



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

## Hunton Parish Council AGM

### Feedback from the Village

**Hunton School** headmistress Sue Wood, supported by two senior pupils, said that the school was thriving and with a full reception class was well subscribed. The school, which has been involved in the Parish Plan, is this year focusing on the keen involvement of pupils' parents and grandparents in various activities. Further work has been carried out to an outdoor area and classroom.

The **Hunton Pre School** received an Ofsted inspection in March reporting good progress in all areas and offers a "positive and harmonious" environment. Parents have helped with the upkeep of a garden by the side of the village hall. The school will be looking to attract new children for the new term.

The **Village Hall** has enjoyed another eventful year with an increasing number of activities including the popular Applause entertainment evenings, with more than 80 attending the last one in May, reported Alan Bishop. These events are important fund-raisers and bring people into the village.

"**St Mary's Church** has faced a difficult year with numbers dropping and support falling on fewer shoulders", said churchwarden Alison Ellman-Brown, praising the work of the Friends of St Mary's. There was an urgent need for an organist following the death of Phillip Moore. The church's Sunday Club continues to flourish with 12 primary schoolchildren attending.

The proposed colourful mock up of **The Parish Plan** was displayed by Sue Heaton and Barbara Wright, who hoped that after consultations with residents, the 'real plan' will be ready for villagers to see at the Fete on June 25th.

The **Hunton Cricket Club** had been under a cloud after the unexpected and tragic death of Andy Vickers, 23. In the 2010 season, the first team had been relegated from the Kent League but was enjoying a good start to this season, while the 2nd and Sunday teams had held their own but were not likely to be promoted. With only three members from the village, Simon Taylor appealed for more local residents to join the club.

**Peace Cottages**, the row of five one-bedroom homes for the elderly in West Street have been modernised over the past two years, with electrical work, new kitchens and windows while bathrooms are being installed, reported Liz Oliver.

The **Hunton Football Club**, with 68 members, has excellent facilities, the envy of other clubs in the area, reported Keith Eatwell, with thanks to the Parish Council. The support by Savage Cranes over the past 20 years has come to an end as the company has moved out of the village but Peter Mackelden, civil engineers, had offered donations. In their 113th

*Continued on page 2*

**Train Rides and Tea** Last chance for tickets – they need to be purchased in advance. Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2-5pm  
Tickets £10 per head (except babes in arms and toddlers). 01622 820678/ 01622 820220/820508

### Hunton Village Club - Charity Race Night Saturday 2nd July – 8pm

Hunton Village Club is hosting a Charity Race Night. Now is your chance to "buy" a horse or "manage" a jockey prior to the event – cost £2.00. All the money raised this way will be donated to the Children's Trust. You'll be the one to pick up a prize if your horse or jockey wins, even if you don't place a bet or can't come to the race night. Pop into your club to choose your favourite or look out for the Hunton Village Club stand at the fete where you can make your choice.



You'll be missing the fun if you don't attend though, so come along to your club on 2nd July, pick a winner or two with cash prizes and enjoy a fun night at the races.

**Note for your diary of future club events:** 6th Aug – Quiz Night, 27th Aug – Caribbean Cook-Out

#### 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:

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July **Parish Council Meeting** 8pm Village Hall  
Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July **Charity Race Night** Hunton Village Club 8pm  
Wednesday July 20<sup>th</sup> **Parish Plan - Planning forward** meeting- Hunton Club 8pm  
Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July **Knit and Natter Group** Yalding Gardens from 2.30-4.30pm  
Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July **Train Rides and Afternoon Tea** 2-5pm  
Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August **Quiz Night** Hunton Village Club 8pm  
Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> August **Caribbean Cook-Out** Hunton Village Club  
Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September **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 August edition to the Editors as soon as possible, and by 15th July, please**

Dear Friends,

Like many people I have been busy with my hands, especially over the past three years as I have been writing many assignments in preparation for my ordination as Deacon this September.

As I sit at my computer, using my hands to write this letter it reminds me of a story, which I would like to share with you now. During the war an old church in Germany was bombed. Everything was destroyed except a life-sized statue of Jesus. It survived unharmed except for its hands, which had been completely shattered.

Until the church was rebuilt the statue was kept safe in a box. Then it was placed along the east wall. Years later a sculptor was visiting the church. He noticed that the figure of Jesus had no hands, and offered to carve new ones for the figure free of charge. He was thanked for his kindness, and the matter was discussed by the church members. A vote was taken and it was decided not to accept the sculptors offer. The reason they gave was "The statue reminds us each time we come into the church that Jesus has no hands in the world except our hands".

