

Editors: Sue & David Heaton, 3 New Cottages, Barn Hill, Hunton, ME15 0QT 01622 820678 [herald@hunton.org.uk](mailto:herald@hunton.org.uk)

## Hunton Flower Festival

We are going to have a Flower Festival in Hunton on 2nd, 3rd and 4th October 2009. The theme is based around the stained glass windows in the church, which will have been restored and placed back in their window frames by then. The October timing links with a lecture about the windows, coupled with a demonstration of restoration of stained glass on the Saturday - what better reason than to go all out to really make the windows come to life, depicting scenes from the windows within some glorious flower displays.

We would like to ask anyone who would like to be involved with the Flower Festival in any way at all, to contact me, **Sue Pinks, 01622 820709**, so that I can include them in the organisation of the Festival in whatever role they would wish to be involved in.

*Sue Pinks*

## Quiz Night

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2009, 7.30pm at Hunton C of E Primary School. All proceeds to go towards the building of the new classroom. £5 per person, teams of 8 maximum, bring your own drinks and nibbles.

Contact Jacquie Harris on [jacquieharris@eso.ac.uk](mailto:jacquieharris@eso.ac.uk) or by telephone on 01622 741606. Please support your school



## Linton Garden Gala Sunday 7th June

The 6th Garden Gala in Linton is planned for Sunday 7th June 2009, from 2pm—6pm. Most people drive through Linton on the A229 without seeing the magnificent views of The Weald which many of the houses enjoy, so this will be an opportunity to explore the village and see some of the charming gardens which have been created.

There will be approximately 12 gardens open for viewing during the afternoon and visitors will be able to purchase one ticket to gain admission to all open gardens. There will be off street parking, a plant stall, and teas for sale.

The main objective of the Garden Gala is to raise funds to support the Parish Church of St Nicholas. In previous years it has also provided a most enjoyable afternoon for many visitors to the village, as well as bringing residents in the village together in working towards a day to show our village at its best.

*Paul and 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: Vikki Stancombe	842782
Under 5's Pre-School:	820309	Village Hall Booking: Jane Crane	820127
Pre-School Supervisor: Nicola Julier	07972067110	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 David Jones	741474*	Churchwarden: Alison Ellman-Brown	820288
		Organist: Philip Moore	749356
		PCSO Hannah Percival	07772226032

\*not available on Fridays \*\*not available on Mondays

### Dates for Diaries:

Saturday 7th March, 7.30pm Quiz Night, Hunton CofE Primary School  
Saturday 7th March 7.45 - 8.30am, Freighter Service at the Village Hall  
Tuesday 10th March, 10.30 to 3pm, Coffee Morning in aid of OPTIONS, 23 Bensted Close  
Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March, 8pm, Parish Council meeting, Village Hall  
Sunday 17th May, 11.30am-3.30pm, Hunton School May Fayre  
Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2009, 2-6pm, Linton Garden Gala, Linton Village  
Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June, 11-5pm, NGS Garden openings: The Old Stables, Queen Anne House, Southover  
Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June, Hunton Village Fete  
2,3, and 4<sup>th</sup> October, Flower Festival, Hunton Church

### Parish Councillors contact details

Parish Council Chairman	
– Roger Sawtell	820731
Clerk to the Parish Council	
– Vikki Stancombe	842782
Cllr Les Leonard	820858
Cllr Moira Walter	745765
Cllr Gary Thomas	820691
Cllr David Heaton	820678
Cllr Keith Eatwell	745569
Cllr Ron Porter	820220

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

**Dear fellow reader**

March this year falls rather neatly into the Christian period of Lent, a period of 40 days that comes immediately before Easter and is meant as a time of preparation and reflection as we prepare for the events of Good Friday and the glory of Easter morning - Christ has risen! Hallelujah! The early Church took time out to prepare and to reflect on the pressures of the daily routine, to look at life and how that life was in tune with the creator God. Gradually, over time, Lent has come to mark a time of 'giving up things' and more recently we think in terms of giving up luxuries, chocolate, cakes and others things.

