



## Parish Planning: Pros and Cons

We had a successful evening on the 20<sup>th</sup> May gathering views from villagers about Hunton. Jim Boot, Community Planning Coordinator and Kathy Bugden, Action with Communities in Rural Kent, facilitated the evening.

We started the evening with a presentation from the children of Hunton School who had undertaken an election at a special assembly earlier in the week. They voted for what they liked about Hunton and what they would like to change in Hunton. The sealed ballot boxes were brought along and Jim Boot had the joy of opening them up and reading out some of the votes. Included in their likes were the countryside and the 'cwietness' (quietness); the playing fields and that they lived close to their friends. The suggestions for what they would like to have in Hunton ranged from a swimming pool to a Chinese takeaway!



A DVD about Berkshire's parish plan process and achievements was shown before Jim led everyone through the exercise.

We recorded these views and will share this in the next edition and place the results on the website. Just to summarise the general flavour of the evening, the themes were that the residents of Hunton liked the quiet, peaceful, and tranquil setting in Hunton, and the attractive countryside was a draw. Their dislikes were potholes and 'Third world roads'; traffic and lorries also featured prominently - no surprises there.

What people wanted varied but included more social events; a village orchard and

Myxamatosis : a few gardeners no doubt agreeing with this!

There will be more details next month! **Don't forget; for more information on the Parish Plan go to [www.hunton.org.uk](http://www.hunton.org.uk)** The Date of the next Parish Plan meeting is **June 16<sup>th</sup> 8pm in the Village Club**

## Parish Council AGM

**Parish Council News** Chairman Roger Sawtell reported that the major achievement this year had been the developments to date on the 'Permissive Path'. An agreement had been reached with the two landowners to put the permissive path across their land and KCCs footpath officer, David Smith, will take the project forward with funding from KCC. This was a very positive outcome from what had been a very long process.

**School Report.** Two children from the school gave an excellent talk which explained how they had been getting involved in the Parish Plan.

Tansy Watts, who has very recently taken up the post of manager of the Preschool, reported that **the pre-school** is full nearly every day. Financially they are in a good position and are looking to obtain a grant to help pay for the replacement of the floor in the kitchen.

**The Bowls Club** reported a mixed season of results. Currently they have vacancies and are looking to recruit.

### 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:	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*	PCSO Jo Watts/Gary Shaw	604392
Village Club: Doug Redfarn	820495		

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

### Dates for Diaries:

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> June - Open Gardens with NGS  
 Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June, Parish Plan Meeting, 8pm, Village Club  
 Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June - Freighter Service, 2.15pm-3pm, Village Hall  
 Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June - Barn Dance Village Hall  
 Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> August, Freighter Service, 2.15pm-3pm, Village Hall  
 Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September - 'Hunton Calling!!'  
 Friday Oct 1<sup>st</sup> - Applause Event 'Old Dance School' - Folk Group  
 Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December - New Budapest Cafe Orchestra - With Chris Garrick

### Parish Councillors contact details

<b>Parish Council Chairman</b>			
- Roger Sawtell	820731		
<b>Clerk to the Parish Council</b>			
- 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 July edition to the Editors as soon as possible, and by 15<sup>th</sup> June, please*

Dear Friends,

Bill Beatty wrote a book many years ago entitled: 'Tasmania- Isle of Splendour'.

It was an apt title for so it is. The island state of Australia, is the smallest and least populated and the second state to be colonised in 1803. It is an Anglican Diocese with its cathedral dedicated to St. David in Hobart the capital of the island. Hobart is a channel port, the second deepest in the world after Rio de Janeiro. The river Derwent flows for 120 miles and is a source of hydro-electric power.

The capital's backdrop is Mount Wellington on whose foothills the city is built.

The mountain is often covered in snow and much of the city's weather is dictated by the mountain. The island has a temperate climate and though it can be cold in winter, it is never as cold as England and summer always comes on time with temperatures in the upper 20's Celsius.

*Continued on back page*

**Friends of St Mary's.** Cllr Ron Porter reported on the Friends of St Mary's. Its role is the preservation of the fabric of the church. It was John Scott's idea to set up the charitable fund and a body of trustees to preserve the building. Friends of St Mary's are looking for more members at only £10 a year to join and there are a lot of activities coming up: **June 26<sup>th</sup> is the Barn Dance** (£10 ticket and children 12 and under are free. The Bar will be supported by the club and there will be a professional caller); The Friends are looking to invite **Sutton Valence Choir** to come to the church just before Christmas and are looking at organising an **Auction of Promises**. This last year they have had a couple of walks, and a snow drop event which was the idea of David Way, then Chair of Hunton Fabric Committee, David has spent time with a small team splitting and replanting the snow drops over the years to present the display we had in February. This will now become a yearly event. In total the Friends have managed to raise over £4,000 in the last year.

