



The Hunton Herald

Issue 81
September
2009

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

Friends of St. Mary's Hunton BBQ 19th July 2009 at Hunton Court

Despite the rather inhospitable weather on the afternoon of our inaugural BBQ, spirits were not blown away - even if we lost a gazebo or two!

Sincere thanks to our band of helpers who gave up so much of their time over two days to have everything ready for the gates to open at 2pm; the Band who were terrific, the BBQ team who cooked all the afternoon without a break and to our team of ladies, who in the most difficult of circumstances produced such a wonderful spread for all to see and enjoy. They then had to clear it all away after everyone had gone but not a single piece of rubbish was left. It was a poignant



moment when we were able to witness a very weary David Heaton finally leaving with one of the BBQ's visibly still very hot and smoking on the back of his truck. The generosity of Hunton Club, who shared the net bar proceeds with us and gave so much of their time, the kindness of Woods Butchers and Simply Delicious both of Coxheath who were very generous with their pricing, to James Newington and John Clarke who gave those wonderful strawberries, John Scott's farmer friend who gave us all those delicious lettuces, Lord Falmouth for the gift of the charcoal and for spending so much time with us on the day, and of course the kindness of Mr. and Mrs Demaraise for allowing us to use their wonderful grounds for our event.

The biggest thank you of course goes to all of you who attended and that is over 180 of you. Phil Nichols, who ran the bar with his wife Trish, also took some really nice pictures of the event and there is one printed here. I expect it will give you pleasure in looking closely at it to see who you can spot. With the Village Fete cancelled this year it was really good to see so many people enjoying the atmosphere, listening to music, enjoying the food but above all spending time with neighbours, which perhaps we should do more of in these busy times. There was a complete mixture of folk attending, some who have left the village and some who have recently moved here.

I know the KM published a figure of £400 as the amount raised for Friends of St. Mary's. That figure was given to the KM during the afternoon by me long before we had finished the final accounting but the KM needed it then. My fault. The final amount raised was £746.50 which is now safely in the Bank. That is a most pleasing result and again thank you all for coming to support our new Charity which has been established to protect the building of our beautiful Church.

Can you Help with Delivery of the Herald?

Thank you to Deborah Stallwood for her help with delivery of the Hunton Herald, she is now moving away. Is there anyone out there who would like to help with the deliveries? Please contact Christine McSweeney 01622 820852.

Your Local Contacts:

Parish Council Chairman: Roger Sawtell 820731
School: Secretary/Head Teacher 820360
Under 5's Pre-School: 820309
Pre-School Supervisor: Nicola Julier 07972067110
Pond and Tree Warden: Anne Bishop 820683
Rector: Revd Peter Walker 747570**
Associate Rector: Revd David Jones 741474*
Village Club: Doug Redfarn 820495

*not available on Fridays **not available on Mondays

Clerk to Parish Council: Vikki Stancombe 842782
Village Hall Booking: Jane Crane 820127
Maidstone Police: 608186
Neighbourhood Watch: 608173
'Potholes' concern (KCC): Kim Hills 0845 824 7800
Churchwarden: Alison Ellman-Brown 820288
Organist: Philip Moore 749356
PCSO Jo Watts 07772 225983

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

Dates for Diaries:

2nd, 3rd & 4th October from 10.00-5.00 (5.30 on Saturday). Flower Festival Hunton Village Church
Saturday 3rd October at 2.30pm. The John Briggs Memorial Lecture in the Village Hall
Saturday 3rd October from 10.00 to 2.00 pm. Demonstrations on stained glass
Saturday 17th October at 8pm Applause Event Atongo Zimba
Sunday 25th October at 10.30 Village Ramble

All items for the October edition to the Editors as soon as possible, and by 15th September, please

Last month I had what is now a very rare occurrence, a real handwritten letter on note paper and sent via the post. Now I do receive loads of letters but nearly all official and seldom handwritten. I also receive a great number of phone calls and these also vary in content. Similarly my email inbox is generally full of messages and I have learnt how to divert the scam mail from the real mail but still I receive a great many messages that in all honesty do not apply to me but because I am in their address book I get showered with the same message as many others. Email has become for me the main method of communication. It is fairly quick, it leaves a record, and the recipient can 'pick it up' at a time convenient to them and for many, anywhere in the country or even abroad. But is it really progress?

