



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

West Street Footpath

You will all be aware that the saga of the new footpath linking Bensted Close with the Village Hall has been going on for a long, long time. The Parish Council has been trying in vain to get firm commitment from the KCC Public Rights of Way (PROW) offices for a delivery date for the project. We are pleased to say that at long last we have some good news. Following a series of escalations by the Parish Council up to and including the leader of the KCC and with much appreciated support and funding from County Councillor Paulina Stockell, we had a meeting with senior PROW representatives on 27th March where the source of the problem was identified. As a result, a new PROW team has been charged with managing the project to completion and we are already seeing progress.

Immediately following the meeting the KCC team measured the distance over which the path will run and the span of the drainage ditch that has to be bridged at each end. Contact with the landowners has been made and the appropriate agreements are being put in place. In parallel, the 'invitations to tender' for the works have been sent out and the contractors will be selected in mid May. The Parish Council has now been copied in on all relevant correspondence and there are a number of progress meetings scheduled to ensure work is not delayed. The Parish Council has defined the signs required for the footpath and have passed the information to KCC who will procure/manufacture them.

Subject to the vagaries of the British climate, the target is to have the path completed by 21st June this year - just in time for the summer fete. Sadly, the delays in commencing the work has meant that the hedge cutting, to have the hedge at roughly 1 metre height along the length of the path, will have to be delayed until the Autumn so as to avoid the nesting season.

KCC has apologised for what it acknowledges to be an unacceptable state of affairs and has said that it is totally committed to finally giving us the footpath we have been waiting for.

Hunton Parish Council

Hunton Village Club Events

This year's fish & chip supper was extremely popular. Large groups of friends planned ahead and it was necessary to close bookings when numbers reached 50!

Once again, the evening was another successful Club Supper Night so remember to book early for future events so you don't miss out.

We have some different ideas in store for you. So keep watching this space for future Supper Nights!

Quiz Night

The bi-annual quiz is this coming Saturday 4th May. Doors open at 8pm so come early to secure your seat. The quiz will start promptly at 8.15pm.



Coronation BBQ



To celebrate our Queen's Coronation the Club will be hosting an event at lunchtime on Sunday 9th June.

Remember how you all enjoyed the Jubilee? We are planning for this year's event to be just as good.

More information coming later but keep the date free!

Your Local Contacts:

Parish Council Chairman: Roger Sawtell	820731	Clerk to Parish Council: Sharon Goodwin	681238
School: Secretary/Head Teacher	820360	Village Hall Booking: Kathy Reid	820092
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:	747570**	Churchwarden: Alison Ellman-Brown	820288
Non Stipendiary Minister: Revd David Jones	741474*	PCSO Jo Watts	604392
Village Club: Doug Redfarn	820495	Hunton Bell Ringers, Michael Webb	745716

*not available on Fridays **not available on Mondays

Diary Dates

Saturday 4th May **Quiz Night** Village Club 8pm
 Friday 10th May **Applause - Sarah McQuaid** Village Club 8pm
 Monday 13th May **Parish Council Meeting** Village Hall 8pm
 Thursday 16th May **Applause - Basquiat Strings/Oriole** Village Club 8pm
 Monday 20th May **Parish Council Meeting** Village Hall 8pm
 Fri, Sat & Sun 24-26th May - **Battle of the Nations** Hunton Court Grounds
 Saturday 1st June **Pop Up Shop** Outside the Church 9.30am – 12.30pm
 Saturday 1st June Churchyard Working Party
 Sunday 9th June Community Orchard Clean up event - Village Hall 1-4pm
 Saturday 22nd June – **Hunton Fete** KGV Playing field
 Saturday 6th July **Pop Up Shop** Outside the Church 9.30am – 12.30pm

Parish Councillors Contact Details

Parish Council Chairman – Roger Sawtell 820731
Clerk to the Parish Council – Sharon Goodwin 681238
 Cllr Les Leonard 820858 Cllr Ron Porter 820220
 Cllr David Heaton 820678 Cllr Tony Stanbridge 820761
 Cllr Gary Thomas 820691 Cllr Steve Wyles 820403

Check out www.hunton.org.uk for changes and see the latest up-to-date version. If you would like to add an event to the village diary email huntondiary@btinternet.com - new events are being added all the time.

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

Dear Friends,

By the time you read this letter I will have celebrated a significant birthday. I will have many memories etched in my mind, which I will be drawing upon as I recall this stepping-stone in my life.

When we were young we may recall hearing those of riper years telling stories of the good old days, when they too drew upon past memories and experiences. It is our memories and experiences which, when recalled, forms our understanding of who we are. Tragically more and more of us are encountering loved ones who are slowly disappearing as they lose their ability to recall their past and their identity. My heartfelt prayers go to those of you who are experiencing this today.

