



Water Main Replacement

The project to replace the water main on Hunton Hill may see a change of plan following discussions at the September parish council meeting. The current plan was expected to involve a 14-week road closure starting in November this year but Clive Baxter, owner of Amsbury Farm, has offered South East Water the option of installing a section of the new pipe on his land bordering Hunton Hill, which could dramatically cut the length of the closure period. Jeremy Dufour, the project manager, thought that as well as being less disruptive, this would probably be a cheaper and easier option. South East Water are going to consider this alternative route, which will require some additional surveys to be carried out, and will report back to the parish council meeting in November.

Park and Ride Consultation

Maidstone Borough Council currently subsidises the Park and Ride service by around £242,000 per year but has to reduce this annual cost by about £75,000 to meet the savings it has to deliver. A recent review also showed that the service was not contributing enough to the objectives of reducing peak time congestion and improving air quality in and around the town centre. The best ways of reducing the cost of Park and Ride and making sure it reduces congestion and improves air quality are to increase the numbers of people using the service, especially at peak traffic times, and to change the charging structure. Therefore, the council is consulting with people who travel into Maidstone town centre about what they need from the Park and Ride service and how much it should cost. The survey can be found online at: www.maidstone.gov.uk/council/have-your-say/current-consultations/park-and-ride-improvements. Completed responses will be entered into a draw to win £100 of shopping vouchers, which will take place on 30th October. The survey should take around 5-10 minutes to complete. The survey closes on 22nd October 2017.

Volunteers Repair Church Wall

Three hard-working volunteers came to the rescue recently when the ancient stone wall on the north side of the churchyard was in urgent need of repair. James Forster, David Jones and Chris Wright worked on the restoration over a period of two months using the traditional type of lime mortar that would have been used in the original construction. A large amount of ivy had been growing through the wall and rain had been getting into the structure because the top was loose. Had the work not been undertaken, the wall would have become seriously dilapidated. Although, at this stage, parts of the mortar may look stark, they will in time weather down. At the beginning of September a small area of old plaster fell from an interior wall of the church. The Parochial Church Council is looking to have the area repaired as soon as possible.

Reporting Traffic Incidents

Huntonwatch is continuing to collate a database of traffic incidents on our narrow village roads. In the last year over 140 incidents have been recorded. These have included accidents and collisions, near misses, HGVs ignoring the 7.5t weight restrictions, dangerous driving, roads blocked by HGVs, bad parking and damage to hedges and property. This information will form an essential part of the evidence that the parish council's newly formed Traffic and Road Safety Working Party will use to help them push for action from the appropriate authorities to make our roads safer for everyone. If you see an incident please report it at huntonwatch@gmail.com or via the Hunton Facebook Community Group with as much information as you can about date, time, location, vehicles involved, details of the incident etc. If you don't have internet access please phone Helen Ward on 01622 820810.

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| 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 | | | |

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| Diary Dates | | Parish Council Contacts | |
| Sun 1 st October | Harvest Festival & Supper St Mary's Church 5pm | Parish Council Chairman – Gary Thomas 820691 | |
| Sun 1 st October | East Farleigh Farmers' Market 10am-1pm | Clerk to the Parish Council – Sharon Goodwin 681238 | |
| Sat 7 th October | Litter Pick Village Hall 10am | Cllr Jonny Goddard | 820096 |
| Tues 17 th October | WI Talk "Our Man in Hamburg" Village Club 7.30pm | Cllr David Heaton | 820678 |
| Fri 20 th October | Needles & Natter Village Club 8pm | Cllr Roger Lee | 820210 |
| Sat 21 st October | Village Walk & Lunch Village Club 11am | Cllr Tony Stanbridge | 820721 |
| Thurs 26 th October | Village Lunch Village Club 12.30-2pm | Cllr Annette Trought | 820448 |
| Sat 28 th October | Church and Churchyard Working Party 9am-12pm | Cllr Helen Ward | 820810 |
| Mon 30 th October | Pantomime Read Through Village Club 6.30pm | | |
| 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

Oh dear, what can I say? How often have we thought that or heard that said when we've been told something sad, bad or worrying news? Words often fail us and we almost go into a panic mode in case we have to say something before we've thought it through. Maybe the fact that words fail to come out is a safety mechanism to stop us blurting out the first thoughts that come into our heads. Maybe it allows us to stop and think and to reflect on what we are actually thinking and about to say. On the other hand the first words are often the honest words even if not the best to use in the situation. A preacher at a service may often feel that faced with giving a talk, they find themselves with an empty mind. Nothing seems to be coming along to say. We offer a prayer for divine inspiration and still the mind is blank. We use the "insurance policy" in the prayer that precedes the sermon to ask God to bless that which is about to be spoken, that it may come from him and that the listeners may only hear what God is saying to them. Is this a cop out for the emptiness of the preacher's mind as the sermon is prepared and delivered or a real pray of acknowledgement that God is indeed speaking to all concerned?

