



Parish Council News

Loads of Lorries

Fears have been expressed that lorries travelling to and from a new site in Tovil, could use narrow country lanes around Hunton.

Maidstone Borough Councillor, John Wilson, reported to the March Parish Council meeting that a planning application had been submitted for a plant for crushing bricks and rubble into hardcore which would be used by up to 160 lorries daily.

"The applicants say that the lorries will be routed through Maidstone but I fear there is a danger of them using other routes to the site involving the lanes around the Hunton area. This high level of traffic in the area would be ridiculous," said Mr Wilson adding that the site opposite Tesco's had always been an industrial one.

Street Lamp Costs Double

Council Clerk, Vikki Stancombe, reported that EDF had changed its pricing structure for street lighting and it looked as though it was charging twice, but the company explained the new pricing was for lighting and the mechanism for switching it on. She found that EON provided a better service at less cost and councillors agreed to change suppliers.

The Fate of the Fete

Hunton residents will be disappointed to learn that there will not be a Village Fete this Summer. Chairman of the King George V Playing Field Management Committee, Keith Eatwell, reported to the Parish Council meeting that members had discussed staging what used to be an annual event. "It is too late now to make the necessary arrangements so we will plan early for next year," said Mr Eatwell.

Parish Plan - Diary Date 20th May

Sue Heaton reported: "We have a chairman, secretary and treasurer but we are hoping for a few more village residents to get involved in the Plan which is highly important for Hunton. Councillor Glyn Charlton is coming to our meeting in April. He was involved with the East Farleigh plan and will advise on how the project was achieved."

AGM Parish Council - Diary Date 13th May

Residents attending Hunton's Annual Parish Meeting in the Village Hall on Thursday May 13th will be able to hear reports from representatives of all clubs and organisations in the village.

Annual feedback will come from the Tree and Pond Warden as well as representatives from the Village Hall; King George V Playing Fields; St Mary's Church; Hunton Herald; Bowls Club; Village Club; Peace Cottages; Cricket Club; Football Club; Primary School; the Hunton and Linton Pre-school; Friends of St Mary's and the Parish Plan organisers. Kent County Councillor, Paulina Stockell, and Maidstone Borough Councillors have also been invited to give reports, as well as the local policeman PC Gary Shaw.

Friends of St Mary's Summer Event Barn Dance Saturday 26th June at the Village Hall

Your Local Contacts:

Parish Council Chairman: Roger Sawtell	820731	Clerk to Parish Council: Vikki Stancombe	842782
School: Secretary/Head Teacher	820360	Village Hall Booking: Jane Crane	820127
Under 5's Pre-School:	820309	Maidstone Police:	608186
Pre-School Supervisor: Nicola Julier	07972067110	Neighbourhood Watch:	608173
Pond and Tree Warden: Anne Bishop	820683	'Potholes' concern (KCC): Kim Hills	0845 824 7800
Rector: Revd Peter Walker	747570**	Churchwarden: Alison Ellman-Brown	820288
Associate Rector: Revd David Jones	741474*	Organist: Philip Moore	749356
Village Club: Doug Redfarn	820495	PCSO Jo Watts/Gary Shaw	604392

*not available on Fridays **not available on Mondays

Dates for Diaries:

Wednesday 14th April -Hunton Parish Plan Committee Meeting 8pm Village Club
 Saturday 1st May - Applause 'Carmen Souza' Village Hall 8pm
 Wednesday 12th May -Parish Plan Committee meeting 8pm Hunton Village Club
 Thursday 13th May- Parish Council AGM 7pm followed by Annual Parish Meeting at 8pm Hunton Village Hall
 Thursday 20th May - 'Ideas Night for the Hunton Plan' - All Welcome
 Sunday 23rd May, Hunton School May Fayre
 Sunday 6th June - open Gardens with NGS - details next month
 Saturday 26th June - Barn Dance Village Hall

Parish Councillors contact details

Parish Council Chairman
 - Roger Sawtell 820731

Clerk to the Parish Council
 - Vikki Stancombe 842782

Cllr Les Leonard 820858 Cllr David Heaton 820678
 Cllr Moira Walter 745765 Cllr Keith Eatwell 745569
 Cllr Gary Thomas 820691 Cllr Ron Porter 820220

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

Dear Friends,

The great festival of the Christian year is upon us!

