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Councillors View Water Main Works

Hunton parish councillors were given a tour of the water main works on Hunton Hill on 17th July, where almost 1km of old main is being replaced. At the time of the visit, South East Water had laid almost 550 metres of pipe using a combination of traditional trenching techniques and directional drilling, which involves digging a series of pits, drilling between them underneath the road and installing the new pipe underground. The original plan was to use a "pipe bursting" technique, whereby the new main is laid inside the existing pipe, which is then burst open. However, having dug the initial pits it was decided that the underlying geology would be more suitable for directional drilling, which is good news as this is quicker than pipe bursting. There was an area of extremely hard rock discovered half way up the hill, which the drilling machine was unable to get through, and it had been necessary to dig an open trench to replace this section.

Work is progressing extremely well on site and the project is expected to finish ahead of schedule.



Parish Council News in Brief

Gary Thomas stood down from the role of Chairman at the parish council meeting held on 16th July for health reasons, but will continue as a councillor. David Heaton was elected Chairman in his place, and Annette Trought takes on the role of Vice Chairman. It was agreed that the outside of the village hall needs redecorating. The village hall committee will obtain quotes for the work for the parish council to consider. In the absence of any volunteers, Parish Council Clerk, Sharon Goodwin, will become the new village hall treasurer and her hours will be extended to take on this important role.

KCC has advised that the three collapsing manhole covers in the narrow section of East Street above Redwall Lane will be replaced or repaired once Hunton Hill reopens. Someone has put foam in them temporarily to stop them clattering.

The parish council will purchase the disused telephone box on West Street for the sum of £1 to use as a village noticeboard.

The planning application to convert the existing building at Wilson's Yard, George Street to houses has been refused by Maidstone Borough Council.

Borough Councillor Lottie Parfitt-Reid advised that planning permission has been given for a new medical centre close to the Linton crossroads, which will see the two existing Coxheath surgeries combined and will also house the Lloyds pharmacy. An application to demolish the Spice Lounge restaurant and replace it with retirement flats is causing concern, as this is the sole remaining restaurant and licensed premises in Coxheath. She will ask for it to be called into planning committee if the planners recommend approval. The application to increase overnight HGV movements and noise levels at the new Wares Farm development will come before the planning committee on 26th July.

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	<i>*not available on Fridays; **not available on Mondays or Tuesdays</i>	
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 – David Heaton	820678	Clerk to the Parish Council – Sharon Goodwin	681238
Cllr Jonny Goddard	820096	Cllr Roger Lee	820210
Cllr Annette Trought	820448	Cllr Tony Stanbridge	820721
		Cllr Helen Ward	820810
		Cllr Gary Thomas	820691

Diary Dates			
Tues 7 th Aug	WI meeting Village Club 7.00pm	Sun 12 th Aug	Bat Walk & BBQ Community Orchard 7.00pm
Sat 1 st Sept	Church & Churchyard Working Party 9am-12pm	Sun 2 nd Sept	Musicals on the Green Playing Field 2-5pm
Sat 22 nd Sept	Beer & Gin Festival Village Club 3pm	Sun 23 rd Sept	Village Cricket Match Playing Field TBA
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

We are privileged to live in a lovely part of Kent, with countryside surrounding most of the benefice. As we enjoy the blue skies of summer and look forward to a holiday, or a break from school, or maybe an opportunity to relax in our surroundings, we are grateful for the beauty of nature, and for those who care for it.

However, this privilege comes at a cost. Access to the area is either through Maidstone town centre, or across one of three one-way mediaeval bridges at East Farleigh, Teston or Yalding, and along roads which were not designed to carry the volume of traffic that exists in 2018. As more homes are built (and this is not a political point but simply an observation) that infrastructure becomes more strained. So investment is needed to improve things. At the moment Hunton Hill is closed, Teston bridge has weekend works going on, Linton Hill has gas works and it is almost as if we are cut off from the rest of the area. It is disconcerting, inconvenient, stressful and worrying to some.

