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Parish Council Meeting

Lughorse Lane

After an outcry greeted the arrival of a caravan on a site off Lughorse Lane, given temporary permission by Maidstone Borough Council more than three years ago, a new application has been received for change of use on an adjoining plot. The applicant wants to provide two plots for gipsy travellers, including the stationing of two mobile homes, two touring caravans, a stable building and two utility blocks.

Councillors had received protests from nearby residents who said that people often don't live on the site of the original caravan, so could not be classed as homeless, the reason why they were given temporary permission to stay.

Fearing that a second settlement could encourage the formation of a much larger site for gipsy travellers, the council is mounting rigorous opposition to the plans, saying there is nothing ecological to prevent them, but the proposals would be detrimental from the landscape aspect.

Resignation of Keith Eatwell

Hunton Parish Council has accepted, with regret, the resignation of councillor Keith Eatwell, who has also stood down as Chairman of the King George V playing fields committee and as secretary/ treasurer of Hunton Football Club.

Council Chairman, Roger Sawtell, praised Mr Eatwell for all his work over the past seven years, especially helping the playing field group to move forward, getting the sports clubs involved and working together as a team.

Reporting on his last meeting Mr Eatwell said that following complaints, the litter bins in the car park by the playing fields were being emptied. Members called for signage to inform visitors of the sports clubs and playing field locations.

Schemes to Slow the Traffic

Kent Highways has been asked by the Council to progress swiftly with the installation of Gateways in the road for drivers entering the village. It was stressed by Michael Heath of the highways department, after a meeting with Councillor Ron Porter that the Gateways were a reminder to motorists of the speed limits rather than marking the village boundaries.

Hunton school is backing plans for a 20 mph speed limit in West Street outside the school. Councillors have expressed real concern about speeding motorists, fearing that there will be a serious accident.

Police Report

The Police reported 24 crimes in the parish over the last year – an increase on the previous year's 17 – with the rise mainly due to scrap metal theft, a problem across Kent, for which Operation Mercury has been set up to combat the thefts.

HUNTON VILLAGE FETE—SATURDAY 25TH JUNE— MORE DETAILS IN ENCLOSED FLYER

Parish Plan - On Target

We are now at the final stages of the development of the plan and tweaking its layout. We are well on track to achieve our target date for preview at the Village Fete and then delivery to each household with the July Hunton Herald. A very draft preview was shown at the Parish Council's annual meeting where those present had a chance to see that our Parish Plan will be unlike the usual format that most villages have produced. We hope that people will become engaged with it as it includes all the important elements from the consultations. We look forward to seeing you with the Plan at the Hunton Fete on 25 June.

Your Local Contacts:

Parish Council Chairman: Roger Sawtell	820731	Clerk to Parish Council: Sharon Goodwin	681238
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 Tom Mepstead/Richard Chainey	604392
Village Club: Doug Redfarn	820495		

*not available on Fridays **not available on Mondays

Dates for Diaries:

Wednesday 15th June **Parish Plan meeting** 8pm Village Club
 Saturday 25th June **Village Fete** Village Green
 Thursday 14th July **Parish Council Meeting** 8pm Village Hall
 Sunday 24th July **Train Rides and Afternoon Tea** 2-5pm
 Thursday 8th September **Parish Council Meeting** 8pm Village Hall
 Thursday 10th November **Parish Council Meeting** 8pm Village Hall

Parish Councillors contact details

Parish Council Chairman

– Roger Sawtell 820731

Clerk to the Parish Council

– Sharon Goodwin 681238

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 15th June, please

Dear Friends,

Three major Christian Festivals dominate the month of June. On Thursday 2nd June it is Ascension Day. Sunday June 12th is Whit Sunday or Pentecost is its other name. June 19th is Trinity Sunday added to which it is also Father's Day. If you count four Festivals one can add June 29th which is celebrated as St. Peter and St Paul. A day on which quite often a Bishop conducts an Ordination service.

Which one of these four can I possibly address and do it justice? I'll mention something about three. Ascension Day occurs on the 40th day after Easter. As Jesus ascended into heaven witnessed by the disciples we recall the affectionate rebuke of the angels 'Men of Galilee, why stand gazing up into heaven?' 'This Jesus will return in the same way he has gone'. Here is the promise that Jesus will return one day. (Don't forget the Ascension Day service on Thursday June 2nd at 7.30pm at East Farleigh). *continued on back page*

Obituary

JOHN HANKS DAY, 88, died peacefully at his home, Petit Platt, Yalding on May 20th. His wife Jean and daughters and son are bereft. Report in next month's Herald.