So it is that I sit with the computer in front of me thinking what can I say in this letter. The offering of "nothing" springs so quickly to mind yet if I did that then maybe you might think that it is really time he retired. Yet the truth is that I have so much in my mind at present I actually can't put my thoughts into any coherent order or a focused article. Perhaps it's better to stop right here and to be honest and to hope that a "blank" mind resonates with the experience of the readers - there you see I'm passing the buck onto the readers to make sense of what I cannot express!

So as I close I offer you the words of my mother when opening a present I had given her one Christmas. It was so obvious from the expression on her face that words had failed her until with a sigh she said to me, "What is it?" Perhaps we ought to sit and reflect at times rather than be forever rushing and worrying about what to say and how to say it, for our bodies and actions often speak louder than words. As Paul writes "If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal." (1 Corinthians 13 v 1)

David Jones

Congratulations to the Happy Couple

Lizzie Sawtell, daughter of Roger and Ann, married Graham Roberts of Aberdeen at St Mary's Church on 5th August. The wedding was a truly country (and Hunton) affair. Steve McLoughlin drove Lizzie to church in his Rolls Royce. Ian Pinks, Dai Langdon and Mark Ferns transported bridesmaids, flower girls and the bride's parents in a procession of Freelanders. The groomsmen, down from Aberdeen, welcomed the party in their kilts. Umbrellas were the order of the day as heavy rain fell on arrival. Ben Harris, Lizzie's cousin, walked her into the church to the sound of Nick Drewe playing the Grand March of Aida; halfway down the aisle Roger took over to walk with Lizzie the last few steps, where Graham and his best man, Joe Russell, looking very smart in their kilts, were waiting to welcome her.

David Jones performed the service in his relaxed style, involving the congregation on a very special day. The Huntones filled the choir pews and encouraged the congregation to sing out. Lisa Dolman and her goddaughter treated the congregation to a delightful rendition of "I Will" and "What a Wonderful World" during the signing of the register.

As the bride and groom walked out through the door, the sun shone for them to greet their guests. They then took the opportunity of calling in to Ruth Porter, who had been involved in the wedding plans from the engagement, for her to see Lizzie in her wedding dress.

The reception was held in a marquee at the family home in Bishops Lane, which had been decorated with hops by Mark and Georgina Ferns. Wildflowers from Blooming Green, which had been artistically arranged by Sue Pinks and Louise Ferns, were in abundance everywhere. On arrival guests enjoyed canapés and drinks in the sunshine whilst playing the various available games and chatting with friends and relations.

After a delicious spread everyone danced the night away until carriages at 12, accessed by a footpath to David and Sue Heaton's field lit by fairy lights. A magical end to a wonderful day.

Quiz Night at Hunton Club – Saturday 28th October

Phil is busy putting together 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!



Meet your Councillors

Parish councillors will be available at the lunch following the village walk on Saturday 21st October and at each of the Thursday lunches starting on 26th October if any residents have issues or concerns that they would like to have a chat about.

Village Walks & Lunches - Next Event Saturday 21st October

On Saturday 2nd September, 18 walkers took part in a sunny but muddy circular walk lasting one and a half hours starting from Hunton Village Club and followed by lunch. A similar number of non-walkers joined them for the well-received buffet lunch. The club will use the proceeds from the lunch donations for much needed refurbishments.

Following requests for another similar event, Phil and Roger have agreed to lead a walk on Saturday 21st October. As usual this will be a circular walk from the club for about 1.5 hours. Meet there just before 11am and do bring family, friends and dogs. A buffet lunch will be available for a donation of £5 again to raise funds towards club refurbishment projects. Come to walk and / or lunch but please let Lesley know if you aim to join either or both so the walk does not start without you and she can prepare enough food. Email Lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com or call: 01622 820210.