I thought, what a lovely story this was about something very fundamental to being a Christian and a member of Christ's body, the church. Without its members, coming together, working together, praying together, Christ would not reach the world of need with his compassion and love. It is good to remember this, as St. Teresa of Avila did when she wrote this well loved prayer.

Christ has no body now on earth but yours, No hands but yours, no feet but yours:

Yours are the eyes through which he is to look out, Christ's compassion to the World.

Yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good:

Yours are the hands with which he is to bless us now.

May God bless us all as we share his love and kindness with those who we meet on life's journey. I pray that I too, may use my hands, feet and eyes wisely as I start a new phase of ministry in our Benefice. *Eileen Doyle*

season in the Maidstone League, the First Team was placed fourth in the first division while the Reserves were 10th in the second division.

The **Hunton Book Club** with 10 members is progressing well and has formed a second group meeting in the Hunton Club, reported Trisha Nichols.

**Hunton Village Club's** numerous events through the year were highlighted by Phil Nichols. An area at the back of the club has been cleared for barbecues and other outdoor activities. Residents responses in The Parish Plan had called for a village 'hub' and this is what the club can be. New members are being sought after membership stood at 154 but 46 had not renewed which was a worrying loss of 23%. Internal and external renovations are taking place.

**The Friends of St Mary's** have enjoyed a most successful year with David Heaton reporting that there is a real upsurge in community activity in Hunton. Membership numbers have grown, although slower than expected but fund-raising has been encouraging. The Friends will be running a barbecue at the Village Fete on June 25th while Lawrence and Sue Martin will host Train Rides at Wayside on July 24th.

**The Hunton Herald** has produced its 100th issue which was celebrated with a revamped look and more articles from the village, reported David Heaton. The Parish Plan had shown that the Herald was the most popular source for information about village events and activities. Income and advertising revenue had led to a £500 donation to the school; £1000 to the Friends of St Mary's; £500 for the Parish Plan and £300 for the Village Hall.

#### **For Sale and Wanted's**

A 'Berry' piano for sale. Please contact Claire and David Moakes, Greenacres, East Street, Hunton. 820509

## **Hunton's Big Bang**

On Wednesday 25th May we were already apprehensive about the weather, about visitor numbers and about visitor reactions to the drought, for Southover garden in Grove Lane was open to the public to raise money for charity under the National Gardens Scheme. So when two policemen turned up with the first visitors to arrive, we felt impressed - until it became clear that they had no intention of paying the entry charge or consuming coffee and cake. We were informed that 'a piece of ordinance' had been found in an adjacent field and that until it had been made safe we should shelter indoors. Grove Lane had been closed to prevent further visitors arriving.

Of the few visitors already here two immediately fled to the comparative safety of Yalding Organic Gardens, the other two took shelter indoors with us. Towards lunch time we saw a Royal Logistics Corps lorry arrive, from Aldershot in Hampshire. The bomb disposal squad were here at last. After what seemed an age, there was a knock at the door; the two policemen were back.

'We have opened Grove Lane again ' they said, ' it is now safe for your visitors to arrive and enter your garden'. Within ten minutes several had arrived and having just bought their tickets were greeted by a very loud explosion which seemed so close as to be near our north boundary. A quick head count showed all were still upright. Just as we heaved a final sigh of relief, there was a second equally loud explosion. But we had become used by then to the sounds of the countryside in May and just carried on welcoming our visitors.

We subsequently discovered that the cause of the excitement was a WW2, 3 inch naval shell, which tillage operations in a neighbouring field had exposed. Because the first detonation failed to burn all the explosive, a second detonation had to be undertaken. All this leaves behind a puzzling question - what were the Royal Navy doing in Hunton during the war surely not steaming up the river Beult in a warship for gunnery practice?

*David Way*

## **Applause Autumn Season** Notice of forthcoming events at Hunton Village Hall

Friday 30th September - **Kit Holmes:** Enjoy an uplifting evening of Kit's gorgeous guitar, poignant lyrics and feisty fiddle playing all with Kit's incredible sense of fun. Kit will be accompanied by Allan Greenwood on guitar.

Friday 7th October - **Doudou Cissoko Ancient Strings and Fabulous Things:** A dynamic cast of international musical troubadours weave a magic spell. World class world music on your doorstep.

