



Next Editors: Wendy and Iain Simmons: herald@hunton.org.uk

Jack's Challenge for The Butale Project

Dominic Bowers and his son Jack, aged 10 and a pupil at Hunton School, are supporting a small UK based charity, The Butale Project, to help support the infrastructure and quality of life in Butale, a small Ugandan village.

The Butale Project was set up in November 2011 to work alongside the local community to improve the educational provision by offering resources and teacher training, to build schools and associated facilities, to fund feeding programmes for children attending schools, to provide access to clean water, either through water harvesting or bore holes, and to encourage and teach good health practices. Jack has sponsored a 10-year-old boy, Aloysius, in the village and has raised funds 3 years ago from a 'sponsored silence'. All money raised went straight to repairing 3 wells in the village.

Dominic and Jack are travelling to Butale in the Easter holidays to help others from the UK with construction projects within the village. As you will imagine, Jack is really excited about learning more about his friend and his life in Uganda. Specific projects lined up will be to rebuild Aloysius' house and help support the school and community.

Dominic and Jack would like to raise money to help with this and all the money they raise will be spent directly on the house or school.

To help raise funds, Jack has decided to do a sponsored homemade event over the next month called a Marathon Triathlon which will involve him swimming 26 lengths of a 25m pool, running at least a mile a day for 26 days and then biking 26 miles to complete the challenge. He has completed his swim and is half way through his running. So far he has excelled in this challenge, even when time or the weather have been against him he has not missed a day! He has been greatly encouraged by the donations he receives and knowing he is doing this for a good cause.

Any further donations would be greatly appreciated and can be given at:

<https://www.totalgiving.co.uk/mypage/jacksmarathontriathlon#>

Herald: A New Era!

Our thanks go out to all who submitted articles for this edition of the Herald, and to Helen for her excellent guidance notes, which have made everything fairly straightforward to pick up. Although she will be missed for the quality and energy of her contribution, at least we can carry on!

Going forward, the Editors of the next month's edition will be listed on the top of the front page of the previous edition. We hope that the new editorial team will continue to receive the same level of support that we have been fortunate enough to enjoy since the Herald started over sixteen years ago.

James and Andrea Forster.

Huntones 9th Anniversary Concert

We are delighted to report that the Huntones will be holding a 9th anniversary concert at St Mary's Church, on Saturday 18th May from 7.30pm. Tickets will cost £6 (to include a glass of wine) and are available both from Sue Pinks (01622 820709) and on the door. All proceeds raised will go towards the Friends of St Mary's, who have done so much to support the maintenance of the fabric of the church.

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 - 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	*not available on Fridays; **not available on Mondays or Tuesdays	
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 Helen Ward	820810
		Cllr Tony Stanbridge	820721
		Cllr Gary Thomas	820691

Diary Dates					
Sat 6th April	Village Spring Clean	Village Hall Car Park 10am	Sun 7th April	Village Walk & Lunch	Village Club 10.50am (walk) 12.30pm (lunch)
Sat 20th April	Church and Churchyard Working Party	Churchyard from 9am	Mon 22nd April	Family Easter Treasure Trail Walk and Lunch	Village Club 11.30am
Sat 27th April	Alan Bishop Memorial Concert	Village Hall 7.30pm	Sat 4th May	Film Night and Supper	Village Club 6.30pm
Mon 20th May	Annual Village Meeting	Village Hall 7pm			

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

On 1st April, many of you may be planning to be mischievous and play pranks on your friends and family.

There is surprisingly little known about the origins of April Fools' Day. Some have argued that a story told by early English poet Geoffrey Chaucer in the 14th century - where a fox plays a prank on a rooster (who is almost eaten because of it) - is the first reference to pranks taking place on the first of April. The poet doesn't actually directly refer to April 1st though. In the poem, he says 32 days "syn March began", which people have said is "32 days since March began" which would be April 1st.

