



Next Editors: Christina Harrison & Angela Baptie: herald@hunton.org.uk
All items for the next edition of the Herald to the Editors by 15th February

Call For Sites

A number of residents attended a consultation on Saturday at the Village Club. At this Parish Councillors explained that two sites in Hunton had been offered for development for the Maidstone Borough Plan: Durrants Farm for 80 houses and land on Heath Road for housing or a caravan site at the top of Hunton Hill (most of this site is in West Farleigh Parish).

MBC has been offered sites for 60000 houses of which the requirement is about 8000. The next stage is for MBC to review which sites it requires to fulfil the perceived need for housing. MBC will use a set of criteria to ascertain, for instance, sustainability and environmental issues.

Parish councillors will be meeting a planning officer from MBC at the end of January to ascertain what criteria will be used and how this will affect the sites offered in Hunton.

David Heaton, Hunton PC

Village Hall Kitchen Update

The Village Hall Kitchen re vamp is all in hand and should be taking place during the half term week in February. We are sure you will appreciate the new kitchen when you see it. The amount raised from our success in applying for the Calor Rural Community Fund and the extra from Crowd funding, gave us enough to start the ball rolling for a new cooker and subsequently, we have found enough funding for a new kitchen!!! Thank you to everyone who contributed to the crowdfunding to raise the extra money - which unbeknown to us when we started, suddenly opened a door to an extra £200 from Calor Gas to support what we had raised!! - What a journey it has been so far.

We do hope that you will enjoy the new kitchen with the up to date "clean lines" and with all the new equipment - new cooker, extractor fan, under counter freezer and a microwave.

We know that whatever is done will invite praise and criticism, but we hope will have more of the first and less of the second!

New Year WI Meeting

The January WI meeting was a social event, but the February meeting is a talk by Hunton WI member, Wendy Sharpe, about life on her small holding in Lughorse Lane, which is home to a variety of different animals. WI meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at Hunton Village Club, doors open at 7pm. For a 7.30pm. start. New ladies are very welcome, the bar is available although coffee and cake are included. The next WI open meeting, where non-members are also welcome, will be held on 21st April/ Tony Harris will give a talk entitled "Titanic – the ship which never sank".

Your Local Contacts:

School: Secretary/Head Teacher	820360	Village Hall Booking:	www.huntonvillagehall.co.uk
Under 5's Pre-School:	820309	Huntonwatch: huntonwatch@gmail.com	820403
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 - Martin Chivers	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: Jeff Young	746541
Village Club: Gil Robertson	820059	WI President: Ann Sawtell	820731
Maidstone Police	690690 or 101	*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 Clerk: Sharon Goodwin - 681238, huntonpc@googlegmail.com	Chairman: David Heaton - 820678, dhhuntonpc@gmail.com
Clr Jonny Goddard – 820096, jonny@cheveneyfarm.co.uk	Clr Roger Lee - 820210, rlhuntonpc@btinternet.com
Clr Tony Stanbridge - 820721, tshuntonpc@gmail.com	Clr Annette Trought - 820448, annette@trought.com
Clr Helen Ward - 820810, hwhuntonpc@wardy.org	Clr Gary Thomas - 820691, gthuntonpc@gmail.com

Diary Dates

Sunday 1st March **Visiting Pastor from Estonia** at a special Benefice Service at Coxheath
Sunday 29th March **The Churches in Maidstone under "Waypoint Maidstone" Easter Play**, Lockmeadow Riverside
Thursday April 9th – Saturday April 11th **Hunton Pantomime**, Peter Pan
Check out www.hunton.org.uk/diary for the latest events. If you would like to add an event, email diary@hunton.org.uk

A New Era?

