



Road Safety Improvements for Hunton

Great news for Hunton's road safety improvement campaigners with new Kent County Council traffic regulations to reduce the speed limit through the village from 40 to 30mph.

The lower limit will come into effect in West Street from just north of Bensted Close and 85 metres south-west of Grove Lane. Bensted Close will become 30mph, as will the 40mph section of Elphicks Farm Road (Bishops Lane).

Hunton is one of 10 villages affected in the Kent County Council (Various Road Speed Limits for the Borough of Maidstone) Consolidation Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police.

The other village order that will affect Hunton motorists travelling to Maidstone is in East Farleigh where the 40mph speed limit in Dean Street will be reduced to 30mph from its southern terminal point near Horse Shoe Farm to 25 metres north of Workhouse Lane.

An information pack of the traffic order proposals is available at the Highway Information Centre, Directorate of Strategic Planning, County Hall, Maidstone and at the Information Office, Town Hall, High Street, Maidstone, or contact Kent Highway Services (01622 798473).

Arthur Morris

Publican Arthur Morris, described by his regulars at the White House, Barn Hill, as a "caring person who would always go out of his way for anyone needing help," has died aged 69. The well attended funeral took place at West Farleigh church in mid-March.

Arthur, a keen member of the Maidstone Licensed Victuallers Association, came to the district from his native Wales to complete National Service in the late 1950s when he met Jan at local stables. Later the couple were married.

Arthur and his wife Jan were licensees for 36 years, running the One & Only in Maidstone before buying the freehouse on the Hunton parish border. During their time in the licensed trade, with the support of their generous customers, they raised close to £50,000 for worthy causes and charities.

"While at the White House we have developed successful teams for those playing the French game of petanque after laying pitches at the back of the pub as well as more traditional pub games like darts. The pub has also become a popular venue for local walkers," said Jan who has pleased regulars with her brave decision to carry on running the business.

Celebrity Chef Visits Hunton

TV celebrity chef Jean-Christophe Novelli has visited Hunton to cheer up Mrs Brenda Hellen whose 10-day holiday to Grenada with husband Ray was ruined when she tripped over her suitcase at the airport.

Hearing about the accident, in which she injured her shoulder, producers of ITV Channel 4's Richard & Judy show arranged for the French culinary maestro to "bring a little happiness" to the Hunton housewife.

Surprised when Jean-Christophe knocked on the door of her Bishops Lane home to cook her meal with 'tender loving care,' Brenda said: "In real life he is just as handsome as he looks on telly. Straight away he put me at ease and was charming. His visit certainly made me feel better."

With her arm still in a sling, Brenda was seen on screen helping the TV chef as he prepared a favourite Italian dish of lasagne with a difference - a French addition of Camembert cheese.

Then he sat down with the delighted Hunton resident to enjoy the candlelit meal with a couple of glasses of red wine - to the envy of her neighbours in the lane.

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
Pre-School Supervisor: Pippa Fordham	746829	Maidstone Police:	608186
Pond and Tree Warden: Anne Bishop	820683	Neighbourhood Watch:	608173
Rector: Revd Peter Walker	747570**	'Potholes' concern (KCC): Kim Hills	0845 824 7800
Associate Rector: Revd Ruth Bierbaum	743866*	Churchwarden: Alison Ellman-Brown	820288
also: Revd David Jones	741474*	Organist: Philip Moore	749356

*not available on Fridays **not available on Mondays

Dates for Diaries:

Sunday 15th April Local Artists Preview and Display, Village Club, 11.30am
 Saturday 21 April 10.00-12.00 Village Hall, Hunton Bowls Club coffee morning.
 Saturday 28th April, Race Night, Village Club, 8.00pm
 Sunday 20th May Hunton School May Fayre 11.30am-3.30pm
 Sunday 20th May, Yalding Relative Minors, Village Hall, Hunton 6pm 01622 820683/814444
 Thursday 24th May Parish Council Annual Meeting, Village Hall, 8pm

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

Are you a Conspiracy Theory Junkie?