Catch the Train - tickets going fast

Sunday 24th July, 2-5pm

Tickets £10 per head (except babes in arms and toddlers)

01622 820678/ 01622 820220/820508

Applause Concert

Thanks very much to the considerable efforts of Alan Bishop, and his team of helpers we were able to enjoy a delightful evening concert of Folk Music, given by The Kerr Fagan Harbron trio, at 8pm Friday 13th in Hunton Village Hall, under the aegis of The Applause programme. My wife and I always try to attend these Applause concerts; they have always been of very high quality, varied, and most enjoyable. This latest offering was no exception and was one of the best. It was notable that about 25% of the audience had not been to Hunton before. With groups of tables, drinks available, and cheese & French bread at the interval we, and the musicians, were well set. The group were most complimentary about the audience, the acoustics of the hall, and the very warm welcome, which was pleasing since the group have strong ties with Australia, which gave the English / Australian flavour of the music, much of which was their own. We can't wait for the next offering!

Richard Furlong

Out and Out Garden Gym

I have never been one for doing exercise for its own sake, jogging just doesn't do it for me. Exercise though is essential for well being, reducing the risk of high blood pressure and diabetes, as well as contributing to healthier bones, muscles and joints. I am also told that exercise will reduce the incidents of migraine attacks, a subject close to my heart, or should that be my head?

So can gardening, which ranks as a hobby with many people, also be considered good exercise? The answer to this is a resounding yes. If you can manage to do around 30 minutes of gardening a day and vary the tasks you do you will be well on the way to increasing your fitness levels and reaping the benefits of both exercise and a rewarding hobby.

As with all exercise it is best to start and end with some stretching exercises. It is also essential to build up the amount of time spent gardening and the intensity of the exercise; going straight in with two hours heavy digging is not a good idea. But with a little planning and perhaps with reference to some expert knowledge (books, the Web) the garden can be a satisfying way to both health and well being.

Christine McSweeney

Footpath Progress

Contact has been made with David Smith of the KCC who reported that the legal agreements needed for each land owner, are expected to be signed soon. Hopefully these should be in place by the 25th June. Meanwhile progress on the construction of the two wooden bridges is well under way and it is anticipated that these should be available by the beginning of June.

Highways

Highways have been informed of the state of the narrow road at the top of West Street and are being continually badgered for a repair to be made and the white lines to be replaced. The report back from highways is that they are having problems arranging a meeting with BT regarding the water that is coming out of their inspection box. Once the running water problem has been solved, the road can be repaired and then the white lines replaced. Richard Dixon will keep us updated with his negotiations with BT.

SOD or COP

Probably not a good way of introducing myself, however, I am new to the village of Hunton and think we could all benefit from either a Syndicate Oil Delivery or a Community Oil Purchase, or any other name and acronym that people might want to come up with. I am more than happy, I think, to run a syndicate for oil deliveries to the village. There are numerous benefits, including fewer tankers on the roads and better buying power etc so hopefully we can fill our tanks for less! I am proposing to buy oil very soon and happy if anyone wants to jump on the oil wagon so to speak – please email, mlferns@yahoo.co.uk with OIL in the subject heading, let me know your delivery address, and how many litres you want. Please also give your telephone number, and the oil company that gains our order, will then phone you to get payment. At the moment for a standard delivery I have obtained a price of 53.95 pence per litre, but I do drive a hard bargain and would hope to reduce that a little when I place the order! Thanks Louise

Hunton Club Book Group - April Review

Long Song by Andrea Levy

The Long Song is set in early 19th century Jamaica, on a sugar-cane plantation, in the turbulent years before and just after the abolition of slavery. The novel is in the form of a memoir written by an old Jamaican woman called July, once a slave on Amity Plantation. Her son, Thomas, is a printer who learnt his trade in Britain after his mother abandoned him on a minister's doorstep as a baby. We learn that he plans to publish his mother's book 'nicely bound and complete with sugarcane on the cover'.

