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Hunton Hill Closure Update

As no doubt everyone knows by now, works to replace the water main on Hunton Hill will commence on Monday 18th June. South East Water has slightly changed their schedule of works so that the work on the East Street / West Street / Lughorse Lane junction will be carried out first and is estimated to take two weeks. Hunton Hill will remain open during this phase, although Lughorse Lane will be closed and there will be traffic lights operating on the East Street / West Street junction. They will then move to the second phase of the works when Hunton Hill will be closed for an estimated nine weeks from around 2nd July. Finally, they will return to the junction to connect up the new pipe under traffic lights, with Lughorse Lane closed but Hunton Hill open. This is estimated to take another 2-3 days.

Following immediately on from that Kent Highways plan to resurface Hunton Hill from 3rd to 5th September with a road closure in place between 09.30 and 15.30. All being well Hunton Hill should fully reopen on 6th September.

The contractors on site will do their best to answer any questions you may have while the pipe is installed, but if they are unable to help you can call their Customer Liaison Officer, Helen Tucker, on 01634 276503 between 8.30am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday. If Helen is unavailable please call Customer Services on 0333 000 0002 or for out of hours emergencies please call 0333 00 00 365.

The parish council is continuing to liaise with South East Water, Clancy Docwra, Kent Highways and local businesses to try and minimise the disruption on the diversion routes and surrounding roads.

Hunton WI Get Arty

At the WI May meeting local artist, art teacher and Hunton WI member, Jennie Boatwright, led a watercolour 'class' for everyone to produce their own unique seascape painting, using several different techniques. She guided the ladies through colour washes, a clever way (using clingfilm!) to make cliffs, how to paint the sea and yet another method to represent sand. She demonstrated how to put seagulls and a figure in the painting to give a representation of scale. The mini art exhibition at the end of the evening showed how differently the members interpreted Jennie's ideas.

Much to their amazement, under Jennie's tuition, everyone produced a painting to take home that they could be proud of!

The subject of the next WI meeting, held at the village club, is Medical Detection Dogs. The meeting is on Tuesday 5th June, doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. A bar is available, coffee and cake will be served. New ladies are very welcome.

Vicarage Road Construction Traffic

There were numerous complaints from residents about the large volume of construction traffic travelling down Hunton Hill and West Street to reach the Vicarage Road development, with reports of near misses, congestion and damage to roads and verges. Hunton Parish Council had already reported the developers to MBC Planning Enforcement for not complying with any of their pre-commencement conditions, including one that required them to submit details of the routing of their site deliveries for approval by the borough council. MBC declined to take action and soon afterwards the missing documents were submitted which confirmed that all construction traffic was indeed being routed through Hunton. The parish council submitted a strong objection to MBC and, together with a number of local residents, lobbied Kent Highways to express their concerns. The outcome of this is that the route has now been changed so that the construction traffic will use the B2010 Yalding Hill instead and the developers have confirmed that all their contractors have been informed of the change.

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

Sat 2 nd June	Track Dogs Gates 7.00pm Music 8.00pm Village Hall	Tues 5 th June	WI Meeting Village Club 7.00 for 7.30pm
Sat 16 th June	Hunton Village Fete Playing Field 2-5pm	Wed 27 th June	Saltwood Castle Tour 2.15pm

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

"June is bustin' out all over; All over the meadow and the hill; Buds're bustin' outa bushes", goes the song from Carousel! I love this time of year, when the days are longer and the weather is warmer. I do hope we are seeing fine weather as we enter the season of World Custard Pie Championships, fêtes and fairs in our villages. Of the many things that have happened in June, the first ever game of cricket played at Lord's took place in 1814. Our village greens will once again be enjoying the crack of leather on willow, as the cricket season gets into full swing. It is a funny game though. The fielding positions are complicated enough, although they become clearer with explanations. For example: "Slips" are there to take advantage of slips (mistakes) by the batsman. "Point" was coined from the phrase "near the point (direction of the face) of the bat", and "Gully" stems from the literal meaning of the word 'gully', which is 'a narrow channel' - the gap between Slips and Point. I'm sure you are all aware of the rules of the game too? You have two sides, one out in the field and one in. Each man that's in the side that's in goes out, and when he's out he comes in and the next man goes in until he's out. When they are all out, the side that's out comes in and the side that's been in goes out and tries to get those coming in, out. Sometimes you get men still in and not out. When a man goes out to go in, the men who are out try to get him out, and when he is out he goes in and the next man in goes out and goes in. There are two men called umpires who stay out all the time and they decide when the men who are in are out. When both sides have been in and all the men have been out, and both sides have been out twice after all the men have been in, including those who are not out, that is the end of the game. Maybe old – but still amusing!

The Christian faith can be a bit like that too. What are the rules, if any? How are we meant to behave? Why are there funny names for the festivals and the parts of the church? Fundamentally, there is one simple rule, and a couple of commands that Jesus said were important. "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" is called the Golden Rule, and "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul and mind and strength, and love your neighbour as yourself" are the commands. Simple to understand – not so easy to do!