If you are, then there is plenty of fodder around just now to feed your addiction. Current conspiracy theories offer the alternative reasons for the death of Diana, 9/11 and climate change, to name but three.

I wonder, though, whether a possible attraction of conspiracy theories lies in the abdication of responsibility they offer. For instance, if I refuse to believe scientists who say that global warming is a direct result of our carbon-burning lifestyles, then I will not have to worry about recycling or the size of my car.

In a similar vein, I wonder whether the endless conspiracy theories put forward about Jesus, the 1st century carpenter's son from Nazareth, are simply tactics to avoid the real issue.

There are speculations galore about a secret marriage between Jesus & Mary Magdalene; claims that they had children; questions about what his family thought of him; arguments about the role of Judas Iscariot in Jesus' journey to the Cross....and, of course that greatest question of all: whether after three days in the grave, he really did come alive again... (did you see the lively discussion on Richard and Judy recently, about the nature of Jesus' resurrection)?

As a firm believer that Jesus is well and truly alive today, I know that when you decide to put your faith in him, it costs everything... submitting to Jesus as Lord and King means a whole turn around in a person's thinking and living. It brings with it new responsibilities... but, because he *is* alive, that faith becomes a channel through which you will receive new life, in oh-so-many-ways. So that once you have him in your life, you cannot imagine life without him, and all the so called "costs" pale into insignificance.

So, whilst conspiracy theories might have their attraction this Easter, don't let them trick you into avoiding the real issue and missing out on the amazing new life that is on offer.

Yours in faith, Ruth

HUNTON CLUB BOOK GROUP FEBRUARY BOOK REVIEW

Year of Wonders by Geraldine Brooks

Spring 1666: when the Great Plague reaches the quiet Derbyshire village of Eyam, the villagers make an extraordinary decision. They elect to isolate themselves in a fateful quarantine. So begins the Year of Wonders, seen through the eyes of an eighteen year old as she confronts the loss of her family and the disintegration of her community. Based on a true story, this novel explores love and learning, fear and fanaticism and the struggles of seventeenth-century science and religion to interpret the world at the cusp of a modern era.

Most of us enjoyed the book finding the historical aspect interesting. We also thought it was well written with the author showing a nice style of writing. If there were any complaints there were just three: (1) the storyline became a little too repetitive; (2) the heroine was just slightly too good to be true and (3) the ending was a trifle hurried and unrealistic. Scores out of 10 ranged from 5 to 9 giving an average score of 7.

Our book for March is the Bookseller of Kabul by Asne Seierstad

Coffee Morning for the Bowls Club

The Hunton Bowls Club is holding a Coffee Morning on: **Saturday 21 April 10.00am-12.00pm at the Village Hall.** Drop in for coffee and cakes. There will be cakes for sale, a tombola, bring and buy and plants etc.

Hunton Parish Plan - Have your say

All Hunton parishioners are welcome to the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council in May when a way forward with the Parish Plan will be discussed. Make it a date in the diary: May 24th at the Village Hall at 8pm!

Starfish Malawi

Starfish Malawi is a Christian organisation seeking to make a difference to as many people as possible in Malawi.

Friends Malawi is the schools' arm which has linked up 100 schools in Kent, Sussex and Essex with schools in Malawi. Hunton School is one of these.

The next vision is to link villages in Kent with villages in Malawi so that individual needs can be identified and help can be directly given.

We went out to Malawi as a family last Easter and were privileged to meet some of the people of Malawi and to have the opportunity to see first hand how they live, to understand their village structure and to see their needs. (which are varied and many).

Malawi has been struck, like many African countries, by Aids and other illnesses that have left many orphans and single parent families who are not only looking after their own children but also the children of many other relatives who have died. We were struck strongly by how the villagers were willing to put themselves out for each other. In one instance some villagers would regularly work for free on some land owned by an orphanage so that the children had food to eat and were able to go to school instead of working the land themselves.

