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Durrants Farm Planning Application

An outline planning application has been submitted to demolish the existing bungalow and store buildings at the yard at Durrants Farm on West Street (currently used as a demolition yard) and to build eight 4 and 5-bedroom houses.

The application was discussed at a meeting of the parish council planning committee on 29th January that was well attended by members of the local community. Some residents felt that developing the site for housing would be preferable to its current usage although the design of the buildings and the suburban feel of the proposed development was generally considered to be out of keeping with the area. It was suggested that the village didn't really need any more large houses and that smaller houses might be more appropriate. There were a number of other concerns raised including adding extra properties to the water main with some residents already experiencing very low pressure, the access for the site being close to a dangerous bend on West Street and the loss of established trees that provide a habitat for a wide variety of birds.

In addition members of the parish council were concerned that part of the proposed site is currently agricultural land and that permitting building here could set a precedent for further development of the area in the future. The site had previously been put forward as a possible housing site when Maidstone Borough Council was formulating the local plan, but had been rejected and as the borough council now has a sufficient supply of land for development, members agreed to express their opposition to the application.

Details can be viewed on the Maidstone Borough Council planning portal, application number 17/504579/OUT.

The Ash Project

About a year ago, I mentioned that there was going to be a project throughout Kent looking at ash die-back disease (caused by a chalara fungus), and also recording man's interaction with this iconic tree. That is now going full steam ahead, and there are events happening throughout the county, with one in Yalding in April. You can look at the maps showing how the disease has spread throughout the UK on www.theashproject.co.uk, and also find details of their tree planting and woodworking events. There are 150 million ash trees in the UK, and it is expected that 90% or more will die in the next decade; like Dutch Elm disease in the 1970/80s, this will change our landscape significantly. While we can still appreciate the place of ash in our Kentish landscape, and its position in the cycle of nature, the walk on **Sunday April 15th** at Yalding Lees will be led by an expert on lichens. It's a gentle riverside walk, from 10.30am to 1pm, it's free and organised by the Medway Valley Countryside Partnership. I've just been on one of their winter tree identification walks, and they're well worthwhile. Book a place through the Ash Project website, events page, and I'll see you there!

And although ash is predominantly found on the North Downs in Kent, they would like to hear of any substantial stands in the Weald, and if there are signs of substantial die-back (or not!). Please let me know your sightings on huntontreewarden@btinternet.com, or by phone on 01622 820429.

Mike Summersgill – Tree Warden

Water Lane Bridge Reopens

Good news for those who enjoy walking the footpaths around the village...the bridge across the River Beult at the end of Water Lane, that had been closed for an extended period when it was found to be unsafe, has now been replaced and the footpath reopened.

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: Gil Robertson	820059		
Contact details for other village clubs and organisations are available at www.hunton.org.uk/contacts			

Parish Council Contacts			
Parish Council Chairman – Gary Thomas 820691		Clerk to the Parish Council – Sharon Goodwin 681238	
Clr Jonny Goddard	820096	Clr David Heaton	820678
Clr Tony Stanbridge	820721	Clr Annette Trought	820448
		Clr Roger Lee	820210
		Clr Helen Ward	820810

Diary Dates			
Thurs 1 st March	Village Lunch Village Club 12.30-2pm	Sun 4 th March	Annual Meeting St Mary's Church after 11am service
Tues 6 th March	WI Meeting Village Club 7.15pm	Fri 16 th March	Needles & Natter Village Club 8pm
Sat 24 th March	Litter Pick Village Hall 10am	Mon 26 th March	Parish Council Meeting Village Hall 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

As I am writing this it is snowing outside. Despite that the snowdrops are out, and one or two other hardy plants, to remind us spring is on the way. Spring – a time of new beginnings for nature, but we can enjoy new beginnings anytime whether it is the new Diocesan and Deanery Mission Plans, or a personal event. It could be a marriage, or a family birth, or a new job – not forgetting the New Year resolution. (How many of the latter have survived January?)

Some years ago there was a book entitled “God of Surprises” and some new beginnings can be a total surprise. Others, like the new rota for the benefice, will be carefully planned, discussed and agreed. Jesus was full of surprises in his ministry in his actions, speech or the people he appointed.

Some years ago, I joined an organisation called Cursillo which is an international, ecumenical Christian organisation. We are based in Canterbury but for a number of years we have been trying to introduce it to Rochester. When Bishop James was appointed he readily agreed and nominated me to be its first Lay Director. That responsibility was a total surprise and is quite scary. After a number of years planning, discussing and praying we are on the verge of success as we plan the first weekend in November.

