



Editor: Helen Ward, Old School Farm, East Street, Hunton, ME15 0RA Tel: 01622 820810 herald@hunton.org.uk

Hunton Village Club AGM

It was pleasing that this year's AGM was well attended by members (36) in comparison with last year, (11). The usual agenda was followed with reports from the Chairman and Treasurer followed by elections to the Management Committee. The Chairman thanked all the Committee with a special thank you to Alan and Doug who had carried out all of the redecorations over the past year. He also thanked the volunteers, particularly Lorraine, Sandra and Tricia who arranged all of the events and the bar staff. However, a word of caution was expressed in so far as the financial stability of the Club is concerned. The income had been much reduced this year while expenditure had increased and had it not been for the special events and darts team the Club would have recorded a loss. This sentiment was echoed by the Treasurer, who reported that although it is not all doom and gloom, there was a diminishing bank balance and more needs to be done to increase income. No change was made to the annual subscription of £15/[£10 concession] (£10/£5 if paid before the end of February 2014). A very gratifying part of the evening was the election of no less than 5 new committee members; Guy Baker will succeed Alan as Secretary and Ann, Annette, Sandra and Louise join the main committee. Their presence and ideas will no doubt influence and enhance the future running of the Club. Under the heading of 'Any Other Business' there was an exchange of ideas on how the Club may be used in the future. Quite clearly it is considered to be a wonderful asset for the community with a number of interest groups now holding their regular meetings at the venue. It was suggested that thought should be given to allowing the premises to be used outside of the necessity for a licence, perhaps during the day, which might allow more access to non-members. Such arrangements may also allow the local Parish and County Councils to offer help with funding for projects. It was a good meeting held in a nice atmosphere and clearly there is quite a challenge ahead of the Committee to try to bring to fruition some of the ideas put forward.

Phil Nichols - December 2013.

Hello and Thanks

First and foremost, let me wish you all a very Happy New Year. I am delighted to be joining the Herald team as Editor and, on behalf of the village, would like to thank my predecessor, Sue Heaton, for the fantastic job she has done over the last seven years or so. I have never been involved in anything like this before so please bear with me for the first couple of months while I learn the ropes.

I decided to volunteer to take on the role as, over the 18 years that I have lived in the village, I have seen Hunton develop from 'a nice place to live' into the thriving community we have today and I believe (and hope you would agree) that the Herald plays a key part in keeping us all informed and bringing the village together.

But it is *your* newsletter and wouldn't exist without your contributions. So if there is anything you want people to know about, perhaps an event or a club you're involved in locally, or maybe an interesting snippet of local history, then please let me know. I look forward to hearing from you!

Helen Ward

Christmas Market

Many thanks to everyone who helped out with the Market and to all those who donated bottles for the bottle stall. The event was a huge success with proceeds in the region of £1,500 going towards the upkeep of the church.

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: huntonwatch@gmail.com	820403, 820429, 820731
Pond and Tree Warden: Anne Bishop	820683	'Potholes' concern (KCC): Kim Hills	0845 824 7800
Rector: Peter Callway	747570**	Churchwarden: Alison Ellman-Brown	820288
Non Stipendiary Minister Revd David Jones	741474*	PCSO Richard Chainey	07989 992424
Village Club: Doug Redfarn	820495	Hunton Bell Ringers, Michael Webb	745716
		*not available on Fridays	**not available on Mondays

Diary Dates

Monday 13th January **Parish Council Meeting** Village Hall at 8pm
 Saturday 25th January **Freighter Service** Village Hall Car Park 1.40-2.10pm
 Tuesday 28th January **First Aid Course** Village Club 1.30-4.30pm and 5-8pm
 Saturday 1st February **"The Runaways"** Village Hall 7.30pm
 Sunday 2nd February **East Farleigh Farmers' Market** 9am-12pm

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- dated version.
 If you would like to add an event to the village diary email huntondiary@btinternet.com

All items for the February edition to the Editor as soon as possible, and by 15th January, please

Journeys

New Year's Day is, of course, like any other day and is arbitrarily chosen as the day which marks the passing of one year to the next. It is most likely that the day was selected based on when Roman Consuls were sworn in and is close to the Winter Solstice, which marked the turn of the year in Anglo Saxon England. It is all, of course, aligned to the tropical year, which is the time it takes the Earth to orbit the Sun. A new year often brings thoughts of moving on, continuing or starting out on a new journey, either physical or symbolic. January is named after Janus, the Roman god with two heads, symbolising looking back and looking forward at the same time.

