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Hunton Hill Water Main Replacement Update

South East Water presented their updated plans for the Hunton Hill water main replacement at the parish council meeting in March. The current proposals are for work to start on 18th June for 11 weeks, finishing on 3rd September, with Hunton Hill being closed between Amsbury Road and East Street for nine weeks after which traffic lights will be in place on the East Street / West Street junction for two weeks. Lughorse Lane will be closed whilst the traffic lights are in place. The diversion route that has been agreed with Kent Highways is along the B2163 Heath Road and Ewell Lane through West Farleigh to the Tickled Trout, then the B2010 Smiths Hill and Yalding Hill into Yalding and back along Vicarage Road into West Street (and vice versa).

The meeting was well attended by local residents and businesses and, whilst the need for the project is understood, there were questions over whether everything possible was being considered to minimise the length of the road closure, including extending working hours and laying part of the main on adjacent farmland. Jeremy Dufour, the project manager from South East Water, said that they were planning to work five days a week but could look into working longer days. However, the option of running some of the pipe work on Amsbury Farm had been rejected for a number of reasons, including the presence of protected species, which would require special permission from Natural England. It was suggested that it might be possible to get a permit from Natural England to allow the work to go ahead and Mr Dufour confirmed that South East Water had not looked into this option.

There was concern that the diversion route would be chaotic and dangerous with HGVs travelling in both directions and with the additional disruption of the recently commenced construction works in Vicarage Road. Residents were also worried about the impact on the smaller lanes locally as drivers looked for shorter alternatives to the official diversion.

At the request of the parish council a meeting has been arranged for the end of April between South East Water's environmental team (who made the decision that the pipe couldn't be laid on the farmland), Kent Highways, the parish council, Amsbury Farm and a residents' representative to see if it's possible to come up with a less disruptive solution. Will keep you posted...

Hunton Fete – Saturday 16th June 2-5pm

Donations and Volunteers Wanted

Would you be able to grow a few extra plants, make a cake or give up an hour of your time to help at the Fete this year? Teams organising the Plant and Produce Stand and the Teas, Cakes and Ice Creams Pavilion would welcome helpers and donations to help them raise funds for our village projects. Contact Lesley on 01622 820210 lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com for either area or Fay on 01622 820644 fay.joyce@btinternet.com about the Plant and Produce Stand or Wendy on 01622 820875 wendysimmons01@btinternet.com for the Teas, Cakes and Ice Creams Pavilion.

South East Water

Public drop-in session
Hunton Hill water main replacement
Engineers will be on hand to answer your questions

Monday 14th May
5pm – 7pm

Hunton Village Hall

Your Local Contacts:

School: Secretary/Head Teacher	820360	Village Hall Booking:	www.huntonvillagehall.co.uk
Under 5's Pre-School:	820309	Maidstone Police	690690 or 101
Pre-School Supervisor:	07972067110	Neighbourhood Watch: huntonwatch@gmail.com	820403, 820429, 820731
Pond and Tree Warden: Mike Summersgill	820429	'Potholes' Hotline (KCC)	03000 418181
Rector: Revd. Peter Callway	747570*	Community Warden: Adam McKinley	07811 271021
Hon Associate Rector: Revd. David Jones	741474*	PCSO - Jasmine Pay	101
Associate Rector: Revd Eileen Doyle	204241**	Helen Grant MP helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk	0207 219 7107
Churchwarden: Alison Ellman-Brown	820288	Hunton Bell Ringers, Michael Webb	745716
Village Club: Gil Robertson	820059	*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

Parish Council Contacts

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

Diary Dates

Tues 1 st May	WI Meeting Village Club 7.00 for 7.30pm	Sat 12 th May	Walk 11am and Lunch 12.30pm Village Club
Sat 12 th May	Parish Council Surgery 12.30-2pm Village Club	Mon 14 th May	Parish Council Annual Meeting 7.30pm Village Hall
Sat 19 th May	Hannah Scott Doors 7.30pm Village Hall	Sun 20 th May	May Fair 12-2.30pm Hunton Primary School
Mon 21 st May	Annual Village Meeting 7pm Village Hall	Sat 26 th May	Churchyard Working Party 9am-12pm
Sat 2 nd June	Track Dogs Doors 7.30pm Village Hall		

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

What do Cher, James Stewart, Betty Driver, Benjamin Guinness and Joe Cocker have in common? They all have/had May birthdays. I wonder how many of our readers can add their name to the list who also share birthdays in May?

