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Successful Search for New Editors

Thank you to all who have responded to our plea for support in keeping the Herald going. We now have enough volunteers to provide editorial input for next year with no volunteer being asked to take responsibility for more than two monthly editions and always working as part of a team of at least two.

If you are interested in getting involved on this basis, or if you have offered but not heard from me with a suggested team pairing and rota for the coming year, then do please get in touch by email (forsters.hunton@btinternet.com) or by phone (01622 820628).

As we now have what we believe will be a viable way forward, this edition of the Herald will be Helen's last and I am confident that we all want to thank her for her years acting in this capacity – she has proved to be, quite literally, irreplaceable! I will be editing the April edition together with my wife, Andrea. Please support the new editorial team by continuing to submit articles. These should be sent to the Hunton Herald email address: herald@hunton.org.uk.

James Forster

January Parish Council Meeting in Brief

Following an attempted break in at the village club, a local resident has very kindly funded the installation of CCTV. The new kitchen facility is nearing completion. Cllr Heaton will spray the permissive footpath with weed killer before the spring. The adjacent fields are not planted with salad crops this year, so the footpath should remain tidy.

The ditches in Water Lane have been dug and cleared, which should aid with flooding issues.

Cllr Stanbridge will write to BT regarding the water leaking from the manhole cover opposite Court Lodge on East Street, as well as the poor management of the recent West Street road closure. (*BT responded very quickly and carried out work to reset the manhole cover - Ed.*)

The council tax precept will remain unchanged for 2019/20 at £82.67 per household.

Last Winter Warmer Lunch

The last of the current series of Winter Warmer lunches takes place on Thursday 7th March at the village club. This will be your last chance to enjoy a Thursday village lunch until the end of October! These events are a great opportunity to meet friends, other locals and a parish councillor or two and you are welcome to bring guests. Volunteers will be making two soups, honey roast gammon and cakes. There will also be bread, biscuits, pickles and cheeses as well as tea or coffee all for a requested donation of just £6. Money raised from these lunches goes to St Mary's Church and the village club. Email lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com if you have any questions or have dietary needs so she can do her best to cater for you. The club opens at 12pm with lunch available from around 12.30pm on a first come, first served basis.

Gardening Club February Meeting

A record number of 40 people attended a very sociable Gardening Club evening at the village club which included a tasty supper. This was followed by an illustrated talk from Scott Raffle, a member of the Agricultural and Horticultural Development Board, whose presentation covered many aspects of horticulture. Thanks to Scott for giving up his evening, to all those who helped and who cooked delicious dishes for the supper and to everyone who supported this event, which raised funds towards the village club improvement projects.

Your Local Contacts:		Village Hall Booking:	
School: Secretary/Head Teacher	820360	Maidstone Police	www.huntonvillagehall.co.uk 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 - Martin Chivers	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		

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 Helen Ward	820810
		Cllr Tony Stanbridge	820721
		Cllr Gary Thomas	820691

Diary Dates			
Tues 5th Mar	WI Meeting Village Club 7.30pm	Thurs 7th Mar	Winter Warmer Lunches Village Club 12.30pm
Sat 16th Mar	Charity Quiz Night Village Hall Doors 7pm	Mon 18th Mar	Parish Council Meeting Village Hall 7.30pm
Tues 26th Mar	Franklin Expedition Talk Village Club 7.30pm	Sun 7th April	Village Walk & Lunch Village Club 11am (walk) 12.30pm (lunch)

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

One often hears the expression, 'Our thoughts and prayers are with you,' especially when something ghastly has happened. I looked online to see what people thought about this expression of sympathy. There were some pretty cynical comments among the somewhat kinder ones.

If I ever say this I try to pray for the person immediately – a short arrow prayer until I have more time to pray at length. It is so easy, though, to let prayer slip, isn't it? We are so busy, 101 things to do, and before we know it the day has passed with barely a thought about prayer. If this is you I hope I can encourage you with this letter because prayer is powerful.

Firstly, why should we pray?

We should pray because God wants us to. 1 Thessalonians 5 v.16-18 confirms this. 'Be joyful always, **pray at all times**, be thankful in all circumstances. **This is what God wants from you** in your life in union with Christ Jesus.'