Jesus said that if we are to follow his teaching, to show love and goodwill to our neighbour, we must abide in him. He is the vine, and we are the branches. We need to invest in the infrastructure of the Christian life. This simply means praying, reading the bible, and being in Christian fellowship with others. Without that relationship life is disconcerting, inconvenient, stressful and worrying. May God grant you his peace and joy during the summer season and always.

Many blessings,

Peter Callway, Rector

Coming Up at the Club

Hunton Village Club had a successful June and July, showing all of the England games for the World Cup. The bar revenue was very welcome! We are expecting August to be a quiet month as so many people are away, but the club is being used for rehearsals for Musicals on the Green, which takes place on 2nd September, proving what a useful resource it is.

In September there will be another village walk (date to be confirmed) and the very popular Beer Festival on the 21st thanks to Liz Ridgeway. This year, as well as live music, there will be ceilidh dancing as well as lots of beer!

We hope to start having film evenings in the club. The plan is a light meal and then a film. If you are interested, please let us know which night you would prefer, what genre of film, whether a classic or a modern one and any particular favourite you would like shown – suggestions please to gilbert@breachfarm.com.

Our winter programme will include the lunches, every Thursday for six weeks, starting in October. These are very popular, do come along to at least one or two, particularly if you are new to the village or haven't had a chance to meet many people. You will make new friends but if you are shy, bring your neighbour or family. There will also be a quiz night, karaoke and the very popular wine tasting evening.

New members are very welcome but do come along as a guest to any event. Just make yourselves known when you come in.

Gil Robertson, Club Chairman

Hunton Floods

The heavy rain and storms at the end of May caused flash flooding on two occasions to Hunton. The worst effects were seen when water, soil and debris was washed off the salad fields north of Bensted Close. Grove Lane flooded, as did parts of West Street making both impassable for a short time. At least one house flooded and a number of outbuildings, garden offices and summerhouses were also inundated. To make matters worse roads, drives and gardens were left covered in a thick film of mud. Lawrence J Betts, the farmers, did manage to clear most of the hard surfaces, however many gardens still have unsightly silt deposits on lawns and flowerbeds.

Since the event residents and parish councillors have met with members of KCC's Highways Drainage team, to show them the extent of the problem as it became apparent that there were many blocked culverts and ditches. Councillor Heaton also showed Borough Councillor Lottie Parfitt-Reid what happened and discussed possible solutions.

Since the meeting the culverts that are the responsibility of KCC have been cleaned and letters will be sent to adjacent landowners reminding them of their obligations to keep drainage systems clear and to keep roads free of mud.

Residents of Hunton also have a responsibility to mitigate the effects of heavy rain. If you have a ditch, stream, culvert and grill on your property, you must ensure that they are maintained and kept clear.

Unfortunately the cropping plan and cultivation north of Bensted Close has not changed since May so there is a possibility that a recurrence of the May flash floods could happen again this summer.

Tropicana Dance Evening

The 'Friends' of Yalding Youth & Community Centre have organised their second event – a Tropicana Evening. Get your dancing flip-flops on and if you enjoyed the barn dance, you'll enjoy dancing similar moves to a Latin beat. Help them to raise funds for their Access for All disabled toilet facility and have fun too!

Put Saturday 25th August into your diary from 6-9pm for a family evening, which is guaranteed to get your toes tapping and flip-flops flapping! Tickets will be £8 per adult, £6 per child and £22 for a family of four, which means one child dances for FREE!

Lollipops for Hawaiian shirts and tropical dress. No alcohol, but bring food and lots to drink as it will be an energetic evening.

Tickets will be on sale from Yalding Post Office from 1st August.

Beer and Gin Festival

Plans are afoot for a Beer and Gin Festival. The date for the diary is Saturday 22nd September and the venue is Hunton Village Club. There will be lots of lovely local beverages to sample, with a new Gin Shack planned for this year's event. A fun, relaxed day, it will be starting a little later this year at around 3pm. It's hoped to follow this on the Sunday with a village 'hangover' cricket match – more details in the September Herald.

Appalachian Adventure

Hunton Resident Megan Dolman is thru-hiking the Appalachian Trail – all 2,190 miles of it! When we left Megan last month she was at mile 1,294 and 100 days in and heading in to state number 8 of 14 – New Jersey.

