



Policeman spearheads safety drive

Hunton residents and community leaders have welcomed the new parish policeman while expressing the hope that he will make the village a safer environment combating any threats of vandalism and anti-social behaviour - said to be escalating nationally.

PC Gary Shaw took up his duties in the spring covering the five parishes of the two Farleighs, Linton and Coxheath as well as Hunton. His predecessor Bryan Hillman, who has moved to Headcorn, did a great job but had a much wider area to cover. Gary can be contacted on 01622 608127 or by email to gary.shaw@kent.pnn.police.uk

First to praise PC Shaw was parish council chairman Roger Sawtell who said: "He quickly made his presence known which was noticed and commented on by several people. Early on he was getting around the area and visiting key figures."

The officer, with 25 years' experience in the force in the Maidstone and West Malling area, has been keeping a watch on the village hall car park, a popular meeting area for youngsters. "They told me they came from places like Coxheath, Ditton and Paddock Wood because they like it here! But as far as I could see they were not causing any damage," said PC Shaw adding that he had received reports of the car park being used as a 'race track' despite the special bumps to deter this activity. He will keep a close eye on matters.

In reply to Cr Gary Thomas he said the accident and incident figures for the area's roads could be obtained.

Judy Vicary of Bensted Close has complained about the state of the road at the foot of Hunton Hill and reported being forced into a pothole as she pulled into her nearside to avoid an oncoming articulated lorry.

The incident resulted in a £176 bill for a new wheel and tyre to replace the damaged ones. She is claiming this amount from Maidstone Borough and threatens to take the council to the Small Claims Court if she is not reimbursed. "Had a motor cycle hit the same hole there would have been injury or worse."

The deteriorating condition of East Street and Water Lane and its junction with West Street were also noted.

May Fayre a resounding success New gymnastics equipment for Hunton School is finally being installed after an early hiccup. The P.E. bars could not go up until the problem of where to drill had been resolved. Kent Fire Brigade were called in and used thermal imaging equipment to locate the under floor heating pipes. They duly marked them up and now the work can go ahead, much to the excitement of the children. The Wild West themed May Fayre went down a storm this year, raising a massive £1,733.45 profit; a big thank you to everybody who contributed equipment and time and helped make the day such a success. The brass band played in the sunshine and the children entertained the crowds with line dancing and tap, secretly learnt at after-school clubs. Twenty-two much needed benches were purchased with part of the profits.

Would you like to serve the village? After the resignation of Liz Oliver there is a vacancy on Hunton Parish Council for which applications are invited from village residents. The seven-strong council meets six times a year and is the most local level of local government, trying to make sure the Borough and County Councils don't forget the village. Currently it is involved in pressing for speed limit reductions and road improvements. As part of a wider scheme it is seeking to have a footway installed at the upper end of West Street while supporting a new charity being set up to manage the Playing Fields. Those who may have a few hours to spare each month and would like to work for the community, should contact the chairman, Roger Sawtell (820731) or clerk David Swan (814445). Anyone who is not sure should ring anyway - without obligation - for further details.

Your Local Contacts:

Parish Council Chairman: Roger Sawtell	820731	Clerk to Parish Council: David Swan	814445
School: Secretary/Head Teacher	820360	Village Hall Booking: Jackie Crooks	820226
Under 5's Pre-School:	820309	Under-5s Playgroup:	741951
Maidstone Police:	608186	Pre-School Supervisor: Pippa Fordham	746829
Pond and Tree Warden: Anne Bishop	820683	Neighbourhood Watch:	608173
Associate Rector: Revd Ruth Bierbaum	743866**	'Potholes' concern (MBC): Adrian Hygate	0845 824 7800
also: Revd David Jones	741474**	Churchwarden: Alison Ellman-Brown	820288
Hon PCC Secretary: Nicky Grainger	813527	Joy McLoughlin	820551
Rectory:	747570	Organist: Philip Moore	749356

**not available on Fridays

Dates for Diaries:

2nd July Straight Eight Summer Concert (820551)

31st July Hunton East v West Street Annual Cricket Match (820628)

6th August and 24th September rubbish freighter 7.45am to 8.45am in the Hall car park.

All items for the August issue to the Editor as soon as possible, and by 15th July, please

When breaking a leg becomes an eye-opener! 19 Westerhill Road, Coxheath, ME17 4DQ

I write to you this month, with a leg in plaster and a note from the doctor commanding that I be "off-sick" for at least six weeks.

My problems started when I forgot that I am no longer seven years old. I was playing a chase game called "Cat and Mouse" at a children's club. As the mouse I was about to be caught, and as I tried to sit down quickly, my ankle went snap underneath me.