**Church.** The death of organist, Philip Moore, was felt by the congregation and choir greatly. He had great commitment and a replacement will be difficult to find. Though the regular congregation is small, the church is full at major festivals. Highlights of the year were the Flower Festival celebrating the restoration of the stained glass window and the Church Yard won the silver award from the Kent Wildlife Trust. Alison Ellman-Brown continues as the sole Church Warden, a difficult job on her own for which she must be congratulated.

**King George V Playing Fields Committee.** Cllr Keith Eatwell thanked all of those involved in the Committee for their loyal support, particularly Margaret Carpenter, the secretary for her hard work. This year a new roof has been put on the football changing rooms and a safety net to stop cricket balls heading towards the bowling green has been installed! Health and safety has been maintained around the field and the children's play area. Keith reported that the Committee are keen to become involved with the Parish Plan and that they were also planning for a fete in 2011. The AGM is on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> July

**Cricket.** This was a year of mixed fortunes, but more games were lost than won. They have a new Secretary and as a priority are trying to address the falling membership.

**Football.** The league has been restructured and there was a lot of time lost with the bad weather; the season has therefore had to be extended. The pitch has been moved slightly nearer the road which avoids play on an area prone to being damp. The club have 63 players but sometimes struggle to get 22 to turn out. Next season they are hoping for 2 teams in the Maidstone League which will make it the 113th year to have achieved this. The pitch, playing fields and the changing rooms have been maintained in first class condition.

**Village Hall.** Alan Bishop reported that the Village Hall contributes to the village wakes, weddings, christenings, meetings and events. It is an unassuming, but important building; £5,000 has been spent on the amenities and the kitchen last year and the Preschool are organising a grant to do all the flooring in the kitchen. Alan thanked the small, but hard working Committee for their efforts especially, along with other helpers, at the Applause events.

**Peace Cottages.** There are 5 cottages that comprise the charity. Last year the five year inspection was completed which highlighted that the guttering and drain pipes and general wear and tear needed attention. Work is already underway to update the kitchens and will continue in the better weather. It appears that a soak away from the school hall runs into the egress in front of the cottages and freezes causing the road to deteriorate. The issue of parking will be eased when the foot path is established.

**Hunton Herald.** Cllr David Heaton reported that most clubs, societies and organisations use it to advertise events and it was good that we were able to fill it with local events and issues. Special thanks to Dudley Farman for organising the printing, Dawn Dixon for design and typesetting, James Forster for proof reading and sorting out the advertising and acting as treasurer, Christine McSweeney for organising the deliveries and importantly all those that deliver the Hunton Herald.

**Parish Plan.** The Hunton Parish Plan Steering Committee was constituted in February this year and has nine members. The Committee meets monthly and also has support from others who attend. The aim is to involve the whole village, capturing their views and forming a questionnaire, due to go out in September. There will be a major event in September 'Hunton Calling!!' to coincide with the launch of the questionnaire. (More on the Parish Plan in this newsletter.)

The Chairman, Roger Sawtell concluded the meeting by thanking the Parish Councillors for their work during the past year and Vicky Stancombe, the clerk, for keeping track of all the paperwork.

## Cider with Rosie

*Cider with Rosie* is Laurie Lee's stunning story of his life in the heart of the Gloucester countryside between the years 1917 and 1934. His autobiography conjures up a world of unsophisticated warmth and beauty as it tells of his early life from childhood to adolescence. The book explores Lee's relationship with his close-knit family, particularly with his adored mother and lovingly created characters from the book such as the warring grannies, the shell-shocked soldier, the eccentric uncles and the cider-dispensing siren, Rosie.

The story captures a vanished era in scintillating prose bordering on poetry, with a wicked sense of humour. Lee paints a wonderful picture of his family and the village population with kindly, good-humoured descriptions allowing the reader to sit and wait while each character comes into the story. However, at times the waiting is just a little too long. The book is also disjointed which mars complete enjoyment. Although, are we too harsh in our opinion, judging this book in 2010? Perhaps fifty years after its conception, has time just eroded its charm for us? Our score reflects our mixed opinions and we awarded this book 6/10.

Our book for May is *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel.

### Garden Opening with NGS

Sunday 6th June 11am - 5pm

2 Bishops Oast, Ken and Christine McSweeney;

Hillside, Sylvia and Gary Thomas;

Southover, David and Anke Way

3 New Cottages Barn Hill, David and Sue Heaton

Teas will be served at 3 New Cottages in aid of

Friends of St Mary's

There will be a combined admission fee of £4.00.

Children are free

### Yalding Scout Group's Garden Safari returns!

Sunday June 13<sup>th</sup> 2-5.30pm

£5 per adult; children free

Visit ten village gardens, all within walking distance of Yalding High Street

Plants, refreshments and gardeners' question time

Start at the gazebo sited in the High Street

Details from Karen Martin 01622 814444



## School News

### Out and About

Reception Class have been to Maidstone Museum learning more about dinosaurs. They sat in dinosaur footprints, looked at fossils of leaves, made fossil rubbings and saw a dinosaur neck bone.