Cursillo is a Spanish word meaning “short course”. It is a lay led partnership, which gives members a Rule of Life. Small groups should meet regularly to pray together and support and encourage the members. Occasionally we have a larger Diocesan gathering with the same purpose but including a communion service. Having said that we believe being a Christian should be fun for as the Baptist scholar CH Spurgeon once wrote he “commends cheerfulness to all who would win souls; more souls will be led to heaven by a man who wears heaven on his face.”

When Sheila Watson was Archdeacon of Canterbury she said of Cursillo, “In the diocese we need to reimagine ministry to bring about that vision of lay and ordained working together, valuing each other, rediscovering God’s call. Cursillo...don’t just talk about it, you live out lay and ordained leading together...and turn your backs on any gap between everyday life and Christian commitment.”

As we move towards a new pattern of worship in the benefice we have a “new beginning”. We are fortunate in our ministry team that Peter values all of us, lay and ordained. The ministry team and the churchwardens have worked hard and prayed hard to get a best fit on the new service rota. Not everyone will like it but please “give it a go”. Our wonderful gracious Lord may just surprise you.

Chris Bostock

Hunton Wanderers Cricket Club...Players Wanted

Whether you are new to cricket, returning after a break from the game or currently playing, HWCC are looking for new players to join this friendly club playing both Saturday and Sunday cricket in the Kent Regional and Kent Village cricket leagues along with a variety of friendlies. Want to find out more? Please contact the club secretary Steve Jones at hwcc@btinternet.com.

WI Quizzed on Dieting Myths

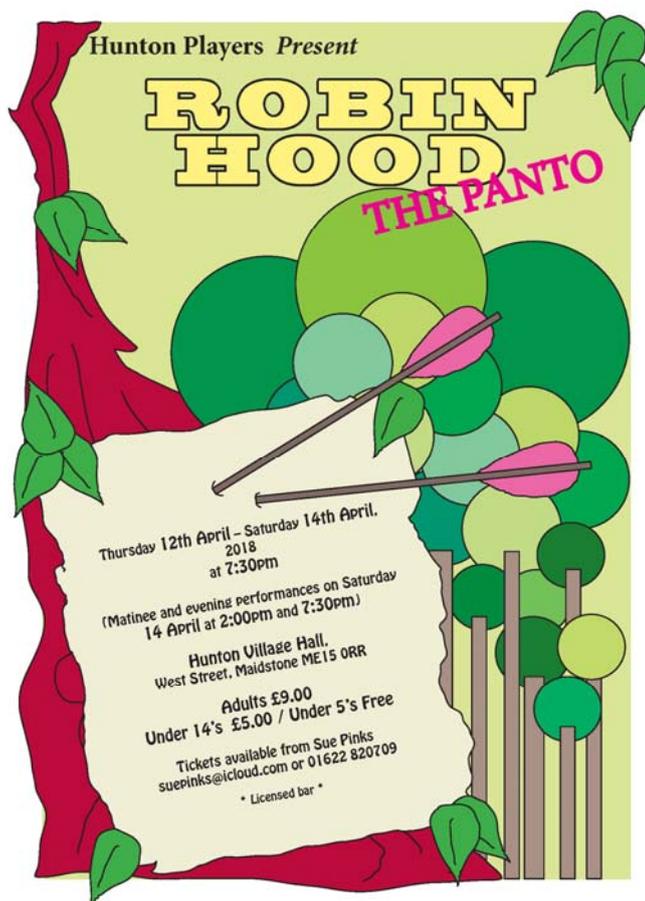
February’s WI meeting topic was Dieting Myths led by Tracey Elks, a local resident and Paediatric Dietitian at Darenth Valley Hospital. The evening was based around a quiz designed to highlight and then dispel many of the erroneous ideas that surround dietary “advice”.

Tracey emphasised that only dietitians have nutrition training and that most other medical personnel have insufficient training to offer informed advice. Most dietitians are hospital based and work in specialised areas with patients with specific nutritional needs e.g. those with kidney disease, gastro-intestinal problems, coeliac disease, intensive care and paediatrics. They tailor their patients’ diets to their individual needs, using blood results to monitor their nutritional status.

The quiz showed up many of the misconceptions gleaned from newspapers and TV programmes, (top score was only 7/10 – did you know baked beans contain more iron than either spinach or Guinness?) but it gave us an opportunity to learn about the importance of a varied and balanced diet, and how to achieve it. Tracey then answered a wide variety of questions from members. Despite being told we all eat too much sugar and fat, members tucked into homemade cakes and biscuits! Hunton WI meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at Hunton Village club, doors open at 7pm. Our topic for the next meeting on 6th March is Tales of the South Pacific, and the speaker is Nick Willoughby. New ladies very welcome.

