



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

Green Light for Wares Farm Development

Maidstone Borough Council's Planning Committee has given the go ahead for the construction of a huge packing, storage and distribution centre at Wares Farm on Redwall Lane. At their meeting on 6th July they approved the application by Alan Firmin Ltd and Berry Gardens, which had been recommended for approval by the planning department, despite strong objections from both Hunton and Linton Parish Councils and numerous local residents. Hunton Parish Council Chairman Gary Thomas, and Borough Councillors Emily Fermor and Richard Webb were amongst those who addressed the meeting and spoke eloquently against the development. Cllr Fermor said that there was a growing feeling amongst residents that they were not being listened to and urged the planning committee to demonstrate that they "don't just represent residents who are most well connected, know how to work the system better or write the biggest cheques".

Around 65 Hunton and Linton residents had written to the borough council expressing their concerns about issues including harm to the countryside, noise and the impact on wildlife, but the common theme in virtually all of the objections was the large increase in traffic on a totally unsuitable road network. Kent Highways did not object to the application subject to a number of conditions including measures to prevent HGVs from turning left towards Hunton when leaving the site, an HGV routeing agreement, improvements to the junction of Redwall Lane with the A229, and the applicant giving a piece of land and a financial contribution towards improvements to the Linton crossroads (although it is very unclear as to whether KCC have any plans to implement the crossroad improvements in the foreseeable future). They did state that they were not entirely happy with the impact on the road network to the west of the site (which includes Hunton) but that the impact could not be deemed to be severe so they could not object on this basis.

As Kent Highways had not objected, the Chairman of the Planning Committee, Cllr Clive English, refused to allow members to waste time discussing the traffic and road safety implications and directed them to only weigh the harm to the landscape against the economic benefits, the lack of alternative sites within the borough and the proposed ecological enhancement. Despite some strong opposition from a small number of committee members, the application was approved by 9 votes to 4.

Hunton Parish Council went on to consider the decision at its meeting on 17th July, where there was frustration expressed at the planning system in general, the conduct of the meeting and a general feeling that the Chairman of the Planning Committee had been out of order in not allowing members to speak about highways issues nor allow any objection on these grounds. Borough Councillor Brian Mortimer advised that unfortunately there was no right of appeal for third parties against a planning decision and that the only possibility would be to request a judicial review, which would be hugely expensive for the parish council and may well not succeed. A representative from Hunton Parish Council would be included on the Delivery and Monitoring Committee that was going to be set up to oversee the development, which would give the council the opportunity to push for traffic mitigation measures should they prove necessary.

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 - Jasmine Pay	101
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 1 st August	Church and Churchyard Working Party 9am-12pm	Parish Council Chairman – Gary Thomas 820691	
	WI Meeting Village Club 7.15pm	Clerk to the Parish Council – Sharon Goodwin 681238	
Sun 6 th August	East Farleigh Farmers' Market 10am-1pm	Cllr Jonny Goddard 820096	
Wed 9 th August	Security Event Coxheath Village Hall 7.45-9.15pm	Cllr David Heaton 820678	
Fri 18 th August	Needles & Natter Village Club 8pm	Cllr Roger Lee 820210	
Sat 19 th August	Church and Churchyard Working Party 9am-12pm	Cllr Tony Stanbridge 820721	
Sun 27 th August	Musicals on the Green Playing Field 4-6.30pm	Cllr Annette Trought 820448	
Sat 2 nd September	Village Walk & Lunch Village Club 11am	Cllr Helen Ward 820810	
Check out www.hunton.org.uk/diary for the latest events.			
If you would like to add an event, email diary@hunton.org.uk			

Fifty Years a Lay Reader

It was in 1967 that my vicar at the time asked me to become a Lay Reader: the parish was Sonning (near Reading) and the vicar's name was Robin Brutton. I did not feel I could possibly refuse; and so began 50 years of duty and obligation.

