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## Hunton News: Council Backing for Traveller Battle?

Hunton Parish Council is looking into the possibility of giving financial support to the residents' group which objected and won a planning appeal to prevent travellers caravans being sited in a field off Lughorse Lane.

Ian Pink reported that successfully opposing the plans for Plot 5 had cost a total of £4300 with the majority paid by local residents but a request had been made for the council to consider covering an outstanding amount of £380.

Mr Pink, stating that there are nine strips of land on the site, also requested the council's views on looking into the possibility of approaching the owners to see if they would be prepared to sell.

Councillor Gary Thomas and Ron Porter, while both praising the group for the excellent appeal outcome to the benefit of the whole village, felt that giving council support could set a precedent for many other planning issues in the future.

Chairman Roger Sawtell agreed to include the matter as one of urgency for the next meeting, with a special gathering being called if necessary.

The Parish Council is among local landowners, agents and public bodies asked by Maidstone Borough Council to find sites that might be available for purchase as a site for gypsies and travellers. The MBC has received a £1.3 million grant and been asked to deliver 15 public pitches in the borough by 2015.

Police officer Jo Watt reported that there had been three crimes in the village in the past two months – theft of cabling in Water Lane; a break-in at a bungalow on Hunton Hill where raiders were frightened off by a security alarm and left empty-handed; and lead theft from a property in Amesbury Road.

Hunton is one of six 20mph trial sites outside the village primary school where the Kent Highways Authority intends to bring in speed restrictions by the end of April. In a separate report the council learnt that six volunteers are being trained to carry out radar speed checks on vehicles travelling along West Street.

Parish Plan organisers are looking into the possibility of a mobile shop project being carried out. Suggested Jubilee Day celebrations at the Village Club on June 2<sup>nd</sup> have been discussed by the club committee with a request for a contribution from the parish council for a cake, prizes for children and a free drink for parishioners.

A full list of representatives from village clubs and organisations have been asked to give reports to the Annual Parish meeting on May 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. Village Hall Chairman, Alan Bishop, reported the completion of the solar panel installation in the hall roof which was said to "look better than the committee had initially thought it would."

### A Pantomime at Eastertime

"Cinderella," at Hunton Village Hall

Selling out fast!

Tickets left only for the dress rehearsal on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March  
**at 7.30 pm**

Tickets: Adults £5

Available from Joy 01622 820551 or Liz 01622 820200

### Easter Raffle

It's chocolate time! Come along to your Club and whilst you enjoy a drink buy a raffle ticket or two. It's your chance to win a fabulous Easter Egg. The draw will take place at lunchtime on Easter Sunday. Proceeds will go towards the cost of internal decoration of the club.



#### Your Local Contacts:

Parish Council Chairman: Roger Sawtell

820731

School: Secretary/Head Teacher

820360

Under 5's Pre-School:

820309

Pre-School Supervisor:

07972067110

Pond and Tree Warden: Anne Bishop

820683

Rector: Revd Peter Walker

747570\*\*

Non Stipendiary Minister: Revd David Jones

741474\*

Village Club: Doug Redfarn

820495

Clerk to Parish Council: Sharon Goodwin

681238

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

PCSO Tom Mepstead/Richard Chainey

604392

Hunton Bell Ringers, Michael Webb

745716

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

#### Diary Dates

Sunday April 8<sup>th</sup> **Easter Egg Raffle Hunton Village Club** at Lunch time

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April **Panto – Cinderella** Hunton Village Hall 6.30pm

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> April **Panto – Cinderella** Hunton Village Hall 7.30pm

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April Fish and Chip Supper Hunton Village Club from 7.30pm

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June **Litter Picking** Village Hall

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June **Queens Jubilee Tea Party** Hunton Village Club 3pm-10pm

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June **Hunton Village Fete** Village Hall and the Playing field

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2012 **Litter Picking** 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 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 Readers

This is very much a letter written at the last moment. Peter Walker was called down to the West Country where his mother is very ill. Hence, this unexpected letter from me. As I write the news doesn't look good but at the age of over 90 years she's had a long life and we pray that her last days, if they are indeed that, will be peaceful.

But the news raised in me thoughts of the approaching Easter Season and of the confusion that sometimes occurs with life and death. We were reminded the other Sunday in our reading from the gospel of St Mark of the words of Jesus when he said to the crowd and also to his disciples, 'For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? (Mark 8 v 36, 37)'. We hang onto life as if it were the only thing that has any value but Jesus is asking us to realise that we do gain life when we lose it! Confused? Well perhaps yes but throughout life we realise that the human things we long for and desire pass very quickly and fail to satisfy as we thought they would. Easter points us in the direction of true life, the life that Jesus died to give us, life, to that way of living which leads us to eternal life, a life lived in the presence of the only perfect person who ever lived.