Many blessings, *Peter Callway, Rector*

Appalachian Adventure

Hunton Resident Megan Dolman is thru-hiking the Appalachian Trail – all 2,190 miles of it! Last month we left Megan heading towards the 4th State, Virginia, where her Mum, Lisa, would be joining her for two weeks. Monday 23rd April was Lisa's first day on the trail and Megan explains in her blog that, "although my Mum loves hiking, this was the first time she has ever hiked with a backpack, let alone a heavy bag filled with sleeping gear, clothes and food enough for 6 days in the woods. I had thrown her right in at the deep end. As if this wasn't hard enough, on our first day together it was raining." Megan continued to put Lisa through her paces, "with 15/16 mile days, in the rain, in the heat (32 degrees C), unwashed for almost a week, climbing mountains with no rewarding views but just more woodland", and was in awe of her Mum for just getting on with it without a fuss. Lisa was equally in awe of her 22yr old daughter for, "being able to do this day after day. It's not just the uneven terrain, the long uphill, the extremes of weather – it's the discomfort of being unable to wash, the effort of setting up your tent when you're tired and it's raining, the resolve needed to get out of your sleeping bag when it's cold and everything aches."

After spending this precious time together, Lisa returned home, leaving Megan to continue on the trail through "the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia" with her hiking partner, Mark. By May 15th, 70 days into her epic trek, Megan had reached mile 863. You can follow more of Megan's adventures in her blog at megdolmanat2018.wordpress.com.



Megan and Lisa - Smiling in the Rain

Later Opening Trial at Tovil Tip

To help alleviate an increase in usage, Tovil Household Waste and Recycling Centre (HWRC) will be open for longer two days a week. Over the past few weeks the site on Burial Ground Lane has seen an excess of 2,000 cars a day. Unfortunately, the increase in use is having a knock-on effect to the roads around the site with queues causing a significant impact along Lower Road.

KCC cabinet member for waste Mike Whiting said: "We appreciate that the amount of people visiting the HWRC has increased which we've put down to a number of factors. Increased housing development in the area has no doubt contributed but we've had the good weather, the time of year when people have a spring clean, and the fact that our Gravesham Pepperhill site is closed due to fire damage. We hope that by extending the opening hours we can make it easier for people to visit at a time that suits them."

The HWRC will be open until 6.30pm on Wednesdays and Thursdays. The trial runs until September.

Village Hall Seeks New Treasurer

After several years of diligent service Mike Summersgill is stepping down from the role. Our village hall is a popular and thriving asset for our community and a new treasurer is now needed to join the committee and ensure that we can keep this important facility running. If you are interested in helping out then please contact either David Heaton on 01622 820678 or Annette on 01622 820448 to find out more. Mike is very happy to provide support and advice.

Three Parish May Walk and Lunch

A lucky 13 walkers and a dog explored three parishes (Hunton, Marden and Linton) on a slightly damp walk from the village club on 12th May, followed by an excellent lunch of sausage rolls, pates, salads, cheeses and sweets. A further 20 less hardy souls joined them in raising money for the club. Thanks to all the volunteers for making delicious dishes and for organising the lunch. It is hoped that there will be more walks and lunches in 2018. You can find out about these events by being a club member (pop into the club and get an application form) or keeping an eye on the Hunton Facebook page.

Award for Former Chairman

Phil Nichols has been honoured with the Kent Association of Local Councils Community Award, which acknowledges those that have made a significant contribution to their local community. The parish council nominated Phil for the award in recognition of his many years as Chairman of Hunton Village Club and for steering the club through some very difficult times, which has allowed the village to retain a community hub. The award was presented by Parish Council Vice-Chairman, David Heaton, at the Annual Village Meeting on 21st May.



Hunton Village Fete – Saturday 16th June 2-5pm

Our village fete takes place at the King George V Playing Fields on West Street. We will have all the usual favourites - see insert for details. The Applause Rural Touring act this year will be Froojamaflip and Fred, a unique garden themed duo. Froojamaflip is an 8ft stilted character, created from handmade, painted and textured fruit and vegetables, and will be brought to life with a series of individual animatronic effects. Through storytelling, this walkabout act brings to life “Lucy Leek”, “Bertie Banana” and “Adam Apple” but watch out, as some of the fruit and vegetables are not quite what they seem! Accompanied by Fred the gardener they will give away seeds, fruit and vegetables.

Donations and Volunteers Wanted

Offers of help for car parking or taking care of a stall for an hour would be gratefully appreciated as well as donations of wine for the bottle tombola. Please contact Annette Trought (01622 820448), David Heaton (01622 820678) or Lisa Halliday (01622 820508). 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.

Supporting Little Owls

University of Kent student, Charlie Russell, gave a very interesting talk on The Kent Little Owl Project at the Annual Village Meeting in May. Over the last 25 years the Little Owl has suffered a 65% decline nationwide and Charlie, who is studying wildlife conservation, set up the project with the aim of bolstering their population within the county. Charlie has put up 17 nest boxes in Kent over the last year, including three in Hunton, and will be monitoring the Little Owls as well as carrying out surveys of the flora and fauna on the land they live on in an attempt to help identify the causes of their decline. The project will also raise awareness of the Little Owl amongst the general public as well as working with orchards and other agricultural areas to encourage sustainable practices to the benefit of Kent's Little Owls.