Therefore, looking back, has it been a welcome experience? Of course it has, but there have also been many occasions of great fear: one might almost say sheer panic. To stand up in front of 100 people and lead them in worship, and to preach to them is definitely stressful, perhaps at times, even worse.

No doubt many of you reading this will also have experienced times in your life when the occasion has demanded more than you felt able to give. My method was always, just before the service commenced, to ask The Almighty to strengthen his Holy Spirit in me so that I could do my very best for his sake. The words that I spoke needed to be his words: his message, rather than my own. I can honestly say that he never ever let me down.

I share this with you because I am sure that you will have experienced occasions when the daunting situation looms before you and you simply do not know how you are going to get through it. If we are Christians, then we always know that God the Father is there for us. We know this because Jesus, all through his ministry, assured us that it was so. Do we remember that God is there for us? Do we call on him when we need him most?

This month I relinquish my duties as Lay Reader! Obviously there will be a few regrets, but life is a journey through which we must move with thought and prayer. New demands come our way, and we should be ready for them. I believe that the Rector is empowered to call upon my services on an occasional basis if he so wishes: so you may not entirely have seen the last of me!!

Hugh Grainger

Fingerprints and Murder

Unfortunately the Hunton WI's July meeting was cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. At the next meeting on 1st August the speaker will be Jack Dean talking about "Fingerprints and Murder". Meetings are held at the village club on the first Tuesday of each month. The doors open at 7.15 pm; drinks from the bar are available and coffee/tea and cakes are complimentary. New members are very welcome.

Security Evening

Kent Police is holding a Home and Equine Security Event on Wednesday 9th August at Coxheath Village Hall between 7.45pm and 9.15pm.

- Meet representatives from KCC, Neighbourhood Watch and Kent Police
- Discuss local matters with PCSO Jasmine Pay
- Get personal safety advice and tips on securing your home, garden and outbuildings, bike marking and CCTV

Tea and coffee will be available. For more information email: 59854@kent.pnn.police.uk

Village Walk and Lunch - Saturday 2nd September

This is another chance to catch up with old village friends and meet new ones whilst enjoying a circular walk from the village club followed by a buffet lunch. The walk leaders aim to leave promptly at 11am for a walk lasting about one and a half hours returning to the club where lunch will be available for a £5 donation. Funds raised this time will go towards improving club facilities. Join the walk or come to lunch, or both and do bring friends and relations but please let Lesley know so the walking group doesn't start without you and she can organise enough food for everyone. 01622 820210 lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com

Save the Date

Sunday 1st October 5pm - Harvest Festival service at St Mary's Church followed by Harvest Supper at the village hall. More details in next month's Herald.

Coming Next Month - Hunton Beer Festival

Live Music, BBQ, locally grown produce, apple bobbing, home brew competition, apple pressing and, of course...Beer! Lots of lovely local ales including our very own Hunton Hooch! Saturday 23rd September 12-5pm at Hunton Village Club.

Gardening Club Meets Rocket Scientist!

Last month the members of the Gardening Club, their friends and relations were invited to learn about the salad crops grown by Laurence J Betts Ltd around Hunton. After an introductory talk we walked through fields where we were encouraged to try different baby leaf crops including those in the trials area and amused our guides by not liking all those we tasted! We saw a fabulous wild flower meadow created to encourage bio-diversity and learnt about water use and reservoirs. We were shown machines used in the fields, the workshop, the packing rooms and the cold storage area. Throughout the visit we were given a lot of information as well as had all our questions answered including why it is necessary to protect crops from pigeons.



Thanks to Managing Director Stephen Betts, Farm Manager Nick Ottewell and Technical & Quality Manager Andrew Howe who gave up three hours of their free time at the end of a long hot work day to provide us with a really interesting tour. If you could not go on this visit and would like to know more about the Betts farm operations do look at their website www.ljbetts.com

School's Adventure Activity Week

We're delighted that some more budding journalists at our village school have sent us this report of their recent activities. We hope that contributions from the children will become a regular feature.

