



Dulcibella King-Hall visits Hunton on her 105th Birthday



On the 28th March 2007, a former long term resident of Hunton, Dulcibella King-Hall, came back to the village to celebrate her 105th birthday. Dulcibella is a grand daughter of a former Rector of St Mary's, Canon John Hall, who came to Hunton in 1865.

Dulcibella made the journey from Tunbridge Wells in a Rolls Royce and spent some time in the churchyard sitting on an attractive wooden seat, which had been newly installed at her expense as a donation to the parish.

During her visit she was interviewed by a reporter from Radio Kent and presented with a bouquet of garden flowers and a card by the present Rector, the Reverend Peter Walker. On opening the card she exclaimed that

she would place it next to the official greeting she had received from the Queen.

Later the Rolls Royce sped her back to Tunbridge Wells for a champagne lunch with the Mayor.

David Way.

Gennings Residents Urge Action over Mobile Home

Residents of the Gennings estate have expressed alarm at the lack of action to evict an illegally parked mobile home from a field off Lughorse Lane at the foot of Hunton Hill.

One has produced photographs saying that it is "quite plain that a small-holding is appearing" and asking why the 'trespasser' is allowed to carry on building up the site in such a way while an appeal against his presence on the site is in progress.

Maidstone Borough Councillor, Brian Mortimer, has informed the residents that he has spoken to the Enforcement Officer, Joanne Empett, who was planning a site meeting.

"There is a possibility that a hearing against the notices to stop the man carrying out any further actions could be held in June, but any legal action will not happen until after the hearing," said Mr Mortimer.

He appealed to the residents to carry on taking photos and to keep a log of what's happening which may be useful for the hearing, adding: "With regard to the site being built up while the appeal is in progress, it is frustrating but the Council will not take action until the appeal is concluded and meanwhile will continue to gather evidence.

"I am told that if they went to court before the appeal/hearing, the magistrates would adjourn the action until the decision of the hearing is through."

Sewing Machines

Many thanks to all those who kindly donated sewing machines for refurbishment by 'Workaid'. These will eventually be sent to Africa to help young men and women to learn sewing skills and thus gain employment. **This appeal is now closed.**

Plant Sale at the White House

There will be a plant sale on Sunday 27th and Monday 28th May from 11.00am onwards. All proceeds to the Old Folks Four Charity. Donations of plants welcome

Barbeque in Linton Park

This is just advance notice of a barbecue which Linton Church are holding in Linton Park (courtesy of Mr Philip Daubeny) on Saturday 21st July. This is a repeat event from last year's barbecue which was very successful in spite of the one miserable day of weather in a glorious summer. I'll let you have further details nearer the time.

Kath Cooper

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:

Saturday 12th May refuse freighter, Village Hall car park 7.45am-8.45am
 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
 Saturday 30th June refuse freighter, Village Hall car park 7.45am-8.45am

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

'Am I bothered?'

In recent years I have found myself feeling the urge to write letters to the TV companies, the newspapers and even to MPs as I find my opinions and views seem to be out of step with theirs. To date, the composing of those letters remains mainly in my head, a dream yet to be put into reality. I've even got to the stage of talking to the TV presenters or responding to the panel on Question Time. It's as though, as I get older, so my experiences of life has become out of step with those expressed in the media who appear to almost on a daily basis question my thinking and long held views and values.

So many things seem to be changing and it's hard to keep abreast of the changes in what is considered 'correct' behaviour, thinking and speaking. I find myself at times at odds with what is said and portrayed in the media. Has life become as they portray? It doesn't seem to me to be the life I know and have experienced. Am I so out of touch? What is worse is that what informs my beliefs and thinking is not, it appears shared with others, or so it seems increasingly.