Friday 25th November - **Tongues of Fire Village Band:** The village band draws on traditional rural music making and fires up a stupendous atmosphere.

## **Planning Forward**

The Hunton Parish Plan will have arrived with your Herald by the time you are reading this. As you can see there are some interesting things we could achieve as a village or with help of other organisations and government bodies.

Our next meeting is **20th July at the Village Club 8pm** and we are welcoming as many people as possible. Carl Adams from Action with Communities in Rural Kent and Roger Sawtell our Chairman of the Parish Council will be advising about the next steps for the village. We need to set up some separate groups to tackle some of the diverse issues that we raised in our responses to the questionnaire. This is where we need YOU.

This is an opportunity for people to get involved on whatever level they wish to participate and perhaps even set up a small group to explore some of these issues. We want to welcome new and additional members to the committee and other groups, and it is important that we can get as many people involved as possible to make light of some of the tasks ahead – it will all be good fun. Please come along!

## **Out and Out Wild about Gardens Too**

As promised in the May Hunton Herald, my garden was entered into the Wild about Gardens scheme. It was simple to enter, I took the online route rather than the traditional form and sat back to see what happened. The entry questionnaire does ask things which give pointers to what they may be looking for. It was tempting to answer yes to everything, then scurry round making good. I could have faked a record of wildlife seen and put up bird boxes but installing a pond within weeks was not possible so I answered honestly and hoped my demon knowledge of all things living (!) would save the day.

A gentleman called Bill visited at a mutually convenient time. With clipboard and pen at the ready we explored the finer points of wildlife gardening on my patch of dirt. The pond question came up, as did a hedgehog box, and of course there were still no permanent records of wildlife sightings. But, I showed him my closely clipped hedges and trees which support squirrels and woodpeckers, explained my organic credentials and pointed to where bats have made a home in the summer house. So how did I do? We will have to wait until September for the results.....

*Christine McSweeney*

## **A Hunton Gardening Club**

We had some interest at the Hunton Calling event for setting up our own gardening group. If there is anyone who would like to join please contact Lesley Lee on 820210 or [Lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com](mailto:Lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com).

As a group we could subscribe to the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners which entitles members to purchase flower and vegetable seeds, seed potatoes, onion sets, etc at 50% discount! Who knows, we might have a group together in time to organise a produce show!

## **Hunton Walks** Shirley Warrington has recently self-published a book, 'Short Kentish Walks'.

A walk through the countryside of Hunton is in the book along with 9 other walks around villages within easy reach of Maidstone. If anyone would like a copy, please contact Shirley on 01622 663468. Price £5.00 per copy.

## **Weekday Walking Group**

Ann Sawtell is setting up a new walking group for those available during the weekday. For further details or expressions of interest please contact Ann on [ann.sawtell@btinternet.com](mailto:ann.sawtell@btinternet.com).

Are there any volunteers out there who would like to organise the occasional weekend walk for those not free in the week. Please contact Sue Heaton 820678 (who already has some names of keen walkers wishing to join a group) if you would like to either take part or would be happy to organise some walks.

## **Hunton Club Book Group – May Review**

### **The Pillars of the Earth by Ken Follett**

This book divided the group; a minority liked it very much but the majority were disappointed. It is a historical novel set in 12<sup>th</sup> century England about the building of a cathedral in the fictional town of Kingsbridge. It describes the lives of various characters including Tom, the master builder and his family, Philip, the Prior of Kingsbridge and several noble families linking them to real historical figures and events.

The way in which cathedrals were built and the lives of people in different strata of society in the 12<sup>th</sup> century could have been the basis of a fascinating tale but Ken Follett's style of writing was perceived to be lacking in depth and at times puerile. Many felt that the violence was dwelt on in a way they disliked; one member observed that it was as if the author was describing his fantasies at times. Also many of the group did not like the way in which he wrote about the female characters. The scores for the book ranged between 2 and 9 with an average of 5.5.

Next month's book is, The Corrections, by Jonathan Franzen

*Fiona*

## At St Mary's Church in July

### Notices

#### Coffee Rota

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July Nicky Granger

#### Flowers

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July Mrs. Porter

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July Mrs. Porter

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July Mrs. Oliver/ Mrs. Lawrence

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July Mrs. Oliver/Mrs. Lawrence

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> Mrs. McLaughlin (Benefice)

### East Farleigh Flower Festival July 2<sup>nd</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> 2011

All Saints Church will be full of floral displays over the whole weekend, 10am – 5pm

Do come and see them in this unspoilt Norman Church.