Dear Friends

Did it happen? Or will it happen? As I write this letter there are 21 days to go and then we will know! Will it be any different or will everything remain the same until the new deadline? We seem to have been living with uncertainty for so long that the thought the deadline has arrived and passed comes as a surprise. Uncertainty is unnerving for some, for others it is a time of excitement. Like most things in life what is good for one person is perhaps less so for another. Then life can be like that and we seldom see things in the same light. It's what makes us different that can at times make life either exciting or challenging. When faced with difficulties we long for routine to return. At times we seem to have a routine life, the family keep well, employment is regular, or health means we forget the name of the doctor or perhaps in today's NHS system cannot recognise our doctor. At other times life is so hectic, the family are a problem in some way or another, unemployment looms and our health is such that the diary is filled with appointments. What do you prefer? Do I hear 'something of both but less of the problems of life? Perhaps you want certainty or at least some measure of constancy where not everything seems to be changing all at the same time.

One thing is certain and that is Easter is approaching and this year it is bang in the middle of its allowed variation. Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent actually begins in the last week of this month, on 26th February. Lent, historically a period of 40 days in preparation for the great celebration of Easter on Sunday April 12th, gives us the opportunity to perhaps 'stop' and look at our lives and what drives them; to consider again the fact that we live in God's world and perhaps when we seek Him then the way forward in our lives might be clearer and we will see routine and uncertainty within the context of the rich pattern of life we actually can enjoy.

Have a productive Lent in 2020,

Yours, David

Village Hall Car Park Gate

Parishioners will probably have noticed that the car park now has a security gate in place. Once signs have been put up and the keys sorted out for interested groups, it is planned to lock the gate overnight from 7pm in the winter and 8pm in the summer, unless events are taking place.

The PC took this decision with some regret, but the criminal damage caused last summer during attempted break-ins and reports of possible criminal activity in the car park has forced the PC to act.

Pedestrian access will not be compromised, and it is hoped that disruption will be kept to a minimum.

David Heaton, Hunton PC

Church Flower Arrangers

I would like to thank all those who kindly gave up time to help decorate the church last year. If there is anyone who would like to join us on the monthly flower rota or could help decorate the church for the main Festivals at Easter, Harvest Festival or Christmas do please contact me. You do not have to be a professional, all abilities very welcome. If flower arranging is not your thing, perhaps you would consider donating towards the cost of Easter lilies in memory of a loved one. sue@cheveneyfarm.co.uk or 820369

The White House Petanque Club



Open Afternoon



All are welcome, so please do come along and join us, and have a go at the fun game of petanque



Saturday 29th February 12.30-4.30pm

Hot drinks provided @ the Piste. Other drinks may be purchased from the pub



The White House

Heath Road Hilltop West Farleigh ME150QN

The White House Petanque Club

The Club was formed in 1993 and over the years has grown through members coming from clubs that have folded and from other folk wishing to join in with the social aspects of the club.

The Club is always happy to welcome new members, from beginners to the more experienced. It thrives as much on the social approach as it does on the more competitive aspects of the league.

The White House currently has four teams playing in the Kent Pétanque Summer League and has some 36 members registered with the English Pétanque Association. The Club also has a series of Sunday Fun Days through the summer at which our Associate Members, numbering around 18, join in the fun. Most of the Fun Days are also open to family and friends.

The White House runs its own Invitation Winter League to which a selected number of Maidstone Area Pub Clubs are invited. This competition is run very much on a social level but a little needle doesn't go amiss!

We do hope that you are able to join us in experiencing the game of petanque.

Peter Pan flies again

The popular Hunton Pantomime will take place in the village hall from Thursday April 9th to Saturday April 11th. There will be a matinee on Saturday afternoon as well as the evening performance. Save the dates in your diary. Tickets will go on sale in March, so when they do, get in soon as they go very quickly and we don't want anyone to miss out on the journey to Neverland. Further details will be in the March issue of the Hunton Herald.

In the Eye of the Storm

It was a few years ago when we were in the barn, worrying over Lucky the sow and her 2 day old piglets. Something wasn't quite right, Lucky seemed to want to be outside abandoning her very young litter and they weren't scampering around as they should. It all felt wrong.