How does this event in world history impact on the lives of people today when times are hard. Yes, the world is still in difficult times. There continue to be many terrible things that are happening.

Spiritual wickedness in high places, organised crime - how is it that so many school children seem to have access to alcohol and illegal drugs of addiction? The media broadcasts into our homes scenes of sexual depravity and foul language that would never have been tolerated a few years ago. Wars continue; lives are lost. Evil regimes continue; the list goes on.

But let us look back into history, to the time of the Roman Empire. Things were pretty grim then. Poverty, starvation, disease, corruption and cruelty. And then a very special thing happened in the midst of all this.

A baby was born in a simple cattle shed to a young father and mother. Jesus, the Saviour.

Quite apart from his divine nature Jesus Christ was a man of immense courage and insight. He had the strength to stand up and speak out against evil, against the rottenness and hypocrisy of wicked people in those days.

At the Last Supper he bequeathed to mankind the wonderful sacrament of the Holy communion that have given to millions the strength and courage and understanding to stand up too and to overcome evil with good.

He knew that he was to die - and that in reality it was to be a most grisly and horrible death - the only way Romans knew how to execute people. That highly 'sophisticated' instrument of torture and death, the cross, where eight inch nails were driven through the nerve centres of the wrists and feet enduring an agonising and lingering death.

He who had bestowed the divine love and compassion on the sick, the poor, the starving, the thieves and sinners in their miseries because they needed Him so much, as we do today, yet how many people today give Him not one thought except perhaps by taking His name in vain. Death at the hands of the Romans was not the end. If it had been there would be no story to tell and no Christian faith. The brother-in-law of Billy Graham, Leighton Ford says this about Good Friday and Easter Day: 'Friday's here, but Sunday's coming!'

This is the message which brings hope to a world still hurting and suffering from the havoc of sin today. Jesus alive again and with us by the power of the Holy Spirit. May you all have a happy and blessed Easter! *Peter*

Applause

Melbourne boy drops into Hunton on his way home

Culminating his 2010 UK tour Jeff Lang treated an audience of 75, attending the latest Applause event in the Village Hall. His guitar playing on acoustic, electric and a lap steel guitar in particular was exciting and of the highest quality. A fine ranging voice delivered pithy and poignant songs, mainly self composed, and showed what a fine performer and musician he is. He said after the show how much he enjoyed playing in the hall which has excellent acoustics, and to an enthusiastic audience. As I write he is off to Japan for 2 gigs on his way home to his young family. Such is life on the road. He is welcome back when he next tours here.

Date for diary: next Applause - Saturday 1 May 2010 Carmen Souza, a fine Cape Verde singer with her band. This will be exciting and a likely sell out. Tickets are on sale now. *Alan Bishop 820683*

Parish Plan Paving the Way

We had an excellent turn out for the meeting on Wednesday 17th March and managed to develop the high level project plan and define the three working groups:

Events Planning Working Group, Questionnaire Development Working Group, and The Parish Plan (document) Development Working Group - if anyone would like to assist with any of these areas please contact us! The future dates for your diaries will be confirmed next month, but in essence the stages are as follows:

- Our Ideas Night 20th May will be to obtain information from you that will inform the final plan about what it is you want or don't want for Hunton for the future.
- From the Ideas Night, the questionnaire will be developed, piloted with the aim to roll it out by mid September. To tie in with the launch of the questionnaire we will organise a big event at the Village Hall on a Saturday in September. We are aiming to have a 'fair' type event all about your village and will need many people to assist with this event.
- By February we aim to be feeding back the results of the questionnaire with another Saturday event. At this event we will prioritise what it is you want in the plan from all the feedback and what you deem as a priority.
- From then there will be work underway to finalise the document as a product of our plan for our village.
- We will be launching the final plan at an event in June 2011. So here's hoping we keep on track!