Enjoy **Tea and Cakes** while listening to the organ.

Admission at the door

### Services

#### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July - St Thomas

11.00 am Family Service - Rev Peter Walker

Readings: Preacher's choice

#### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July - Trinity 3

09.30 am Holy Communion – Rev Peter Walker

Readings: Genesis 25:19 - end and Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

#### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July -Trinity 4

11.00 am Family Service – Rev Peter Walker

Readings: Genesis 28:10-19(a) and Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

#### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July -Trinity 5

11.00 am Holy Communion – Rev Ron Gamble

Readings: Romans 8:26 – end and Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

#### Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July –Trinity 6

10.30 am United Benefice – Rev Peter Walker and Rev David Jones

Readings: Romans 9:1-5 and Matthew 14:13-21

### Garden Safari around the Farleighs' gardens on 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

Programmes available at the church or from Helen Swan 814445 or helen.swan2@btinternet.com

### 'O for a Thousand Tongues', Castle Lawn, Tonbridge Sunday July 17<sup>th</sup> 2:30-4 pm

An opportunity for people in the street, many of who may not go to church, to see that the church is vibrant, relevant and very much alive. It is also an occasion for Christians to come together, to be empowered through worshipping together with so many other believers.

The title of the gathering comes from Wesley's great hymn. So the challenge is to invite a thousand tongues to sing.

It's a very simple idea. Come together and sing. Proclaim in the open air the age-old truths of the Gospel through song and Scripture. Even those who think they can't sing find they can when so many singers surround them.

The afternoon will feature a full worship band, the Absolute Gospel Company Choir and a guest speaker from Christian Concern who will be sharing the aims of the 'Not Ashamed' movement, which is designed to inspire Christians to stand up for their faith. So the challenge is there to all the churches in the Tonbridge and Tonbridge area and indeed wider. Come together in unity and worship God and let the people on the street see our unity and give glory to God.

Further information can be found at [www.absolutegospel.org](http://www.absolutegospel.org) or by ringing 01732 364517

### John Hanks Day

John Hanks Day, 88, who was dedicated to supporting community life in Maidstone, where he was born and followed his father into business, died at Petty Platt in Yalding, his home for 13 years. He and his wife Jean had previously lived at Barn Hill House for 21 years from 1977.

Educated at Tonbridge School, John joined the Fleet Air Arm and after training in the USA, returned and served during the last war as a bomber pilot on anti-U boat missions over the Channel. He and Jean, who first met at primary school, were married in 1944 and have two daughters Rosemary and Sheila, and a son John.

Having earlier trained with his father's business William Day & Sons in Maidstone, John returned after the war and qualified as a chartered surveyor, gaining a reputation for his dedicated knowledge of the old county town.

He was known for his keen involvement with a number of activities in the town, serving as a trustee of the Bently Wing of Maidstone Museum and of the Cobtree charity, while also giving valuable support to the St John Ambulance division. A funeral service and cremation took place at Vinters Park, Maidstone on Monday June 6<sup>th</sup>.

A service to celebrate his life will be held at St Mary's on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August at 3.30pm

### Sunday Lunch GamBLE BBQ

21st August, 2011 from 12 noon at Parsonage Farm House, Yalding

☐ live music , Gambian craft stall, games for all the family

Tickets £7.00 in advance or £20 for a family (2 adults & 2+ children) or £8 on the door and £25 for family. On sale from T: 01622 814267. E: [gambleproject@aol.com](mailto:gambleproject@aol.com) [www.gam-ble.co.uk](http://www.gam-ble.co.uk)

#### Next freighter visits :

Saturday 23 July -  
13:40 - 14:10

Saturday 1 October -  
13:40 - 14:10

July	3 <sup>rd</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup>	31 <sup>st</sup>
Coxheath	11.00 HC + Baptism	11.00 MP	11.00 HC	11.00 FS + Baptism	10.30 United Benefice Hunton
E. Farleigh	09.30 Matins	08.00 HC 11.00 FS	09.30 HC	08.00 HC 3pm Baptism	10.30 United Benefice Hunton
Linton	09.30 HC	09.30 FS	08.00 HC	09.30 HC	10.30 United Benefice Hunton
W. Farleigh	08.00 HC	11.00 MP (Trad)	9.30 MP (Mod)	09.30 HC	10.30 United Benefice Hunton

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