"PGL also formally known as Parents Get Lost (as the pupils of Hunton C of E Primary School call it) was the residential trip children embark on leaving behind their families for a week. Pupils love the freedom you're given and activities chosen by your group leader. You sing, you laugh and you have a whole lot of fun. It gives you opportunities to overcome your fears whilst also gaining new fears. Years 5 and 6 embarked on fear raising activities, for example: raft building. Raft building is a challenge where different groups compete to see who has the best raft and this activity needed and gave you teamwork, a sense of coordination and other skills needed in life. This year the children were assigned the group leader (groupie) Carly, and every day the children would wake up from their cabins to another challenge whether that was crawling in mud or climbing up a colossal ladder only with rope and your friends. This trip or "vacation" was a test in common sense, knowledge, strength and teamwork, all to go back to your cabin for another day of sleep or to reward yourself with an overload on snacks..."

Written by Aidan and Keira

Open Meadow

We would like to thank everyone who kindly supported our open meadow afternoon on 9th July. Thankfully, the sun shone giving us a glorious afternoon to linger amongst friends and flowers during this almost impromptu event. We were so gratified that 59 people popped in during the afternoon, which far exceeded our hopes! Fortunately, we had plenty of delicious cakes, meringues, strawberries and drinks to make it a quintessential English summer event. Above all, the meadow shone in the sunlight and was admired by all.

Finally, a huge thank you to our team of helpers who inspired us to share our meadow with the gardening club, as well as aiding with the practical organisation and catering: a super team effort! The afternoon raised £425 for the Stroke Association, Parkinson's Society and St Mary's Church Hunton, which is amazing. Thank you for your very generous donations.

Wendy and Iain Simmons

Fun at the Fete

Our village fete this year was certainly the hottest one we've had in recent times. We had all the usual attractions. Our Applause Rural Touring act this year was the Flying Bazazi Brothers. They danced, juggled and joked their way through an impressive performance. They also put on a "have a go" workshop for children and grown ups with juggling, diabolo and rola-bola. The soaring temperatures kept the bar and ice cream stall busy.



As ever the Fete Committee is enormously grateful to all the hard working (and very hot!) volunteers who helped make the event such a success. The fete usually raises around £2000 gross. After deductions this year we raised approximately £900 net. This money will go into the Fete and Village Events Fund, which ensures that we can afford to put on next year's fete and build up funds that we can use to purchase items to support village events.



July Parish Council Meeting in Brief

Police – Four crimes were reported in the village between 4th May and 13th July: a burglary on East Street, theft of a motor vehicle on Hilltop, an attempted burglary on Redwall Lane and theft of a statue on Lughorse Lane.

Community Warden – Adam McKinley is now working closely with GP surgeries in Coxheath and Yalding to help local residents with issues such as getting a lifeline, help with benefits (young and old), care, gaining access to groups and general support. He is helping two clients in Hunton referred by Yalding Surgery. He is trying to arrange a surgery with the PCSO on local issues.

Playing Field – The low post and rail fence by the car park is to be replaced with a two rail fence and gate. The multiplay equipment is to be refurbished and grant applications are being pursued with a view to purchasing a nest swing and replacing the safety surface under the play equipment.

Village Hall – Hiring of the hall for teen parties is to be limited to villagers. The insurance claim for the replacement of the hot water tank has been approved.

Village Club – Two working parties have taken place to tidy up and carry out routine maintenance. The hedge at the front has been cut back. No one has come forward to take over the role of Chairman, which is a major problem.

Lorry Watch – A number of monitoring sessions have taken place on East Street recently. A new volunteer has come forward.

Speedwatch – Unavailability of members for personal reasons has meant that the group is struggling to get out with any regularity. The group is also without a coordinator since Steve Wyles and Helen Ward have both had to step down due to other commitments.

Traffic and Road Safety – Councillors agreed to form a working party to consider in detail what can be done to tackle the traffic problems and road safety issues around the village.

