



Next Editors: Liz Oliver & Graham Dolman: herald@hunton.org.uk
All items for the next edition of the Herald to the Editors by 15th January

Chainhurst Egg Factory Update

The Planning Application for this large (192,000 hens) 'free-range' chicken farm on Tipples' farmland in Chainhurst (just over the River Beult bridge) was put in to Maidstone Borough Council in early December, and Plans/Documents can be viewed on line on the Council Planning Portal, by using application number 20/505751 in the 'search' box on the planning pages. There is a lot of detail posted there by the Applicant (37 Documents) and the local residents have set up their own webpage (www.WeLoveChainhurst.co.uk) where you can see and make various comments on the effects the proposed development may have on the local environment and the Beult SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest).

Interested neighbours and footpath users can also help them crowd-fund their own Expert Reports, should there be a need to counter any technical findings on the effects of open range chickens on the adjacent SSSI and ancient woodland on the site, plus other aspects such as noise/air/light pollution or traffic concerns, as well as footpath diversions into land where the river floods regularly. There also appears to be fauna species of county importance on the site: turtle doves and nightingales, plus several colonies of protected great crested newts. Due to the way that Tipples farmed the site as a High Level Environmental Stewardship location for decades, there are also grassland fields of County importance and equally important wildlife corridors connecting ancient woodland and priority habitats.

The project has already hit not just local news and Councillor interest but also garnered an article in the Mail on Sunday in early December, and is attracting interest from wider afield, like national Angling Societies and Wildlife & Landscape Trusts. Any member of the public, not just Chainhurst and Hunton residents, can make personal comments (positive, negative or mixed) on line to MBC planners about the proposed development, which would be being constructed from mid-2021 to late-2022. Those comments currently need to be made by the middle of January, although that timing may change.

Mike Summersgill, Pond & Tree Warden

Ed: MBC Planning have now set a deadline for comments on this complex and controversial plan of only 16th January 2021 while reserving 50 days to themselves to respond. Also, does anyone know why substantial electrical cables have already been laid to the prospective site? Could MBC have given the developer assurances ahead of the formal approval process or is this unconnected?

Christmas at Hunton School

At the time of writing this article, the children of Hunton CE Primary School are eagerly anticipating Christmas and festivities are underway! While Christmas is a special time for Hunton, the school are trying to uphold as many of its Christmas traditions as it can in a Covid safe manner.

We plan to record both a Reception class Nativity and a Key Stage 1 Christmas dance production and upload these for parents to watch. Additionally, Rev. Peter Callway is facilitating a Christingle Service for both Key Stage 2 classes via Zoom.

Additionally, the school will participate in their annual Christmas dinner and Christmas jumper day and have class Christmas parties before the end of term- including a virtual 'Zoom' visit from Father Christmas!

Your Local Contacts:		Village Hall Booking:	www.huntonvillagehall.co.uk
School: Secretary/Head Teacher	820360	Huntonwatch: huntonwatch@gmail.com	07907 019996
Under 5's Pre-School:	820309	'Potholes' Hotline (KCC)	03000 418181
Pond and Tree Warden: Mike Summersgill	820429	Community Warden: Adam McKinley	07811 271021
Rector: Revd. Peter Callway	747570*	PCSO - Paul Vasey	101
Hon Associate Rector: Revd. David Jones	741474*	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	
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@googlemail.com	Chairman: David Heaton - 820678, dhhuntonpc@gmail.com
Cllr Jonny Goddard - 820096, jonny@cheveneyfarm.co.uk	Cllr Roger Lee - 820210, rlhuntonpc@btinternet.com
Cllr Tony Stanbridge - 820721, tshuntonpc@gmail.com	Cllr Annette Trought - 820448, annette@trought.com
Cllr Helen Ward - 820810, hwhuntonpc@wardy.org	Cllr Gary Thomas - 820691, gt1huntonpc@gmail.com

Diary Dates
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

'The Repair Shop' is a popular TV program where experts restore items that are precious to their owners. Amazing things happen in the hands of these masters of their trades; leather work; upholstery; jewellery; woodwork; metalwork; ceramics; paintings; clocks; you name it and they will fix it. The BBC says the show is an 'antidote to throwaway culture.'

