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## 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 1,748 and had just crossed into the penultimate state, New Hampshire.

After a few very wet and exhausting days in New Hampshire, Megan and her hiking partner, Mark, crossed into the final state of this journey, Maine, where they discovered that the terrain of Southern Maine is similar to that of New Hampshire – tough, rocky and still mountainous! Parts of the trail were so steep that metal rungs had been sunk into the mountainside as a climbing aid and with the taxing terrain their daily mileage dropped. For just under a mile the trail travels through the Mahoosuc Notch, a deep gap in the Mahoosuc Mountain range, which contains enormous boulders and rock tunnels. It is considered to be the toughest, most technically difficult and fun section of the trail. It took them 2hrs and 15 minutes to complete this 0.9 mile section – and they thought they were moving quite quickly!

Megan was given a much-needed moral boost when she had a break from the trail and spent a laughter-filled day with some familiar faces – the Bowers family from Hunton (Dom, Charlotte, Jack, Milo and Guy). She was also lucky enough to have another Huntonian, Sam Andrews, join her for the last almost 200 miles of the trail, bringing with him enthusiasm and energy as well as a much-needed new pair of shoes and Galaxy chocolate!



Megan on the summit of Katahdin



Megan with Sam Andrews

The terrain of Northern Maine was much flatter with river crossings, lakeside trails and wonderful views (and only 1-2 mountains per day). The final 115 miles of the trail included the '100-mile wilderness' where there are no roads, stores or towns for the whole stretch, so nowhere to obtain supplies or get help – once you are in it, you just need to get through it. The trio headed off into the 'wilderness' on 8<sup>th</sup> August, their packs heavy with 7 days of provisions. It took them 5 and a half days to get through the wilderness and reach Abol Bridge, just 15 miles away from the peak of Mount Katahdin and the northern terminus of the Appalachian Trail. After they left Abol Bridge they had a 10-mile hike on almost completely flat, rockless, rootless terrain, which ran alongside various cascading falls – wonderful! They registered for their summit

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### Your Local Contacts:

School: Secretary/Head Teacher	820360
Under 5's Pre-School:	820309
Pre-School Supervisor:	07972067110
Pond and Tree Warden: Mike Summersgill	820429
Rector: Revd. Peter Callway	747570*
Hon Associate Rector: Revd. David Jones	741474*
Associate Rector: Revd Eileen Doyle	204241**
Churchwarden: Alison Ellman-Brown	820288
Village Club: Gil Robertson	820059

Village Hall Booking:	<a href="http://www.huntonvillagehall.co.uk">www.huntonvillagehall.co.uk</a>
Maidstone Police	690690 or 101
Neighbourhood Watch: <a href="mailto:huntonwatch@gmail.com">huntonwatch@gmail.com</a>	820403,820429, 820731
'Potholes' Hotline (KCC)	03000 418181
Community Warden: Adam McKinley	07811 271021
PCSO - Jasmine Pay	101
Helen Grant MP <a href="mailto:helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk">helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk</a>	0207 219 7107
Hunton Bell Ringers, Michael Webb	745716

\*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](http://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 Tony Stanbridge	820721
Cllr Annette Trought	820448	Cllr Helen Ward	820810	Cllr Gary Thomas	820691

### Diary Dates

Sat 1st Sept	<b>Church &amp; Churchyard Working Party</b> 9am-12pm	Sun 2nd Sept	<b>Musicals on the Green</b> Playing Field 2-5pm
Tues 4th Sept	<b>WI Meeting</b> Village Club 7pm for 7.30pm	Sat 22nd Sept	<b>Beer &amp; Gin Festival</b> Village Club 3pm
Sun 23rd Sept	<b>Village Cricket Match</b> Playing Field 2pm	Sat 29th Sept	<b>Litter Pick</b> Village Hall 10am
Sun 7th Oct	<b>Harvest Service &amp; Supper</b> Church/Village Hall 4.30pm/5.30pm		

Check out [www.hunton.org.uk/diary](http://www.hunton.org.uk/diary) for the latest events. If you would like to add an event, email [diary@hunton.org.uk](mailto:diary@hunton.org.uk)