Ruth Porter 1949-2017

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Ruth Porter. Having lived in the village since 1978, she was a well-known and much loved member of the community. A devoted wife to Ron for 47 years, mother to Helen, Richard and Catherine, and grandmother to her six adored grandchildren, her family were her life, although she managed to juggle the demands of raising her children with a career as a primary school teacher, 16 years of which were spent as a special needs coordinator at Bellwood Junior School in Maidstone.

Ruth was actively involved in village life in Hunton and wanted to contribute in every positive way that she could. She loved to sing and was a member of the church choir and The Huntones, performing with them at last year's Musicals on the Green. She was instrumental in the flower festival and flower arranging within the church, designed and made costumes for the village pantomimes and was a member of the committee of the Hunton WI. She was also the pastoral trustee of Peace Cottage Alms Houses for the last 16 years.

Following a private family cremation, a celebration of Ruth's life was held at St Mary's Church on 13th September, when her very many family and friends filled the church to capacity to remember a warm, kind and extraordinarily loving person.



Hunton Pantomime: Robin Hood – 12-14th April 2018

If you would like to be part of the fun with the 4th Hunton pantomime, then do please get in touch with one of us. There will be an initial reading of some of the script on Monday 30th October in Hunton Village Club. If you want to be involved and have a part please let us know or just turn up at the club. We will be open from 6.30 pm for the young members, and for the older folk, come later. If you have already told us that you would like to be in the chorus you don't need to come.

We do need backstage crew too, and techies for lighting and sound. We have a leader, so if you want to learn, come and join in. Don't leave it too late to say you want to be part of this lively and successful village panto! Rehearsals start in earnest in January. Contact Sue 01622 820709, Sharon 01622 820455 or Cassie cassie.lato@virgin.net.

A Sunny Serenade

What an amazing turn out and gorgeous weather for Musicals on the Green 2017. The Huntones yet again pulled together to create another fantastic show of musical numbers from Cabaret, Hairspray, We Will Rock You and the brilliant Time Warp from Rocky Horror. Stan gave an outstanding performance singing Electricity from Billy Elliot, and there were other solos and duets with musical instruments and props. I look forward to working with Sue and Neil for next year's show.

A massive thank you to all involved and to everyone who came along to be entertained, raising an amazing £838 in the process, which was divided between Mind and the Friends of St Mary's, with the Friends donating half of their share to Hospice in the Weald in memory of Ruth Porter.

Sharon Winter

Wilsons Yard

An appeal has been lodged against Maidstone Borough Council's decision to refuse the application to build five new homes on the Wilsons Yard site in George Street. Planning permission was refused as it would result in the loss of an employment-generating site and because it was situated in an isolated location in open countryside.

The parish council offered no objection to the original application as they felt that residential use would be preferable to other possible uses of the site, which is a brownfield site with existing permission for light industrial or commercial usage, and has the potential to cause real problems on George Street. After discussion of the appeal at a parish council planning meeting on 8th August, councillors agreed to write to the inspector expressing their concerns that the site, due to its location, is entirely unsuitable for commercial use but suggesting a number of adjustments to the application: a reduction in the planned number of houses, provision of additional parking spaces, the removal of external lighting and the proposed properties being sited further away from the rear of Hunton Place. No date has yet been set for the publication of the appeal decision.

WI Open Evening – Our Man in Hamburg

Hunton WI has a special event on Tuesday 17th October when Robert Dickett will be speaking about "Our Man in Hamburg", a spy story with a twist in its tail and well worth coming out in the dark for. The talk will be held at Hunton Village Club - doors open at 7pm and the speaker commences at 7.30pm. Non-members, both male and female, are invited to join the ladies of the WI for what is sure to be a fascinating evening. Tickets cost £5 and can be obtained from Fay Joyce on 01622 820644 or email fay.joyce@btinternet.com. The bar will be open and there will be tea, coffee and cake available.

Organic Farming and Flood Prevention Talk - Friday 17th November

Peter Hall, who runs farms around Marden, has agreed to talk at the Gardening Club meeting in the village club on Friday 17th November about the organic farming methods used on his farms and flood prevention projects. You may have seen in the news last year about the wetland area being created on four acres of his land in an attempt to reduce flooding and improve wildlife habitat, so this is sure to be an interesting talk, even if you are not a gardener. As usual doors open at 7pm with a buffet supper available for a donation of £5 with funds raised going to village club building projects. You don't have to be a Gardening Club member to come along – all are welcome! So enough food can be prepared please contact Lesley 01622 820210 or email lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com if you hope to attend.