As we begin a New Year what are we looking forward to being restored?

Restoration of health for all who are ill, either with Covid-19, other illnesses or with mental health issues.

Restoration of an economy so burdened with debt.

Restoration of jobs for those who have lost them this year along with thousands of others.

Restoration of life as we know it!

We have just celebrated the coming to earth of God's son, Jesus, as a baby. When he began his ministry as an adult he quoted Isaiah, an Old Testament prophet, by saying, "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour" (Luke 4:18).

Can you imagine being blind and having your sight restored? These words of Jesus aren't just words, he actually did restore sight to blind people (Mark 8:22 and Matthew 9:29, for instance). He also restored a man's shrivelled hand (Luke 6:6) and restored to health many who were brought to him (e.g. Matthew 4:24).

However, the best restoration that Jesus did was to restore our relationship with God by dying for us; for all the things we have thought or done which are wrong. All these are forgiven when we confess our faults to God in Jesus' name, and at the beginning of a New Year there is no better time.

Wishing you all a blessed New Year as we travel with the God whose ability to restore us through Jesus is beyond our understanding ... but thank goodness He did because, just as the items in The Repair Shop, we are precious to Him!

Blessings, Sue Elliott – Pastoral Assistant

Happy New Year!

Eighteen years ago the first edition of the Hunton Herald (January 2003) had articles about barn dances, a nightclub adventure in Harrietsham for a 70 year-old resident and prospective village fetes and summer horse shows ... what a difference 2020 has made!

Looking back through past Heralds shows us also how sadly some things don't change – early 2003 saw the setting up of Huntonwatch in response to rising levels of rural crime, East Street was flooded and there was canoeing in Bishops Lane, there were suggestions we stop paying our council tax until the appalling state of the roads was addressed and later articles talked about the unacceptable number of HGVs in the village (if only they could see what we face now)!

Back to March 2020 when a decision was made to keep the Herald going through the pandemic as a useful communication tool, notwithstanding the lack of events to report on. We are so grateful to the editorial teams and the stalwart and creative contributors who have kept the Herald so full of articles that can inform and entertain us.

Each month different editors have put their own stamp on their Herald and this has been great to see with contributions ranging from the comic to the poetic, at times disseminating information of serious public interest and on other occasions helping to establish much needed support networks in these troubled times.

A big thank you to all involved.

We will soon be starting our third round of the editorial rota system under which a team of two editors works on the next month's Herald. If you or anyone you know would be interested in joining the editorial team, or if you have any thoughts or suggestions on what should appear in the Herald do please let us know by getting in touch with James and Andrea Forster (forsters.hunton@btinternet.com).

Hunton School Headteacher

Since April 2020, Mr Paul Ryan -also headteacher at St. Margret's Collier Street - has been Associate Headteacher of Hunton CE Primary School. It has been incredibly tough for all schools during these past months with so many challenges and barriers faced. The school are extremely grateful to Mr Ryan for helping Hunton School through these challenging times and for guiding all stakeholders associated with the school to ensure a safe learning environment. On behalf of the Hunton school community, a huge heartfelt thank you to Mr Ryan for all that he has done.

From January 2021, the school warmly welcomes Anita Makey, as she becomes the new substantive Headteacher of Hunton. Staff, governors, parents and children are very much looking forward to working with Mrs Makey and wish her every success in her new role.

Lost and Found

Have you lost a silver metal necklace and St Christopher? If you have, please contact the Editors and we will arrange for its return to you.

Clockhouse Traffic – Residents’ Survey

We are very grateful for the residents who took the trouble to respond to our Traffic Survey in October, and we are able to give you some positive feedback (and hopefully some more news next month). As you may recall, the Parish Council did not feel they could take any specific action with Clockhouse about what was considered a noise, time and frequency nuisance from their farm vehicles, and have noted in the Minutes of their September meeting “...that the residents are noticing the vehicles more now this year, as they are working from home more; it is nothing new.”