Cornwallis School Bus

There is currently a minibus service provided by KCC that runs from East Farleigh via Hunton and Chainhurst to Cornwallis School, picking up in Bensted Close at 8am. This service will be cancelled at the end of the summer term in July 2018 as it is undersubscribed and there are no children from Hunton registered to use it from September 2018. If you have children that will be attending Cornwallis in September and would like to make use of this bus service, contact KCC Public Transport department on 03000 413613 as soon as possible to register.



Advertisement

Pilates With Samantha

Pilates helps to improve your posture, mobility, strength and flexibility

Come and try one of my classes

Hunton Village Club Fridays at 9.30am

West Farleigh Church Tuesdays at 6pm and 7pm

Contact me on 07799 763536 for more information

Riverside Pop-Up Gallery

The gallery, behind the post office in Yalding, will be opening a month early this year on Saturday 3rd March when resident artists Mel, June and Valerie will be displaying their work until 26th March. Mel is an autistic artist who can turn her hand to any medium. Her original botanical and animal studies along with sculptures will be on show. June primarily paints in watercolour and draws in ink, but will also be displaying collages and acrylics. Valerie's chosen medium is photography concentrating on landscapes and architecture. The gallery opens Monday, Thursday and Saturday 2-5pm. Entrance free.

Saturday Walks and Lunches

On Saturday 10th February 21 people and a few dogs were led by Phil Nichols for a walk to Yalding along stretches of the Beult and back via Cheveney. The occasional drizzle did not dampen their spirits and they were rewarded on their return with an excellent spread of soup, salads, cheeses and cakes at the village club. A further 15 people joined them for the meal, helping to raise money towards the club kitchen. Thanks to all the volunteers for organising the lunch. These Saturday walks and lunches are now a regular feature and several more will be organised in 2018. You can find out about these events by being a club member (pop into the club and get an application form or renew your membership) or keeping an eye on the Hunton Facebook page or ask Lesley to let you know once a date has been fixed. Email lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com or phone 01622 820210.

Litter Pick

The first litter pick of 2018 will take place on Saturday 24th March. We will meet at the village hall as usual at 10am to collect gear etc. There seems to be quite a lot of rubbish around at the moment so it will be nice to "get it gone". If you would like to join our friendly team can you please ring Di Martin on 01622 820115 or e-mail di.martin1@btinternet.com.

Last Winter Warmer

The final lunch in the current series will be on Thursday 1st March at the village club – homemade soup, bread, cheese and biscuits, homemade cakes and tea or coffee all for a donation of £6. The club opens at 12pm with lunch available from around 12.30pm. There will be further lunches in the autumn.

Speedwatch Needs You!

The Hunton Speedwatch team is in need of additional volunteers to help with speed monitoring within the village. We currently have 10 volunteers but they all lead very busy lives and it has become increasingly challenging to find times when there are sufficient of us available. In 2017 we only managed five hour-long sessions! In those sessions we recorded 51 vehicles travelling at 35mph and above in the 30mph limit on West Street, with the highest speed recorded being 42mph. The percentage of vehicles speeding ranged from 8% to over 20%. The police issued four letters of advice to offenders recorded on more than one occasion. That may not sound like a great deal but there are many vehicles that brake hard and slow down when they see us, which suggests that the percentage of speeders and the speeds being travelled are somewhat higher when we are not there.

The aim of Speedwatch is to educate drivers to reduce their speed to within the speed limit thereby making our roads safer and improving the quality of life for local residents. It is most effective when it is carried out regularly. We would, therefore, like to be able to get out there more often, but for that we need more volunteers. Sessions are usually an hour long and carried out at various times of day by a team of three to five people. There is no obligation to take part in any particular session with volunteers being free to pick and choose those that are convenient to them. A short online training session needs to be completed by all new volunteers, followed by a brief familiarisation session at the roadside. If you can spare an hour here and there and would like to join the team, or require more information, please contact Helen on 01622 820810 or email helen@helenward.org.

Volunteering with Macmillan Crossroads Care

Volunteering can be wonderful and fulfilling, it can provide help and support to those who need it the most. At Macmillan Crossroads Care Kent & Medway Volunteer Service, we support people affected by cancer and their carers. Our team provide quality information and guidance, along with a helpful assessment process to understand what support is needed. Currently our volunteers provide companionship, emotional support, light housework or gardening, social outings, shopping and escorting to medical appointments. Can you spare some time each week? Do you have a good listening ear, the first and most important part of helping? Do you have a special interest or skill that someone could benefit from? Volunteering is a very positive addition to your CV as it can demonstrate your commitment to a work ethic and your caring nature. There is also in-house training available for all volunteers and volunteering expenses can be reimbursed in line with our volunteering policy.

Local volunteers are required to help local people. At the moment, volunteers travel from all over the west Kent area to help local residents. If you feel you'd like to make a difference when someone needs a helping hand, contact Jen or Charley on 01622 817114, charley.macmillan@crossroadskent.org or find us on Facebook Macmillan Crossroads Volunteer Service.