Suddenly the sky turned black (though it was still only late afternoon) and we found ourselves in the eye of a mini tornado. It was terrifying. We could hear and see the roof of the barn being torn above us. In a few minutes it was all over and there was complete calm: Bishops Lane's power cable was wrenched from its pole and our barn roof was 70 meters away in the field behind us.

We realised that Lucky had sensed something which we had no idea was coming and it spelt disaster for her litter, especially as we hadn't realised her milk had stopped and with it all maternal instinct for her piglets. It is nigh on impossible to rear such young piglets; they feed as much as every half an hour or more in the first few days and Lucky abandoning them and treading on them was horrendous to watch. We rescued what we could, trying to keep them warm, but it was difficult to feed them and keep them alive.

One survived who we named 'Piglet'. She was really hard work for a couple of days and nights. She was in a box in our conservatory with a heat lamp and with us up most of the next few nights, as we struggled to get her to take any milk from the bottle. I ended up wearing most of the sweet sticky pig formula and wondered how she could be surviving on so little. Eventually I gave up with the bottle and she learned to take milk from a bowl, lapping it up like a cat and pummeling my hand, as she would have done on mum to help bring the milk down. Once we got the hang of it she progressed to the chicken house out on the patio, until we bought a little saddleback boy pig we called 'Hoglet' to keep her company and moved her into the barn. He was already weaned, and we needed him to show her how to eat hard food. She had no concept at all that what I kept trying to thrust at her was food.

Piglet and Hoglet seemed so tiny in those early days scampering in the spacious farrowing pen. They became firm friends. Even as Piglet got bigger, she always rubbed her nose on the trough before having a drink.



Easter Play Sunday 29th March

The churches in Maidstone, under the banner "Waypoint Maidstone" will be putting on an Easter Play, which will be performed on Sunday, 29th March at Lockmeadow Riverside, 11am and 3pm. Rehearsals and other preparations are well underway and there are many opportunities for us all to get involved - to be part of the cast, to volunteer and to give financially.

More details on the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/WaypointMaidstone/> and a promotional video on YouTube at https://youtu.be/2ajn_1I3Yi0

Many thanks, Peter

Snowdrops – the start of spring!

Snowdrops traditionally herald the coming of spring and end of winter. They have been seen as a symbol of purity and hope for a very long time. There are more than 2,500 varieties of snowdrop which vary in height from 7cm to 30cm and are divided into approximately 20 species.

The snowdrop's Greek name is 'Galanthus', which translates as 'milk flower'. It has been known over the years by several different names and was officially named the Galanthus in 1753 by the Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus. Snowdrops became fashionable in the Victorian era but, due to it being known under several different names, no one knows for sure, when they were first introduced to the UK. For many Victorians however a single snowdrop signified death and they considered it bad luck to bring one into the home which could be, in part, due to the bulb of a snowdrop being highly poisonous if eaten.

The first records of plants in the wild date from 1778 – but botanist John Gerard is said to have described the snowdrop in his writings from 1597.

Snowdrops are one of the first flowers to appear in the New Year and, in the northern hemisphere, can be seen appearing as early as January. They usually flower between the months of January and April.

The snowdrop flower has several meanings; the most common are: Purity, Hope, Rebirth, Consolation or Sympathy.

Hans Christian Andersen wrote a story, entitled 'The Snowdrop', based on the fate of a snowdrop and in a poem of the same name, poet Walter de la Mare likened the flower to the Holy Trinity; he also used the snowdrop illustration throughout his poetry.

We are lucky in Hunton to have two snowdrops named for our village (the Hunton Herald and the Hunton Giant). These appear with a variety of other snowdrops in our churchyard and in various gardens and fields; may they all mean a rapid onset of spring!



*No snowdrop yet its small head nods,
In winds of winter drear;
No lark at casement in the sky
Sings matins shrill and clear;
Yet in this frozen mirk the Dawn
Breathes, Spring is here!*

Walter de la Mare

Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

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

East Farleigh Farmer's Market

The February Farmers' Market will be held on Sunday 2nd from 10am to 1pm. They will be hosting TWO new stalls:

BESTT Biscuits: gourmet dog biscuits made from local, sustainable ingredients which aims to help people reduce their pets carbon paw print! <http://www.besttbiscuits.co.uk/> and Pendlewick Candles: Hand crafted candles and room diffusers for your home. Whitepeake silver jewellery will be back, as will most of our regular stalls, apart from Communigrow and Hedgerows and Hellebores who have no produce until later in the Spring!