We decided to carry out our own Survey, and got responses back from almost 100 residents on the four affected roads, of which 11 adults (5 households) considered that there was no nuisance or any change to their perceptions of the traffic. Almost 90% of the responses did feel there were several issues for residents to comment upon.

To summarise the findings (which were sent to Clockhouse Farm Ltd):

- A substantial majority say frequency of traffic has tripled, but many also just think it has doubled.
- The same majority believe the noise increase is ‘significant’ and ‘some tractors noisier than others’.
- A majority say they are affected from dawn-dusk, with some reporting pre-dawn disturbance.
- Slightly more say it is tractors and buses they notice, rather than just tractors towing trailers.
- A majority noted an increase in full-size Worker Buses this year, especially on Redwall Lane and East Street.
- Some road safety issues were recorded, mostly speeding (17); not giving way (8); driver on Phone (8).

When we contacted a Director at Clockhouse during the Survey in October, to advise why it was underway, we received the following response very quickly: “...we have been endeavouring to find a solution to the problem over the past few months. This has taken collaboration between us, Haynes Agricultural and New Holland at an international level. Our aim being to try to replace the ‘more noisy’ tractors that are currently in 3 year HP contracts with quieter ones...”, which was a positive acknowledgement of a ‘new’ problem in 2020 that the Company had recognised. We were also made aware, during the Survey, that several residents had made representations to Clockhouse and the PC from May onwards, so thanks also to those who provided those communication records.

With additional residents now wishing to get involved, we sent a positive note to Clockhouse asking about progress with their tractor leasing discussions and further explaining the statistical findings of our survey. We received back a similarly amicable reply, agreeing to share their own statistics on traffic movements but (more importantly) asking some of us to attend an outdoors demonstration of a replacement tractor option in Coxheath before Xmas. They would then aim to present a ‘solution’ to concerned residents in the New Year that should mitigate some of the problems that many residents, and it transpires Clockhouse, had found during 2020.

Happy New Year, hopefully... Mike, Liz, Celia & Stephen. (Email: loose_engineers@btinternet.com)

Ed: We understand that the Parish Council will reply to some of the points raised in the next issue of the Hunton Herald.

Further Information on Bishops Field

Last month’s Herald reported plans to plant trees in Bishops Field. This month we can provide a little more information and attach a map showing broadly how this planting will be arranged.

The overall planting area will be 17.64 ha (43.5 acres) with the remainder being open ground for rides and glades amounting to approximately 20% of total area 4.36ha (10 acres).

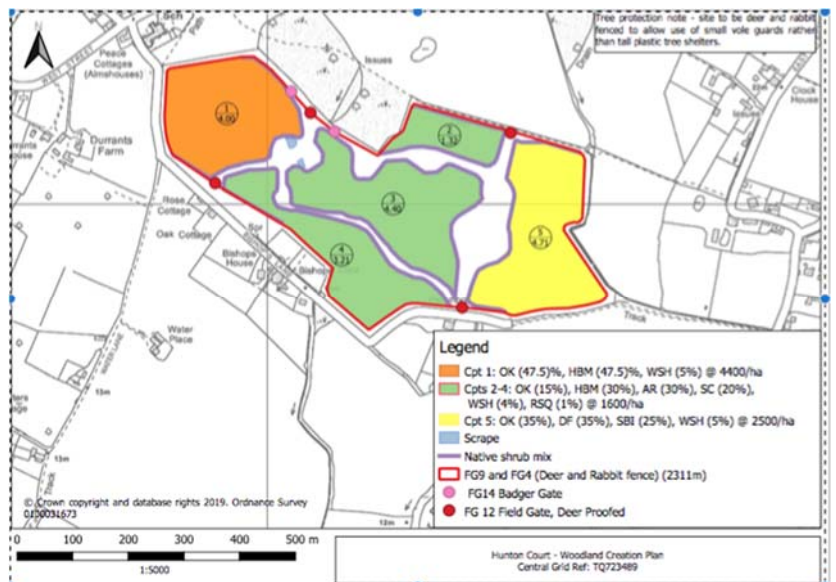
Cpt1 (left hand block) - Oak, Hornbeam & native shrubs on ride edges at tight spacing for timber production;