Birthdays are special occasions which we like to celebrate. Each of us I am sure has our own traditions of celebrating. In my family the person whose birthday it is chooses where they want to eat and then the family gather together to celebrate with them.

On 20th May there is a special birthday, but unlike other birthdays it is not always on the same date each year. Have you guessed which birthday I am talking about? This year on 20th May is Pentecost, what is known as the birthday of the Church. Like all birthdays it is marked with presents and celebrations. The reason the date varies is because Jesus' resurrection was the beginning of a whole new life and occurred so near the spring feasts, it was determined that Easter would always be calculated as the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox and Pentecost is celebrated 50 days after Easter.

Pentecost is the story of how God sent his Holy Spirit (the third person of the Trinity) to dwell in the hearts of men, women and children. His presence is indeed a present to all who receive Him. The Holy Spirit is the person who reveals God to us. He inspires us, convicts us of faith and teaches us all truth. He is a gift that changes lives and the best news is that He is a free gift to anyone and everyone who would like to receive Him. Why not read the story of the coming of the Holy Spirit to God's people for yourself (Acts 2)?

We in the Benefice will be celebrating God's birthday gift to us, on 20th May and we offer a warm welcome to you all to come and join us. Details of services and times can be found in this newsletter.

Every Blessing, *Rev Eileen Doyle*

Appalachian Adventure

Hunton resident, Megan Dolman is thru-hiking the Appalachian Trail – all 2,190 miles of it! Last month we followed Megan through the first 100 miles of her epic trek from Georgia into North Carolina. From mile 167 she began a six-day, 72-mile hike through “**The Sucky and Miserable Smoky Mountains**”, a week that Megan politely describes as “rubbish”. She endured freezing temperatures, deep snow, ice and slush, 30mph winds and driving rain, as well as struggling with a painful knee, and spent the majority of the time “feeling cold to the core, in damp clothing, with prunes for feet that squelched with every step encased in soaking wet shoes.” She was not even rewarded with what should have been stunning views from some of the highest peaks on the trail, as on reaching the summit they were invariably shrouded in thick fog. We won't dwell too much on what was clearly a mentally and physically draining time (although the full, miserable details can be found in her blog if you'd like to know more) but are happy to report that the weather has improved dramatically since leaving the “Smokies” and her knee has completely recovered. Continuing along the North Carolina/Tennessee border, by 10th April (just over a month on the trail) she had 400 miles under her belt and was looking forward to reaching the 4th state, Virginia, at mile 466, and to being reunited with her mother, Lisa, for two weeks.

You can follow more of Megan's adventures in her blog, which contains some entertaining details about life on the trail including the wildlife, food and the all-important hygiene (or lack of it!) at megdolmanat2018.wordpress.com.

Church and Churchyard Working Party

Many thanks to those who came along to help at the March and April working parties. However, grass and weeds are growing fast at the moment and there are always jobs needing to be done inside the church, so there will be another working party on Saturday 26th May to prepare for a wedding the following weekend. If you are able to spare some time between 9am and 12pm please let Lesley know on 01622 820210 or email lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com.

Church Flowers

If you visited St Mary's at Easter you will no doubt have admired the wonderful displays of spring flowers that adorned the church. There is a small band of flower arrangers who decorate the church for each service on a rota system, with everyone helping out for the Easter and Christmas festivals, and they would love to have a few more volunteers. You do not have to be an expert and can always start with someone to guide and help you. If you would be interested in joining them please contact Sue Scott on 01622 820369.



Hunton Bowls Club

The Bowls Club would like to thank everyone who supported our Coffee Morning and for all the kind donations of plants and cakes which were very much appreciated. All proceeds will go to our proposed new clubhouse. We would also like to thank all those “budding” new bowlers who came along and tried out the sport. We were amazed at how well they played. Hopefully we have gained some much-needed new members. Anyone wishing to join our friendly club please contact Angela Baptie on 01622 820625 or email angela.baptie@btinternet.com. Alternatively come along to our practice evenings on Thursdays at 6pm commencing on 3rd May. No experience necessary.

Orchard Goes Nuts

The Community Orchard group was busy on Sunday 22nd April tidying up in the orchard. The grass was cut, tree bases were weeded and 20 young cobnut trees were planted along the narrow part of the orchard. Over time these will provide Hunton with its very own “platt” - the original term for a nut orchard. The young apple trees are looking healthy and are coming into bud. There are plans to provide a second picnic table. Events are planned for later in the summer and there will be more information in future editions of the Herald.

Lights, Camera, Action!