## Pastoral Letter - That's Not Fair!

I hope you all had a lovely summer and that it is still 'summery' weather when you read this letter. I had a day away at the coast on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> July, the very day the weather broke and it rained all day with horizontal rain, high wind and absolutely no visibility at all. We stood at the mouth of Portsmouth harbour watching the IOW ferries being blown in and fighting to get out as the sea broke over the bow and also watched the roll of the boat as it turned to run down the coast before making the crossing. Where is the fairness in life I thought, as within a few days we were back into temperatures of 31 degrees and the sun beating down? Was it because I took a Sunday off? But then hadn't I learnt over the year that life isn't about fairness and anyway what is fairness? We'd been down to Portsmouth to attend a Golden Wedding anniversary of a lifelong friend and taken the opportunity to visit the mother of my son-in-law who was in Southampton hospital with cancer of the throat waiting for an operation to remove her voice box and have reconstruction surgery to her throat. Where was fairness that weekend? Is fairness about the reward for a life well spent or a life misspent? Since a small lad I had fairness drummed into me. Why did my sister, just a year and three days older than me always land at the foot of the ladder and I on the tail of the snake? Why did she always land on Park Lane and Mayfair first? Why did she always get a shilling more on her birthday than I did three days later? Where is fairness? But then look at it another way...Do we always get what we deserve? 'No' comes back the answer most of the time. Have you never had a narrow escape or thought if I had...the result might have been different. Have you never thought how lucky you have been at times? If fairness is a judgement on what we do would it be fairer?

The Christian faith reminds us that God judges us according to his love and that is the way we are judged when we come in sorrow for the way we have behaved. St John reminds us that 'God sent his son into the world that those who believed in him might not perish'. And we all know what happened to God's son! Was that fair? For God sent his son into the world to give us life in all its fullness. Was that fair? Perhaps we need to stop looking for the world's fairness and start looking for God's fairness. When we see that we see the world in a different light.

David Jones

## "Hangover" Cricket Match

Following on from the Beer and Gin Festival, on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> September there will be a village "hangover" cricket match at the playing field in the afternoon. All ages and abilities, including complete novices, very welcome. Meet at the playing field on West Street at 2pm. If you don't feel up to playing, why not bring along a picnic, sit back and relax and cheer on your neighbours.



## Harvest Thanksgiving Service and Supper

The Harvest Thanksgiving service at St Mary's Church will take place at 4.30pm on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October. The service will be followed by Harvest Supper of sausages and mash, plus desserts, at 5.30pm in the village hall and costs £6.50 for adults, £5 for children under 13 and £20 for a family (2 adults and 2 children under 13). Tickets will not be issued for the supper, but numbers are limited and reservations should be made through Wendy Simmons on 01622 820875 and Liz Oliver on 01622 820200.

## Do you Value your Herald?

The Herald is still in need of a new Editor and someone to take over as advertising coordinator. Due to other commitments I will be unable to continue as Editor beyond the April 2019 edition (although ideally I would like to hand over the role before then) and we do not currently have an advertising coordinator to put together the business directory for next year. If you find the Herald useful and informative, please consider whether you would be able and willing to help out. The roles could potentially be shared by more than one person as is the case in other local newsletters. I'm happy to have a chat about what's involved with no obligation – my phone number is on the front page.

## Hunton Beer and Gin Fest

The Beer and Gin Festival is planned for Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September. Doors open at 3pm, but make sure you bring your dancing shoes because at 4pm the Ceilidh will begin! Brilliant fun for all the family, lots of toe tapping music to enjoy, with a caller helping us along the way! Throughout the afternoon there will also be face painting for kids, local beverages to sample and a BBQ to keep you full up and feeling good, despite the booze! We're also hoping to have another band join us for an early evening 'wind down' slot, after the Ceilidh. Entry is slightly higher this year at £2.00 per adult, just to help us cover the entertainment. Children are free!

## Be Aware!

There have been reports in the local area recently of night time car thefts and break-ins. A house in Dean Street was broken into in order to take car keys and steal the car and in Coxheath a car was broken into whilst parked on a driveway. In Hunton there have been two reports of people seen acting suspiciously on residents' driveways in the early hours of the morning.

Huntonwatch advises that if you have a garage you put your car in there if you can. Don't leave car keys in easy to find places and if you hear a noise at night turn lights on in your house to make it clear to anyone outside that you are in, awake and aware. If you see someone then call 999. The police are aware of all these incidents and have been asked to step up patrols in the area.

## Improving the River Bault SSSI for People and Wildlife – Published Reports

Following on from last year's consultation and workshops to understand how people use the river and how it could be improved, the Environment Agency and Natural England have recently published an improvement strategy for the river with an emphasis on resilient natural flood management; a healthy fishery; a secure, clean water supply and a landscape that supports flourishing agriculture and wildlife. You can find a Non-Technical Summary and the full Technical Report on the Medway Flood Partnership webpages at [www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-river-medway-partnership-objectives-members-and-action-plan](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-river-medway-partnership-objectives-members-and-action-plan).