At St Mary's Church in August

Flowers		Services	
6 th	Wedding - Ann Sawtell	13 th	Erica Hanna
20 th	Erica Hanna	27 th	Wedding - Sue Pinks

<p>Hunton Village Club Opening Hours Wed-Fri 8-11pm Sun 12-2.30pm & 8-10.30pm</p>	<p>Sunday 6th August – Trinity 8 11.00am Family Service – Miss Chris Bostock</p> <p>Sunday 13th August – Trinity 9 9.30am Holy Communion 1662 – Rev David Jones</p> <p>Sunday 20th August – Trinity 10 11.00am Morning Prayer – Rev Eileen Doyle</p> <p>Sunday 27th August – Trinity 11 11.00am Holy Communion – Rev Peter Callway</p>
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Helpers Wanted for Church Working Parties

Tuesday 1st and Saturday 19th August – 9am to 12pm

You may be lucky and have not noticed that this is the large spider web season but they have definitely chosen St Mary's Church as a major venue. This makes the place look very un-loved, and with several weddings being held there in August a team of volunteers is needed to try to move them out! Meanwhile there are the grass edges to cut again as well as other jobs to do in the churchyard. If you can give up an hour or so on either or both of the above dates, that will really make a difference.

Please contact Lesley if you think you can join the team so that she takes enough supplies for the coffee break. 01622 820210
 lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com

Farmers' Market

East Farleigh Farmers' market has recently made a £100 donation to Maidstone charity Restoring Hands, which offers support in the community to all age groups, including running a food bank. We also gave £80 to the British Wireless for the Blind, based in Albion Place, Maidstone who supply specially adapted radios to the visually impaired. Thanks to all stallholders and customers for helping us achieve this.

The August Farmers' Market will be held on Sunday 6th from 10am until 1pm. We are hoping that Teston Bakery will be able to attend if their new premises in Mereworth is up and running by then! Yarns of Anarchy and Alan Saunders Art Metalwork will be on holiday; otherwise we understand that all regular traders will be present. We are still looking for a fruit and vegetable seller who can supply local Kent produce. Should you have any suggestions please contact Sue Morris on 01622 726164.

Musical Magic

Musicals on the Green is back for another Sunday afternoon of musical magic on Sunday 27th August from 4pm to 6.30pm at the playing fields in West Street (or in the village hall if it's wet). Join the Huntones and friends as they serenade you on a journey through more than half a century of your favourite musicals with hits from Annie, West Side Story, Hairspray, Oklahoma, Billy Elliot and many more. There's a bar and BBQ, so bring a chair and settle down for a great afternoon's entertainment. This year's event is in aid of Mind, the mental health charity with tickets £4 on the day or £3 in advance from www.huntonevents.com or phone 01622 820709 / 820455.

Coxheath Church Fete
Saturday 2nd September 1.30pm
 On the grassed area around the church
 Free Entry
 Entertainment, Strawberry Teas, BBQ, Local Produce,
 Raffle, Tombola,
 Crockery Smash, Coconut Shy
 and many more stalls and games.
 Come and join in the fun!

Riverside Pop-Up Gallery

August is community month and we are pleased to support Yalding Art Group, Hadlow Pottery and Kenward Trust. All contribute a wide selection of art to enjoy. Conrad Feaver is joining us again with his wonderful selection of photographs, so it's looking like a great month to come and see us! The gallery is open for viewing Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays 2-5pm and in addition Yalding Art Group will be drawing and painting every Thursday morning from 10-12, so do pop in and join them. There will also be children's activities during August - try your hand at either colouring or making animal bunting for the gallery's charity, Pukka Ponies. Packs will be £1 each and all the money will go to Pukka Ponies.

We are drawing to a close of our second year of exhibiting a rich and varied amount of artwork and we will be setting up our last exhibition for September which is Sue Batt (mixed media), Pauline Budd (miniaturist). Valerie Lovett (photography) and Karon Ann Sharp (driftwood sculpture). www.RIVERSIDEpopupGALLERY.weebly.com

August	6 th	13 th	20 th	27 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