Even though I was a nurse, and often visit people who are housebound, I hadn't appreciated what it is like to be held captive by a disability. Suddenly I am all too aware of my weakness and the fragility of life. Independence, health and choice can be snatched away in the blink of an eye, and I see how vulnerable we can become, physically, mentally and indeed spiritually.

From being, (as I saw it) very independent, now it seems that the quality of my life is very dependent on others. And I am so grateful because so many of you have been caring for me, one way or another, whether physically, mentally or spiritually. Thank you.

So it is from you that I think God is teaching me (and maybe all of us) something very important. Something right under our noses, which we often try to negate, and in doing so short change ourselves and others.

To be fully human, means being part of a community.

To try to be a fully rounded "individual" is almost a contradiction in terms, because as independent individuals we are not acknowledging who we are.

We are brought into this world in vulnerability, dependent on others, and often leave it the same way. At other times we will be the ones able to assist others.

In reality, the times of giving and taking overlap as we share our different strengths and weaknesses with each other in love. And in love, together becoming a living breathing body of people, existing with unity, building each other up to reach our potentials.

In the church we have recently celebrated Trinity Sunday, remembering that even within God there is community: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Yet in our culture we have largely forgotten God and consequently largely forgotten the importance of community, and find ourselves scrambling around in the dark, trying to work out a purpose for our existence.

Know this then, that this God of community, calls you to be fully human, to share your strengths and your weaknesses with others; to offer what you are (not what you would like to be) to your friends and family, neighbours, village, colleagues and even the world wide community.

Ruth Bierbaum

Liz praised for work over 16 years

Parish councillor Liz Oliver, stepping down after 16 years' loyal service, has been thanked by chairman Roger Sawtell for the great deal of work she has achieved for the village in that time.

Members agreed that her input, not only to meetings but also to circulated work would be missed. "She was first on the list when the council's 'diplomatic' bag was sent round and her comments were always interesting - sometimes critical and sometimes amusing," said Mr Sawtell.

Liz lives at Elm Corner Farmhouse running an Anglo-French accommodation business. Fortunately she is continuing as village Kent Messenger correspondent.

Others who worked for the village and were thanked by the chairman included Borough Councillors Adrian Brindle, Brian Mortimer and John Williams who regularly attend parish meetings and take up important issues; and County Cllr Eric Hotson who has been succeeded in this area by Paulina Stockell.

Mr Sawtell also thanked all who gave their time in the sports clubs, the school, the Church Council and, like Anne Bishop, in serving the village environment. "The quality of social activity including the use of the Hall for musical performances is excellent and particular thanks are due to Alan Bishop and the Hall Committee without whose hard work the village would be a much poorer place."

Thanks to Borough Councillors' financial help, steps had been taken to refurbish the play equipment and an application made for a grant to set up dog-proof fencing and suitable seating. The Chairman had also obtained a comprehensive wish list for new equipment from the playgroup.

The Chairman commented that events in Hunton are probably better reported now than ever before thanks to all the volunteers who organise, prepare and distribute the Hunton Herald and to the regular supply of information provided for the Kent Messenger and Downs Mail.

Cllr Paulina Stockell reported Highway management had now moved back to KCC and the new arrangements would include a 24-hour reporting service and 20 lengthsman teams to carry out minor repairs across the county. Senior officers would be pleased to come to Parish Council meetings and she would gladly follow up any points of difficulty.

Anyone requiring information on the Kent Highway Services or with a query or complaint over any matters from potholes to road drainage and signs to lighting can call **08458 247 800** or log on to **www.kent.gov.uk/highways**.

Sports clubs get Playing Field security

A new committee has been formed to look after the King George V Playing Field, Hunton. The Field is a charity dating back to the 1920s when the land was donated to the Parish.

Bowls, Cricket and Football clubs have since been set up on the site but until recently none had security of tenure or any say in the running of the eight-acre facility, also including well-used children's play equipment. With the advice of the Charity Commission and the National Playing Fields Association the Committee has been set up with representatives from all three Clubs, the Parish Hall and the Parish Council.

Parish councillor and football club officer Keith Eatwell, the first Chairman, is concerned to see the maintenance and improvement of the sports and leisure facilities on the site and feels the new arrangements should improve access to funding - the security the Clubs now have will make it easier for them to bid for grant aid from their individual sports authorities. The needs of the Field will also have proper weight when village priorities are decided. Cleaning and Health and Safety will be early priorities when the new Committee meets every two months. Hall chairman Alan Bishop feels the challenge to the Committee will be to work for the benefit of all.