At a funeral service, we often use the words of Jesus recorded by St John (John 11 v 25) Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die!' Words of encouragement and hope at the time of death but also words for the present for Samuel Shoemaker\* who said 'Eternal life does not begin with death; it begins with faith.

Have a great Easter and enjoy life in all its fullness.

Yours David

*\*Shoemaker's contributions and service to Alcoholics Anonymous and as a minister of the Anglican Communion and Episcopal Church of America have had a worldwide effect. The philosophy that Shoemaker codified, in conjunction with Bill Wilson, is used in almost every country around the world to treat alcoholism.*

## Thank You

We don't know how to thank so many of you that provided a huge amount of help and support during David's recent 7 weeks stay in hospital. We were overwhelmed by the kindness and support of so many people both in propping us up and in very practical ways too.

*Sue and David Heaton*

## Village Clean Up - 17 March 2012

A big thank you to the 18 volunteers' who turned up for this event. We had a very successful clean up again and the threatened rain held off until we had finished thankfully, which made a daunting task much easier. Altogether we collected 40 black sacks of general rubbish (lots of beer cans etc) 15 car tyres, three estate agents' sold boards, a child's toilet seat and various pieces of metal such as wheel hubs and trims etc!!

For anyone interested the next clean up will be on June 16th.

Details on the Village Diary or contact Di Martin or Nigel Parsons on 01622 820115.

## Diary Dates

**Check out** [www.hunton.org.uk](http://www.hunton.org.uk) **for changes and see the latest updated version.** If you would like to add an event to the village diary email [huntondiary@btinternet.com](mailto:huntondiary@btinternet.com)- new events are being added all the time.

## Hunton Club English Fish & Chip Supper Night

Saturday 21st April from 7.30pm

With St George's Day approaching, Hunton Club will be marking the event by hosting a Fish & Chip Supper Night.

Link up with friends or neighbours and book your table in advance.

A traditional fish and chip (or sausages if you prefer) supper will be delivered. Act quickly as there are limited table spaces.

For more information ring Lorraine on 820518 or Tricia on 820804 or reserve a table at the club before Tuesday 17th April.



## Hunton Club Book Group

Review of 'The Believers' by Zoe Heller

'The Believers' is the story of political activists Audrey and Joel Litvinoff. Joel suffers a severe stroke and, as he lies unconscious in hospital, the lives of his quirky family gradually unravel.

The pace of this book is fairly quick, and it is an easy read, although we all agreed that the bad language was harsh and unnecessary. Half of our group really enjoyed this story, particularly the humour, descriptions and the depth of the characters who were all interesting. The other half of the group felt the book was disappointing and only 'average'.

The score for this book ranged from 5 to 8, with an average of 7.

*Lorraine Redfarn*

## School News

Our Year 5 and 6 pupils have been on their annual residential trip to Swattenden and had a very successful time. They were all very enthusiastic about their experience, although very tired!

### **Maidstone & Mid Kent Agility Festival**

Ten children from Bannerman class were selected to compete against other schools at St Augustine Academy in Maidstone. The children thoroughly enjoyed the range of activities and meeting children from other schools.

### **Kent Schools Council Conference**

Two pupils from the school attended the Kent Schools Council Conference in Maidstone. They had two tasks to complete prior to the conference, the first of which was to write a letter to Boris Johnson about the Olympics with their thoughts on The Olympic & Paralympic Games including:

- What impact will The Games have on the people of London and the rest of Great Britain, the environment, the economy, employment, transport, policing, accommodation, tourism, national pride and participation in sport?
- Why are activities for young people in this country so important?
- What they think the lasting legacy of The Games will be?

They also had to design a stamp for the Olympics.

The Children have been learning how to form constructive arguments and sharing letters to The Mayor of London.

## Out and Out

### **Compost; the Gardeners Good Stuff**

Have I ever mentioned my obsession with compost? It dates from studying soil types, great detail is given about discovering what type of soil you have but if you have a problem soil the answer is always the same - add compost. Whether too heavy, too dry, too light or even just right - add compost.