July is a mulatto, the daughter of a Scottish overseer who raped her mother. The fact that she is of a lighter colour gives her greater social standing. She is taken to work in the Mistress's house as a maid and she tells of the relationship that develops between her, her Mistress Caroline and Caroline's newly acquired English abolitionist husband who only married Caroline so he could have a relationship with July!

July does not go into great detail of historical facts in her memoir, but speaks more of the chaos and the relationships of the many characters and how they survived the cruelties of the slave owners and their disregard for the people in their possession. She also demonstrated how the slaves could sometimes score small victories against their owners by stealing bottles of rum or not quite carrying out their owner's orders.

Apart from one member of the group most were rather disappointed in the book.

It was agreed that it is a very interesting topic and that some of the characters were colourful, Caroline, the Mistress, being brilliantly foul! Several felt there were far too many characters mentioned in the book so the reader never really got to know them which became laborious. It was also agreed that the slave industry was cruel in the extreme and that there were some heart-rending scenes such as when July was taken from her mother, the appalling conditions of the slaves who were imprisoned for a minor misdemeanour and the wicked way July's daughter was taken from her. In spite of this, few of the group were as moved as they felt they should have been. This was possibly because it was written with a certain amount of light hearted humour.

Points for the book ranged between 4 and 7 which made an average of 5/10

Next month's book is The Pillars of the Earth by Ken Follett

Hunton 'B' Book Group B - March Review

Regeneration by Pat Barker

The B group is a second book group meeting monthly that is reading a different set of books.

The story centres around Craiglockheart in Scotland in 1917 and the resident psychiatrist, Rivers. The patients are soldiers suffering from various forms of psychological problems as a result of their experiences in the trenches in France.

Although not a true story, some of the characters were known to us all, Siegfried Sassoon and Wilfred Owen being among them.

Rivers begins to doubt the reasoning behind helping to restore confidence and well being, only to then return the men to the trenches.

We all felt the story did not move along at a pace but overall it kept interest going. Group discussion centered on the harsh techniques used by "the old school" at the hospital and the preferable techniques of Rivers. All were shocked by the seemingly barbaric treatment methods. We scored the book 6/10.

Last Shout for the Art Exhibition at the Hunton Fete

The deadline for submitting artwork is 20th June 2011. Remember there is no theme and you can submit as many entries as you like and the choice of media is yours! Everyone is welcome!

Please submit your work and any photography and drawings (preferably mounted with your name and telephone number on the back) to Barbara Wright, Wealden Hall House, East Street 01622 820218

Hunton Club Royal Wedding Celebrations

Village members and their guests enjoyed a wonderful day celebrating the Royal Wedding at the Village Club joining in the street party atmosphere from 10am until closing time. There was a steady stream of people arriving all day long and well into the evening, ensuring a real buzz.

Union Jacks, red, white and blue bunting and balloons welcomed visitors. The TV was on inside from 10am so the wedding could be viewed. The special offer of Wine, Pimms and Pints at £2 proved particularly successful. Large tables and chairs (gratefully borrowed from the Village Hall) were arranged outside in the sunshine and the BBQ cooks were kept busy for hours.

Feedback indicates that everyone really enjoyed the day and many have said how nice it was to share the occasion with village friends, neighbours and families, all enjoying the party atmosphere in their own community. Our thanks to all those who helped make this event so successful.

For those of you who were not able to come along, what a pity – you missed a great day at your club!

For an update on the Village club events – check out the Website www.huntonvillageclub.co.uk

June 4th event has now been cancelled but look out for details of the **Next Event July 2nd Race Night**



At St Mary's Church in June

Notices

Coffee Rota

Sunday 5th June McSweeney family

Flowers

Sunday 5th June Mrs. Leonard

Sunday 12th June Mrs. Leonard

Sunday 19th June Mrs. Pinks

Sunday 26th June Mrs. Pinks

Sunday the 19th June St Mary's Church Hunton

11.00 am Family Service Celebrating **Fathers Day**
Every one welcome including all the fathers!

