helped along by a free buffet supper and a revamped format. The early part of the meeting saw reports from the police, community warden, borough and county councillors, and the parish council. This was followed by a newly introduced question and answer session which prompted some interesting discussion on subjects including planning consent for buildings listed before 1932, the progress of flood prevention measures on the Beult and the resurfacing of Hunton Hill. However, much of this session was dominated by the planning application for the Wares Farm development in Redwall Lane. As Maidstone Borough Council will be responsible for determining the application with KCC Highways being a major consultee, it was helpful to have two of our borough councillors, Emily Fermor and Richard Webb, and our county councillor, Paulina Stockell on hand to respond to the points raised.

The main concern of residents was the increase in HGVs and other traffic that the site would generate. Cllr Fermor confirmed that the application would go before MBC's Planning Committee, with KCC deciding if they were happy with the highways situation or not, but that it would be difficult for the committee to reject it, particularly if KCC did not object on highways grounds. A resident said that they got the feeling that the application would be approved despite the many objections and they could not understand why that was the case. Cllr Webb explained that the planning committee must follow planning policies when making their decision and can only turn it down on certain grounds. If KCC did not object it could still be turned down for other reasons, on environmental grounds for example.

It was commented that it made no sense to site the development so far from the motorway when around 80% of fruit packed by Berry Gardens is imported. Cllr David Heaton, who was chairing the meeting in Cllr Gary Thomas' absence, said that Berry Gardens was just the tenant and that Firmins own the site. From what he had heard Berry Gardens might not end up using the entire site and that Firmins were looking for a distribution centre for their own business.

Another resident asked if there was anything else that the people in Hunton could do to put more pressure on, to which Cllrs Fermor, Webb and Stockell suggested lobbying the members of the planning committee and KCC Highways, and perhaps putting a petition together. Suggestions from other residents included inviting the Director of Highways to a meeting, perhaps in conjunction with Linton Parish Council, to discuss how they arrive at their recommendations on the application, and joining with other parishes to employ a specialist consultant to look at highways issues.

Following an interval for a delicious supper kindly organised by Lesley and Roger Lee, village clubs and organisations gave reports on their activities over the last year, copies of which can be found on the Hunton website.

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| 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 - Jasmine Pay | 07811 271021 |
| Hon Associate Rector: Revd. David Jones | 741474* | Helen Grant MP helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk | 101 |
| Associate Rector: Revd Eileen Doyle | 204241** | Hunton Bell Ringers, Michael Webb | 0207 219 7107 |
| 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 | | | |

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| Diary Dates | | Parish Council Contacts | |
| Sat 1 st July | Church and Churchyard Working Party 9-11am | Parish Council Chairman – Gary Thomas | 820691 |
| Sun 2 nd July | East Farleigh Farmers' Market 10am-1pm | Clerk to the Parish Council – Sharon Goodwin | 681238 |
| Tues 4 th July | WI Meeting Ann Sawtell's Garden 7.00pm | Cllr Jonny Goddard | 820096 |
| Sat 8 th July | Working Party Village Club 10am | Cllr David Heaton | 820678 |
| | Karaoke Village Club 7pm | Cllr Roger Lee | 820210 |
| Sun 9 th July | Relative Minors Concert Yalding Church 6.30pm | Cllr Tony Stanbridge | 820721 |
| Sat 15 th July | Working Party Village Club 10am | Cllr Annette Troughton | 820448 |
| Mon 17 th July | Parish Council Meeting Village Hall 7.30pm | Cllr Helen Ward | 820810 |
| Fri 21 st July | Needles & Natter Village Club 8pm | | |
| Sat 22 nd July | Pop-Up Shop & Parish Councillors' Surgery Village Club 9.30am | | |
| Sun 30 th July | Train Day Wayside, Amsbury Road 2-5pm | | |
| 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

I am writing this on the day after the General Election, which saw a major change in the balance of seats in the UK Parliament. It was quite a surprise to all of us – expert and novice alike – and reflects and echoes the turbulent and unpredictable political landscape here and elsewhere in the world. As Christians, the Bible encourages us to take an active role in society, and to be a force for social transformation, so the old adage of not mixing religion and politics really doesn't apply. I work very hard to keep party politics out of the pulpit (and my Twitter and Facebook feeds) but take a keen interest in what is going on in the political world. Christians in Politics is an all-party, non-denominational organisation which seeks to encourage and inspire Christians to get involved in politics and public life. I recommend them as a source of balanced information, who give a good account of how politics and faith can – indeed must – go hand in hand.