Search for secretary The new Committee needs a Secretary to take the Minutes and write letters. Internet access might be helpful and save time. No financial work will be involved. The job is expected to take not more than an hour a week on average, so this post might appeal to anyone with a little time to spare, who would like to make a direct contribution to village life. For more information please ring Keith Eatwell on 745569 or David Swan, Parish Clerk on 814445.

Clubs want bowlers, batters and kickers

Hunton's football and cricket teams have a high-scoring reputation in the district and at the end of the season are usually well placed. But both clubs would welcome more people from the village taking part.

Football Club spokesman Keith Eatwell reports that last season membership rose from 58 to 67 in the club's 105th year, with the village's Premiership team ending among the leaders while the Reserves won their final game to avoid relegation from the First Division.

"We are envied by a lot of football clubs in the area for our facilities at the King George V playing fields and get a lot of requests from clubs wanting to use our pitch," said Mr Eatwell adding that welcome sponsorship was provided by David Savage of the Hunton crane company.

"But we are always looking for local people, especially the youngsters, to get involved and join the teams while also needing support at committee level," said Keith, a parish councillor who has been heavily involved in arranging a new management structure for the playing fields.

For the cricket club Mark Day reports that two Saturday and one Sunday team are playing while there is an increasing number of friendly games on Sundays for those who don't want to play at the "serious level" of league cricket. "These matches are also useful for encouraging the youngsters and like the football club we would always welcome greater participation from Hunton people. We are looking for young and old alike - the numbers from the village seem to be dwindling," said Mark adding that with just 35 playing members difficulties can be experienced in fielding teams. For the record, last season the Saturday first team came seventh out of 16; and the second team fifth out of eight, while the Sunday side was third out of 12.

LETTER: *Let's all play a part in village clean up*

Summer had arrived and the Hunton Herald announced Blooms in June on Garden Safari. Wonderful time of the year and the village is looking at its best.

Driving home from Paddock Wood station during the week I noticed that the verges in West Street had been cut by the Council. They look neat and tidy but during the cutting process months of accumulated rubbish was churned up - crisp packets and Coke cans seem to be the main culprits. What can we do? Very little now, it seems. As a village, we used to have organised clean ups but they no longer seem an option.

The Parish Council holds the view that if anyone was injured or hurt in anyway during the rubbish collection process the Council could be sued. Seems utterly stupid to me, but that is a reflection of modern society.

The only thing we can do as individuals is to try and keep the village tidy where we each live. But make sure at the same time to be careful of the cars as they go flying past.

Ron Porter

Judy's Portuguese Eggs take some beating!

For the warm summer months Judy Vickery comes up with a Vegetarian recipe ideal for all food lovers.

PORTUGUESE EGGS (Serves 6)

1lb (450g) onions, sliced

A little olive oil

1lb (450g) tomatoes, sliced

5 hard-boiled eggs, sliced

4 hard-boiled eggs, halved

Fresh basil

Grated mature Cheddar cheese to cover dish

Cook the onions in oil until soft.

Then, in a flat ovenproof dish, layer the onions, tomatoes, sliced eggs and torn basil leaves: season well.

Place on the eggs' halves decoratively, top with the cheese and cook, 200C (400F, gas 6), for 25 minutes.

Serve with crusty bread

At St Mary's Church in July

Notices

Brass cleaning: Mrs Parnell & Mrs Link

Flowers: 3rd: Mrs Porter

10th & 17th: Mrs McLoughlin

24th: Mrs Bullivant

Church Family Service Coffee Rota (11am)

3rd July: the Leonard family

7th August: the McSweeney Family

Church Cleaning: Mr & Mrs John Scott

Sunday Club The July meeting was still being arranged as the Herald went to press. The school PTA was taking children camping in Birchington on the Sunday when the club usually meets and the weekends either side were already booked with other events, so the organisers were preparing to let the children know what other arrangements were to be made.

David Jones

Services

Sunday 3rd - 6th Sunday after Trinity -

Thomas the Apostle

11.00am Church Family Service

Rev'd D Jones

Reading: Psalm **145**:8-15

Sunday 10th - 7th Sunday after Trinity

9.15am Holy Communion (1662)

Rev'd D Jones

Readings: Isaiah **55**:10-13 Matthew **13**:1-9, 18-23

Sunday 17th - 8th Sunday after Trinity

11.00am Morning Prayer *Mrs E Doyle & Diana Greenfield*

Readings: Isaiah **44**: 6-8 Matthew **13**: 24-30, 36-43

OPEN COLLECTION FOR CHURCH MISSION SOCIETY

Sunday 24th - 9th Sunday after Trinity

9.15am Holy Communion (CW)