Christians around the world today are unable to draw on past experiences of Jesus when he walked on the earth because none of us were there. You would have thought that would impact on who we are today. The reality however is very different, we can be sure of our faith, sure of our identity and sure that we are loved deeply by God himself. How is that possible? It is possible because God dwells within us through the Holy Spirit. This month on May 18th we celebrate Pentecost, when God gave his Holy Spirit to people on earth. We often refer to Pentecost as the Church's birthday. A significant birthday! The day when new experiences of God are etched in our hearts and minds.

Whoever we are, whatever our circumstances we can draw strength knowing that God never forgets us. *I will not forget you! See, I have held you in the palms of my hands. Isaiah 49:15-16.*

You are warmly invited to the Christian birthday celebrations of Pentecost on May 18th, no presents required just your presence.

We continue to look forward to receiving another gift from God in the form of our new Rector Peter Callway who will be licensed on the 7th June. Please pray for him and his wife Alison as they prepare to join us. Rev. Eileen Doyle

Hunton Spring Music Season - The 'Finale' ?

With luck these will not be the last professional concerts we will have the opportunity to present in Hunton. In view of ongoing Arts Council funding issues these are being funded entirely by the village and so much therefore depends on your continuing support. Please have a look at the artists' websites. The concerts promise to be absolutely outstanding.

Friday 10th May 8pm - Sarah McQuaid <http://www.sarahmcquaid.com/home.html>.

'A great songwriter and traditional singer, and a wonderful guitarist' - Mike Harding, BBC Radio 2

'Likely to make the hairs stand up on the back of your neck' - Aled Jones, BBC Radio 2.

Thursday 16th May 8pm - Oriole/ Basquiat Strings Double Bill May 2013 Oriole and Basquiat Strings, two of Britain's most popular instrumental groups, are touring together for the first time. Their leaders, Jonny Phillips and Ben Davis, are great friends who share a constant desire to create music that is fresh and alive. Oriole's beguiling sound, which borrows from Brazilian and Spanish traditions, will be complimented by the jazz and classical influences of Basquiat Strings. A wonderful array of young musical talent is in store. A real coup for Hunton this. Hopefully Thursday will be convenient for most. Their only slot available before gigs at a prestigious range of venues. <http://www.bendavis.info/pages/strings.htm>

We are delighted to bring these talented musicians to Hunton. If you wish to reserve tickets for either performance please contact us on either of these two numbers: 01622 820683 or 01622 820678 new email info@huntonvillagehall.co.uk. £10 per ticket, £5 for under 21's. Licensed bar.

Proposed Community Orchard Clean up event – 9th June 1pm-4pm

The area for the proposed community orchard is looking a wee bit sad at the moment and in need a tidy up before major work can start. Although we won't know until August whether our bid is successful, a clean up will help us determine the space we will have for the fruit trees and, perhaps more importantly at this stage, will make a patch of Hunton's recreation area a nicer place to look at and use. Our main tasks will be to cut out dead and overgrown branches in the hedge line, take out as much of the nettles as possible and to clear away cricket nets and debris from the site. If you can help in anyway we would be very grateful, even an hour of your time would be an enormous help. Refreshments will be available midway in the clearing. If you would like to help please turn up at the village hall car park for 1pm with a pair of gloves and a spade.

The Return of the Pop-Up Shop

Wow Hunton - thank you for your tremendous support for the trial run of our pop-up shop. To everyone who contributed and to everyone who waited patiently amidst the snow flurries - thank you. We sold very nearly everything - taking over £400. After paying contributors we made £34 for the Church's Parable of Talents fund and £96 for the Village Fete and Events Fund. The shop will now return on the following dates: June 1st, July 6th, Aug 10th, Sept 14th and Oct 5th. We will continue to provide the key elements for a fine Hunton breakfast namely Hunton eggs, Hunton bacon, sausages and pork and Hunton bread. The seasons and the creativity of contributors will determine what else you will find on your next visit but you can certainly expect to see the influence of elderflowers, asparagus and rhubarb. If you would like to contribute then please get in touch to discuss. Annette: 820448, annette@trought.com

Unclaimed Easter Raffle Prizes

Do you hold raffle tickets nos. 992 or 149? If so, bring your slip to the club to claim your prize. Any eggs unclaimed by 4th May may be auctioned for charity at the Quiz Night

Beware Speeding Motorists!

The first Speedwatch carried out earlier this month has resulted in the police sending out warning notices to two offenders who were well over the speed limit in West Street. Further Speedwatches are planned in the near future.