Much of the 72 miles through New Jersey was characterised by flat terrain and boardwalks through wetland areas filled with wildlife, which Megan loved. From New Jersey they crossed into New York State, where the rocky climbs and changes in elevation were much more challenging. After a great morning of hiking one Saturday, they passed over a set of train tracks and found themselves at a tiny train station (smaller than Yalding) called 'Appalachian Trail' which has a direct line to New York City, running only on weekends...an hour and a half later they were wandering around Times Square, still with backpacks and poles!

From New York they crossed into Connecticut for 51 miles (where Megan managed to drop her phone into a very deep rock pool – fortunately after drying out in some pasta it survived) and then on to Massachusetts with torrential rain, thunderstorms and temperatures in the mid 90s. There they met Harvey Lewis, who is running the trail and attempting to break the current record of 45 days, 12 hours and 15 minutes!

The next state was Vermont, Megan's favourite state so far, which is simply beautiful and returning to larger mountains was exciting and made her feel as if she was actually making some progress. Fortunately the temperatures were a lot cooler, making hiking more enjoyable. Megan admits though that her motivation is waning and everything aches even more than before. However, she has just 4 weeks left on the trail and on 14th July crossed into New Hampshire at mile 1,748.

You can follow more of Megan's adventures in her blog at megdolmanat2018.wordpress.com.

Fete Success

The Hunton Fete is run by the organising committee to be a self funding community event whilst giving village organisations the opportunity to raise much needed funds for their causes. The Friends of St Mary's ran the BBQ again for us whilst the village club provided refreshment in the form of the bar and Pimms tent. Initial figures show that the club's takings were around £880 on the day and the Friends of St Mary's took around £520. Prior to the fete, the committee was able to purchase two large 'pop-up' gazebos for community use out of funds from previous fetes and the monies received from the entrance fees, games tent, teas and cakes and stall rentals has been set aside to fund next year's event as well as the Christmas Fair.

On the subject of the Christmas Fair, plans are now underway for this year's event and we already have confirmation from the North Pole that Santa will again be in his grotto, so if you would like to book a place to see him on Saturday 8th December please contact Steve or Sue on 01622 820403. Cost will be £5 per child to include an age appropriate gift from the man himself.

Another Picnic Table for our Community Orchard

A second picnic table has been installed in the orchard. This one has been funded in part (£225) by Sue and Steve Wyles who raised the money by holding a Cream Tea in their lovely garden in the summer of 2016. The Parish Council has provided the rest of the funding. These tables will make it easier to host events and activities. So a timely reminder that we are holding a Bat Event with free BBQ on 12th Aug – see item in Herald for further details.

WI Enjoy Sunny Summer Days

The Hunton WI meeting for July was a garden party held in Ann Sawtell's garden where the members enjoyed a very sociable evening with a buffet supper, Pimms and elderflower cordial. Jenny Boatwright and Ann Tillott gave an account of their WI residential weekend at Denman where they took part in a course on 'willow weaving sculptures for the garden'. They were impressed with the quality of the tuition and food provided. They showed us photographs of their efforts that included a mouse and a large dragonfly that was a challenge to transport home! They also gave a toast to Ruth Porter who had originally won the bursary.

Hunton WI ladies held an event for the WI District on Monday 16th July, organising a local walk ending at the village club where they had laid on a cream tea. It was yet another hot afternoon and pots of tea with scones, clotted cream, jam and strawberries were much appreciated by all.

Our meeting in August will be an interactive evening with drums led by Alison Surridge and will be held at the Village Club on 7th August. Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30 pm start. New ladies are very welcome.

HGVs Failing to Use One-Way Diversion

From the reports that the parish council has received and those posted in the village Facebook group, it is apparent that many HGVs are not using the one-way system that was proposed by Fruition to keep traffic moving around the village during the closure of Hunton Hill. Whilst it seems that the message has simply not got through to some drivers, it is also clear that others are aware of the route but are choosing to ignore the instructions. Fruition has sent details of the route to all the regular hauliers coming in to Amsbury Farm and has followed this up with a number of reminders, making it particularly clear that Redwall Lane is not to be used. The parish council and members of the Traffic and Road Safety Working Party have sent details of the HGVs that have been reported to Fruition and in some instances have contacted the transport companies directly. However, as the HGV one-way route is not an official one-way diversion and in many instances the drivers are not breaching any traffic regulations, there is a limit to what the parish council is able to do.