Did William Wilberforce, and people like him, have similar feelings as they stood out against the perceived wisdom of the day and brought about change? What motivated and encouraged them was their faith in God, in the idea that God's people were precious and should be treated with respect. They had a profound belief that all men and women were made in the image of God and were therefore precious to God. This is so clearly shown in the teaching of Jesus; his dealings with the issues of the day were not always welcomed. For Jesus his motivation was to do his Father's will and that wasn't always in line with the thinking of the day. As a result people felt challenged and some threatened by Jesus.

So where does that fit in with my thoughts? Paul wrote to the Church at Rome, 'Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God - what is good and acceptable and perfect.' (Romans 12 v 2). How we discern that will will be through prayer, the Bible, the encouragement of our friends and by the reasoning that we have through our experience of life. The attempt to discern God's will may not lead to agreement in all things, but it gives us a framework in which our responses may develop and grow. It is a way of approaching situations, trying to see in others the image and love of Jesus Christ so what we do may be good and acceptable and perfect.

Maybe I ought to practice what I write more often then?

David

Out and Out Buttercups

A field full of buttercups is a delight for walkers and children alike, but not perhaps for the owners of livestock as buttercups are poisonous. Nor are buttercups so welcome in the garden, for the Creeping Buttercup, *Ranunculus repens* seeds and sends out runners like mad to choke young garden plants. Kingcups *Caltha palustris* are large and more orange buttercups that live in wet places; they have declined considerably in modern post-war Britain, but for a week or two in early spring (April in the cold, late Spring of 2006) can be seen growing in the old river area towards Cheveney Mill and the woodland beside the footpath around Grove Lane reservoirs. Goldilocks Buttercup *Ranunculus auricomus* is another declining and rather vulnerable plant of old wooded glades and roadsides that were formerly wooded. It is noticeable by flowering a week or so before the main buttercups, and has very fine divided leaves giving the whole plant a rather delicate look. A nice patch grows in the outlier of the churchyard, and small patches grow near Penny Wood in Lughorse Lane, and on the road verge in Bishop's Lane. *David Newman*

Core Strategy for Maidstone Area

Hunton residents will be interested to learn about Maidstone Borough Council's decision on a Core Strategy covering crucial policies on housing, roads and infrastructure across the district in coming years.

Consulted on the issue, Parish Councillors felt that it was a mistake for Maidstone to become a growth point town with a Government pledge of millions of pounds for developing up to 10,000 homes. This would earn "relatively small benefit for the extra pain and strain it will inevitably bring to the area."

Hunton councillors also felt that all developments now planned or taking place, such as the new estate on the Zeneca site at Yalding; Linton Hospital and Oldborough, must be taken into account when assessing the total number of new houses. In the Core Strategy there is a 'buffer zone' around Coxheath but this seems to have been ignored for the Linton Hospital site. Hunton clerk David Swan asks Maidstone Council: "Does such a zone mean there will be no further development allowed in that area; how strict will this designation be and will the planning department adhere to it rigorously?"

He further stresses councillors' opinions that the strategy should be brought in over two phases, each of 10 years, firstly for the urban and fringe area making maximum use of brown field sites; and next the greenfield sites.

"This phasing would make it easier to integrate such development into the existing framework and environment and will help identify where strains on local infrastructure occur and make adjustments accordingly.

"In all instances there should be no development without the appropriate infrastructure being in place in advance. Current proposals are inadequate and do not take into account the inevitable strain on roads, such as the B2163 and the various small and ancient bridges over the Medway."

News from Hunton School

Hunton CEP School children have been very busy over the past few months. Now we have gained Healthy Schools status we continue to build on this good work by providing the children with the space to plant and grow our own kitchen garden. The members of the gardening club Rocket Roots, together with our Eco-Council, visited Bore Place to learn more about sustainability, whilst the whole school joined the gardening club to design and make a sensory maze for our younger pupils to play in. Every child in the school planted a plant to make the maze and are now busy weeding and watering to make sure our maze grows. Our youngest children visited a local garden centre whilst our older children have been involved in a project with Cornwallis NLL and successfully took part in their recent production of Godspell in the Big Top. Our netball team also won a netball tournament against local schools. Throughout this year we have been working on a collaborative writing project with Leeds and Broomfield School. The project was opened for the older children with a wonderful workshop by the children's author Nigel Hinton who visited Hunton School and inspired the children to become writers. The younger children then had a puppet theatre visit school to help them make shadow puppets and perform plays based on well known stories. All these activities have helped our children develop as writers and be enthusiastic about their learning. The large school hall we now have provides us with the space to open up opportunities for visiting groups to work in our school.