Middle School had a lovely day out at Bedgebury Pinetum where they learnt about different types of conifers and how plants adapt to their habitats. They had a nice walk through the forest and saw a friendly family of ducklings.

### Parish Plan

The School had a very special assembly where the children talked about the Parish Plan and their input. They decided what they like about our village and what we would like changed. Three children from the school council attended the meeting at the Village Hall where they presented their two boxes of ideas - 'Things we like about Hunton' and 'Things we would like to change'.

### Parish Council AGM

Two of the children; Eleanor and Millie, members of the school council, presented a speech about the church school to the annual Parish Council Meeting. Both pupils spoke confidently and were a credit to our school.

### Eco Schools

Two of the pupils presented a short talk about the school grounds to a group of teachers and pupils from other Kent schools. They spoke about the two kitchen gardens, what the children grow and harvest, how they use the produce in school and about their new pond area.

## Hunton Wanderers Cricket Club

Are looking for new players

Any age

Any standard

We play league cricket on Saturdays and Sundays, friendlies and weekday evening 20/20 fixtures.

We have a full and varied fixture list and social calendar.

The setting is beautiful and the teas are GREAT.

For more information please contact:

Steve Jones 01622 726151

Simon Taylor 01622 674193

Chris Adams 07828 185216





## At St Mary's Church in June

Notices	Services
<b>Flower Rota</b> 6 <sup>th</sup> Mrs Scott 13 <sup>th</sup> Mrs Way 20 <sup>th</sup> Mrs St.John 27 <sup>th</sup> Mrs St.John	<b>Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> June - 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b> 11.00 am Family Service <span style="float: right;">Rev David Jones</span> <span style="float: right;">Readings: Preachers Choice</span> <b>Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b> 09.30am Holy Communion <span style="float: right;">Rev Peter Walker</span> <span style="float: right;">Readings: Samuel 11 v 26 - 12 v 10 &amp; 13-15 and Luke 7 v 36 - 8 v 3</span> <b>Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b> NO MORNING SERVICE 6pm SONGS OF PRAISE <span style="float: right;">Rev David Jones</span> <span style="float: right;">Readings: Isaiah 65 v 1-9 and Luke 8 v 26 - 39</span> <b>Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June - 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b> 09.30am Holy Communion - Rev Peter Walker <span style="float: right;">Readings: 1 Kings 19 v 15, 16 &amp; 19-21 and Luke 9 v 51 - 62</span> <b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July - 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b> <span style="float: right;">11.00 am Family Service</span>

The state is named after the Dutch explorer Abel Tasman, who made his first reported European sighting of the island on the 24<sup>th</sup> November 1642. He named the island Van Diemen's Land after his sponsor of the same name who was the Governor of the Dutch East Indies. It was officially named Tasmania in honour of its founder in the year 1856.

So it was to this island which had been home to me for eight years that my wife and I arrived in early April. We had flown from Adelaide the capital of the state of South Australia where I had trained for the ministry, and where on the Sunday we were there able to attend the morning service at the church where one of my contemporaries was the Rector. It was good to catch up on the intervening years and recall some of our madcap antics when students!

Hobart cathedral was where I was ordained and it was good to visit that holy place once again.

We visited two parishes where I was a Rector - my first appointment being down in the backblocks of N.E.Tasmania where I had eight churches spread across a valley 45 miles from end to end. It was noted on the Ordnance survey map as 'The Fingal depression'. It was so for many who lost their jobs in the tin mine which closed during my time there. It was great to catch-up with one of my former churchwardens and his wife, and hear that their eldest daughter whom I had prepared for Confirmation all those years ago was married with two children of her own and living in Canberra.

Some days were then spent with my sister and her husband. They live on the outskirts of Hobart overlooking a causeway that stretches across the river Derwent. A magnificent outlook. Space prohibits reporting our other exploits on the island; perhaps another time.

We then flew to the state of New South Wales to stay with Diana's two sisters over a period of a week. Another gathering of the clans (we had one in Tasmania) and a time for Diana to catch up with the wider family of nephews and nieces and their families too. A highlight of that visit was a boat trip on the Parramatta river with two of Diana's former nursing friends. The river is a waterway in Sydney and the main tributary of Sydney harbour, a branch of Port Jackson still 15 miles from the open sea. Sailing under the Sydney Harbour Bridge and then rounding the bend to see the Opera House straight ahead was a sight indeed!

This is just a small snapshot of some of the many things we did in three weeks which in total involved 7 aircraft, 10 different beds and no ash to impede our return! In that total was also three nights in Singapore - oh so hot and humid!

This trip once again reminded us of the great beauty of God's creation and that wherever we are we can see the handiwork of our Creator God and that 'the earth is full of His unfailing love' (Psalm 33)

May God bless us all in His service,

Peter

June	6 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup> July
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 9.30 Matins	09.30 HC
Linton	09.30 HC	09.30 HC	08.00 HC 11.00 FS	09.30 HC	09.30 HC
W. Farleigh	08.00 HC	11.00 MP	9.30 HC	11.00 MP (mod)	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