Just before the meeting Charlie took the opportunity to check the nest boxes in the village and was very excited to find that one contained five young Little Owl chicks! This was the first of his boxes to be occupied and he is delighted that his efforts are paying off. He is keen to put up some more boxes in the village, as once the chicks are grown the parents will evict them from their territory and they will need to find their own nesting sites. If anyone would be interested in having a nest box on their land, would like to help him with the surveys, or would like to construct some nest boxes for him (apparently they are very easy), he would be very pleased to hear from them. Contact Helen on 01622 820810 or helen@helenward.org and she will put you in touch. You can find out more about the project on the Facebook page www.facebook.com/KentLittleOwls.

Bus Timetable Changes

There will be significant changes to the bus timetable from 18th June, with some bus times altering by up to 30 minutes. A new printed timetable will be available from 13th June when it can also be viewed on the website www.nu-venture.co.uk. Full details of the temporary changes arising from the Hunton Hill closure are still being finalised and will be published in the July Herald. There is likely to be a very limited service.

More Road Closures

Vicarage Road, Yalding is due to be closed on 4th and 5th June to adjust ironworks. It's not clear from www.roadworks.org whether this is just an off-peak closure or whether it will be for the whole of the two days.

West Street is due to be closed from 11th to 15th June between 09.30 and 15.30, again to adjust ironworks. These works are not usually too disruptive and access is generally maintained to properties within the closure.

East Farleigh Fete De La Musique 2018. Saturday 23rd June 1pm to 5pm

The energetic and vibrant Old School Samba Band will be opening the fete at 1pm, followed by an engaging afternoon of music from local bands and entertainment for everyone. Stalls and games, hot food, beer and Pimms tent, WI teas, tombola, crockery smash, coconut shy, bouncy castle, pony rides and much more...put the date in your diary and join us for a summer's afternoon of fun and enjoyment. The fete takes place at East Farleigh Recreation Ground, Vicarage Lane (behind the school). Due to local regulations, dogs are not allowed in the recreation ground.

At St Mary's Church in June

Flowers

Liz Oliver

Services

Sunday 3rd June – Trinity 1

9.30am Holy Communion – Rev Eileen Doyle

Sunday 17th June – Trinity 3

9.30am Family Service – Rev David Jones

Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

Wed-Fri 8-11pm

Sun 12-2.30pm & 8-10.30pm



A Right Royal Celebration

Hunton and Linton Pre-School were excited to celebrate the Royal Wedding with a week of fun activities for the children to get involved in. Decorating the hall with union jack bunting and balloons, the children had a Royal Wedding Garden Party outside eating their lunch on long tables - there was a real street party atmosphere. The celebration was even complete with royal music to give the occasion some pomp and ceremony! The children continued their celebrations throughout the week, making their own royal flags, designing and making crowns, creating a cardboard castle, making up stories of what they would do if they were King or Queen for the day, and even designing and making their own wedding dress. The children couldn't wait to see the real Prince and his bride on television. Congratulations Harry and Meghan!

Private Tour of Saltwood Castle - Wednesday 27th June 2.15pm

There are still a few spaces left on this extensive private tour of Saltwood Castle and grounds led by owner, Jane Clark. It is followed by homemade cream tea and costs £26 each. Saltwood Castle (www.saltwoodcastle.com) is a medieval castle just outside Hythe and rarely opens to the public. This visit is limited to a maximum of 16 people. To reserve a place contact Lesley on 01622 820210 or lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com.

Friends of St Mary's Church

As many of you will know, a lot of costly and important work has been carried out recently on the ancient stained glass windows, on the 600 year old doors that date back to the Battle of Agincourt, on the internal plaster, on the Fane memorial and on the north boundary wall. This work has been financed through a mix of grants, donations from the Friends and the church's own resources. Importantly, as grants typically require matched funding, every £1 raised by the Friends can be equivalent to £2 of funding for projects so it is especially valuable! In short, the work undertaken to maintain the historically important fabric of the church could not have been carried out without the support of the Friends.

In spite of all of the progress made there is always more to do, as illustrated by the unexpected fall of plaster in the south aisle and the subsequent identification of two failing beams (one of which, running the full 15m length of the south aisle, is likely to need replacing in full). It is hoped that a plan and expected costing will be prepared within the next month but the cost will be significant.

Once this issue has been addressed the Church will be able to focus on the most significant requirement identified in the recent Quinquennial Report, namely the repair of the wooden tiles (shingles) on the roof of the tower where years of woodpecker damage has left the roof full of holes and no longer weather proof. This project is likely to be more expensive and is estimated to be in the region of £40,000.

So, whilst much has already been achieved, you will see that there are a number of critical projects in hand which are likely to require all of the support that the Friends can provide, and more! If you would like to join the Friends of St Mary's or make a one off gift, please contact Ian Pinks on 01622 820709.

David Heaton, Chair of the Trustees

June	3 rd	10 th	17 th	24 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 June, please