Cpt 2-4 (three middle blocks) - Oak, Hornbeam, Alder, Sweet Chestnut, native shrubs on ride edges & low % coastal redwood landscape trees at wider spacing for amenity; and

Cpt 5 (right hand block) - Oak, Douglas Fir, Silver Birch & native shrubs on ride edges at tight spacing for timber production.

Tree guards used are small clear spirals 60cm tall with bamboo canes. These are to both demarcate trees for maintenance purposes and to deter vole populations from nibbling the trees at their root collar, which is a real issue on agricultural pastures of this type. Once trees are established, expected to be approximately year 5, they will be removed and disposed of off-site.

We hope everyone will agree that this plan is a very welcome use of land and that the information provided helps to reassure those most directly effected that the planting will be done sensitively.



Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

The Village Club is currently closed until further notice

Tales From The Science Lab – Part 7

I hope that by the time you read this item you will have eaten the majority of your festive food. You will see why later. I have mentioned before that as a scientist I had to constantly make sure that I evaluated the findings of my analyses on their merits, not be led by any pre-conceived notions as to what the answer might be and not to ignore any evidence – however irrelevant or inconvenient it might be. I think, in my professional life, I managed that quite well. In my private life, however, I frequently failed miserably. It is a bit like the professional painter/decorator who does a splendid job for his customers but lives in a messy home that hasn't seen a lick of paint for years. We have all come across people like that I am sure.

Perhaps the incident that demonstrates the point best involves weekly trips during the late '60s from the laboratory in Waterloo across Waterloo Bridge to buy chips from the chip shop underneath the arches of Charing Cross station. I thought that these were the best chips I had ever tasted although the shop looked a bit dirty and there was always a bit of a funny smell in the general vicinity. The chips were, according to the sign outside "fried in the best beef fat" and I put the unique taste of the chips down to that fact. Others told tales of finding 'unusual' items in their bags of chips and from time to time I had found bits of what looked like potato peelings, but undeterred I went back time and time again for another helping. On reflection, I had ignored the evidence, or explained it away in my mind somehow, still convinced that I had found a great chip shop, until one Friday in late October!

I had picked up a copy of the Evening Standard on the way over the bridge and my eyes were drawn to a headline which read "cockroach infestation closes chippy" and underneath were two photographs – the first showed the frontage of the shop I was heading for and the second showed cockroaches crawling over the solidified fat in the fryers! Having read the article in full I turned back and bought a cheese sandwich instead. At least now I have a pretty good idea of what the 'unusual' items in the bags were and why the chips had such a unique taste!

Professor Plum

Mary's Memorial

On Wednesday 25th November, it was the first anniversary of the sudden and immensely sad passing of Mrs Mary Holt-



Goldsmith (Hunton's School Business Manager). A collective worship was held to understand the importance of remembrance, after which the children each planted a bulb outside the main entrance. We are looking forward to these flowering in the spring, as a way of remembering Mary.



Throughout the day, the children also wrote prayers and messages to Mary, which were hung on a tree in our collective worship area.

At St Mary's Church in January 2021

Sunday 3rd January - 9.30am – Holy Communion
 Sunday 17th January - 9.30am – Family Service

Other Services in the Benefice

January	3 rd	10 th	17 th	24 th	31 st
Coxheath (Zoom)	10.30 HC		10.30 HC		
E. Farleigh			9.30am HC	08.00 HC	
Linton		08.00 HC		09.30 MP & HC	
W. Farleigh		09.30 MP & HC			

HC Holy Communion, MP Morning Prayer, FS Family Service

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