I've been thinking about the whole idea of 'giving up' and I wonder if we ought to be a little more positive. Over recent years and months I have become increasingly irritated by the media, the press and radio and TV, in its negative approach to news. Everything is gloomy, and if it's not gloomy then they'll make it so by the way events are reported. The recent snow resulting in the loss of millions of pounds lost in production caused by people staying off work, school being closed and how terrible that is, the shortage of salt and even the gloom of the headlines stating 'most of Britain is in the grip of snow and ice, cities and towns paralysed, councils running out of salt 'and so on, when in fact it is only parts of the country. Who saw the report of an airport being closed? Whilst the reporter was reporting this, an aeroplane took off behind her! It all adds to the negativity of life. Added to that of course is the 'blame industry'. Everything is someone's fault and certainly not ours!

This Lent I'm going to try to think of the positive things that I enjoy. The beauty of the world around me, the warmth of good relationships, the joy of helping people and being helped, of seeing people responding to support from family, friends and neighbours. We all suffer enough at times through illness, loss of employment, bereavement and concern for our families. It is right to be concerned, Jesus was always concerned by those around him who wanted support and help but he didn't go round casting gloom and despondency. He took delight in seeing people respond to his Good News.

So for Lent this year give up negative thoughts and give out the love and forgiveness and peace that can make our lives feel better and for those around us can we seek to lift the fallen? At the same time turn our backs on those who have us see everything in terms of yet one more incident of gloom to bring us down.

Have a great Lent and come to the light and joy of the risen Christ, refreshed and renewed this coming Eastertide. Enjoy the chocolate and cakes this year!

Yours

David

## **Hunton Book Group January 2009 Book Review**

### **A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini**

This is the authors' second novel following his first massive "hit" *The Kite Runner*.

"A Thousand Splendid Suns" is set in Kabul in Afghanistan and focuses on mothers and daughters, and friendships between women. The backdrop is the troubles in Afghanistan and the brutality of the Taliban regime coupled with the resulting starvation and fear produces a powerful and moving novel.

At first Mariam sees Laila as a rival and accuses her of stealing her husband, but when Laila's baby, Aziza, arrives, Mariam begins to soften. Gradually, she and Laila become allies, trying to shield each other from Rasheed's rages and demands. Mariam becomes a second mother to Aziza, and she and Laila become best friends.

We all agreed that the story was a compelling read although rather disturbing in places. In fact one of our members found it difficult to enjoy because of the great hardships women in Afghanistan have to suffer. About half of our group thought the story was better than *The Kite Runner* and the average score of 8.5 was almost as high.

Our Book for February is *The Olive Readers* by Christine Aziz which we will review at our next meeting on Thursday March 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **Out and Out Is it all White?**

Recently I have been pondering the popularity of snowdrops, the quintessential white flower.

White, for gardeners, can be a colour fraught with danger, in the summer border a clump of solid white can hold your eyes refusing to release them to wander over the neighbouring colours, it is a colour which dazzles and eclipses others with its cold, staring qualities.

Yet I believe it is just these qualities which make the snowdrops so popular, in the late winter garden there are few other colours to be eclipsed, the dazzle of their whiteness makes such a small flower stand out, and at this time of year your eye is pleased to be drawn and held by such a dainty and captivating beauty.

The snowdrops' popularity in Hunton could be seen by the stream of 226 people who visited Southover in February and the speed with which our own 'Hunton Giant' snowdrop sold out. If you haven't got the bug yet now is a good time to buy more or split and replant overcrowded snowdrops to increase the show in your own garden over the next years.

*Christine McSweeney*

# Residents Meeting on Speeding Traffic in West Street

9<sup>th</sup> February 2009 in Hunton Village Hall

Firstly, many thanks to everyone who turned up despite the flooding in West Street! There were seven of us altogether – quite an achievement considering the weather conditions!

Thanks also to everyone who has agreed to support us, but couldn't attend the meeting.