If you didn't get to see Robin Hood, the Panto as the tickets sold out so quickly, no problem as you can order a professional DVD and music CD. Seriously though, wow, what a journey!

*Fantastic crew and cast old and new,
With three dames, a dodgy sheriff,
and Mother Nature too,
A fire-breathing dragon, with Hag as his master,
A mad Merry Berry bake off, with no disasters,
Twist and Shout and many more,
With fantastic lighting and musical score.*



We would like to thank everyone involved and all who came to see us perform. Money is still coming in from CDs and DVDs, but so far we have raised an amazing £2,900 including £500 from the raffle (what a generous lot you are!). If you'd like a CD (£5) or DVD (£12.50) you can order them from Steve Wyles on 01622 820403.

See you all in 2020...what will it be?

Sharon Winter - Director

Pond Warden 'Blog'

As well as being Tree Warden, I also have a voluntary role looking after the ponds in the parish, and have been mapping their drainage routes (or 'no drainage' in some cases) over the past years, with me having been a drainage/water engineer before becoming more of a soil contamination expert. We have some interesting small ponds fed by spring waters from the Greensand Ridge, but sadly some overgrown old ones that seem to have been old local gravel pits on farms. All contain a fair sprinkling of amphibians and invertebrates, along with many different plant species (and a lot of fallen trees in the 'unloved' ones). Recently, I've been on a Pond Wardening course (at Singleton Environment Centre in Ashford, which has its own pond, community woodland, and very nice café for Sunday lunch!) and have lots of information about sizing, locating and building a pond, if you are thinking of doing so. There are half a million ponds in the UK, of which 75,000 are in Norfolk (!), but only one county in England has active Pond Wardening, so we're looking to help keep Kent ponds going (where neglected), growing/increasing in diversity, and also free of invasive weeds or plants. Please contact Mike Summersgill on 01622 820429 or email huntontreewarden@btinternet.com if you need an existing pond evaluated, or you have something interesting (!) in yours, or need general advice on new ones. And if you want to see some local ponds and marsh habitats (and bats & owls), Yalding Fen is a great place to start, over the canal bridge just behind the Anchor and Teapot Island.

Spring Music Events – Hannah Scott and Track Dogs

We have two musical evenings for you at the village hall in May and early June, both with bands that have played before and asked to come back, and both have new CDs to regale you with. First up on **Saturday 19th May** are **Hannah Scott and Stefano della Casa**, who played for us back in late 2015; Hannah on guitar & piano, Stefano on cello; the new album is 'Signs of Life' – very atmospheric music, which complements our hall acoustics. As last time, we will also have an opening set from **Kirsty Macleod**, a local (Thurnham) singer-songwriter who's played at the Hazlitt twice this year and other local venues.

Two weeks later, on **Saturday 2nd June**, we have the return of the Irish-American-Sheffield trumpet-led chaps from Madrid, **Track Dogs**; they last played here in July 2016 and did an initial set outdoors. Weather permitting, we'll try the same thing this time, and suggest people bring their own picnic food for this. We've recently seen Track Dogs at Cobham Church (twice!), and they also played a stage in Trafalgar Square on St Patrick's Day this year (in overcoats). Their new CD, Kansas City Out-Groove, has shades of spaghetti western soundtracks in places, is most enjoyable and has already been played in the village club.

Both gigs are £10 per ticket (£5 for Students/U18s), and please pre-book via Mike on 01622 820429 or Steve on 01622 820403 so we can gauge what drink/food to buy. There will be the usual bar at each event, helping raise funds for the village hall, and there's a ploughman's included in the ticket for the May gig. Doors 7.30pm, music 8-10pm. Special Offer – reserve tickets for both gigs, and just pay £20

Parish Council Surgery

Councillors will be available between 12.30 and 2pm at the village lunch at the club following the walk on Saturday 12th May. If you have any issues you wish to discuss, please feel free to pop in for a chat.

Lost and Found

Has anyone lost a pair of black JBL ear buds? They were found on the footpath through Church Wood on 14th April. If you think they may be yours, phone Helen on 01622 820810.

Annual Village Meeting – Monday 21st May 7.00pm

The Annual Village Meeting will take place in the village hall on Monday 21st May and all residents are invited to come along to this informal evening. We're delighted this year to welcome Charlie Russell from the University of Kent, who will give a presentation about The Little Owl Project, for which Hunton is a participating site. There will be an open session where you can raise any issues of concern or ask your parish and borough councillors any questions you may have about the village. Local groups and clubs will also present short reports on their activities over the last year, so do come along and find out what's been happening in your community. Light refreshments will be served from 6.45pm.