Rev'd R Bierbaum

Readings: 1 Kings **3**:5-12 Matthew **13**:31-33, 44-52

Sunday 31st - 10th Sunday after Trinity

10.30am Benefice Holy Communion at Coxheath

Kenward Trust Open Day

Christian charity Kenward Trust is a residential rehabilitation project with 19 rooms, at Boons Park, Toys Hill, near Westerham, Kent. It offers professional recovery programmes for people suffering from drug and alcohol misuse and homelessness problems, has an Open Day on Saturday, July 16th at 2pm

Visit by Night Club Chaplain to St Mary's

Diana Greenfield, the Night Club Chaplain in Maidstone will be speaking at the Morning Service on Sunday July 17th.

Gardens opening again in 2007

St Mary's Church was among the village organisations to have benefited from the successful Gardens Open Safari day (see flysheet) with church cards being sold throughout the afternoon.

A de-briefing meeting has been held and it has been suggested the venture should be repeated in 2007. This year's total takings have now been added up and came to £1406 with 272 tickets sold for the 14 open gardens.

More than 60 people helped out on the day and organiser Christine McSweeney has thanked them for looking after car parks and gardens, baking cakes and scones, selling teas and plants and helping with the organisation.

Quotes from happy visitors included: "Probably the best village gardens open day I have been to"; "a lovely range of gardens"; "it was nice to see the children so involved"; "refreshments and plant sales looked fantastic"; and "will it be longer next time?"

<i>July</i>	<i>3rd</i>	<i>10th</i>	<i>17th</i>	<i>24th</i>	<i>31st</i>
Coxheath	11.00 HC	9.15 MP	11.00 HC	11.00 CFS	Benefice Service of Holy Communion at 10.30am at Coxheath
E. Farleigh	9.15 HC	8.00 HC 10.30 MP	11.00 Parish Worship	8.00 HC 10.30 MP	
Linton	9.15 HC	8.00 HC 11.00 CFS	9.15 MP	9.15 HC	
W. Farleigh	8.00 HC 6.00 EA	11.00 CFS	9.15 HC	11.00 MP	

10am every Thursday—Holy Communion (1662) at Coxheath

HC: Holy Communion MP: Morning Prayer CFS: Church Family Service EA: Evening Alternative

For Weddings, Thanksgivings, and Baptisms, please contact Rev'd David Jones (741474)

Village Safari is a blooming success

Hunton came alive for the first Safari on the second Sunday of June when around 300 people walked the streets and drove around the circuit to visit the 14 Open Gardens, raising nearly £1,400 for village organisations.

Praising organiser Christine McSweeney and her team of helpers, one elderly resident said it reminded him of times between the two world wars when Saturday evenings were busy with people wandering up and down West Street to visit the Prince of Wales pub and the club!

Christine was pleased with the success and now there is a possibility that it could become an annual event - although it is too early to make a decision. Perhaps the event could be arranged over a longer period than the three hours allowing more time for people to pay their garden visits?



The gardens open included three at Barn Hill. As well as being lovingly nurtured over the years, situated on the warm south facing slope they have picturesque vistas of the surrounding countryside.

Lantern Cottage was transformed over 20 years from an old woodland to a garden full of hidden treasures; New Cottages offered teas and boasted rose and kitchen gardens, herbaceous borders and a pond; while Hillside was developed from a derelict site bounded by a 19th century wall, pond area and apple orchard.

Visitors to the village manor house of Hunton Court, home to former Prime Minister Henry Campbell-Bannerman, were able to wander the vast parkland while taking in the charming courtyard with its swimming pool and garden borders.

Four homes in the Square opened their gardens ranging from the well tended cottage style frontage to the informal garden based on a woodland theme reflecting the owner's interest in wildlife and organic gardening to the cottage garden with a watery theme (where wine was on sale for the day's fund-raising) to the simple garden of shrubs and lawns.

Grove Lodge has an elegant, simple garden with sculptured yew hedging and a collection of pots from around the world, while Southover is known to gardening enthusiasts from this country and abroad, where the emphasis is on encouraging wildlife and integrating with the surrounding countryside.



Wanderers were able to take a welcome refreshment break with strawberry cream teas at Rose Cottage where children were invited to buy sunflowers for entry into a competition.

Teas were also served at the organiser's home at Bishops Oast where the gardens have been developed over the last five years and are now boasting leylandii 'totems' and a potager vegetable patch.

Finally an idyllic low maintenance garden with water features was on display at Elphicks Farmhouse while the owners of Durrants Farmhouse have developed their garden over the last seven years with the aim of balancing the needs of a young family with the parents' love of plants and wildlife.