We should pray because God will give us his peace. Philippians 4 v.6-7 gives us this reassurance. 'Don't worry about anything, but in all your prayers ask God for what you need, always asking him with a thankful heart. And **God's peace will keep your hearts and minds safe in union with Christ Jesus.**'

We should pray because Jesus told us to. Luke 18 v.1 'Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should **always pray and not give up.**' (The parable of the persistent widow follows.)

Secondly, why should we pray with others?

We should pray with others because **Jesus promised to be with us in a very special way when two or three are gathered in his name.** See Matthew 18 v.20 for this promise.

We should pray with others **to follow the example of the early church who devoted themselves to the apostles teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer.** (Acts 2 v.42)

If you are lost for words, don't worry! Words aren't always necessary. Romans 8 v.26 assures us that if 'we do not know what we ought to pray for' ... 'the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express ... in accordance with God's will.'

You don't need to be on your knees or have your eyes shut to pray. You could be gardening, washing up, cleaning the car, or even in the bath! It will always be a mystery but somehow our prayers help God build his kingdom, so let's follow the example of so many people in the Bible, especially our Lord Jesus, and get praying. Who knows what's in store! (Well, God knows, of course!)

My thoughts and prayers are definitely with you all,

Sue Elliott – Pastoral Assistant

Other Church News

Our benefice churches join with the Congregational Church for this year's World Day of Prayer service (previously called Women's World Day of Prayer) on Friday 1st March at 7pm. The service, which has been prepared by Christian Women of Slovenia is entitled "Come – Everything is Ready!" and will be held at the Congregational Church, 157 Linton Road, Loose, ME15 0AL. All are warmly invited.

The new Lent Course starts in the week commencing 11th March using "On the Third Day", published by York Courses, in which Bishop John Pritchard explores the importance of the Resurrection. The meetings in Hunton take place on Monday evenings – for more details please contact: the Rector, Peter Callway, either by phone on 01622 747570 or by email to peter@callways.co.uk.

There will be a Maundy Thursday Service at St Mary's, Hunton on 18th April at 7.30 pm.

Village Walk and Lunch – Sunday 7th April

Try to be at Hunton Village Club by 10.50am if you would like to join a circular walk of about an hour and a half, which will leave promptly at 11am. Everyone is welcome so do bring family, friends and neighbours either for just the walk or just lunch or both. Anyone in your party who does not wish to walk is welcome to relax in the club or help the team preparing lunch which will be available from about 12.30pm for a requested donation of £6 a head. Funds raised will go towards club projects, which include finishing the kitchen and upgrading the toilets. Please let Lesley know (email lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com) if you hope to be on the walk and or have lunch and please make sure you tell her if you, or anyone in your group, have any special dietary needs. She will, of course, be delighted to hear from you if you can offer to make a dish for lunch or help in any way.

The Franklin Expedition Disaster – Lost and Found

WI Open Meeting – 26th March – Hunton Village Club

Following the successful talk by Michael Smith on Tom Crean, Michael will be returning to give a talk on The Franklin Expedition Disaster.

The Franklin expedition, which was sent to the Arctic in 1845 to find the fabled North West Passage, was the biggest disaster in the history of Polar exploration. Two well-stocked ships, 129 men and the hopes of the Empire disappeared in the Arctic ice and were never seen again. The mystery has intrigued people for 170 years and there is now hope of solving the mystery following the discovery of the two lost ships high above the Arctic Circle. Michael charts the background to the disaster, pieces together the tragic events and discusses what the shipwrecks may reveal.

Michael is an authority on Polar exploration whose nine books have sold over 250,000 copies worldwide. He has appeared in TV and radio documentaries and lectured at many prestigious venues, including: The Queen's Gallery Buckingham Palace, Royal Geographical Society, National Maritime Museum, National Museum of Ireland, Princess Grace Memorial Library Monaco, the Royal Scottish Geographical Society and Scott Polar Research Institute Cambridge. Michael has appeared at many literary festivals and is a former award-winning journalist with *The Guardian* and *The Observer*.

Doors open 7.15pm for 7.30pm start. A donation of £5 is suggested which includes this fascinating talk and refreshments.

Antics from a Smallholding - Escapees and Escapades

It doesn't happen very often, but when it does we get a run of it. Sometimes something seems to have upset the status quo and we find a couple of pigs are in the wrong field and the chickens are out. No knowing what goes on in our absence! And yes pigs do fly – two gilts were found in the pen of our new arrived boar a few years back. He was supposed to be in quarantine having just arrived, and yes, all the gates were shut!?

