



THE PHOENIX RISES!

In the last two issues of the Herald the Village Club reported on its unhappy and dire position and its fight for survival. An Extraordinary General Meeting was held on Sunday 29th January when an encouragingly large number of members attended and were told exactly what the current debts and liabilities of the club were and how it was hoped its future could be saved. The Chairman, Treasurer and Committee collectively reported and requested that members consider in what ways they could help their club, both financially and by voluntarily giving practical help to run the club's day to day activities. The result was, as committee members commented, fantastic, as the support was virtually unanimous. Substantial sums of money were pledged to the club as gifts to help to solve current levels of debt, and importantly, longer-term loans promised to ensure the club could, with everybody's help, survive into the foreseeable future. Teams of people are now helping, some on almost a daily basis, to ensure the "wheels don't fall off"

The Chairman and Committee wish to thank all those members who have been so generous in their support for the Club. If you are not currently a member of the club or if you were unable to attend the meeting, then please consider if you can help in any way. It may be that you are actively involved in a committee, society, social or parent team within the village. Possibly your group could use the Club's facilities for your meetings or activities or would perhaps just like to become a member? Please contact Doug Redfarn on 820495 or any of the Committee members known to you.

Tour de France

Many of you will have seen on local and national media that the Tour de France will come to Kent on Sunday 8 July 2007. Iain Simmons, a Hunton resident, attended the official press launch. The best places for Hunton folk to view this extraordinary event are: at Teston for the second sprint or, at Goudhurst where the second hill climb of the day takes place.

Kentish wine from Chapel Down was used at the official launch. The sparkling wine is thoroughly recommended! Be prepared to sample local fare on the day, or even try selling some of your own. Over 2 Million people are predicted to watch the cycle racers on the day.

Brazil is Coming to Hunton

Book your tickets, put Saturday April 1st in your diary and welcome "Caratinga" to Hunton Village Hall at 8pm, a stunning blend of exhilarating Samba rhythms, lyrical melodies, delicate acoustic interplay and sparkling improvisation from six great musicians from both Brazil and the UK, who update Brazil's "choro" tradition.

As part of the Village Hall's "Applause Season" you are promised a night of sensational music and song from Brazil. A light supper will be provided and, as always, good beer and wine will be available.

Tickets are limited and are priced at £9 for adults and £6 for children. Call Alan on 01622 820683 / 820775 or Jackie on 01622 820226.

Your Local Contacts:

Parish Council Chairman: Roger Sawtell	820731	Village Club Doug Redfarn	820495
School: Secretary/Head Teacher	820360	Clerk to Parish Council: David Swan	814445
Under 5's Pre-School:	820309	Village Hall Booking: Jackie Crooks	820226
Maidstone Police:	608186	Under-5s Playgroup:	741951
Pond and Tree Warden: Anne Bishop	820683	Pre-School Supervisor: Pippa Fordham	746829
Rector: Revd Peter Walker	747570	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	815458	supported by Joy McLoughlin	820551
		Organist: Philip Moore	749356

*not available on Fridays

Dates for Diaries:

Council Freighter Visits. The next series of Maidstone Borough Council Freighter visits for heavy refuse will be:

Saturday 4th March, 07.45am to 08.45am Village Hall car park

Saturday 22nd April, 07.45am to 08.45am Village Hall car park.

Wednesday March 8th Hunton Parish Council 8pm Village Hall (Members of the public welcome to attend)

Saturday 1st April Caratinga, Village Hall, 8pm (820683/820775/820226)

All items for the April issue to the Editors as soon as possible, and by 15th March, please

Dear Friends

'Proclaiming the Faith Afresh'

Proclaiming the Faith Afresh was the theme of last month's Diocesan Conference at Bognor Regis. Over 500 delegates from across the Diocese of Rochester gathered to hear noted speakers, attend various workshops and enjoy some remarkably good food and entertainment!

The main speakers were Elaine Storkey often heard on Radio 4's 'Thought For The Day', Rev'd David Coffey, general secretary of the Baptist Union, Canon Gavin Ashenden, chaplain of Sussex University and the Rev'd Paul Bayes, the National Adviser on Evangelism and Mission.

The whole conference was geared towards having us make the unchanging Gospel: the Good News of Jesus, as fresh as the day it was first proclaimed in the coming of Jesus Christ; and to encourage and challenge us to be more confident in the ministry and mission to which we are called.

Highlights for me were the workshop on how to read the bible properly in church, with some very challenging and humorously led demonstrations by Lance Pierson.

In the final service every Parish in the Diocese was given a candle – you will have seen the candle alight on the alter. A very important part of the conference was meeting other clergy and lay-folk from the Diocese, and the bonding which took place. There should be more home grown events where such 'bonding' can be enabled, (a plug here for our 'Benefice United' meeting held each fortnight at the Coxheath centre).