Hunton School children continue to support a number of charities with the children wearing their parents' clothes to school on Red Nose Day and collecting money to support Barnardo's.

We have recently participated in two services at St Mary's Church. Mothering Sunday saw families attend with the children reading prayers, the Bible reading and poems, whilst our end of term Easter Service saw children performing drama and music.

The month of May will be busy for us as we have our annual May Fair on Sunday 20th May- 11.30—3.30 everyone invited. There will also be a sponsored walk to beat the bounds of the three Huntons in England. This walk will support the beginning of a fundraising project to build a fourth classroom at Hunton School.

Letter to the Editor

I was so pleased and relieved to read the news in your recent edition regarding the new 30mph speed limit through various areas of Hunton.

I know that I have written many times before to your paper about the deteriorating traffic conditions in our Village and this news will be welcomed by so many. I hope that it will immediately lead to an improved environment in terms of road safety, noise and damage to verges and hedges.

The Parish Council, have, I know, been trying for this for many years, and congratulations and heartfelt appreciation must be bestowed upon them for all their patience and hard work. It is wonderful news.

On a completely different topic and a very sad one, I read the well worded obituary of the late Arthur Morris, the landlord at the White House. Like so many people in our Parish and surrounding areas Arthur in so many ways touched our lives. He had so many friends and admirers as witnessed at his funeral that was attended by over 300 people. His name comes up regularly in conversation. This is completely unsurprising as he was much loved man, with a wicked smile, wonderful sense of humour and totally unselfish generosity - a true Christian.

He was also married to Jan for over 40 years and although Arthur is no longer physically at the White House he is certainly there through Jan helping her to carry on with the Pub so well. It is just as he would have wished.

His untimely death was a shock to us all but this wonderful memory of him will be with us for many years to come.

Ron L Porter

Parish Plan - Have your say Don't forget the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council: May 24th at the village hall at 8pm, where you will have an opportunity to have your say about a way forward with the Parish Plan.

HUNTON CLUB BOOK GROUP - MARCH BOOK REVIEW

The Bookseller of Kabul by Asne Seierstad

For more than 20 years Sultan Khan defied the authorities to supply books to the people of Kabul. He was arrested, interrogated and imprisoned and watched illiterate soldiers burn piles of his books in the street.

In spring 2002 Asne Seierstad spent four months living with the bookseller and his family. As Seierstad steps back from the page and lets the Khans tell their stories we learn of proposals and marriages, hope and fear, crime and punishment. The result is a unique portrait of a family and a country.

All members agreed that the content of the book was extremely interesting, albeit shocking. It was interesting to learn of everyday life in Afghanistan, of the difficulties, attitudes and shortages. Most of all, the insight into the way women are treated angered us all. We felt we wanted to fight the injustice. Seierstad wrote neither a novel nor a report but a cross between the two which some of us found pleasing and others found annoying. Many of us kept comparing this to an earlier book club read "The Kite Runner" by Khalid Hosseini and found it less entertaining. Scores out of 10 ranged from 5 to 8 to giving an average score of 6.

Our book for April is The Pickwick Papers by Charles Dickens.