We are exhorted to pray for our political leaders and the Archbishop of Canterbury writes today, "I encourage all Christians, and people of all faiths and no faith, to hold our political leaders in their thoughts and prayers at this time. My prayer is that they may know the love and presence of God, made known through Jesus Christ, as they continue their discussions and prepare to take on the weighty responsibility of leadership."

Whatever your reaction to the result of the election, I want to remind us that in these uncertain and unpredictable times, there is an unchangeable truth that nothing can separate us from the love of God through Jesus Christ and that we can put our faith in him. Hebrews 11 verse 1 says this, "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." As we work together to find the best way forward for our nation, let us put our faith and trust in God, and allow him to inspire us to do all we can to make the world a better place.

Many blessings, Peter

Club Bar Volunteers

Since the successful wine tasting event it has been a relatively quiet time at the club. I am writing this before the summer fete, which I will miss this year for the first time since the fete reappeared on the village calendar several years ago. I hope that we were able to muster up a few volunteers to assist with running the bar on the day, as the income is most welcome. In recent weeks we have been asked if we would run a bar for a couple of functions at the village hall, which is something we have done on many occasions in the past. However we have had to reluctantly turn down the offers as we no longer have the luxury of the band of volunteers we once had. To move the beer barrels, gas cylinders, cooler, glasses, beverages and other pieces of equipment from the Club to the hall is quite an exercise and of course after the event it all has to be returned, it is not quite as simple as serving drinks over the bar. One or two people have overcome the issue by holding their function at the club itself as it is possible to hire for a private function, again provided we can find the staff to man the bar. At the present time we are very low on volunteers and we can no longer guarantee that the club will be open at the advertised times (Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings 8-11pm, Sunday 12-2.30 pm and 8-10.30 pm). If you would like to help out, just one session per month, it would be extremely helpful, please get in touch.

We are holding a couple of working parties during the mornings of Saturday 8th July and Saturday 15th July in an effort to spruce up the front, back and storage areas. The more helpers that show up the easier the work will be for all. We propose to do 2-3 hours cleaning and clearing from 10am so please do come along and help out.

Our next event is also on the evening of 8th July when Mark will be hosting one of his popular Karaoke nights. There is no need to sing if you don't wish to, there is no entrance fee, just come along and be entertained by others.

Phil Nichols

Summer Gigs

Bands / Artists that have played at the village hall will be playing in and around Kent this summer at several festivals. Trackdogs are returning three times from Madrid, to Tenterden on 1st July, Faversham Nautical on 22nd/23rd (also Folkestone & Deal that weekend), and then they have four (free) appearances at Broadstairs Folk Week on 12th and 13th August; check out their Facebook page for details. A new festival at Kemsing will feature both DLM and Hannah Scott on July 22nd and 23rd respectively, while Hannah is also at Faversham Hop the first weekend of September. Hannah Sanders and Ben Savage are also at Broadstairs Folk Week in August, while Jo Harman and band will be at the Uckfield BluesFest on 28th July. The next Hunton gig will be on 30th September and sees the return of The Runaways Reformed! More details to follow in next month's Herald.

Don't Panic!

If you passed the village hall on Saturday 10th June you could be forgiven for thinking that you had been transported back in time to World War II, with sandbags at the front door, military vehicles parked outside, a UXB at the side entrance and a huge signpost showing the direction of Berlin. No need to panic though, you were not in a time warp but witnessing the 1940s themed wedding reception of Simon and Annie Friend. Simon, a former Hunton resident whose parents Paul and Sarah still live in the village, wore an RAF officer's uniform with the father of the groom dressed as a paratrooper from the 101st Airborne (Screaming Eagles - Band of Brothers), whilst the ladies were attired in 1940s outfits, Sarah having made her own dress from an authentic 1940s pattern. Inside the hall was decked out in bunting (also made by Sarah) to complement the Union Flags and featured a shelter scene housing a bed, luggage and retro radio, which hid an MP3 player, belting out 40s hits. The couple had their first dance to Moonlight Serenade.



Simon and Annie with Simon's parents, Sarah and Paul.

The day was made even more special as the wedding party were honoured and privileged to host two veterans who had both served on HMS Belfast, one of them actually on D Day!

Childminding and Private Tuition available in Bensted Close, Hunton

£7 per hour for drop offs / pick ups from Hunton Primary School and Hunton Pre-School

£5 per hour for day care for under 5s and during school holidays

£30 per hour for 11+ tutoring (8 years teaching experience, former Literacy Leader)

Contact Debbie Mercanton: 07859 040995 email: deb_lemmon1@hotmail.co.uk

In the Mood

The Relative Minors orchestra warmly invites you to be "In the Mood for Music" on Sunday 9th July at 6.30pm in Yalding Church. The concert will feature classics, medleys, show music and pop featuring talented local musicians, soloists and groups. Tea and cakes will be served during the interval. No ticket required but donations towards orchestra funds will be gratefully accepted. For further information please contact Andrew on 01622 814251 or Gina on 01622 813133.