On the last evening a variety show and pantomime was performed which included an hilarious rendition of 'Mud, Mud, Glorious Mud', by three archdeacons! And a violin performance by our very own Sue Elliott.

We left Bognor buoyed-up by an injection of Christian love and fellowship and a rekindling of our faith as we seek to proclaim it afresh in our parishes and the wider world.

Peter

Highway Mayhem for Hunton

The shock closure of West Street, the main route between Hunton and Yalding, left motorists annoyed and frustrated by the inconvenience and disruption to their daily drive in and out of the village.

Access Only signs were erected and the narrow country lane was restricted to single file traffic as the roadworks were carried out. The school bus was disrupted for a few days leaving the children at the bus stop with no information about what was happening and then ran the gamut of accessing the lane to get the youngsters to school.

A foot-wide channel was dug by the workmen from contractors McNicholls in conjunction with British Telecom to take new optic fibre cabling for the upgrading of the Broadband system supplying the village.

This fortnight-long work, started on Monday February 6th, caught many by surprise including the Parish Council which had not been notified; it was unaware that the council had received official notification and had not seen any notices in the Kent Messenger or Kent & Sussex Courier.

But the KCC highways authority has assured councillors that all statutory notices were displayed and the contractors carried out a letter drop to inform residents directly affected. "And we worked with the school bus and the service bus to ensure they received the necessary escort to get through the roadworks," said a county council spokesman.

"We received reports that a few drivers were ignoring the Access Only signs, which were then improved and the police informed to keep a watch and prevent motorists using West Street as a short cut.

The Herald was informed: "Some jokers caused consternation by turning the diversion sign around sending people along Bishops Lane. One resident was particularly upset as people had no alternative other than to turn around in their driveway. But perhaps some village people were pleased as it was the quietest fortnight on the main road through the village for many years!"

There's Still Time...We have had a good response to the questionnaire in last month's issue, but we would still like to hear from those of you who have yet to reply. If you do not have the form you can complete it on line at www.hunton.org.uk/herald. Your feedback on your newsletter is important to us. *Ed*

A Bridge Too Far?

The Public Rights of Way officer has been praised for his speedy action carrying out improvements to overcome the hazards of the Greensand Way footpath access onto Hunton Hill.

Parish councillor Gary Thomas reported that shortly after a site meeting to discuss the problems, new wooden posts and railings had been erected on the steep incline to the road.

"In the past this had proved dangerous for walkers descending onto the road with its fast flow of traffic," said Mr Thomas adding that overgrown bushes had also been cut back and a finger post direction sign erected.

Chairman Roger Sawtell felt that the answer might be for a bridge to be built across the Hill road and he had seen one locally that blended in well with the local landscape. But borough councillor Brian Mortimer quipped that this might be a "bridge too far!"

Letter to the Editor

Roland Day Writes:

Once again we read, in the February edition of the Hunton Herald, comments from Ron Porter.

I fully agree with most of his remarks but I am not so happy with his criticism of the Parish Council of which I was a member for 33 years. In that time we were occasionally criticised but there was also praise for our efforts. I must say too that there was never a queue of parishioners to be elected on to the council!

I agree that speeding vehicles and rubbish in various parts of our village need to be dealt with but the Police and the Environmental Health staff from the Borough Council must be praised for making arrests and bringing the offenders to court when they can. However all too often the Magistrates release them on bail or adjourn, or defer the cases.

I rather thought the bollards beside the King George V Playing Field helped to steady the speeding vehicles and prevent the hedge being pushed into the field. It would appear that those who threw them over the hedge thought they would be doing a better job there?

Finally, the recent Teston tragedy is very sad. The lady who died was well known and respected in the parish and I was very impressed by the wonderful tribute to her made by parishioners and others over the weekend.

Roland Day

Reading Group to Start at the Village Club

A small number of keen readers are starting a reading group at the village club. None of us have participated in a reading group before but are hoping to enjoy ourselves during evenings of discussion on books and general chat.

The idea is to meet monthly on a date to suit members and the introductory meeting will be held on Thursday 9th March at 8.00pm. Anyone interested in joining please ring Tricia on 820804 for more information.

Out & Out

Ready Veggie Go.

March is the month to really get started on growing vegetables. And growing vegetables is becoming more and more popular with people wanting to know what is going into the food they eat and longing for vegetables with a good home grown flavour. Living in Hunton I am more than tempted to grow vegetables due to the lack of shops offering a ready supply.

So far I have been successful with onions (from sets), cut and come again salad leaves and french beans, which are happier in hot summers than the more normally grown runner beans (and any way I like them better). This winter we have had Brussels sprouts from plants begged from a friend and planted to fill out a bed for the Open Gardens. They had no care over the summer at all so imagine my surprise when I lifted the leaves to discover a crop of the green nuggets that grace every Christmas dinner.