As I write this, we are preparing for Christmas and I am struck by the nature of the journey taken by Mary and Joseph as they travelled to Bethlehem for the census. Imagine that journey. A journey on foot across miles of desert over a period of about a week, with a pregnant teenage girl and hundreds, maybe thousands, of others all heading off in the same direction, or going the other way to be counted in their place of birth.

And others had been journeying too, maybe even from as far as Persia, where the Magi (thought to be the priests of the Medes) had been following a star. The story of their journey can be found in Matthew's gospel but all he tells us is that they were from 'the East.' If they were from Persia, they would have been travelling for up to year – a journey of between 1,000 and 1,200 miles. And they knew that when they arrived they would find a king. The King of the Jews. So first they enquired of the current King: Herod, in Jerusalem. His advisers told him that the Messiah was to be born in Bethlehem. Bethlehem is about 5 miles (8km) from Jerusalem, but Herod and his advisers couldn't even be bothered to join these journeying wise men for the last 2 hours of their travels. He sent them alone and asked them to report back to him. They were delighted, the Bible says, to see the star again and to follow it to the final destination on their long and arduous journey. We celebrate their arrival at the place of Jesus' birth at Epiphany, January 6th.

And the end of this journey for a few: 80 miles for Mary and Joseph, maybe a 1,000 for the magi, and a short walk for the shepherds, marks the beginning of the greatest story ever told. Perhaps the hardest and longest journey was for Jesus himself. God come to earth, to fulfil his promise.

As we pause to remember those who journeyed far and wide to meet with the baby Jesus, we remember too that there were those who couldn't be bothered to take a few short steps to meet with him. And then to ask ourselves where we are on our own personal journey.

Happy New Year, and may all your journeys be blessed.

Peter Callway

Rector

Huntonwatch Update

Huntonwatch, the Hunton Neighbourhood Watch scheme, is going from strength to strength. Since the September re-launch over 100 properties have signed up as Members, all parts of the village are covered, and as a direct result of this amazing response, Huntonwatch was recently named as the Maidstone and District Neighbourhood Watch of the year for 2013. We have been able to provide the police with information on suspicious vehicles in the area and to alert our Members to the latest scams and crime patterns so that they can be aware and take precautions.

Huntonwatch is not only about crime prevention; it is also about building stronger communities. With this in mind, Members receive regular newsletters containing information and advice on a variety of matters and the latest initiative is to build up a network of 4 x 4 owners who would be willing to help out others should the weather take a turn for the worse and we all get snowed in.

Want to find out more? Contact the Huntonwatch team at Huntonwatch@gmail.com or call us on 01622 820403 and we will put you in touch with your local co-ordinator.

The Huntonwatch team

Lent Lunches are Back

After the enormous success of the Village Club lunches, we are going to be providing homemade soups on Thursdays during Lent. There is a choice of two soups, always at least one vegetarian, followed by homemade cake. The cost is just £5. Come along to meet new faces in the village and chat to your neighbours! 12.30pm-2pm. March 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th and April 3rd, 10th and lastly 17th.

The Gardening Club Meets Again

The Gardening Club met last month with a good turn out at the club. Alison gave a talk about her garden, about her trials and tribulations over the years and the exciting ideas for future plans. Alison and Michael's struggle to cope with an exposed site in the early years, and how the trees they planted have now matured to afford some protection. Avenues of trees and long vistas are a recurring theme in their garden and a wish list for a rill would add another dimension. Alison said her small but productive vegetable plot has been a great success. Alison's talk was followed by a competition. Sue and David filled the alcove of the club with numerous specimens of branches and twigs from various shrubs and plants and a bottle of wine went to anyone who could correctly identify the most. Sue Styles won the prize. Next year's programme was discussed and there were lots of exciting ideas for events suggested, ranging from willow weaving to mushroom foraging.

Orchard News Another successful afternoon of clearing in the new Community Orchard area means we are able to look to the next stage of creating a beautiful, innovative area, to explore, relax, or meet in. Set near the end of the new Hunton footpath and close to our sporting and meeting facilities, this orchard looks set to become an integral part of the burgeoning Hunton community.

The recent working party concentrated on renovating the hedge along one of the boundaries. The old hawthorn was cut low down to encourage new shoots from the base which will thicken the hedge and make it possible to follow a centuries old tradition of hedge laying. Reducing the hedge has opened up a lovely view towards the Church and over the fields. The working party was blessed with a beautiful sunset, which we enjoyed sitting on hay bales by a crackling fire with hot soup and delicious cake.

If you would be interested in joining the Orchard Group please contact Barbara Wright huntondiary@btinternet.com. You could help with planning, preparing the area, tree planting or making soup or cake. There are plenty of opportunities; we look forward to hearing from you.