At the next meeting, 14th April at 8pm in the Village Club, Councillor Glyn Charlton will be coming along to share the experiences they encountered through the development of their plan in East Farleigh. We will also be finalising the details of our events night and getting the working groups underway. Click on www.hunton.org.uk to view the Parish Plan section of the website & update yourselves on the details of the last meeting. *Sue Heaton*

Hunton Club Book Club

February 2010 Review - Killing My Own Snakes by Ann Leslie

Opinions in the Book Club were extremely divided over Ann Leslie's "Killing My Own Snakes". Her autobiography or "memoir" is long and detailed and only three members of the Club finished it. Two of those three enjoyed it very much indeed finding her experiences and anecdotes "fascinating". Most other members did not finish it because they found her style of writing disjointed or disliked the author finding her "arrogant" and "egocentric".

Ann Leslie, in her multi-award winning career, worked first for the Daily Express and was then, for many years, foreign correspondent for the Daily Mail. As such, she was present at nearly all the major world events in the late 20th century including the release of Nelson Mandela and the fall of the Berlin Wall. She was a fearless journalist reporting from war zones, highly oppressive regimes and democracies. Her newspaper reports were often obtained at considerable danger to herself including being shot at by Bosnian snipers and pursued by Robert Mugabe's secret police. She had memorable and often very amusing encounters with major figures in world affairs and the world of show business. These included Mikhail Gorbachev, George Bush, Imelda Marcos, Muhammed Ali, Salvador Dali and Sophia Loren. Through her extensive international reporting Ann Leslie became only too aware of the extremes of standards of living in the West and East. The last few chapters where she writes about the lack of women's rights in the Middle East and the starvation of people in North Korea are particularly sobering. The group gave this book scores ranging from 2 to 10 but the average score was 5. *Liz Oliver*

Clerk to Governing Body

Are you able to spare a few hours per month? Are you interested in education and able to support your local school? We are looking for a friendly, approachable, enthusiastic Clerk to our Governing Body. Beginning as soon as agreed, the job entails attending approximately 6 meetings a year (including some committee meetings), most of which are in the evening.

The clerk's role is also to include preparation of agendas and papers for meetings, take up and write minutes, advise on legal procedures, deal with correspondence for Governors when necessary and act as custodian of records (these are stored in school). Knowledge of how schools and governing bodies operate would be an advantage along with previous experience of similar work but training and support is available.

Salary based on the Kent Scheme depending on experience based on approximately 30 hours work per annum, this is negotiable, depending on hours agreed.

Hunton CEP School is committed to safeguarding children and young people and therefore successful candidates will be required to provide a CRB disclosure at an enhanced level. Application forms are available by telephoning 01622 820360 or via the school office. Please forward your application and/or CV to:

Chair of Governors, Hunton CEP School, Bishops Lane, Hunton, ME15 0SJ

Please mark the envelope 'private and confidential'. **Closing date: 14th April 2010**

Hunton Parish Council - Annual Meeting of the Council on Thursday 13th May 2010

Commencing at 7.00pm at Hunton Village Hall

This will be followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 8.00pm. Parishioners are cordially invited to be present.

Hunton History Hunton Wills - Part Two

As described last month, the prerogative Court of Canterbury wills are an interesting insight into our ancestors' lifestyles. They are perhaps one of the few historical documents which are a record of the concerns and values recorded as a verbatim record, though composed in a legalistic form, of people, many of whom were of quite modest means. The wills illustrate quite well their attitude to their family and wives, friends, money and property. The first will chosen is of Richard Burton, Rector of Hunton, who died in 1700.

Perhaps surprisingly, given the age of his will, Richard Burton's is quite easy to comprehend and read. At a basic level his wife, a son, three daughters, a brother in law, an uncle and a cousin are all mentioned, which is obviously useful information for anyone tracing his ancestry. Perhaps more importantly the will is an important social history document. The will was indicative of the status of a clergyman in the Church of England at this time: Church of England clergy were regarded as being in the educated upper middle class, certainly as equivalent to the gentry, from which a considerable number were drawn. From the will it indicates he was not a local man as the will makes mention of his property in Bishop Burton in Yorkshire called West Hall and further property in County Durham which he bequeaths to his wife. His relative wealth is illustrated by the legacies he leaves to various members of his family, sums of some hundreds of pounds which in today's money would be some thousands. His piety is attested to by the legacies he bequeaths to paupers: ten pounds to the poor of Hunton, and five pounds to the poor of Crooke in County Durham to be paid within twelve months of his death.