Only the other month I sent several emails to a person and I sent them to the wrong address which just so happened to be a real address so they didn't come winging back to me telling me they hadn't been delivered. They were important and my mistake led to problems both for me but also the recipient. Similarly emails replace not only letters but the telephone and so are not always written in full and tend to be brief. They are seldom addressed to the reader but simply start with the text. They can appear abrupt as words are often missed out to speed up the process and the tone can be harsh as a result. I wonder if I had been courting my wife today rather than in the 1960's how my letters (emails now) to her would have read today. No 'Dear Anne' growing to 'Darling Anne' and to 'Dearest Anne' and so on. No doubt a simple 'great evening yesterday, meet you outside the Nurses Home at 9.30 tonight'.

When we read Paul's letters we get something of this tension. They would have been handwritten, maybe by a scribe, and sent to the leaders of the Church. There they would have been read out aloud and perhaps the tone of the reader gave an interpretation to what Paul was trying to say. Then of course we don't really know the circumstances that led to the letters being written and we can only conclude from what Paul says as to why he is writing. This can give a very interesting slant on the letter as we don't always know if he is admonishing the leaders or encouraging them.

James, writing in one of the shorter letters in the Bible, wrote 'We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check.' (James 3 v 2). James knew the value of words and I am sure if he had been writing to us today would have pointed out the dangers of the more modern forms of that word. In a recent edition of the Reader's Digest the following story is told. Laura, my granddaughter, rang me on a Saturday night sounding rather concerned. I wasn't sure why. My last contact with her was a text saying that I was going into town to buy a quilt cover. She told me to reread the message. It said. 'OFF 2 FIND NEW LOVER 2 KEEP ME WARM. You know one letter can make all the difference! Keep smiling.

David

New Term Starts for Flower Arranging

It does not matter if you are a beginner or have done some before, come and join a friendly group and have fun learning something about flower arranging

Where? Hunton Village Hall, When? Tuesday from 1.00pm-3.00pm, The New Term Starts 15th September 2009 for 5 weeks, Cost £35.00, For more details contact Jackie - 01622 753053

Summing up at School

Every year we sit and look back on an eventful and busy year and the year 2008-09 is no different. Our Ofsted Inspection in November provided the school with a "Good with outstanding elements" judgement. This was closely followed by the Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools who graded us as an "Outstanding Church School".

Harvest, Christingle, Mothering Sunday and finally a superb end of year production provided the whole school with the opportunity to share with yourselves and the local community their confidence to perform and ability to work together.

An oversubscribed Reception class for next year has meant that we now have 15 pupils starting with us in September and we still have a waiting list!

One of our targets from Ofsted was to raise the level of attainment for our more able pupils. This year we have sustained and built on the attainment reached by all our Year 6 pupils and now reach or exceed the national average in all areas of the curriculum with 30% achieving the highest level, meeting our Ofsted target.

We then asked the children to make a list of the successes this year, they included:

- Everyone learning to play rounders.
- Learning how to build shelters.
- Global Awareness Week, how frail our world is and how precious water is.
- Learning how to make finger puppets, volcanoes and dinosaurs!
- Making new friends and having really good playtimes.
- Learning to write beautifully and interestingly.
- Visits to Bore Place, Hever Castle, Horton Kirby and the Organic Gardens
- Learning about Tudors, Victorians, Great Fire of London and dinosaurs.

Applause Event: Atongo Zimba
17th October, Hunton Village Hall
Ghanaian singer and musician of international acclaim
Tickets £8 Contact Alan (820683) or Jane (820127)
www.music.thinkghana.com/artist/atongozimba

Hunton Festival— Friday 2nd to Sunday 4th October 2009

A celebration of the restoration of three windows containing ancient stained glass in St Mary's Church.

The three windows contain many fascinating images of birds, plants, emblems and people, dated from the 14th Century onwards.