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(thru-hiker numbers 389 and 390 to complete a northbound thru-hike in 2018) and were tucked up in bed by 7pm ready for their final day, which Megan describes in her blog:

“So I have fallen in love with various mountains along the way, but the best was definitely saved till last. Mount Katahdin was a complete contrast to anything we had previously summited in the trail. It was utterly breathtaking. As there was a chance of rain on the 14th of August we decided to be hiking as early as possible to give ourselves time to summit and return down the mountain. It was 4.30am that we left the Birches Campsite in Baxter State Park and began the 4,000 ft ascent to the peak. I felt more excited than I had ever felt on this hike and even though it was a tough climb I loved every minute and actually had so much fun. Little after 9am, we were thru-hikers. The pain, rubbish weather, exhaustion, and emotions I had endured were completely worth it for this moment at the summit of Katahdin.”

Many congratulations to Megan and her hiking buddy, Mark (aka Pepper Jack) on an amazing achievement. You can read the complete blog of Megan's thru-hiking adventure at [megdolmanat2018.wordpress.com](http://megdolmanat2018.wordpress.com).

## Road Closures for Resurfacing

Kent Highways has scheduled works which will involve road closures on a number of roads in Hunton and Yalding at the beginning of September.

The surface treatment of Hunton Hill and Upper Hunton Hill between Heath Road and East Street, which was postponed until the water mains works were completed, is programmed for 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> September between 09.30hrs and 15.30hrs (off peak).

There are also closures scheduled on East Street, West Street and Vicarage Road on 5<sup>th</sup> September where they are needing to return to carry out small areas of surface treatment, for example because there was a parked car, or where the surface needs attention again due to extreme weather.

As it seemed that every main route through the village would be closed at the same time, the parish council asked for clarification and Kent Highways has provided the following additional information:

“We will not start Hunton Hill/Upper Hunton Hill until the other works are complete and will not close more than one road at a time.

To further clarify, the small additional work (on East Street, West Street and Vicarage Road) should be completed on 5<sup>th</sup> September, and consequently we may not even get to Hunton Hill/Upper Hunton Hill until the afternoon or even the following morning of 6<sup>th</sup> September, but will complete on 7<sup>th</sup> September (weather etc. permitting).

If some of the additional work is not completed on the other roads on the 5<sup>th</sup> September (weather/breakdowns etc.), we will undertake this before 09.30hrs or after 15.30hrs on 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> September if necessary.”

So it seems we will just have to wait and see what happens. For those who are members of the Hunton Facebook group, if you are aware that a section of road is closed or has reopened, please post in the group so that we can help each other navigate around the village on those dates.

## "Stars in Their Eyes" at the Village Club

Feel like shaking your inner Elvis, showing off your secret Shakira or letting loose your latent Lady GaGa? Hunton Village Club is holding a "Stars in Their Eyes" night based on the popular TV show on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October. If you fancy having a go at performing, then all you need to do is let us know who you want to impersonate and which song you'd like to do and we'll help you perfect your star turn! If you just want to come and watch and vote for your favourite act then tickets are free including snacks and light nibbles. The club will be open from 7.30pm with the fun kicking off at around 8pm. To reserve tickets or volunteer to be a performer, call Sharon Winter on 07840 168052 or Neil Davis on 07941 880845.



## Yalding Art Group – New Members Welcome

The group will be starting back at Yalding Youth and Community Centre on 6<sup>th</sup> September for a 10-week term. There will be a break for half term in October and two weeks in November so that they will finish nearer to Christmas and get in the mood for their Christmas lunch.

If you would like to join them, the first session is free then £2.50 thereafter. Contact June Chapman on 01622 817324 or email [chapman.june@gmail.com](mailto:chapman.june@gmail.com). There's more information about the group on their website [www.yaldingartgroup.weebly.com](http://www.yaldingartgroup.weebly.com).

## Church and Churchyard Working Party

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> September from 9am-12noon. All volunteers welcome. Come to help inside or outside the church for as long as you can spare. Sociable coffee break provided free of charge but let Lesley know if you hope to be there so she can take provisions for everyone. Email [Lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com](mailto:Lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com) or phone 01622 820210.

## Time for a Clean Up

The village litter pick that was planned in August was cancelled as so many of the usual volunteers were unavailable. A final clean up for 2018 is planned for Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September with the team meeting at the village hall at 10am to collect the equipment. A good deal of rubbish is starting to accumulate around the village now, and as the saying goes, "Many hands make light work", so if you can spare a couple of hours that morning it would help greatly in getting the job done as quickly as possible. Please contact Di Martin on 01622 820115 if you would like to help.