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Services

Sunday 5th June – Easter 6

11.00 am Family Service and Baptism - Rev Peter Walker and Mr Michael Cooper

Readings: Preacher's choice

Sunday 12th June – Pentecost

09.30 am Holy Communion – Rev Peter Walker

Readings: Numbers 11:24-30 and John 20:19-23

Sunday 19th June – Fathers Day Trinity Sunday

11.00 am Family Service – Rev David Jones

Readings: Isaiah 40:12-17, 27- end and Matthew 28:16-20

Sunday 26th June – 1st after Trinity

11.00 am Holy Communion – Rev Peter Walker and Mr David Barnes

Readings: Romans 6:12-end and Matthew 10:40-end

Sunday 3rd July

11.00 am Family Service

Readings: Preachers Choice

Pentecost Sunday recalls the coming of the Holy Spirit on the first disciples as they waited in Jerusalem having returned from the mountain top experience of seeing Jesus 'disappear'. The Holy Spirit turned weak men into strong men. They who had fled away when the pressure was really on at the time of Jesus' crucifixion, were now men so emboldened that they preached Christ and crucified him as the Good News in every sense.

We now live also in the time of the dispensation of God the Holy Spirit. He who makes Jesus alive to us today. We can get so tired of failing to be the person God wants us to be, and it often seems as if we are going back instead of forward. The Holy Spirit gives us the strength to be 'people of God' – to make Christ alive!

The Trinity reminds us of the whole glory of the Godhead, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The seeming conundrum for some is how can there be three persons and yet one God? In the mind we tend to think in what has been called a 'Tritheistic' way. Yet, the Holy Spirit reveals the Son, the Son reveals the Father. On one occasion the disciples asked Jesus to show them the Father. 'If you have seen me, you have seen the Father' was Jesus' reply.

In our faith we want to be delivered from believing in a distant Deity, or a sweet sentimental man, or a vague Force. As we celebrate these important festivals we surely want to believe in the majesty of the all-holy Trinity- Father, Son and Holy Spirit, three persons in one God.

With best wishes for a truly packed liturgical June!

PETER

Knit and Natter Group Yalding Gardens

Come and join in our monthly knitting group. All experience levels welcome, just bring some needles and wool. A chance to swap ideas or learn new skills. £4 per session includes cup of tea and cake from the Bushel Box Tearooms. Now from 2.30-4.30pm.

Next dates: **SUNDAY 26th June**, Saturday 23rd July & Saturday 27th August.

For more info phone Tracey on 01622 820019.

Barsleys of Paddock Wood celebrates 120 years of trading

Barsleys of Paddock Wood, a supporter of the Hunton Herald from the outset, has recently celebrated its 120th anniversary. Quite an achievement and we wish them well.

Help 4 Heroes

I got round the 68 mile New Forest Bike Ride challenge in 4hrs and 40 which was about what I thought I would do. It is a lovely ride with great scenery, well organised and with a good feel to it with the camaraderie, a great sense of everyone united for the cause. There were three pit stops where you check in and refuel with sugary sweets and energy bars, water and sugary concentrate. I've never seen such big bags of jelly babies in my life! There was a hog roast afterwards. The weather was kind all day, except that cyclists could always do with less wind. I have raised around £800, and a big thank you to everyone who sponsored me and supported the Help 4 Heroes charity.

Jeremy Scott

Churches Together in Maidstone Pentecost Celebration in the Park, Sunday June 12th at 3.00pm

Brenchley Gardens, Maidstone - The Covenant Players. Your opportunity to be involved with a Christian Drama Group from Wales. Supported by 'Onfaith' the music group from Maidstone Baptist Church at the Bandstand or if wet in St Faith's Church. Covenant Players have been performing since 1963 and are 'on the road 34 – 35 weeks a year bringing a unique ministry of Christian Dram to cities, town and villages all over the world.



June	5th	12th	19th	26th	3rd July
Coxheath	11.00 HC	11.00 MP	11.00 HC	11.00 FS	11.00 HC
E. Farleigh	09.30 Matins	08.00 HC 11.00 FS 3pm Baptism	09.30 HC	08.00 HC	09.30 Matins
Linton	09.30 HC	09.30 FS	08.00 HC	09.30 HC	09.30 HC
W. Farleigh	08.00 HC	11.00 MP (Trad)	9.30 MP (Mod)	09.30 HC	08.00 HC

HC: Holy Communion, MP: Morning Prayer, (bcp) Book of Common Prayer, FS: Family Service, SW: Service of Word