Women's World Day of Prayer

Holy Trinity Church, Coxheath will host the Women's World Day of Prayer service on Friday 2nd March at 7pm when our benefice churches join with the Congregational Church, Linton Road for this annual event. The service is entitled "All God's Creation is Very Good" and has been prepared by Christian women of Suriname. All are very welcome and there will be refreshments following the service.

At St Mary's Church in March

Flowers	Services
No flowers in Lent	Sunday 4th March – Lent 3 11.00am Service followed by Annual Church Meeting – Rev Peter Callway / Rev David Jones Sunday 11th March – Mothering Sunday 9.30am Special Service – Rev David Jones Sunday 18th March – Lent 5 11.00am Morning Prayer – Rev Eileen Doyle Sunday 25th March – Palm Sunday 11.00am Holy Communion – Rev David Jones

Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

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

“Chile” Wine Tasting

Almost 70 people attended this popular event on 27th January at the village club, when our local wine guru Graham Ashlin hosted the “Chile Winter” tasting which included a sparkling rose wine, three whites, five reds and a brandy. The wines were accompanied by a three-course dinner provided by a team of volunteers. During the evening guests had the opportunity to complete a quiz which created serious discussions as well as much hilarity. A raffle, a wine auction and bin end sale, all helped to raise just under £1,700 towards funds for a kitchen at the club. Many thanks to Graham and the band of club volunteers as well as all those who went along to support this event. It is hoped to run another similar event later this year or early next, so email or phone Lesley if you would like to be contacted when a date is fixed. Lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com or phone 01622 820210.

Recipe Corner – 17th Century Pea Soup

We've been treated to some wonderfully warming homemade soups at the village lunches over the last six weeks. Here's one of them to try at home, courtesy of Bridget:

Ingredients

450g fresh or frozen peas
 1 leek, finely sliced
 2 garlic cloves, crushed
 2 rindless back bacon rashers, finely diced
 1.2 litres chicken stock
 2 tbsp olive oil
 50g fresh spinach, shredded
 40g white cabbage, finely shredded
 ½ small lettuce, finely shredded
 1 celery stick, finely chopped
 large handful of parsley, finely chopped
 ½ carton mustard and cress
 4tsp chopped fresh mint
 pinch of ground mace
 salt and freshly ground black pepper

Method

Put the peas, leek, garlic and bacon in a large saucepan. Add the stock, bring to the boil then lower heat and simmer for 20 minutes.
 About 5 minutes before the pea mixture is ready, heat the oil in another large saucepan. Add the spinach, cabbage, celery and herbs then cover and sweat over a low heat until soft.
 Add the sweated vegetables to the pea mixture then blend until smooth. Season with mace, salt and pepper and serve.

Learn Makaton Signing

Hunton and Linton Pre-school is hosting a “Using Signing and Visual Supports” course run by the Threads of Success Team from KCC on Wednesday 21st March from 1.45-4.45pm. The course, which will cover Makaton and over 100 signs, will be attended by their staff team but is also open to anyone who wants to learn some signing at a cost of £30 per person. There is a certificate of attendance and lots of opportunity to practice signing. Please contact huntonpreschool@hotmail.com to book your place or for more information.

Upcoming Events – Save the Date!

Sunday 29th April - Dawn Chorus Walk led by Simon Ginnaw, followed by breakfast and Japanese Hanami Blossom Celebrations.

Monday 21st May – Annual Village Meeting featuring a presentation by Charlie Russell from the University of Kent about The Little Owl Project. Light refreshments available.
 More details to follow in the April Herald.

Advertising with the Herald

We are starting to put together the Hunton Herald Local Business Directory for 2018/19. This will be distributed to every house in the village (that's just over 300 houses) on alternate months for a year, starting with the June edition. Our advertising rates are very reasonable and we can offer different sized adverts to suit all budgets. If you would like to know more, please contact Sue Pinks on 01622 820709 or email suepinks@icloud.com.

P.S. We still need a new advertising coordinator as Sue is stepping down after this year. If you would be willing to take over the role Sue would be very pleased to hear from you.

Annual Church Meeting

A special Annual Church Meeting will be held on Sunday 4th March after the 11am service in St Mary's Church. Some proposed changes in the benefice, including to the schedule of services, will be discussed. All are welcome. Copies of the proposals are at the back of the church.

March	4 th	11 th	18 th	25 th
Coxheath	11.00 HC	11.00 Special	11.00 HC	11.00 FS
E. Farleigh	09.30 MP	08.00 HC; 11.00 Special	09.30 HC	08.00 HC
Linton	09.30 HC	09.30 Special	08.00 HC	09.30 HC
W. Farleigh	08.00 HC 1662	11.00 Special	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 March, please