Hunton village has been asked to participate in the village linkup scheme. Would anyone be interested in joining a Hunton Starfish sub committee? (the aim of the committee being to visit our nominated village, to identify their needs and make a difference to their lives.). For more information please contact Jenny Taylor on 01622 820449 or look on the website. www.starfish-malawi.org.uk.

WANTED A COMMITTED PERSON!

Hunton Village Hall West Street

The Committee for Hunton Village Hall Charity are looking for a volunteer to be the Charity Secretary, just the minutes of the monthly meetings and occasional letters, and an active Committee Member. This would ideally suit a local person who would like to become more involved within the village and who may possess the skills to help with future entertainment ideas and organisation. Expenses will of course be reimbursed. Please contact Jackie Crooks on 01622 820226 or Alan Bishop on 820775/820683 if you feel you can help. Committee meetings are held at the Village Hall on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7.45pm where villagers and any interested parties are of course most welcome.

Local Artists Preview and Display

Talented local artists Mary Johns and Nicky Grainger will shortly be displaying a selection of their paintings in the Village Club. There will be a preview of their works on Sunday April 15th with doors opening at 11.30am. Coffee, tea and drinks will be available and it will be possible to purchase any items that "take your fancy". The pictures will be on display for some time after the Preview day so the club will be happy to welcome you on any evening other than Tuesdays, when the club is closed.

Back by Popular Demand!

Another exciting Race Night will be held at the Village Club on Saturday April 28th at 8.00pm. These have proved to be really popular evenings with members and friends alike. There is no entrance charge and well behaved children will be welcomed.

"Half a Ton" Celebrations

The Village Club will be celebrating its 50th year at its present location in West Street during May. There will be a special event on Saturday May 19th to mark this occasion so please keep the date free in your diary and watch out for full details posted in the Club, the KM Community News and the next issue of The Herald.

A Big Thank You

To all of the Committee and Members of the Village Club who have helped with the recent redecoration and improvements at the Club. It's certainly worth a visit!

Out and Out - The Heat is On

Two hot summers and recent hose pipe bans have got gardeners thinking how they can adapt to cope better with these challenges. There is plenty of good advice around involving organic matter, planting times, careful watering and saving water. All this advice will help the garden cope but here are some alternative tips to help you. Enjoy your garden in spring and early summer, aim for impact with bulbs which will retreat before the summer heat. Relish the simplicity of a perfectly trimmed evergreen hedge, welcome brown lawns, they don't need cutting, and turn a blind eye to crispy plants they'll probably regenerate with the autumn rains; if they don't replant with something that will. Avoid plants such as phlox and rudbeckia which wilt at the first sign of dryness, they only inspire guilt and don't show much gratitude for your efforts with a watering can.

I would love to hear how you coped over the last two summers, tips sent to the editor will get to me and could be printed. My last tip comes from Vita Sackville-West of Sissinghurst fame - don't stay in your garden over the summer - go on holiday!!

Flower Arranging

The flower arranging courses have been running very successfully for some months and everyone who comes along thoroughly enjoy themselves. Since Christmas we have been meeting every week in Hunton Village Hall working on a modern theme which will continue until the Easter Holidays.

After Easter we will be looking at Arrangements for "Celebrations" which may include ideas for Ruby Weddings, 21st Birthdays, Christenings and other special occasions.

Following the Easter School Holidays the course will revert to TUESDAY's, meeting in Hunton Village Hall at 1.00pm and finishing at 3.00pm.

Come along and join a very friendly group and learn a little more about flower arranging.

Start date Tuesday the 24th April. For more details, contact Jackie on 01622 753053.