Present Dilemma

A romantic gardening tradition is to give a plant as a wedding gift. This plant should be in flower at around the time of the wedding as a souvenir of the day but also as a subtle reminder in future years to celebrate the marriage. The chosen plant will become steeped in meaning, couples can be reminded of their wedding each time they see their particular plant in any garden, and of course friends may be reminded too.

This is a tradition I subscribe to but have been challenged recently by being invited to a wedding in mid January! I know this is a romantic couple, they have chosen to get married on the anniversary of their first date, so there will have to be some careful thought given to the gift plant.

Wintersweet (*Chimonanthus praecox*) and Christmas Box (*Sarcococca humilis*) are both contenders. They come into flower at about the right time and although the flowers are fairly insignificant the scent is good, billowing out the anniversary reminded perhaps a little ahead of time. The next choice is the diminutive cyclamen coum. It is small but its magenta flowers and wintergreen leaves give it good presence. Any one of these plants would do but all three would make a good group and, if the happy couple have the space, a perfect heart warming gift. Christine McSweeney

Hunton Village Gigs for Winter/Spring 2014

We are resolved to 'Keep Music Live' in Hunton and to continue Alan's unparalleled legacy of the past ten years of putting on high quality and internationally recognised gigs at the village hall. Applause are also re-energised by continuing Arts Council funding for 2014 and we hope to bring more of their outstanding concerts to you this year; the first one we have is from a musician already nominated for the BBC Folk Musician of the Year, so by the time the awards air in February, we may have someone with an even bigger pedigree. Jo Harman, who many of you (including Alan) saw on that wet and windy night in October, has gone on to appear at the Albert Hall, on Radio 2 and Dutch TV.

Putting gigs on requires a lot of voluntary help from Steve, Sue, David, Chris and others, and we do need the village to turn out and enjoy the music (and the Goachers and ploughmen). Unlike the October gig, we over-ordered in that department in November for the Hannah Scott concert but at least didn't run out. The 40+ who attended seemed to thoroughly enjoy the (quieter) reflective nature of Hannah & Stefano's songs and certainly quite a few bought her EP, 'Still Static'. Having taken the risk of putting this on without Applause, I guess we should be happy with the £4.30 net profit on the night, but that was essentially due to a £5 discount at Goachers for Mike being a CAMRA member!

We do need to know if we're picking the right music and the right night, please ring Mike and discuss. We are taking a punt for 2014 and aiming for consistency. There **will** be a gig every last Saturday in Hunton (spot the error later) now till May, and then we will decide if the village can support regular live music (or, like some venues, finally give in to X-Factor/Strictly as being far more interesting) and go back to travelling to bigger venues/towns for our regular dose of musicianship. Gigs will generally be at the village hall, but solo performers might be put on at the Club instead.

Coming up on the last Saturday each month, (except the first two!), then we have:

February 1st – The Runaways (a Shadows/Rock'n'Roll tribute band) - constantly striving to produce the highest quality sound and still learn new ones to extend their already extensive repertoire. They also pay attention to the visual aspects of their performances and are always immaculate in their suits and are memorable for their striking bright red guitars! – www.therunawaysuk.co.uk

March 1st – Davis Lindley Mullan - Singer & Guitarist Andy Davis (Stackridge/Korgis) presents songs from his huge catalogue aided and abetted by fellow Stackridge musician, the "Scottish Firebrand" Clare Lindley (Violin/Guitar/Vocals) and Brian Mullan (Cello /Vocals). Expect heartfelt melodies, great musicianship, wry humour and even the odd Ukulele! – Search for "DLM BABY GOOD FOR YOU" on YouTube

March 29th – Solo/Local Performers – 'under construction'; artists/venue to be confirmed.

April 26th – Applause: Will Pound Band – a 4-piece Harmonica-led Band plays a mix of English, Irish & Northumbrian tunes with jazz, bluegrass, blues, rock & funk rhythms. Will has released his first solo record, 'A Cut Above'; airplay from BBC Radio 2, Radio 6, review: Telegraph – www.willpound.com

May 31st – yet to be agreed: Fake Thackray – anyone who's old enough to remember Jake Thackray on Saturday evening TV in the 60/70's (Braden's Week & That's Life) will recall the quirky, humorous songs he performed then. Now another Yorkshireman does full justice to the legend and his songs!

All gigs are doors at 7.30pm with music at 8.00pm. Bookings for **The Runaways** on 1st February can be made with Steve Wyles 820403. Phone Mike Summersgill 820429 for all other bookings, comments, offers of help, suggestions...