The Spike

Pupils from Hunton Primary School recently visited The Spike, the former vagrants' ward at the Guildford Workhouse, which has been restored and is now a heritage centre. Many thanks to Ella Budden and Jessica Gray from Borton Class for writing this report for The Herald. It sounds like a fascinating place to visit.

"The Spike is a workhouse where you pay to stay or get to stay there for free for 1 night. In those days 2 pence was a lot of money. At The Spike our first activity was when we had to watch an interesting video of what The Spike used to be like years ago: secondly we did a knowledgeable activity where we had to search and write about a citizen from The Spike; we learnt lots and at the end we got to do a presentation. It was riveting!

Our third activity was teaching us what we needed in life, we had 16 cards and we had to pick 12 cards of what we needed. Then we had to get rid of 4, it was very challenging! At the end we had to do a presentation of what cards we got. Our last activity was a fascinating tour around The Spike and we got to learn a bunch of new things!

Thank you to all the staff for touring and letting us look around The Spike and we recommend you go here."

Karaoke – Saturday 8th July from 7pm

We're delighted to announce that Karaoke will be returning to Hunton Village Club for another fabulous free night of fun! We invite you to come and entertain Hunton, but if you'd prefer to sit back, relax, and be entertained by your friends and neighbours then that's absolutely fine with us. We never pressure anyone to sing. We've over 10,000 songs from all genres to choose from. Last time our superstars ranged from aged 8 to in their 80s. We've had wonderful comments from people who've been previously; "I wouldn't have put us down as karaoke sort of people but they really are fun at the club", "Loved it!", "Fab evening, lots of fun!". We'd love you to come down and see what you're missing.

These events are run to help raise much needed funds for the club. Entrance is free, we prefer to rely on the increased bar takings rather than selling tickets, so that extra drink would be in a good cause! We really hope we'll see you there!

More information is available on the Hunton Community Facebook group or from Mark on 01622 820810.

Litter Pick

The second litter pick of the year took place on 10th June. There were 16 volunteers for this who were very lucky to have lovely sunshine. The total collection was 20 sacks of general rubbish, one car tyre, some road works barriers and cones, and some wood. There was not as much litter this time and the team's efforts are obviously making a difference. The next litter pick will be in October (date tba) and if you would like to help please contact Di Martin on 01622 820115.

Save the Date Musicals on the Green

Sunday 27th August

4.30 – 6.30pm

Music, BBQ, Bar

Community Funding Available

You'll no doubt have spotted that the Herald Business Directory has been updated for 2017/18. We have a number of new advertisers, so please do take a look and support our advertisers where possible, as the revenue from these adverts pays for the production of the Herald but also allows us to make donations to good causes within the village. Most recently we have funded stage lighting for the village hall, gazebos for use at village events and contributed towards the defibrillator cabinet outside the village hall. After two successful years of advertising we do have some more funds available, so if you have any suggestions of where a small donation would benefit the village, please let us know.

Whilst on the subject of advertising we must thank Sue Pinks, our advertising coordinator, for her hard work and innovative approach – she has been a great asset to the Herald team. However, she wishes to step down and we are looking for someone willing to take over this crucial role. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please get in touch with Helen on 01622 820810 or email herald@hunton.org.uk for more information as to what's involved.

Gardening Club Visits Allington Castle

Gardening club members, relations and friends visited Allington Castle on 6th June for a fascinating and informative guided tour of the castle and gardens. The original medieval moated castle was built in the 12th century by the banks of the Medway and at one time was owned by Sir Thomas Wyatt who hosted Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn. After a period of dereliction, it has been gradually restored by several owners since 1905 and is currently the residence of Sir Robert and Lady Worcester. Sir Robert is an American who founded MORI polls. We were shown around many parts of the castle including the Great Hall, where we had afternoon tea. The gardens are set in 42 acres of grounds but are maintained beautifully by just three gardeners! We saw many features such as lily ponds, nut walks, rose gardens and a lavender walk. Unfortunately the castle is not open to the public but is available for weddings and as a film location. We are very grateful to Edna Dennison who organised this special tour over a year ago.