Yalding's very own orchestra performs Songs from the Shows a charity concert at Hunton Village Hall West Street, Hunton on Sunday May 20th at 6pm with special guest performers Bring your own proms-style supper and drink. Tickets, £4 adult, £2 child, family ticket £10 available from: Yalding library or any orchestra member or phone 01622 820683/814444. Proceeds to GamBLE (Building links in education in The Gambia) and Hope for the Family (Romania) Trust

At St Mary's Church in April

Notices

Brass Cleaning: Marion Leonard

Flowers: Easter Sunday - All Helpers

15th April - Mrs Forster

22nd April - Mrs Forster

Church Family Service Coffee Rota:

1st April - Lorraine Redfarn and Marian Western

Hunton Sunday Club:

A club for children of primary school age living, or at school in Hunton, meets on Sunday April 22nd at Barn Hill Oast, Barn Hill from 5.15pm to 6.45pm. Contact David 741474 for details

Services

Sunday 1st April - Palm Sunday

11.00am Family Service

Revd Ruth Bierbaum

Reading: at the preacher's discretion

Sunday 8th April - Easter Day

9.15am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

Revd Peter Walker

Readings: Acts 10 v34-43

Sunday 15th April - Easter 2

11.00 am Morning Prayer

Mrs E Doyle

Readings: Exodus 14 v 1-31 & 15 v20-21 and Acts 5 v27-32 and John 20 v 19-31

Sunday 22nd April - Easter 3

9.15am Holy Communion

Revd David Jones

Readings: Zephaniah 3 v14-20 and Revelation 5 v11-14

Sunday 29th April - Easter 4

United Benefice Service at West Farleigh

10.30am Holy Communion Revd David Jones (Revd Peter Walker)

Readings Genesis 7 v1-5 and 11-18 and Acts 9 v36-43

and John 10 v22-30

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday: 6pm 'Stainer's Crucifixion' - at East Farleigh Church (augmented church choir)

'Towards the Cross' - a simple time of worship in Holy Week

Monday April 2nd: Coxheath 12noon-12.30pm

Tuesday April 3rd: West Farleigh 12noon-12.30pm

Wednesday April 4th: Linton 12noon-12.30pm

Maundy Thursday: United Benefice HC at Linton - 7.30pm

Good Friday: An Hour at the Cross - a time for reflection

Hunton: 12noon-1pm DJ

Linton: 12noon-1pm RB

East Farleigh: 12noon-1pm PW

Coxheath: 2pm-3pm PW

West Farleigh: 2pm-3pm RB

In the Steps of Wilberforce

Freedom Day

March 25th marked the 200th anniversary of the Abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade. Something to celebrate? Well in a way.... because we know now (as if there were any doubt) that it is wrong to treat people as commodities which can be bought, sold and owned. Wilberforce fought a very long and uphill battle to get slavery stopped.

The Film

You might want to go to watch the newly released film "Amazing Grace", about the life of Wilberforce and the struggle against slavery, directed by Michael Apted, with Ioan Gruffudd playing the role of Wilberforce.

Knowing his family's East Farleigh connections, the makers of the film visited the ancient Parish Church of East Farleigh, during the filming. The title is a reference to the hymn "Amazing Grace" and the film also recounts John Newton's writing of that same hymn, when he realised the wretchedness of his sin, in being involved in the slave trade.

<i>April</i>	<i>1st</i>	<i>8th</i>	<i>15th</i>	<i>22nd</i>	<i>29th</i>
Coxheath	11.00 HC	9.30 HC	11.00 HC	11.00 FS	
E. Farleigh	9.15 HC	8.00 HC 10.30 HC	11.00 FS	8.00 HC 10.30 MP	
Linton	9.15 HC	08.00 HC 11.00 FS+HC	9.15 HC	9.15 HC	
W. Farleigh	8.00 HC 11.00 SW (at the White House)	11.00 FS+HC	9.15 HC	11.00 MP	10.30 United Benefice Service HC

HC: Holy Communion, MP: Morning Prayer, (bcp) Book of Common Prayer, FS: Family Service, SW: Service of Word
APCM Annual Parish Council Meeting

For Weddings, Thanksgivings, and Baptisms, please contact Revd David Jones (741474)