David was busy sowing seeds in the poly-tunnel and heard snuffling noises at the entrance. We have rabbits now and there is evidence that the badgers are around quite a bit, but when David turned to see what it was he didn't know who was more surprised – him or the little piglet! The piglet was poking his head round the doorway in a nosey sort of way and was just as startled to see David. He quickly turned and legged it back to Mum. He had squeezed under the fence and had ventured a paddock and a yard away and into the vegetable area! Having reinforced the pen with metal stakes to stop the fence being lifted this didn't seem to have much effect when I came to feed the animals the next day. A piglet was in the yard having a chat to his cousins – so I worked out which farrowing pen he'd come from, banged in some more stakes and replaced a wooden panelthe next visit I caught a piglet squeezing under the fence back into the run, very reminiscent of Peter Rabbit under the gate – leaving his jacket behind. Not a hint of guilt he just wanted to be back in time for tea!

Pringle (Mum) had now been over 9 weeks with her litter and I am sure she was 'stir crazy' as she was responsible for easing up the fence. It was as though she was trying to send her children out to play and away from under her feet. Pigs have powerful neck muscle and there is nothing they can't push up with their noses – even a hurdle with someone standing on it! Obviously time to wean them so I took Pringle off to the field where her sister was. Pringle was even trying to out-run me, as we ran through the paddock past the nursery pens and through Gerry and Dotty's field to the top gate. She seemed to know exactly where she was headed.

I went back to secure the farrowing pen fence again: the piglets could not escape now that Mum was not there to lift the fence. Could you believe the next morning, I found Pringle back in the farrowing pen with her piglets!!!

A Walk Up East Street in the Early 60s

Former Hunton resident, John Chaplin, continues his walk up East Street / Redwall lane in the 60s (the first part is in the December 2018 issue if you missed it).

Continuing on past Algie Day's, the road narrows with a passing place on the left, when we walked to school we felt safe there.

The first house on the left is I think where Roger Hubble lived who farmed Hunton Court Farm and also gave me my first "legal" job. A little further up on the right with a long drive was the house where the Headmistress of Hunton school lived, her granddaughter Angela Buckingham also lived there – she was the first pupil to pass the 11 plus from Hunton school, I was the first boy the following year. The next house was the vicarage. The police house was the next on the right, home of Bert Cavall and his family. Bert was a proper village copper, hard but fair and respected by all.

Hunton School

There were three classes when I was there, Infants, Juniors and Seniors. The children were split into 4 "houses" – can only remember Bensted & Amsbury. Our playground was on the Coxheath side of the school, with the old air raid shelters on the right hand side, which were used for storage; everything came out damp. On the left hand side were the toilets, which always froze up in winter. I remember one winter us boys made a slide down the playground on the ice, rushed out at milk break to resume our fun but the caretaker had melted it with salt (who remembers the 1/3 pint bottles of milk with the caps 1 inch above the bottle on a frozen milk stick?). We played all the playtime games: conkers, flicking cigarette cards, marbles and sometimes the girls got us skipping. There was a pot bellied stove as heating in the main classroom with a guard round where we hung our coats; when they were wet they steamed. There was a stand-alone kitchen that looked like a signalman's box where all our meals were prepped and cooked, I think there was also a kitchen garden.

To the junction of East Street, West Street, Lughorse lane and Hunton Hill

On the left was the main entrance drive to Hunton Court with cattle grids; the drive was very rarely used. From East Street the post office was opposite and to the right was the old forge, which was used for car repairs.

Back to Redwall Lane

At the junction of George Street there are some cottages, cannot remember the name. In one there lived a retired council worker; his hand cart laid in the hedge for many years till us boys got it out to use it to transport rubbish for the 5th Nov. Most nights he used to walk down to the Bull for his pint of bitter and half ounce of Hearts of Oak tobacco, he always sat in the same place at the bar. Here's a photo of him sat at the bar, with my father, Jack Chaplin, behind the bar (he will be 97 next month).

Also living in the cottages were May Snashall and Alice Till (grandmother of my first proper girlfriend, Pam Till); May & Alice were also customers in the Bull. When my little sister Sally was born, Alice would take her out in her pram and would push her for miles. Will finish walk and reminisces soon.