At St Mary's Church in May

Notices	Services
Brass Cleaning: Lorraine Redfarn Flowers: 6th May Mrs McLoughlin (Wedding) 13th May Mrs McLoughlin 20th May Mrs Bullivant 27th May Mrs Bullivant Church Family Service Coffee Rota: 6th May: Forster Family Hunton Sunday Club: A club for children of primary school age living, or at school in Hunton, meets on Sunday May 20th at Barn Hill Oast, Barn Hill from 5.15pm to 6.45pm.	Sunday 6th May - Easter 5 11.00am Family Service Revd Peter Walker Reading: At the preacher's discretion Sunday 13th May - Easter 6 Rogation 9.15am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) Revd Peter Walker Readings: Ezekiel 3 v 1-14 and John 5 v1-9 Thursday 17th May - Ascension Day 7.30pm United Benefice Holy Communion Revd David Jones Readings: Acts 1 v 1-11 and Luke 22 v44-end Sunday 20th May - Easter 7 11.00 am Morning Prayer Revd David Jones Readings: Ezekiel 36 v24-28 and John 17 v 20-end Sunday 27th May - Pentecost 9.15am Holy Communion Revd David Jones Readings: Acts 2 v1-21 and John 14 v8-17 and 25-27

It's here! Alpha starts this Month at West-Farleigh

Tuesdays from May 8th, 12 - 1.30pm

Light lunch provided and creche facilities available.

Who is it for? Anyone wanting to explore the meaning of life, and the Christian faith.

What happens on a lunch-time Alpha? We will share a light meal, watch a video talk about Christianity and then gather in small groups to discuss what we've heard: whether we agree or disagree.

How long is it? There are 10 sessions, plus an "away day". There is no obligation to come to every session.

Do I have to talk? No! You might just want to listen to what others think, that's fine.

What does it cost? Nothing! Everything is free. We do not, of course, turn down any donations.

What now? If you want to register an interest or to find out more please call Ruth on 01622 743866 or visit the Alpha website - www.alphacourse.org.

Confirmation

Preparation for confirmation will start in May. For the teenagers a Youth Alpha will start of Sunday 6th May.

Do let us know if you are interested. Adults, call Revd Peter Walker on 01622 747570 and teenagers, call Revd Ruth Bierbaum on 01622 743866

The Next Step: We are a cell-group which meets fortnightly to support each other in our journey into faith. We are always looking for new members. Call Ruth to find out more. Our next meetings will be on May 2nd & May 16th.

Extra Dates for diary...

17th May 7.30pm at St. Mary's Hunton: Ascension Day Holy Communion Service.

27th May: Pentecost

1st June: 7.45pm: Prayer for Maidstone. This is a regular group which meets in a different venue each month to pray for God's work in the Maidstone area. In June we will be meeting at Holy Trinity, Coxheath. Please do come along and join us.

3rd June 3.30pm at Heart of Kent Hospice, Preston Hall: Benefice Hospice Service

P.S....Keep the evening of July 28th free for our "Freedom Concert" at Holy Trinity, Coxheath, which will celebrate the Abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade, and remember those in Slavery today.

Mini-Bible Studies The recent Lent studies over five weeks have encouraged many of those who participated to do further short Bible studies along the same lines. It is proposed to hold three per year of which Lent would be one. The next 'mini-series' will be starting on Monday the 4th of June and Tuesday 5th of June, and the ensuing three Mondays/Tuesdays. Venues will be homes around Hunton, West Farleigh Church in the evening, and an afternoon one in a home in Coxheath. It is anticipated that the course will be 'New World, Old Faith', a York course. Details later but please speak to one of the clergy if you wish to register an interest in attending.

May	6th	13th	Thursday 17th	20th	27th
Coxheath	11.00 HC	9.30 MP	7.30pm United Benefice Service HC at Hunton	11.00 HC	11.00 FS/HC
E. Farleigh	9.15 HC	8.00 HC (bcp) 10.30 MP		11.00 FS	8.00 HC (bcp) 10.30 HC
Linton	9.15 HC	8.00 HC (bcp) 11.00 FS		9.15 HC	9.15 HC
W. Farleigh	8.00 HC 11.00 SW (at the White House)	11.00 FS		9.15 HC	11.00 MP

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)