Some believe the tradition started because of events in the calendar. Renewal festivals date back to Roman times. These were a celebration at the start of a new year or season, when things went a bit topsy turvy. Servants could control masters or children could control their parents. There is another calendar theory about when people started celebrating new year at the beginning of January, instead of the end of March. Those who continued to celebrate it at the end of March, rather than on 1st January like we do today, were considered to be fools and had jokes played on them.

In some parts of Europe, an April Fools' prank is to stick a fish to someone's back. It is actually known as April Fish Day in some areas of Europe. So it appears we don't actually know for sure where April Fools' Day officially started. But one thing's for sure - people have been playing jokes on April 1st for a very long time. It all seems a bit unsophisticated for the modern generation.

You couldn't say that, though, about probably the most famous April Fool's effort of all time. In the 1960's BBC TV broadcast a feature on the spaghetti farms of Italy. Italian farmers explained their work and the progress of the spaghetti plants was carefully filmed, from planting to reaping. And all in the BBC's most serious documentary manner.

St. Paul writes in his letter to the Corinthian church that we are to be "fools for Christ". Worldly wisdom is turned upside down by the message of the gospel, and he writes "for the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight" and "the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."

So this April, maybe we could ponder the foolishness of the message of the cross – life offered to all through the death of one.

Many Blessings and Happy Easter.

Peter Callway, Rector

A Friend for Life

Someone once said that if you rear a lamb you have a friend for life, and so it was with Polly. Polly is named after the vet who saved her. We first met her when she had become stuck, half delivered by her Mother and in that state was rushed to the vet. Her poor Mum, it transpired, had an abnormality in the uterus that meant she was unable to deliver her and sadly had to be put down. By pure chance the vet decided to do a post mortem caesarian and, to everyone's surprise, the half delivered little lamb had a beating heart. The vet's assistant dashed off with her and returned with the lamb wrapped in a towel having already drunk half a bottle of colostrum! And so it was that our life with Polly began.

Polly stayed in our conservatory in those early days, when we were too anxious to leave her in a pen in the barn on her own and trying to bottle feed her seemed really difficult. I don't know whether it was her or us, but suddenly we all got the hang of it and she guzzled on bottles like no tomorrow. Our next challenge was trying not to wake her while mixing up her milk first thing in the mornings, or the incessant bleating would begin, as she couldn't get to the bottle fast enough!

Eventually the time came to take her to the field; she was a sheep after all and needed to be with the other lambs. To start with we would bring her home for the night and feed her in the field during the day. She would come for her bottle while I sat on the bale of straw in the field; the other lambs were very intrigued. It was really hard leaving her in the field for the day, probably not unlike leaving a child at nursery for the first time. She would bleat and make a desperate attempt to get through the gate, trying to push her little head through the bars. My heart was torn as I tried not to look back, but once I did, I would find she was already playing with the other lambs.

Sometimes she is a sheep with the rest of the flock, but a lot of the time she still comes gamboling up, with her distinctive swing of the head as she runs, to be petted; if I am crouched down filling a trough, she often comes and rests her head on my shoulder, something she also does with her friends in the field.

Sue Heaton

Hunton WI Learn the Ups and Downs of Being a Wedding Photographer

The Speaker for the March WI meeting was John Yarrow who spoke about his experiences as a Wedding Photographer. John had always had an interest in photography, from the age of 13 taking a simple camera with him on bike tours with his father to becoming a Scenes of Crime Officer in the police. He began photographing weddings of fellow police officers and relatives and when he retired from the police set up his own studio in Rochester. At this point a wedding photographer would use roll film and take around 100 pictures, in marked contrast to the 1,500-2,000 digital photos taken today.

John recounted tales of incidents at various weddings during his career which included 'borrowing' a neighbours' garden for photos as it was prettier than the bride's, competing with a BBC 'fly on the wall' film team that threatened to hijack one wedding, and a number of 'wardrobe malfunctions'. He particularly enjoyed the challenge of organising the group photos, which could be a nightmare with time constraints, but could also be a lot of fun.

The next WI ladies meeting will be held on Tuesday 2nd April at Hunton Club, when the Speaker will be Simon Ginnawand; his topic is "Kent's Wild Year".

Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start, coffee and cake included and the bar will be available. New ladies are very welcome.

Arsenic and Old Lace

For those that attended the Gardening Club meeting recently and heard Scott Raffle talk, you may be interested to know his other life is in amateur dramatics! He, with the Willington Players, will be performing a production of 'Arsenic and Old Lace' by Joseph Kesselring at the Hazlitt theatre from 30th April – 4th May.

Scott fund raises for Cancer Research UK and the tickets sold for Tuesday night will go to support this charity. If you would like to attend the Tuesday performance Scott is happy to organize tickets directly with you. His email is scott.raffle@btinternet.com, or alternatively book by contacting the Box Office for any other night on 01622 758611.

Sue Heaton

Hunton Club Film Night - Apologies for a Change of Date.

The date for the Film Night advertised in the March edition clashed with the Alan Bishop memorial concert at the village hall. As some people will want to attend both events, we have changed the date of the film night to May 4th. We hope that you will still be able to come.

We will follow the same format as last time which will be a friendly supper followed by the film, The Pink Panther, a bar for members and guests and as much popcorn as you want! The last one was a great success and we hope to make it a regular feature. Any ideas for future films would be much appreciated.

We are asking for a donation of £7.50 for the evening. Club doors open at 6.30pm. Do bring family and friends but please either email lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com or phone Bridget on 01622 820059 to let us know if you plan to attend and if you have any dietary needs, also if you are willing to cook something for the supper.

Collection of Used Stamps for Charity

You may recall that at Hunton Village Club we have been collecting stamps for the Hearing Dogs for the Deaf Charity. Unfortunately we have learned that this charity is no longer collecting used stamps.

However, this does not mean that used stamps need to go to waste. Those stamps that have been donated for the above charity have now been passed on to the registered charity, Kicks Count. This charity empowers Mums-to-be with knowledge and confidence. So if you wish to help Kicks Count please deliver any stamps you collect either to the Village Club or to Val and Frank at 20 Forest Hill, Maidstone ME15 6UX. Email: kickscountstamprecycling@gmail.com / www.kickscount.org.uk

Please don't worry about trimming and sorting the stamps too much, Kicks Count have a team of trimmers ready and waiting. But if you should want to, then avoiding any damage to the stamp itself, cut away any excess paper leaving approximately 1cm around the stamp. Unfortunately, stamps that have been crossed through with pen are unable to be used in aid of this charity.

Thanks to all those who did support Hearing Dogs for the Deaf and keep those stamps coming to the Club for Kicks Count!

Tricia Nichols

Village Spring Clean

It is proposed to hold the first litter pick of 2019 on 6 April. We will meet, as usual, at 10 a.m. at the Village Hall Car Park to collect the equipment needed for this. We have a very dedicated team of volunteers, most of who have been giving up their time for many years. Litter dropping is very frustrating especially as it is generated from traffic passing through Hunton and, worse still, fly tipping which if tipped on private land where it is not the Council's responsibility. The picture below was the total collection from the last litter pick. It is very satisfying to see the end product of a couple of hours work.

If you would like to join the team would you please ring Di or Nigel on 01622 820115 by March 29th.



Village Walk & Lunch: Sunday 7th April

A circular walk of about 1 ½ hours starting at the Club at 11am will be followed by lunch from about 12.30pm. A £6 donation will be requested for lunch – more is always welcome as funds raised go towards Club projects. Come and join the walk, the lunch or, even better, both!

Do bring family & friends but, if you hope to attend, please email lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com to let her know and do say if you or anyone in your party has food allergies. These are very sociable events so do join us to meet new people and catch up with villagers you have not seen for ages.

If you aim to walk please be at the Club by 10.50am so the walk can leave promptly at 11am.

Quiz Night in The Village Hall

Congratulations to Emma Dolman and Sam for organising and hosting a terrific Quiz Night on 16th March, to raise money for Spinal Research. We are delighted to report that the event was enjoyed by 85 people, raising a total of £1,968.58 from ticket sales, a raffle and the bar!!!