At St Mary's Church in January

Notices			
Flowers – January			
5 th	Sue Scott	19 th	Di Martin
12 th	Sue Scott	26 th	Di Martin

St John's Ambulance First Aid Course

Date: Tuesday 28th January

Times: 13.30-16.30 and 17.00-20.00

Venue: Hunton Village Club

The course is suitable for 15 years and upwards, is about 3 hours long, and there is an assessment certificate at the end.

This essential first aid course will include:

- Primary survey
- Recovery position - all ages
- Communication and care
- Choking - all ages
- Chest pains
- Resuscitation (CPR) - all ages
- Severe bleeding

The cost is about £10 per person, and will include tea/coffee and homemade cake.

The numbers for the course are limited, just fifteen in each session. I will be asking for payment when you book your place and there will be a reserve list should the list fill up.

There is no priority, first come first served as it were. The course will be invaluable for everyone especially those involved in any clubs or sports activities, and also for any students it could be a worthwhile addition to a CV. Please let me know if you would like a place on the course.

Louise Ferns, 01622 820225

Sunday 5th January – Epiphany

11.00am Family Service – Rev. Peter Callway

Readings: Preacher's choice

Sunday 12th January – Baptism of Christ

09.30am Holy Communion 1662 – Rev. Peter Callway

Readings: Isaiah 42.1-9 and Matthew 3.13-end

Sunday 19th January – 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

11.00am Morning Prayer – Mr Brian Banks

Readings: Isaiah 49.1-7 and John 1.29-42

Sunday 26th January – 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

11.00am Holy Communion – Rev. David Jones

Readings: Isaiah 9.1-4 and Matthew 4.12-23

East Farleigh Farmers' Market

The stallholders and organisers of East Farleigh Farmers' Market would like to thank all our customers for their support during 2013 and wish them a very Happy New Year. Without you all we could not continue to flourish and support our charitable causes. Last year we raised a magnificent total of £769 for a variety of local charities: Porchlight, Help a Maidstone Child, Loose Valley Conservation Society, The Blackthorn Trust, Maidstone Day Centre, The Kenward Trust, The Peggy Wood Foundation, and recently an exceptional payment of £230 to the Disasters Emergency Committee for those affected by the hurricane in the Philippines. Each month we have to set aside some money for our essential running costs such as insurance and publicity, but should we have a surplus, then this too will be added to our donations in 2014. Please note there will be no market in January the first being Sunday 2nd February. Wrap up warm and visit us to restock your cupboards and freezers – we may have a special opening event, so watch this space!!!

Sue

Voice from the Past

In 2008 the British Library acquired a collection of the digital copies of 821 recordings from the Berliner Lautarchiv at the Humboldt Universitat in Germany. These comprised of recordings made by Wilhelm Doegen with the help of various academics between 1915 and 1938. He wanted to capture the voices from all over the world speaking in their own accents and dialects. Within this collection are 66 recordings made of British and Commonwealth Prisoners of War between 1915 and 1918.

One of these is a Hunton man, Albert Tucker, reciting the 'Parable of the Prodigal Son'. His accent and dialect seem quite different from what we are used to today. Though the recording is rather formal, the accent is similar to the only other Kent recording that a soldier from Sevenoaks made on the same day, 5th October 1916. These are some of the earliest recordings of 'ordinary' people speaking available.

The biographical details in the archive are slightly wrong however; I believe him to be the son of Robert and Selina Tucker living in a cottage at Hunton Place in East Street, attending Hunton School. Both he and his father were born in Hunton and were both agricultural labourers. Though the archive states he was a blacksmith, it may be that he carried out smithing on the farm.

If it is the Albert Tucker I have researched, then he joined the army before the war and served in a local regular army formation, 1st Battalion Royal West Kent Regiment. He went to France on 15th August 1914, and was subsequently wounded and taken prisoner at the Battle of Mons (23rd-24th August 1914). The Parish Magazine of January 1919 records his homecoming; it also tells us that he had an altercation with a German cook at one stage, which led to him being shot and wounded by a German officer.

As he came back to Hunton, it would be interesting to know if anyone can remember him or his family.

If you wish to hear his voice go to <http://sounds.bl.uk/Accents-and-dialects/Berliner-Lautarchiv-British-and-Commonwealth-recordings> and click on the link for Kent and his recording should appear.

David Heaton

January	5th	12th	19th	26th
Coxheath	11.00 HC	11.00 MP	11.00 HC	11.00 FS
E. Farleigh	09.30 MP	08.00 HC 11.00 FS	09.30 HC	08.00 HC
Linton	09.30 HC	9.30 FS	08.00 HC	09.30 HC
W. Farleigh	08.00 HC 1662	11.00 MP Mod	09.30 MP Trad	09.30 HC mod

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