Hunton Village Fete Saturday 22nd June 2 - 5pm

Preparations for this year's fete are well underway. We will have the return of the inflatables, an even bigger dog show and more games following on from the success of the tug o' war last year. In order to run these attractions we do need more volunteers. So please see if you could spare an hour or so to share the marshalling of a few games, like the sack race or a tug o' war; or sell some raffle tickets; or maybe watch the under-fives ball pit. Whatever you think you could help with would be much appreciated. Contact Annette: 820448, annette@trought.com

Out and About (In London) - Hunton Walking Group

The first comment made to me, as we were all settling down in the pub and resting our weary legs, was that I should write about how I 'tired the oldies out!'. Oh dear, this was my chosen walk, my first and quite possibly my last - what had I done?

This was the Hunton Walking Group's first expedition out of the Kent countryside - to London and a change a scene. 16 members of the group forewent the rolling green hills of the Weald to walk along the flat towpaths of the Limehouse Cut, River Lea Navigation, Hertford Union Canal and a short stretch of the Regent's Canal before returning to Limehouse Basin. On this walk we passed industrial areas and walked under major A roads, rail bridges, aircraft flight paths, and even Bazalgette's sewer system. Wasn't this the inevitable expectation of a city walk?

Out of the inevitable came the unexpected: the sight of boat owners maintaining their narrowboats and barges; the wonder of the industrial engineering of yesteryear including the Grade I listed House Mill at Three Mills which is the largest of four tidal mills in Britain; the coots, swans and moorhens providing the finishing touches to their colourful nests of woven blue plastic and cardboard; the small bronze sculptures and other art marking our route; and the equally striking architecture of the Three Mills and the Olympic Stadium. Passing the Olympic Park sparked happy memories and many a conversation as we strolled by. We encountered very few walkers, some cyclists and joggers, and for a large part of the route we had the towpath pretty much to ourselves. It was tranquil - a luxury in the Capital. The walk ended with a meal and a well-deserved pint at The Grapes in Narrow Street, E14; an historic listed pub with a small jetty area at the rear overlooking the Thames. Good times! All in all we covered about 6 miles. Thank you to everyone who came along.

If you would like to join the walking group please email Ann Sawtell (ann.sawtell@btinternet.com). We walk on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month.

Barbara Wright

Book Club B Azincourt by Bernard Cornwell

The protagonist of this novel is Nick Hook, a forester and archer in the fifteenth century who is outlawed for attacking a priest. He faces the death penalty but escapes to join mercenaries in the battle for Soissons in France and, in the process, rescues a nun called Melisande. Together, they escape the slaughter taking place in the town and return to England.

In England, Nick tells of the massacre of the citizens of Soissons and attracts the attention of the King, Henry V. He is declared not to be an outlaw and is attached to the archers of Sir John Cornewaille. As part of Sir John's contingent he becomes part of the invading forces of Henry V in his quest to regain the crown of France.

The main part of the novel is the story of Henry V's invasion of France, the siege of Harfleur, the long trek north towards Calais and, finally, the battle of Agincourt in which the English gained a famous victory over the far larger French army.

Bernard Cornwell writes an action-packed novel, full of detail about life in fifteenth century England and the minutiae of war at that time. The reader gets a real feel for what it would be like to live in Henry V's time and also great detail of the process of war (somewhat bloody and sometimes quite uncomfortable reading).

The group liked the book and gave it a score of 7.

Jenny Vickers

Book Group A Why Be Happy When You Could Be Normal? By Jeanette Winterson

This book is part memoir and part reflection, describing Jeanette Winterson's severely dysfunctional upbringing, her search for love and her quest to trace her birth mother. She was adopted by the terrifying, unbalanced Mrs Winterson and her husband, who belonged to a strict Pentecostalist sect. Throughout the book Winterson refers to her adoptive mother as Mrs Winterson; one of our group commented that this "spoke volumes about her feelings towards her adoptive mother". As a schoolgirl, Jeanette found refuge in the public library where she read the entire English Literature section, by author, from A to Z. The title is Mrs Winterson's response to the news that her daughter is a lesbian.

The group were divided in their opinion of the book; some did not like her style, finding that it did not flow and read "more like a report"; others enjoyed the honesty and clarity of Winterson's pithy, succinct prose. The average score was 5.5. Next month's book is "An Officer and a Gentlewoman" by Heloise Goodley.