The 7.5t limits on Redwall Lane and George Street are still in force and HGVs seen breaching these restrictions are being reported to the police via Lorry Watch.

At St Mary's Church in August

<p>Flowers</p> <p>Alison Ellman-Brown</p>	<p>Services</p> <p>Sunday 5th August – Trinity 10 9.30am Holy Communion – Rev David Jones</p> <p>Sunday 19th August – Trinity 12 9.30am Family Service – Rev Peter Callway</p>
<p>Hunton Village Club Opening Hours</p> <p>Wed-Fri 8-11pm Sun 12-2.30pm & 8-10.30pm</p>	

Roles at The Herald – Can You Help?

The Herald is still looking for a new Editor and someone to take over the role of Advertising Coordinator. Could this be you? Please contact Helen for more information on 01622 820810 or email herald@hunton.org.uk.

Church and Churchyard Working Parties

The long dry spell has made maintaining the churchyard a little easier recently so volunteers at a working party in July were able to tackle some outstanding jobs. The next working party is from 9am to 12 noon on Saturday 1st September and the final one for 2018 is planned for Saturday 3rd November. If there are additional weddings or other events, a short notice clean up will be publicised on the Hunton Facebook page. Please try to help in the church or in the churchyard – even an hour really makes a difference. Contact Lesley if you think you can attend so she can take enough provisions for the coffee break - lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com or 01622 820210.

Yalding Art Group Exhibition

Yalding Art Group will be exhibiting at the Riverside Pop-Up Gallery (behind the post office in Yalding) from 28th July until 27th August, and if you like a cream tea, combine the two on the 28th July from 2-5pm. We are exhibiting with Hadlow Pottery (learning disability adults), Kenward Trust and Sarah Abercrombie Jones. It promises to be a lovely exhibition.

We have broken up for the summer, but if you would like to see us working or indeed, join us to draw, we will be in the gallery throughout August every Thursday morning 10am to 12 noon. If you would rather join us on a new term, the first session is free then £2.50 thereafter. We meet for 10 weeks during term time at Yalding Youth and Community Centre in Vicarage Road, Yalding. Contact: June Chapman on 01622 817324 or email chapman.june59@gmail.com.

Our website is www.yaldingartgroup.weebly.com or see our page on www.RIVERSIDEpopupGALLERY.com.

Bat Walk and BBQ - Sunday 12th August 7pm till Late

At the Community Orchard, Hunton Playing Field

Join us for a BBQ with music by Llunic to celebrate the community orchard and discover what bats and moths are flying at night with Simon Ginnaw. Bring your picnic rug and drinks (cold or hot - depending on the weather) to go with the free BBQ. Wear sensible footwear and clothing and bring a torch. The bat walk will begin after the BBQ. Event is free, all ages welcome. If we have to cancel we will inform everyone via the village Facebook page, and/or you can contact Sue and David Heaton on 01622 820678.

Thank You

Sue Scott, Jeremy and Mary would like to thank all of those who have sent messages of sympathy and support following the sad death of John Scott. The vast amount of cards, letters, emails and phone calls have been a great comfort to us. Following the Thanksgiving Service, over £1,000 was raised and this will be donated to Bloodwise (formerly Leukaemia Research) and St. Mary's Church, Hunton.

Musicals on The Green - Sunday 2nd September 2-5pm

Songs and music from 42nd Street to the Blues Brothers and plenty in between! Music to get your feet tapping and you up dancing. Bring your chair or blanket to sit on. BBQ, bar, tea, coffee, cakes, crepes, and other goodies, plus a few children's amusements.

Tickets £4, children U14 free, in advance from Sue Pinks 01622 820709 or suepinks@icloud.com. Also available on the day. Gates open at 2pm for 2.30pm start. All proceeds to Children's Cancer Charity and Friends of St Mary's

August	5 th	12 th	19 th	26 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 August, please