Emma says: "The charity means a lot to me and to have raised this much in one evening is incredible. Thank you to everyone who attended and has donated so far, it was great to see so many people from Hunton at the Quiz night. Overall the evening was a huge success!"

In addition to this, Emma and Sam will be running in the London Marathon in April for the same charity. If anyone would like to sponsor them, you can do this through 'Emma and Sam's London Marathon 2019' on the Virgin Money Giving website.

Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

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

Results from Thursday Village Lunches

Thanks to the generous volunteers who made and donated soups, cakes and other items and to all those who attended the recent six Thursday Village Lunches held in Hunton Club. Over 200 meals were enjoyed and donations raised over £500 for both St Mary's Church and Hunton Club.

The next series of Thursday lunches will start on 31st October and run through November, with the final lunch being on Thursday 5th December. Meanwhile there will be other events in the Club including a Walk & Lunch on 7th April, a film night on 4th May and a Wine Tasting on 13th July.

Your Village Needs Your Help!

St Mary's Church and Churchyard Working Party: Saturday 20th April 9am to 12 noon.

This will be the first working party in 2019 to take place in and around St Mary's Church. Please try to spare an hour or more to join other volunteers so that the wide variety of jobs, both inside and outside the church, can be completed quickly. (It is for you to decide whether to tackle jobs inside or outside or a few of each!) There is some cleaning equipment in the church but please bring your own gardening kit. We usually pause for a coffee break so, if you hope to be there, let lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com know so she can take enough biscuits etc.

Lesley Lee

Hunton Village Club Family Easter Trail and Crafts.

Monday 22nd April 11.30 am

Crafts and Trail followed by a Jacket potato lunch from 12.30 Adults £6.00 Children £3.00. All Welcome so do come and join in the fun. Contact Helen Bellman (hdennison@gmail.com, 07961 203716, 01622 746103).

News From the Yalding Riverside PopUp Gallery

From the 30th March until 29th April our exhibitors are James Rowland (photography), Endel White and Andy Carpenter (abstract art) and Cherry Tewfik (potter), who will all be exhibiting a rich and varied amount of work. Susan Taft and Bonnie will also have jewellery for sale.

Other events throughout this exhibition include a 2D felting workshop with Catherine on Saturday, 6th April 10-1pm, 13th April is Art Club 2-5pm and 18th April is Craft Club 2-5pm. Our Vintage Tea afternoon will be on Saturday, 20th April during the Easter weekend. The following weekend of Saturday, 27th April will be a 'stacking ring' workshop with Jana 10-1pm. A busy month!

If you would like to join us for our art class, the first session is free then £2.50 thereafter. We meet for 10 weeks term time at Yalding Youth & Community Centre at Vicarage Road, Yalding.

If you are interested in any of these events please phone me, June Chapman, 01622 817324 or email me on chapman.june59@gmail.com, send me a message via facebook ([riversidepopupgallery](https://www.facebook.com/riversidepopupgallery)) or see our webpage on www.RIVERSIDEpopupGALLERY.com.

At St Mary's Church in April

	Services				
Flowers April: All helpers for Easter May: Di Martin	Sunday 7th April				
	9.30am - Family Service and APCM - Rev David Jones/Rev Peter Callway				
	Sunday 14th April				
	5.00pm – Palm Sunday Evensong - Rev Peter Callway				
	Thursday 18th April				
7.30pm - Maundy Thursday Service					
Friday 19th April (Good Friday)					
2.00pm – Reflective Hour					
Sunday 21st April (Easter Sunday)					
9.30am – Holy Communion - Rev David Jones					

Other services in the Benefice					
April	7 th	14 th	19 th	21 st	28 th
Coxheath	11.00 HC	11.00 FS	All Age Service	11.00 HC	11.00 FS and APCM
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 MP & APCM		11.00 HC	09.30 HC

HC Holy Communion, MP Morning Prayer, FS Family Service, APCM Annual Parochial Church Meeting

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