The main purpose for forming a residents association, ie, to reduce the speed and volume of traffic in West Street, was discussed. To be more specific, the objective would be: to campaign for a reduction in the speed limit to a uniform 30 mph for the whole of the village, and to get this speed limit enforced.

The problem of large lorries breaking the law by travelling down West Street was raised and it was agreed that this was to be included in our campaign. Jacqui Frances stated that our new PCSO Jo Watts was supporting us in this regard.

It was suggested that we should wait for the results of the speed survey by KCC before we could proceed as this would provide us with some evidence. Roger Sawtell suggested that we should contact the East Street Residents Association and join up with them, as this would increase our numbers. Jacqui Frances is going to contact them and also get in touch with the Yalding campaigners.

**NB: The Go Slow Week in West Street** has had to be postponed as more help is needed with publicity and advertising. If you have any comments/further suggestions, then please contact:

Jacqui Frances, The Barn, West Street, Telephone: 820781 email: jayseafran@yahoo.co.uk

## School News

This last half term the children have been busy with a range of activities. In January the Upper School classroom resounded with songs from the musical 'Oliver' whilst the Middle School began constructing an Anglo Saxon settlement with plans for a blacksmith, pottery and weaving shed. Lower School had a very special visit from Libby's Grandmother who supported the children with some fantastic portrait art work. Reception has been 'space walking' around school with space backpacks full of all the things required for a trip into space. Mars Bars and rocket sausages have been a firm favourite, together with space masks, boots and clean clothes!!!

Four Year 6 children, who are very good at writing, had the opportunity to attend the able writers' workshop at Wateringbury School. The children worked with an author for the day and gained a great deal from these sessions. These workshops are paid for by the school.

In February Upper School were off to Horton Kirby where they walked around the village investigating evidence of life in the village during Victorian times. After lunch they travelled back in time to the Victorian era and attended school with slate boards and chalk and a rather fierce teacher. The lower school have been busy creating their own web pages about television programmes using ITC and literacy skills

By the time you read this the school would have held an Arts Morning on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> February. Parents and children will have had the opportunity to work with a professional artist to make models and jewellery.

After half term a Cheerleading Club will be running on Wednesdays for years 2-6 and children will have had the opportunity to sign up to a 6 week coaching course for an introduction to hard ball cricket in the nets at Mapleston Noakes School, run by the Maidstone District Cricket Academy.

## Signs of Christ's Glory

7 Talks for Lent from John's Gospel,

St Faith's Church, Brenchley Gardens, Maidstone

Soup/hot drinks available from 12.30,

Please bring your own sandwiches, Talk 1.00 -1.30 pm

4th March Jesus heals a sick boy, Canon Arthur Houston

11th March Jesus cures an invalid, Major Janice Williams

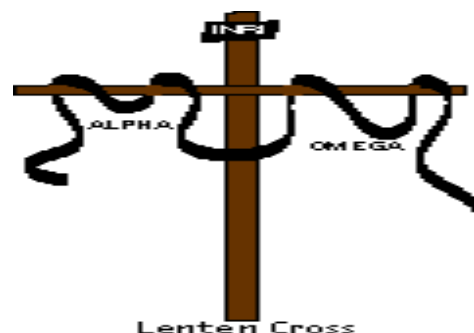
18th March Jesus feeds 5,000, Derek Savage