## At St Mary's Church in September

<p><b>Flowers</b></p> <p>Sandra Bullivant</p>	<p><b>Services</b></p> <p><b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> September – Trinity 14</b> 9.30am Holy Communion – Rev Peter Callway</p> <p><b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> September – Trinity 16</b> 9.30am Family Service – Rev Eileen Doyle</p>
<p><b>Hunton Village Club Opening Hours</b></p> <p>Wed-Fri 8-11pm Sun 12-2.30pm &amp; 8-10.30pm</p>	

### Those who served in WW1 now need you!

To mark the centenary of the end of WW1 we are collecting as much information as possible on those we can trace with connections to Hunton who served in WW1.

So far we have found another 8 deaths to add to the 16 recorded on the memorial plaque in the church. We have also found the names of 18 men who served in the war but survived, although we understand that 53 Hunton men were welcomed back at the end of the war so there is much still to aim for!

In addition to the VC and 2 DSOs for the remarkable Borton brothers we have found records of 3 MCs, an AFC, a DCM and 3 MMs – an astonishing achievement for one small village. We have also found that a sister of a WW1 soldier married a man who went on to win a VC in the Boer War and that these siblings have family still living in the village! We have been able to tie 36 of the 42 men identified to specific addresses in or close to Hunton.

We have been less successful in finding photographs of individuals with only 7 found. We have tried to trace family connected to those who served in the war still living in the village but so far this has been limited to 3 known connections, with others yet to be confirmed.

Family names identified to date are: Barlow, Borton, Butcher, Clouett, Coomber, Cooper, Devas, Egerton, Evenden, Funnell, Gurr, Haffenden, Hambrook, Haywood, Henham, Hubble, Jukes, Kember, Kemp, Martin, Miles, Neale, Newman, Page, Relf, Simmons, Smith, Teague, Thomas, Tucker, Waller and Weller.

If you have any information on anyone connected to Hunton at that time, who served in WW1, then we would be delighted to hear from you, especially if you have any photographs of them or believe that you may have a connection?

Once we have got as far as we can go with the project, then the information will be put into a booklet and there will be a presentation in the church on Remembrance Sunday. The information will be uploaded onto the Hunton Village Website so that anyone will be able to see it and remember the astonishing courage shown, and sacrifice made, on our behalf 100 years ago.

Please contact either James Forster (forsters.hunton@btinternet.com / 01622 820628) or David Heaton (01622 820678) if you have information you can contribute and we will arrange to collect it from you.

### New Pilates Classes

Pilates classes are starting on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> September in Hunton Village Hall. The classes will be for an hour and for all levels, ages and gender. Please contact Harriet on 07543 629521 for further information and to book, as places are limited.

### WI Meet To Beat

The WI meeting in August was an interactive drum and percussion evening led by Alison Surridge. Alison made a very welcome return to Hunton for another exhilarating evening of learning a little of how to play a variety of percussion instruments. The West African drums were a particular hit (please excuse the pun!). Although only two of the twenty possible notes from the drums were mastered, the rhythms produced were amazing. All the ladies had the chance of a solo spot with a 'question and response' session, and everyone produced a different phrase. Adding bells and other percussion instruments to the drums added another dimension to the music. Alison calmed everything down after the excitement of the drums with a demonstration of Tibetan prayer bowls that vibrated, producing a lovely range of notes. It was truly a memorable evening.

The next WI meeting will be about colours and clothing at Hunton Village Club on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September. Doors open at 7pm for 7.30pm start, coffee and cakes will be served but the bar is available and new ladies are very welcome.

### Coxheath Church Fete

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> September - 1.30pm on the grassed area around the church. Free Entry.

Entertainment, Strawberry Teas, BBQ, Local Produce, Face Painting, Raffle, Tombola, Crockery Smash, Coconut Shy, and many more stalls and games. The church (originally the Work House Chapel) will be open on the day so feel free to take the opportunity to have a look around.

September	2 <sup>nd</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	16 <sup>th</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup>	30 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Coxheath</b>	11.00 HC	11.00 FS	11.00 HC	11.00 FS	
<b>E. Farleigh</b>	09.30 MP	08.00 HC	09.30 HC	08.00 HC	
<b>Linton</b>	09.30 FS	09.30 HC	08.00 HC	09.30 MP	
<b>W. Farleigh</b>	08.00 HC	09.30 FS		09.30 Harvest	Benefice Service
HC Holy Communion, MP Morning Prayer, FS Family Service					

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