On a personal level the dynamic which drives the tenor of the will is that he had already settled part of his estate upon his son Richard prior to the making of this will (this is stated at the beginning of the will). So he is concerned that provision is made for his three daughters, his friends and other relatives, but the bulk of his real and

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At St Mary's Church in April

Notices	Services
Flower Rota	Thursday 1st April - Maundy Thursday 07.30pm Benefice Holy Communion All Saints West Farleigh Revd Peter Walker Readings: 1 Corinthians 11 v 23-26 and John 13 v 1-17 & 31b - 35
4th April Easter Sunday - ALL HELPERS	Good Friday 2nd April an Hour at the Cross 2.00pm Hunton Revd David Jones Readings: Preachers choice
11th Mrs. Bullivant	Sunday 4th April - Easter Sunday 11.00 am Family Service Revd Peter Walker Readings: Preachers Choice
18th Mrs. Bullivant	Sunday 11th April - 2nd Sunday of Easter 09.30am Holy Communion Rev Michael Shaw Readings: Acts 5 v 27 - 32 and John 20 v 19 - 31
25th Mrs. Forster	Sunday 18th April - 3rd Sunday of Easter 11.00 Morning Prayer Revd David Jones Readings: Acts 9 v 1-6 and John 21 v 1 -19
Hunton Sunday Club	Sunday 25th April - 4th Sunday of Easter 09.30am Holy Communion Rev Michael Shaw
Hunton Sunday Club meets again on Sunday April 18th from 5.15pm to 6.45pm at Scotts House West Street. If you are of primary school age and either live in Hunton or attend school in Hunton why not come along? Contact David 741474 for more details	

Continued from page 3... personal estate after bequests was left to his widow Mary. This may seem a common enough practice today, but less so then. A recurring theme of the will is the apparent love and trust in which he holds his wife the phrases 'my dear wife' and 'loving wife' appear frequently. Mary, as sole executor is charged that with the real and remaining personal estate to 'dispose of ... at her death to which of my children she shall think fit.' Interestingly and perhaps unusually he leaves it for her discretion on her death to possibly bequeath the remainder of his estate to a daughter. Often the bequest to the wife would have had a rider that she would only have a life interest in and an ability to dispose of the estate if she did not remarry. If she had done so the property would be forfeit to the new husband. Richard Burton explicitly does not do this. Mary Burton is also charged with organising his funeral at her discretion, something which given his profession he would commonly have left instructions for in his will.

This clergyman may have been wealthy enough to split his estate into many portions to provide for all his children and spouse, but it is interesting to conjecture that he may have been ring fencing his estate against complete control by his son. Did he not get on with him? Was he being Pontius Pilot to leave Mary to make the decision for final distribution of his estate among the siblings? We will never know but this is why these wills are so interesting.

David Heaton

Churches Together in Maidstone — Easter Services 2010

Maundy Thursday, April 1st, 7.30 pm, United Holy Communion Service,
Maidstone Baptist Church, Knightrider Street

Good Friday , April 2nd, 10.30 am, March of Witness

commencing at Maidstone Baptist Church Knightrider St. and finishing at the top of Earl Street. Service at approx 11.00am led by Rev Jackie Cray and the Preacher Major Grayson Williams and Salvation Army Band

11.30 approx United Good Friday Service

Salvation Army, Union Street; Preacher: Major Norman Ord (Principal of William Booth College)

7.30 pm Jerusalem Joy

Musical Service with music by Roger Jones and Churches Together in Maidstone Choir,
United Reformed Church, Week Street

Easter Sunday, April 4th, 6.30am, Sunrise Holy Communion Service

At car park, top of Bluebell Hill, led by Rev Gary Watt followed by breakfast.



April	4th	11th	18th	25th	1st May
Coxheath	11.00 HC	09.30 MP	11.00 HC	11.00 FS	11.00 HC
E. Farleigh	09.30 HC	08.00 HC 11.00 FS	09.30 HC	08.00 HC	09.30 HC
Linton	09.30 HC	09.30 HC	08.00 HC 11.00 FS	09.30 HC	09.30 HC
W. Farleigh	09.30 HC	11.00 MP	9.30 HC	11.00 MP (mod)	09.30 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