To learn more about growing vegetables look out for books by Joy Larkom or take a trip to the Yalding Organic Gardens. Perhaps the best way to learn though is to go out and buy a few packets of seeds and get some of your own practical experience. Alternatively, if you are already a vegetable expert do contact me at the Herald with your best tips for a healthy crop.

Christine McSweeney

Do you use Paddock Wood?

Your chance to have a say in the Action Plan

Paddock Wood is launching a review of the town to identify what the people who live, work and play in the Paddock Wood area feel would enhance and improve life in the community at large. The project is part of the Kent Small Rural Towns Programme run by the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA).

Four key topics are being addressed:

- a). Environment
- b). Economy
- c). Social and community provision
- d). Transport and accessibility.

A Committee has been formed of various people from Paddock Wood and district but more people are needed who care about the town and it's surrounding areas to join this exciting project.

If you are interested and would like to be involved please contact the Chairman of the Committee, Peter Nicholls. (01892 835773 or e-mail pesa@nichollspw1.wanadoo.co.uk). Please do not be afraid of the work commitment as it will not involve more than a few hours each month.

The project's formal launch is intended to take place at the Paddock Wood Day Centre in Commercial Road, on Wednesday 22nd March (5pm-7pm) and Saturday 25th March (11am - 2pm).

This and previous editions of the Hunton Herald are available online at www.hunton.org.uk/herald

At St Mary's Church in March

Notices

Brass cleaning: Lynda & David Twaite
Flowers: 1st March Ash Wednesday No Flowers
 LENT NO FLOWERS

Church Family Service Coffee Rota (11am)

5th March The St John Family
 26th March Jean Lamont
 Moira Ensoll

Church Cleaning Rota:

Jean Lamont
 Moira Ensoll

Hunton Sunday Club

The Sunday Club for all primary aged children, continues to meet on the 3rd Sunday afternoon of each month from 5.15 pm until 6.45 pm. On March 19th we will be meeting at Barn Hill Oast, Barn Hill. For details contact David Jones 01622 741474

Services

Sunday 5th – 1st Sunday of Lent

11am Church Family Service Revd Peter Walker
 Reading: Mark **1** v 9 – 15

Sunday 12th – 2nd Sunday of Lent

9.15am Holy Communion (1662) Revd R Bierbaum
 Readings: Genesis **17** v 1 – 7, 15 – 16; Mark **8** v 31 – 38

Sunday 19th – 3rd Sunday of Lent

11am Morning Prayer (1662)
 Miss C Bostock & Revd D Jones
 Readings: Exodus **20** v 1 –17; John **2** v 13 – 22

Sunday 26th – 4th Sunday of Lent

10am Mothering Sunday Service Revd D. Jones
 Readings: Exodus **2** v 1 – 10, 2 Corinthians **1** v 3 – 7,
 Luke **2** v 33 – 35

Details of the Lent Course in Hunton 2006

Ash Wednesday is Wednesday March 1st

7.30 pm Holy Communion Service at St Nicholas Church, Linton for all the Benefice

Mondays March 6th, 13th, 20th 27th and April 3rd Lent Course 2006

'Where is God.....?' each week we explore another aspect of this question looking at Where is God? ...when we seek happiness?, ...when we face suffering?,... when we make decisions? ...when we contemplate death? and finally ... when we try to make sense of life?

Each evening will be held in a home in Hunton commencing at 7.45 pm for a 8.00 pm start. The course uses a CD with Archbishop Rowan Williams, Patricia Routledge and Joel Edwards participating. For further details contact David Jones (741474) or the Rector (747570)

Two other courses are being held in the Benefice on Tuesday evenings during Lent, commencing on March 7th:

1) In Coxheath the course is **Tried, Tested and Triumphant**, looking at different aspects of the suffering of Jesus and how he dealt with them – related to our experience today.

2) In 'The Farleighs' **The Return of the Prodigal** – a story of homecoming.

Contact the Rector for details of both these courses (747570).

<i>March</i>	<i>5th</i>	<i>12th</i>	<i>19th</i>	<i>26th</i>
Coxheath	11.00 HC	9.15 MP	11.00 HC	10.30 Mothering Sunday Service
E. Farleigh	9.15 HC	8.00 HC 10.30 MP	11.00 Parish Worship	10.30 Mothering Sunday Service
Linton	9.15 HC	8.00 HC 11.00 CFS	9.15 HC	10.30 Mothering Sunday Service
W. Farleigh	8.00 HC	11.00 CFS	9.15 HC	11.00 Mothering Sunday Service
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 Revd David Jones (741474)