Charity Quiz Night

A reminder of the quiz night being organized by Emma Dolman at the Village Hall on 16th March in aid of Spinal Research UK. Teams will be 6-8 people with tickets £12 per person, which includes a welcome drink on arrival. Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start. There will also be a raffle with multiple prizes worth up to £400, including the chance to win a luxury stay at a 4 star hotel. Contact Emma on 07840 332187 / 01622 820344 or email emmadolman@icloud.com for more information or to register your team.

Hunton Village Club

Opening Hours

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

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 our 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? Contact the club secretary Steve Jones at hwcc@btinternet.com.

Alan Bishop Memorial Concert

We are delighted to report that on Saturday 27th April at 7.30pm, the popular Relative Minors Orchestra will be giving a concert in Hunton Village Hall in memory of Alan Bishop. The concert will be a varied programme of jazz, classics and show medleys, so there should be something for everyone! Doors open at 7pm.

Admission is free so please bring your own food and drinks. There will be a retiring collection to cover the cost of the village hall hire. Alan was a huge contributor to village life and he is greatly missed by those who knew him; it is wonderful to see that his memory is being kept alive in an evening he would have enjoyed so much.

Events in 2019 – Save the Date!

Sat 20th April - Church and Churchyard Working Party
Mon 22nd April – Family Easter Treasure Trail Walk and Lunch
Sat 27th April – Village Club Film and Supper Night – The Pink Panther
Sat 8th June – Village Club Quiz Night
Sat 22nd June – Village Fete
Sat 13th July – Village Club Wine Tasting and Supper
Sat 7th September – Village Club Beer Festival

Further information on these events will appear in future editions of the Hunton Herald. Please note that, due to the size of the club, places are limited for the Film and Wine Tasting nights so priority will be given to club members. Contact lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com to reserve your place. For more information on the club contact the Chairman, Gil Robertson gilbert@breachfarm.com.

WI Meetings

Our speaker for the February meeting was the founder of Paracise, Sarah Goldsack who had set up a routine to suit herself after diagnosis of Muscular Dystrophy and a future in a wheelchair. Sarah had up until that time run aerobics sessions and dance sessions. She devised a routine that she could follow to music that would keep the joints supple and maintain muscle strength. Sarah walked in with the help of a caliper, which she just used to help her balance when walking. This was discarded when she took the floor to tell us that she was soon asked to expand her routine to take in classes, the popularity of which enabled her to run out a franchise from Scotland to Cornwall, currently 80 classes. More recently she has been asked for help in setting up groups in North America and Belgium.

It was then our turn. We all found ourselves moving to the music, including a routine based on Strictly! This was very well received by the members and we feel sure she will see some members joining the group that meets at the Farleigh WI hall on Thursday evenings.

The next meeting is 5th March at the village club, starting at 7.30pm, and our speaker will tell us "The Ups and Downs of a Wedding Photographer". New members always welcome to this friendly group, why not come along and join us and avoid cooking the pancakes?

A Weed is Just a Plant in the Wrong Place

On days when the weather permits and you have time to work in your garden, you may find self set seedlings and even larger plants that you do not want. Some may be the sort of plants no one wants – nettles for example, but before you dispose of them please consider if they could be welcome in someone else's garden. If so, please pot them up so they will be a good size to donate to the Plant & Produce Stand at Hunton Fete on Saturday 22nd June. When you are planting seeds or taking cuttings please add a few extras as every plant sold by the stand, and those sold after the event from Lesley & Roger's garden, help raise funds for our village projects. Contact lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com if you would like a supply of pots – we have plenty of different sizes. If you will be away when the Fete takes place and will have plants to donate please email Lesley so you can arrange a mutually convenient time for them to be delivered.

At St Mary's Church in March

Flowers		Services			
3rd March – Sue Scott No flowers in Lent.		Sunday 3rd March 9.30am Holy Communion – Rev David Jones Sunday 17th March 9.30am Family Service – Rev Peter Callway			
Other services in the Benefice					
March	3 rd	10 th	17 th	24 th	31 st
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	10.30 Benefice Service with the Bishop of Tonbridge
Linton	09.30 FS	09.30 HC	08.00 HC	09.30 MP	
W. Farleigh	08.00 HC	09.30 MP		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 March, please