Fiona Newman



Open House Coffee Morning All Welcome! Why not come along for a cuppa, chat and "Thought for the Day". Tuesday 14th May 10.30am till 11.45am. *Please come along to 23 Bensted Close, Hunton, ME15 0SD.*
Contact Kay on: 01622 820488

At St Mary's Church in May

Notices

Flower Rota

5th	Andrea Forster
12th	Louise Ferns
19th	Louise Ferns
26th	Sue Pinks (wedding)

Lent Light Lunches During Lent the Village Club on a Thursday was buzzing and a variety of homemade soups and cakes were enjoyed. All in all 180 servings were consumed! An amazing £285.50 has been given to St Mary's Church and the same amount to the Club. We are thinking of doing Ploughman's lunches on a Thursday in June/July and jacket potatoes in October, so please watch out for more information via noticeboards and the Hunton Herald.

Louise Ferns

Services

Sunday 5th May – 6th Sunday after Easter

11.00am Holy Communion—Rev David Jones

Readings: Preacher's choice

Thursday 9th May – Ascension Day

7.30pm—at East Farleigh Rev David Jones

Readings: Acts 1 v 1–11 and Luke 24 v 44 to end

Sunday 12th May – 7th Sunday after Easter

09.30am Holy Communion— Rev Noel McConachie

Readings: Acts 16 v 16–34 and John 17 v 20–26

Sunday 19th May— Pentecost Whit Sunday

11.00am Holy Communion – Rev David Jones

Readings: Act 2 v 1–21 and John 14 v 8–17

Sunday 26th May – Trinity Sunday

11.00am Holy Communion— Rev Ron Gamble

Readings: Proverbs 8 v 1–4, 22–31 and John 16 v 12–15

Sunday 2nd June -

11.00am Holy Communion

Readings: Preacher's choice

Spring Serenade Success

Hunton Church was full for a very enjoyable 'Spring Serenade'. An audience of about 80 people were entertained by musicians including the Dolman family from Hunton, saxophonist Joseph Stick from Bidborough, cellist Josh Rapley and clarinetist Jane Findlay, both from Tonbridge and violinist Alex Drewe from Linton. The Huntones, led by Sue Pinks, sang songs from Les Miserables and other musicals. The concert was directed by Nick Drewe who also performed on the piano. More than £250 was raised for Hunton Church from ticket sales. Friends of St Mary's organised refreshments and raised a further £30. Another 'Serenade' concert is planned for the autumn.

Dr Jazz in Concert

Dr Jazz will be giving a concert at All Saints Church, Church Lane, West Farleigh on Saturday 18th May at 7.30 pm. Their programme is varied so come along and tap your feet to their rhythm.

Tickets will cost £10.00 to include a glass of wine or soft drink. Seat numbers are limited so do book early for this event. For tickets contact 01622 820305 email vgrainger38@btinternet.com or 01622 813019 email tim_and_chris2btinternet.com

Do Not Be Afraid I Am With You Alternative Service May 18th 10am. Holy Trinity Coxheath. Testimonies Worship Fellowship Friendship. All are welcome. Refreshments after the service.

Hunton Book Group B The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists by Robert Tressell

This famous novel is about a group of painters and decorators, and their families, near Hastings, around 1906. It describes the workmens' lives of that time; the subjection, deception, and destitution of the people whose labour helped to create the luxury of the early Edwardian age. Written by Robert Tressell, a house painter based on his own experiences of poverty, exploitation, and his terror that he and his daughter Kathleen — whom he was raising alone — would be consigned to the workhouse if he became ill. Tressell's cast of hypocritical Christians, exploitative capitalists and corrupt councillors provide a backdrop for his main target — the workers who think that a better life is "not for the likes of them".

The hero of the book, Frank Owen, is a socialist who believes that the capitalist system is the real source of the poverty he sees all around him. In vain he tries to convince his fellow workers of his views, but finds that their education has trained them to distrust their own thoughts and to rely on those of their "betters". Much of the book consists of conversations between Owen and the others, or more often of lectures by Owen in the face of their jeering; this was presumably based upon Tressell's own experiences.

The general opinion of the reading group was that the novel was an interesting picture of social, political, economic and cultural life in Britain at a time when socialism was beginning to gain ground, and gave food for thought when compared to the social benefit system of present times. However it was felt that the novel could have been shorter (indeed abridged versions have been published), and that the contents of the political "lectures" were repeated too often and strung together in a story which was not greatly entertaining.

Christine Summersgill

May	5th	12th	19th	26th	2nd June
Coxheath	11.00 HC	11.00 FS	11.00 HC	11.00 FS	11.00 HC
E. Farleigh	09.30 MP	08.00 HC 11.00 FS	09.30 HC	08.00 HC	09.30 MP
Linton	09.30 HC	9.30 FS	08.00 HC	09.30 HC	09.30 HC
W. Farleigh	08.00 HC	11.00 MP	09.30 HC	09.30 HC	08.00 HC

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