At St Mary's Church in July

Flowers

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|------|-------------------------------|------|----------------------------------|
| 2nd | Andrea Forster | 9th | Sue Pinks (Wedding 8th) |
| 16th | Sue Pinks | 23rd | Sue Scott (Weddings 21st & 22nd) |
| 30th | Sue Scott (Two Weddings 29th) | | |

Services

Sunday 2nd July – Trinity 3
11.00am Family Service – Miss Chris Bostock

Sunday 9th July – Trinity 4
9.30am Holy Communion 1662 – Rev David Jones

Sunday 16th July – Trinity 5
11.00am Morning Prayer – Rev David Jones

Sunday 23rd July – Trinity 6
11.00am Holy Communion – Rev Peter Callway

Sunday 30th July – Trinity 7
10.30am Benefice Service at Coxheath

Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

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

Friends of St Mary's Train Day – Sunday 30th July 2-5pm at Wayside, Amsbury Road



We hope that you have seen in the June edition of the Herald that we are able to invite you to attend this event. There are certain changes this time, none the least that the individual rides have been extended by new track to last for approximately 20 minutes and there is no limit on the number of rides offered. There will be tea, coffee, cakes, sandwiches, soft drinks etc all included in the price, and parking is much easier as there is an entrance to the field that we have always used close to Hunton Hill immediately on the left as you drive into Foremans Barn Lane; it will be signposted to help those who have not been before. We also plan to provide additional entertainment for children.

Tickets will be £7.50 for children up to 12 years old, £12.50 for adults (apologies for publishing £12.00 previously, that was incorrect) and babes in arms are free. Tickets will be issued electronically when payment is received. Cheques should be made payable to FOSM. You will receive an email with your ticket attached and this must be produced at the gate to be checked against our list. Tickets are going fast so please do not delay. They can be applied for by emailing Mary Goddard mary@cheveneyfarm.co.uk or Lucy Dickinson lucydickinson@mac.com. If you have any difficulties please call Ron Porter on 01622 820220 who will do his best to facilitate. We look forward to seeing you there.

Pop-Up Shop, Café & Parish Councillors' Surgery. Saturday 22nd July 9.30am-12pm

The village club will host this summer's Pop-Up Shop, where you'll find lots of seasonal produce from Hunton and the local area. The Pop-Up Café and Parish Councillors' Surgery will run alongside so do drop in and discuss any concerns you have with your local representatives or just come for a coffee and a chat. Details are still being finalised but it is hoped that one of our borough councillors, our community warden and possibly our PCSO will be able to attend. Check the Hunton Facebook page and the village website for updates.

Lorrywatch Volunteers Wanted

Hunton Parish Council is actively looking for volunteers to help record details of HGVs that pass through Hunton's weight limit zones. The data that is gathered is passed to the Freight Officer at Kent County Council. If HGVs are seen twice in the village then the company concerned is contacted and in some instances fines are issued. Volunteers need only commit to two or three hours, with each session being one hour. Volunteers carry out sessions in pairs and the appropriate guidance on safety will be provided. We hope to be able to operate at least two sessions per month depending on the number of volunteers. We are all aware of the increasing levels of HGV traffic in Hunton and any help to record and potentially reduce this traffic would be hugely appreciated. If you are able to help please contact Councillor Jonny Goddard at jonny@cheveneyfarm.co.uk or 01622 820096.

Arts and Crafts Gardens

The WI's June meeting was open to non-members and the speaker was Stephen Harmer who gave a fascinating talk on the development of gardens over the last 150 years, illustrated by some beautiful slides. Arts and Crafts gardens are the quintessential English garden, taking inspiration from nature and landscape but also embracing many overseas influences. The Victorians reacted against Capability Brown's "boring" landscapes with a hotchpotch of formal, artificial gardens using lots of bedding plants. The Arts and Crafts Movement was vehemently against annual bedding and produced designs inspired by the Italian Renaissance with hard landscaping and symmetry but everything softened by perennials. Their gardens aspired to carefully controlled views into the countryside often framed by "windows". They drew up a long list of rules for gardens which included: surrounding the house, a sports lawn, strong hedges to obscure parts of the garden, use of local building materials, gnarled fruit trees, pergolas, formal pools, pots and urns and many other requirements. Unfortunately they also wanted new and unusual plants and imported Japanese knotweed and giant hogweed!

The movement declined after WW1, when there was insufficient manpower for the upkeep of these large gardens. Since then, there has not been a definitive style of garden design, although many members could identify elements of Arts and Crafts in their own gardens.

The WI's next meeting is a garden party in Ann Sawtell's garden on 4th July at 7:15pm. Please bring a plate, new ladies welcome.

| July | 2 nd | 9 th | 16 th | 23 rd | 23 rd |
|-------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| Coxheath | 11.00 HC | 11.00 MP | 11.00 HC | 11.00 FS | 10.30 Benefice Service |
| 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