Please come along and support your local market, save food miles and get a warm welcome whatever the weather!

Garden Jobs this month

Start 'chitting' early potatoes in a light frost-free place, like a conservatory.

Cover rhubarb plants if you want early tender stems with a large plant pot or forcing pot.

Plant bare root trees, hedging plants and fruit bushes.

Start some early seed sowing, particularly hardy annuals such as sweet peas and vegetables like peas and Salads if growing them under cover

Perhaps more fitting...Rainy day jobs for the garden

Sort out old seed packets and get organized with the seeds you want to sow this year. Make a point of keeping them in the fridge in an airtight container such as a tin or old ice cream carton, to increase their longevity.

Browse the catalogues and order plants and seeds

Clean up gardening tools, the greenhouse and potting sheds. Get tools sharpened. If you have an expensive pair of secateurs it is well worth getting them serviced. Burton McCall (01162 344 646) will service felco secateurs for £25.00 per pair which includes return postage, any replacement nuts, bolts, springs, handles, blades, etc. and VAT. Pretty good value as they come back like new!

Why Renew Your Village Club Membership?

The new Club year commenced on 1st January, which means the membership renewal subscription, (£15 if paid before the end of February) is now due.

The Club holds a 'Premises Licence', which allows for the sale of alcohol to Club members for consumption by the member and guests. It is not like a pub licence where there is an individual named licensee who is allowed to sell alcohol to the public during regulated licencing hours. So we have to operate as a Members' Club, at least in so far as the sale of alcohol is concerned. Other activities have no such restrictions or membership requirements. People have asked what benefits a membership brings save for being allowed to purchase a drink? First thoughts bring little else to mind. A member may hire the club for a private function (assuming there are volunteers available) at a comparatively competitive low cost to some other venues. We have already held a christening party this year for more than 50 invitees. The Club's bar prices are also below that of other local establishments.

However, the real benefit is to the community as a whole. The combined total of the membership subscriptions is a reasonable sum, which goes toward maintaining the Club for the benefit of the Village community. So please do renew your subscription or join the Club so that we can continue to help maintain this important village asset.

The memorial service for Mrs. Holt-Goldsmith will take place at 2pm on Thursday 13th February at St. Mary's Church, Hunton.

Visiting Pastor

We will be hosting Urmas Karileet, the pastor of the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church in Käsmu and Narva parishes for a visit to Rochester Diocese along with several other pastors from the EELC from February 25th to March 4th. We will be holding a special Benefice Service on Sunday March 1st at Coxheath at which we will learn much about Estonia, the church there and hopefully hear Urmas preach for us. Please book the date – more information as it becomes available.

Peter Callway

At St Mary's Church in February

Flowers	Services
February 2nd and 16th - Moira Ensell. Ash Wednesday 26th. No flowers in Lent.	Sunday 2nd February 09.30am – Holy Communion Service Sunday 16th February 09.30am – Family Service Please note the Ash Wednesday service is on Wednesday 26th February

Other services in the Benefice					
February	2nd The Presentation	9 th 3 before Lent	16th 2 before Lent	23 rd Sunday before Lent	Other Services/events
Coxheath	11.00 HC	11.00 MP	11.00 HC	11.00 FS	Every Thursday 10am HC
E. Farleigh	09.30 MP	08.00 HC	09.30 HC	08.00 HC	First Tuesday of the month Compline 6.45pm
Linton	09.30 FS	09.30 HC	08.00 HC	09.30 MP (Matins)	Last Wednesday of the month HC 12 noon
W. Farleigh	08.00 HC	09.30 MP	No service	09.30 HC	

HC Holy Communion, MP Morning Prayer, FS Family Service

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