25th March Jesus walks on water, Jonathan Jankowski

1st April Jesus restores sight, Steve Edney

8th April Jesus raises Lazarus, Bishop Graham Cray

Further details from Jackie Cray 01622 673068



## At St Mary's Church in March

Notices	Services
Coffee Rota - 1 <sup>st</sup> March Nicky Granger	<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March - Lent 1</b> 11.00am Family Service Revd David Jones Readings Preacher's choice
<b>Flowers - Lent No Flowers</b> 22 <sup>nd</sup> March Mothering Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> March Benefice Service	<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March - Lent 2</b> 9.30am Holy Communion Revd Michael Shaw Readings Romans 4 v 13-25 and Mark 8 v 31-38
Brass Cleaning - Wendy Simmons	<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March - Lent 3</b> 11.00am Morning Prayer Revd Peter Walker Readings Exodus 20 v 1-17 and John 2 v 13 -22
Hunton Sunday Club Hunton Sunday Club will meet during March on March 15 <sup>th</sup> at Scott's House, West Street from 5.15pm to 7.45pm. The club is open to all children of primary school age either living or attending school in Hunton. Contact David 741474 for further details	<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March - Lent 4</b> 11.00am Family Service Revd Peter Walker Readings Preacher's choice
	<b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March - Benefice Service</b> 10.30 am Benefice Service Revd Peter Walker & David Jones Readings Jeremiah 31 v31-34 and John 12 v 20-33
	<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April - Palm Sunday</b> 11.00am Family Service Revd David Jones Readings Preacher's choice

### 5P Men's Group

The next event of the 5P Men's Group is an evening of Curling at Fentons Rink near Tunbridge Wells (England's only Curling Rink) on **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30 pm**. Help is available with transport

No experience is necessary as all instruction and footwear (not skates) are provided - just wrap up warm and come along and enjoy the fun. This particular ice is not slippery so no Torvil and Dean expertise required. Why not bring a friend? For more details and to book a place please contact Jonathan Barnes 01622 747934 or Mike Marsh on 01622 745702 or email 5pmen@talktalk.net. Website is [www.fentonsrink.co.uk](http://www.fentonsrink.co.uk)

### CHURCHES TOGETHER IN MAIDSTONE 2009

#### EASTER

**Maundy Thursday April 9<sup>th</sup>** Holy Communion at St Nicholas' Allington at 7.30pm led by Rev Lesley Ludlow and the preacher Rev Brian Reed.

**Good Friday April 10<sup>th</sup> March of Witness** starting from Knightrider Street, Baptist Church at 10.30am followed by Open Air Service at 10.50am approx top of Earl Street/Week Street. The service will be led by Major Grayson Williams SA and the speaker will be Rev Canon Jean Kerr, Bishop's Officer for Mission & Unity, Dioceses of Rochester.

**Service of Mediation and Reflection at 11.20am approx.** At United Reformed Church, Week Street led by Rev Chris Esgate, Methodist Minister, Maidstone Methodist church.

**Good Friday Evening Worship at 7.30pm** A 'cantata for Easter in popular style' Jerusalem Joy by Roger Jones and sung by a joint choir led by Freda Crispin from churches in the Maidstone area.

#### Easter Sunday April 12<sup>th</sup>

**Sunrise Service starting at 6.30am** at the top of Bluebell Hill and will take the form of a Communion Service led by Rev Chris Esgate and Rev Gary Watts. Meet at the viewing area/car park

#### FORUM MEETING

**Monday April 27<sup>th</sup>** at 7.30pm for 7.45 start at Methodist Church. Church & Society presentation by David Helms (Church & Society is a charitable company, part of the English Dioceses of Canterbury and Rochester. It works to enable the church's effective contribution to community, economic and social transformation, so that the full potential of all communities may be realised. It is based in Maidstone.)

For further details of all these services/meeting please contact Rev David Jones (Chairman of Churches Together in Maidstone) on 01622 741474 or [david\\_w\\_jones@talk21.com](mailto:david_w_jones@talk21.com)

March	1st	8th	15th	22nd	29th
Coxheath	11.00 HC	9.30 MP	11.00 HC	11.00 FS	10.30 United Benefice at Hunton
E. Farleigh	9.30 HC 3pm Baptism	8.00 HC 11.00 FS	9.30 HC	8.00 HC and 9.30 Matins	
Linton	9.30 HC	9.30 HC	8.00 HC and 11.00 FS	9.30am HC 9.30 Matins	
W. Farleigh	8.00 HC	1.00 Matins	9.30 HC	11.00 Family Service 7pm White House	
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 Peter Walker