Compost has several advantages to the gardener but this year's rain shortage makes us most interested in its water retaining capabilities. Dug into the soil it helps hold water near the roots or simply placed as a mulch on the surface around established plants it will reduce evaporation and keep moisture in the soil.

The best and most satisfying compost is your own home made but supplies of soil improving compost are available elsewhere. Don't delay, whilst the soil is still moist trap this in with a good thick blanket of the gardeners' good stuff.

*Christine McSweeney*

## Honey Bee Fayre

The Yalding and District Beekeepers Association will be holding the first of what we hope will be a very successful annual Honey Bee Fayre and Auction in Yalding, on Sunday 13th May 2012.

A bee auction has been held in Yalding for many years, and attracts a good crowd of beekeepers from all around the county. However, this will be the first year that the YDBKA will be organising the event, as we only formed as a group in January 2011.

We are hoping to make it more of a "family affair", creating a summer fete atmosphere, to encourage the whole family to come along, as well as the usual crowd of beekeepers.

There will be more information published on our website as and when it becomes available – <http://beefayre.yaldingbeekeepers.co.uk>

All the funds raised on the day will be going towards development of our teaching apiary, based in Yalding, which we hope will become somewhere new beekeepers can come and handle colonies of bees, and learn skills that they can take away and use on their own colonies.

Equally, we hope to be able to offer public demonstrations, to help educate the general public about honey bees, and how they produce all that lovely honey!

Steven Clarkson [www.yaldingbeekeepers.co.uk](http://www.yaldingbeekeepers.co.uk)

## At St Mary's Church in April

Notices	Services
<p><b>Coffee Rota</b></p> <p>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April — Mrs Mary Johns            Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May — McSweeney family</p> <p><b>Flowers</b></p> <p>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April            Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> April Easter – All Helpers            Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April – Louise Ferns            Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April - Louise Ferns            Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April – Andrea Forster            Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May – Susie St. John</p> <p><b>Sunday Club</b></p> <p>Hunton Sunday Club, a Christian Club organised by St Mary's Church, for primary school aged children either living in the village or attending Hunton School meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month from 5.15pm until 6.45pm. Please contact David Jones for details 01622 741474</p>	<p><b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April – Palm Sunday</b>            11.00am Family Service- Rev David Jones            Readings: Preacher's choice</p> <p><b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Day</b>            09.30am Holy Communion -Rev Peter Walker            Readings:Acts 10:34-43 and John 20:1-18</p> <p><b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>April– Easter 1</b>            11.00am Morning Prayer –Mr David Barnes            Readings: Exodus 14:10-end and John 20:19-end</p> <p><b>Sunday 22nd April– Easter 2</b>            11.00am Holy Communion – Rev Peter Walker            Readings: 1 John 3:1-7 and Luke 24:36b-48</p> <p><b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup>April</b>            10.30am United Benefice            Readings: Preacher's choice</p> <p><b>Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May</b>            11.00am Family Service            Readings: Preacher's choice</p>

## Flowers and Flower Arranging

More helpers are welcome to arrange flowers for the church. If you would like to help please contact Sue Scott 820369. Also if you would like to donate money towards Easter lilies to help decorate the church at Easter, please give donations to Sue Scott.

## Farleigh's Farmers' Market

The next Farmers' Market in East Farleigh will be held on April Fool's Day – Sunday the 1<sup>st</sup>! Don't be a fool to yourself and miss out on the great produce we have to offer. This month there will be some ideal items for your Easter gifts – Linton handmade chocolates, fabulous Kentish cobnut fudge and other specialities by Potash Farm, luxury cupcakes from Jack Rabbit bakery, jewellery by Sparkle and Stones plus hand crafted pottery by Mike Goddard. All our traditional food stalls will also be there for your meat, sausages, pates, cheese, bread, jams and pickles, herbs, olives, fruit juices, eggs and greengrocery plus a wide selection of garden plants from Low Wood and Crofter's Nurseries. *Sue Morris*

## Maidstone Symphony Orchestra

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2012

Mote Hall Maidstone

7.30pm

The superb pianist Maurizio Baglini returns in **Beethoven's magnificent 3<sup>rd</sup> concerto**. Our starter is evocative Fetes, the second of **Debussy's Trois Nocturnes**. We end our season with the glories of **Elgar's 1<sup>st</sup> Symphony**. Often described as the musical epitome of Edwardian England, Elgar wrote of it being written with love, a wide experience of Human Life, and a massive hope in the future.

Individual Concerts £23 £19 and £10 and Students £5 under 18 Free!

**Tickets 01622 735830**

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