Flower arrangers have selected twelve of them as a source of inspiration for their creative and artistic skills to produce a series of exhibits entitled "What's in a Window?".

The pupils of Hunton Church of England Primary School and the children of the Hunton based Under 5's Pre-school group are also contributing large displays of their own. Throughout the three days the church will be open from 10.00-5.00 (5.30 on Saturday) for visitors to enjoy the floral displays and view the restored windows.

Light refreshments will be available each day.

An unusual and fascinating attraction will be demonstrations on stained glass restoration on Saturday 3rd from 10.00 to 2.00 pm. These will be provided inside the church by John Corley, an expert conservator.

In the afternoon, at 2.30 pm, another expert, Leonie Seliger, will give an illustrated lecture on stained glass and its conservation. This will take place in the Village Hall opposite the church. This, the John Briggs memorial lecture, has been arranged in association with the charity Friends of Kent Churches. Admission to the lecture, which is followed by a splendid tea, is by ticket only.

Tickets cost £ 10 each and may be obtained by phoning 01622 820876 or 820858.

A celebration in sound will be provided by local bell ringers from 4.30 pm on Saturday. On Sunday 4th the Festival will conclude with a service of Songs of Praise at 6.00 pm.

For visitors from further afield: St Mary's Church is in West Street and Hunton lies between Coxheath and Yalding, six miles south of Maidstone.

Steaming Success

The Train event raised money for the festival.

'It was a fantastic day; we raised just over £1500 for the flowers for the festival' said Sue Pinks. 'Many many thanks to Sue and Lawrence Martin for their kindness and hard work in allowing the event to take place to raise money for the flowers. Thanks also go to all the helpers who helped to make this such a successful event'. Sue added 'We hope you will all enjoy the flowers at the festival on October 2nd, 3rd and 4th, and beware that we will be raiding your gardens for greenery shortly!'



Friends of St Mary's Village Ramble Sunday 25th October. See next month for details

Hunton Club Book Group July Review

'Up and Down in the Dales' By Gervase Phinn

Gervase Phinn was a school inspector in Yorkshire for many years, and 'Up and Down in the Dales' is one of a series of books about his experiences. The book contains a succession of events and stories at various schools, and his life with his wife at their picturesque cottage, up to the birth of their first child.

One national newspaper described this book as hilarious, but all of our group thought that was rather over stated and that the book was amusing but somewhat shallow. Most of us thought that Gervase Phinn sounded like a very likeable man and thought that he would be an interesting person to chat to, but that a whole book of his anecdotes became a little boring. It was all fairly predictable, and presented no good descriptions, characterisations or challenges to the reader. The average score given for this book was 4 out of 10.

Next month's book is 'A Town Like Alice' by Nevil Shute.

Lorraine Redfarn

Out and Out Foliage for Flowers

A request for greenery for the flower festival to be held at St Mary's Church this October got me thinking about gardening for flower arranging. It is certainly easier to grow foliage for arrangements than to try to keep up a supply of flowers, and anyway I find flowers to be too precious in borders to cut for arrangements.

Greenery has two functions in a flower arrangement, it can be used in a secondary role to add bulk and depth to the composition, and as a background to the flowers, or they can be decorative in their own right having a starring role in the display.

Many shrubs in a well stocked garden can be cut for the vase but there are two shrubs which are valued by flower arrangers that should not be given centre stage in the garden. The contorted hazel which looks so pretty in spring with its twisted branches contrasting with elegant dangling catkins would take a starring role in any display at this time of year but looks lumpen and dull for the rest of the summer with distorted leaves concealing its charm. An out of the way corner for this then. The same goes for the much vaunted evergreen Viburnum Tinus, best described as background foliage for flower arranging purposes this gardener would describe it as dreary and unexciting also consigning it to the wings where constant cutting will go unnoticed.