At St Mary's Church in October

Flowers

1st Harvest Festival - All 8th All
 15th Liz Oliver / Sue Martin 22nd Liz Oliver / Sue Martin

Services

Sunday 1st October – Trinity 16
 5.00pm Harvest Festival – Rev David Jones & Rev Peter Callway
Sunday 8th October – Trinity 17
 9.30am Holy Communion 1662 – Rev David Jones
Sunday 15th October – Trinity 18
 11.00am Morning Prayer – Rev Peter Callway
Sunday 22nd October – Trinity 19
 11.00am Holy Communion – Rev Peter Callway
Sunday 29th October – Bible Sunday
 10.30am Benefice Service at East Farleigh

Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

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

Litter Pick

The last litter pick for 2017 will be on 7th October meeting as usual at 10 am at the village hall. Hopefully most of the team will be able to attend so we can have a final tidy up before the winter hits. If you would be interested in joining the team please ring Di Martin on 01622 820115 in the first instance.

Recipe Corner

Following the village walk and lunch in September, there were a number of requests for the recipe for Roger's delicious beetroot salad, so here it is...

Salad Argenson

Ingredients

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|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 8 oz Beetroot | 8 oz Potato |
| 1 large shallot | 3-4 tablespoons of vinaigrette |
| 2-4 oz large french beans | 1 tablespoon of chopped tarragon |
| 1 apple | 2 tablespoons of chopped parsley |
| 1 large carrot | About 10-15 fl oz of mayonnaise |

Method

The day before cook the beetroot by boiling in water until soft in middle. Separately boil the potatoes until just soft. Peel and then dice both while still warm into ½ to ¾ inch cubes. Put into bowl with the finely chopped shallot, add the vinaigrette and mix thoroughly. Put in fridge overnight.

Boil French beans in water for 5 minutes, plunge into cold water to cool and then cut into ¼ to ½ inch chunks. Finely grate the raw carrot. Dice the apple into ¼ to ½ inch cubes. Add all to the overnight marinated beetroot and potato mix along with the parsley and tarragon. Mix well. Add mayonnaise and mix again. Will keep in fridge for several days.

Variations

Add cooked peas instead of French beans. Add cooked meat such as pork chopped into cubes or salmon/tuna. Add finely grated celeriac instead of/as well as, carrot.

Church Working Party

Many thanks to all those who have helped to maintain St Mary's Church and churchyard this year. On Saturday 28th October from 9am to 12 noon there will be a final working party for the year to tidy the church and prepare the churchyard for winter. If you can give a little time to help please contact Lesley on 01622 820210 or email lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com so she knows how much cake or biscuits to take for the coffee break.

Autumn Village Lunches

The very popular village lunches return for the autumn with the first of six lunches taking place on Thursday 26th October from 12.30-2pm in the village club. The lunches continue every Thursday with the final one on 30th November. Everyone is welcome. This is a great chance to catch up with neighbours and friends who you may not have seen so much over the summer. There will be a choice of homemade soups with bread, cheese and biscuits followed by homemade cakes, tea and coffee all for a suggested donation of £5. Funds raised are shared between the club and St Mary's Church. Booking is not essential but food is available on a first come, first served basis and it is helpful if you can let Lesley know if you hope to attend, especially if you have any food allergies. Call Lesley on 01622 820210 or email lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com

Date for your Diary

The Hunton Christmas Fair will be on Saturday 9th December at St Mary's Church and the village hall from 3pm until 6pm. There will be fun for all the family with crafts, activities, games, gifts, food and drink and more. Anyone wishing to book a stall, please contact Alison (hear.alison.here@gmail.com) in the first instance. Further details about this event will be in the November and December Heralds.

| October | 1 st | 8 th | 15 th | 22 nd | 29 th |
|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|
| Coxheath | 11.30 Harvest | 11.00 MP | 11.00 HC | 11.00 FS | 15.00 Remembrance & Thanksgiving |
| E. Farleigh | 09.30 MP | 08.00 HC; 11.00 Harvest | 09.30 HC | 08.00 HC | 10.30 Benefice Service |
| Linton | 09.30 HC | 09.30 Harvest | 08.00 HC | 09.30 HC | |
| W. Farleigh | 08.00 HC 1662 | 11.00 Harvest | 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 October, please