At St Mary's Church in May

<p>Flowers</p> <p>Andrea Forster</p>	<p>Services</p> <p>Sunday 6th May – Easter 6 9.30am Holy Communion – Rev David Jones</p> <p>Sunday 20th May – Pentecost 9.30am Family Service – Rev Peter Callway</p>
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Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

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

Changes at St Mary's

A small group is looking to develop the life of worship at St Mary's and is exploring options and possibilities for the future. All thoughts and suggestions are welcome and you can feed these in through the clergy, to Wendy Simmons, to any PCC member or directly to Rev Peter Callway on 01622 747570 or email peter@callways.co.uk.

Meanwhile, for the avoidance of any doubt and confusion, from May the regular services will be on the FIRST and THIRD Sundays of each month at 9.30am. All are welcome to every service but the focus will be on Holy Communion on the first Sunday and Family Service on the third Sunday. May 20th is Pentecost (Whit Sunday) and this will be celebrated with a special family service. Watch this space for further exciting news!

Arts and Crafts Fair

Yalding Art Group's annual Arts and Crafts Fair takes place at Yalding Village Hall, Lyngs Close on Sunday 13th May from 11am-4pm. Artisan stalls plus Valerie's refreshments – hotdogs, cream teas and homemade cakes. Free entry.

Farmers' Market

East Farleigh Farmers' Market will be at the Old School Hall in Lower Road on Sunday 6th May from 10am-1pm. Stalls include fresh produce, meat, sausages, preserves, apple juice, eggs, fudge, cakes and patisserie alongside a number of craft items, with a new stall offering threading and waxing of eyebrows and face!

Hunton C of E Primary School

May Fair

Sunday 20th May
12-2.30pm
All welcome

Litter Pick

The first litter pick of this year took place on 24th March. It was a cold day but mainly dry and 14 volunteers turned up to do the "job". There was a good deal of rubbish which had accumulated over the winter months. The total collection was 40 sacks of general rubbish and a considerable amount of metal (i.e. wheel trims, an exhaust system, broken road signs etc). I thought it was going to be a first in the seven years I have been organising the clean ups that we hadn't found any tyres, then two of the team managed to find some in the woods at Barn Hill! Hey ho! A note to all householders in Hunton; it would assist us greatly if we could all keep our verges and paths outside of our properties clear - it only takes a couple of minutes. Once again a big thank you to all who turned up to do this dirty but rewarding job.

Di Martin

Mad Dogs and Englishmen Go Out in the Midday Sun

On the eve of St Georges Day on Sunday 22nd April, 20 Englishmen and women and three well-behaved and sane dogs explored the world beyond Hunton over the new footbridges on the Beult. The sun was out and shined on the walkers for their hour and a half round trip back to the village club where they, and another 15 people, were rewarded with an excellent lunch of salads, sausage rolls, cold meats, cheeses, sweets and cakes. Thanks to Lesley Lee and her helpers for organising the lunch.

The next walk and lunch will take place on Saturday 12th May, leaving the village club at 11am sharp for a circular walk of one to one and a half hours. Lunch will be available from 12.30pm for a donation of £6. You are welcome to just walk, come for lunch or both, but please let Lesley know if you hope to attend and also advise her of any food allergies or specific dietary requirements, and she will do her best to accommodate you. Phone 01622 820210 or email lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com.

WI Members Put on the Spot

The speaker for the April WI meeting failed to materialise so the ladies were left without a source of entertainment. Also none of the committee members were present at this meeting due to panto rehearsals and holidays. But the evening had been left in the capable hands of Lorraine Redfarn, Tricia Nichols and Sandra Bullivant (a former Beaver leader) who suggested that the members provide their own entertainment. Each member was to speak to the group for two minutes about themselves. After initial nerves this proved to be a very entertaining and enjoyable evening where all those present learnt a little more about their fellow members. It was suggested that a similar evening could be organised in the future. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 1st May at Hunton Village Club when local artist and teacher, Jennie Boatwright, will be encouraging the ladies to try their hand at water colour techniques. Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start, bar available but coffee and cake served and new ladies are always welcome.

May	6 th	13 th	20 th	27 th
Coxheath	11.00 HC	11.00 FS	11.00 HC	11.00 FS
E. Farleigh	09.30 MP	08.00 HC	09.30 HC	08.00 HC
Linton	09.30 FS	09.30 HC	08.00 HC	09.30 MP
W. Farleigh	08.00 HC	09.30 FS		09.30 HC

HC Holy Communion, MP Morning Prayer, FS Family Service

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