Christine McSweeney

At St Mary's Church in September

Notices

Coffee Rota

6th September - Andrews Family

Brass Cleaning

September - Mary Johns and Nicky Grainger

Flower Rota

Sept 6th Mrs Pinks (Wedding)

Sept 13th Mrs Way (Wedding)

Sept 20th Mrs Way

Sept 27th TBA

Oct 1st & 4th FLOWER FESTIVAL—All Helpers

Hunton Sunday Club

We meet again after the August break on Sunday September 20th at a new venue, Scotts Farm, West Street, the home of Mr and Mrs S Banks. We are very fortunate to be able to meet in the home of our Club members and also to welcome Kay Mason to join us as a leader with me. The Club welcomes all children of primary school age who either live in Hunton or attend school in Hunton as is a club run on Christian values, having fun, activities, games and tea. We meet from 5.15pm to 6.45pm usually on the 3rd Sunday of each month. Contact David Jones 741474 for more details or simply turn up on the evening.

Services

Sunday 6th September - 13th Sunday after Trinity

11.00am Family Service

Rev David Jones

Readings: Preachers Choice

Sunday 13th September - 14th Sunday after Trinity

9.30 Holy Communion

Rev Michael Shaw

Readings: Isaiah 50 v 4-9a and Mark 8 v 27-38

Sunday 20th September - 15th Sunday after Trinity

11.00am Morning Prayer

Rev Michael Shaw

Readings: Jeremiah 11 v 18-20 and Mark 9 v 30-37

Sunday 27th September - 16th Sunday after Trinity

*11.00 Harvest

Revd Peter Walker

Readings: Numbers 11 v 4-6, 10-16, 24-29 and Mark 9 v 38-50

Sunday 4th October - 12th Sunday after Trinity

11.00am Family Service -

Readings: Preachers Choice

*Note change of time for Harvest Services

Churches Together in Maidstone

Forum Meeting, Thursday September 17th

7.30pm for 7.45pm

Maidstone Baptist Church (Knightrider Street)

FAMILY TRUST & CAST, Hear about the valuable work in our local schools. **Speaker - Annabelle Blackaby** Family Trust, Refreshments served from 7.30pm onwards



John Archer, Tearfund's new London and the South East of England manager will talk about Tearfund's harvest project - Water and Sanitation

Followed by prayers for Tearfund projects and the needs of the world

Wednesday 7th October at 7.45pm in Loose Baptist Church.

Directions: The church meets on the school site, not in Loose Village. Take the A229 (Hastings road) out of Maidstone. After passing the Fire Station turn left after a parade of shops into Boughton Lane. Follow the road round to the right and then turn left into the school. Ample parking.

Sale of Tearcraft and Fairtrade goods & refreshments at close of meeting. For more information please ring Karen Mackley at 01732 870625

The Alpha Course

What is Alpha? It's relaxed, non-threatening, low key, friendly and fun. The Alpha course is an opportunity for anyone to explore the Christian faith.

Taster Event - Why not come and try it? Wednesday 23rd September 7.30pm at 23 Bensted Close, Hunton

The Alpha Course is an ideal course to give the basic grounding to Christianity, it presupposes no knowledge of Christianity at all; but it is also a good course for those who are committed Christians and would like to deepen their faith and progress in their personal pilgrimage. It is a course that offers as much in return as you want to put into it and sometimes can be challenging both to newcomer and experienced alike.

Alpha is a 10 week course with a Saturday Away Day. Each session begins with supper where you get to know the other people on the course and those leading the group. This is followed by a talk (either live or on DVD), and then a group discussion on the topic for the day. New course starts: 30th September - Who is Jesus?

For further information or to book, please contact Kay Mason Tel: 01622 820488 or 07921122802 - alternatively, please e-mail kaysey61@yahoo.com

<i>September</i>	<i>6th</i>	<i>13th</i>	<i>20th</i>	<i>27th</i>	<i>4th October</i>
Coxheath	11.00 HC	9.30 MP	11.00 HC	11.00 FS	11.00 HC
E. Farleigh	9.30 HC	08.00 HC 11.00 FS	9.30 HC	08.00 HC 09.30 Matins	9.30 HC
Linton	9.30 HC	09.30 HC	08.00 HC 11.00 FS	09.30 HC	9.30 HC
W. Farleigh	8.00 HC	11.00 MP Trad	9.30 HC	11.00 Harvest	08.00 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 Peter Walker