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Spotlight on Volunteers at Annual Parish Meeting

Alan Bishop, in recognition of his immense contribution to the Village, was posthumously honoured with the Kent Community Award at the meeting on 19th May. This is a new award from the Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) that recognises the effort and commitment of community volunteers and was presented to Alan's daughters by County Councillor Paulina Stockell.

Hunton Primary School Headteacher, Denise Gibbs-Naguar, reported that, due to the high cost of hiring coaches, the school hoped to obtain 2 minibuses to transport children to various activities and she would welcome volunteers willing to train to drive one. She also requested volunteers for other roles including reading and gardening with the children.

St Mary's Church is busy and buzzing, said churchwarden Alison Ellman-Brown. They had been delighted to welcome the new vicar, Peter Callway and his wife, Alison. The light lunches in conjunction with the Village Club had been hugely popular and the Antique and Craft Fair and the Christmas Fair had both been very successful. She thanked the large team of volunteers who supported the Church in numerous capacities.

The Friends of St Mary's have gained a reputation for running successful bars and BBQs at various events and the proceeds from these made up a large part of their income, said Ron Porter. They were able to contribute £4000 towards the restoration of the south aisle window and the fete would see a re-launch of the charity ahead of their next major project within the Church.

Hunton Bowls Club had been successful in local leagues last season, said Margaret Carpenter, and had recruited 5 new members, but were always happy to encourage more.

Hunton Wanderers Cricket Club Chairman, Simon Taylor, circulated a proposed plan of the new pavilion, which will now be submitted for planning approval. It is hoped that work will begin in the autumn. The club is considering various activities to raise additional funding for the new building.

Hunton Football Club had not had the most successful of seasons, but this did not affect their enthusiasm, reported Danny Peacock. They would again be running a penalty shoot out stall at the fete.

Hunton Village Club has welcomed new committee members and the membership is strong, said Louise Ferns on behalf of Phil Nichols. A new approach as more of a social centre ensured a good future for the club within the community. A number of different events are planned for the coming months.

Hunton Club's Book Groups remain popular, said Sue Gunton, but there are currently a couple of spaces and new members would be welcome.

King George V Playing Field Chairman, Danny Peacock, reported that every effort would be made to improve the car park this year within available funding. Margaret Carpenter is stepping down after a number of years on the committee and she was thanked for her hard work. Parish Council Clerk, Sharon Goodwin, was welcomed as new Secretary.

The Village Hall is very busy with village events and private bookings, including seven weddings in the coming year, said Christina Harrison. The committee has identified a number of items for maintenance and improvement required to ensure the hall remains a desirable venue. The music events organised by Mike Summersgill are a good source of revenue, but need the support of residents.

Hunton Parish Plan Committee's Annette Trought said that plans for the new community orchard would be on display at the fete and that children from the school and pre-school would be planting wild flowers. The Pop-Up Shop and Café were going from strength to strength and it was hoped to purchase a commercial coffee machine. The committee's next project is to put together a housing needs survey for the village.

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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

Sunday 1st June **East Farleigh Farmers' Market** 9am-12pm
 Saturday 7th June **Churchyard Working Party** 9am-12pm
 Sunday 15th June **Fathers' Day BBQ** Village Club from 12 noon
 Saturday 21st June **Hunton Village Fete** Playing Fields 2-5pm
 Saturday 28th June **Pop-up Shop** Village Club 10am-12pm
Ploughmans' Lunches Village Club 12-2pm
 Wednesday 2nd July **Gardening Club** Tour of Amsbury Farm 3-5pm

Contact details for other village clubs and organisations are available on the website

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. New events are being added all the time.

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

Dear Friends

The avid gardeners reading this letter will know that if your garden is to look colourful and tidy in June, then a lot of work needs to be done prior to now. I must tell you that my very first attempt at gardening was a complete disaster. I had sowed my seeds in the garden, and as my seedlings were breaking through the ground to form tiny plants I duly separated them and planted them in neat borders. I was feeling rather pleased with myself. That was until the month of June, when the well-established plants were, if I may say looking rather healthy and quite established, and I had a visit from my father-in-law, a well seasoned gardener.

His first words to greet me were not, as expected, how lovely your garden is looking. Instead those piercing words echoed around my head. Your garden is full of weeds. Am I the only person who has so lovingly and painstakingly planted weeds in neat borders? It took a bit of convincing, but I eventually listened to the seasoned gardener and with a bit of work on my part, I have learned from my mistakes. The result today is that my garden is a pretty picture of colour and order without a weed to be seen. If only the same could be said for life itself.

This story reminds me of the perfect gardener. Jesus tells us that he is the vine and his father is the gardener.

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful." – John 15:1-2

There are many ways to interpret this passage, but the one that stands out to me as I write this, is the promise of being more fruitful if we allow God to tend and nurture the garden of our lives. Yes it may take a bit of work, like removing my ordered weeds, but the results are well worth the effort.

Why not come and join us to worship God, the gardener, in one of our churches and see what he can do in all our lives. This comes with a warning! Be prepared to blossom and flourish and be amazed at what the perfect gardener has in store for you.

Rev. Eileen

Peace Cottages, the village almshouses, are all occupied said Liz Oliver, adding that a register of interest is kept for anyone who would be interested should a vacancy arise. Money is being put aside for a new roof and heating system and a volunteer is required to cut back the verge. She thanked the residents who help to maintain the garden.

The Walking Group has enjoyed a wide-range of walks in various locations throughout Kent this year, said Ann Sawtell. They are a very social group, usually ending their outings with a pub lunch, and welcome new members.

The Gardening Club is an informal, friendly group and events have been well supported, reported David Heaton. This year's activities included a guided walk of the Loose Valley Conservation Area and a competition to identify plant cuttings. Please contact Lesley Lee if you would like to join.

Hunton Neighbourhood Watch membership continues to grow, now covering 40% of properties in the village, and we continue to work closely with our PCSO, said coordinator Sue Wyles. Ideas for the coming year include a "scams special" newsletter and an open meeting with Trading Standards to discuss this increasing area of crime. Area coordinators were thanked for their help in making Huntonwatch such a success.

Hunton Herald has been very busy reporting on the ever-increasing number of events within the village, said editor, Helen Ward. This year has also seen the successful addition of a Hunton Facebook page. The costs of publication are fully covered by revenue from advertising, which has also enabled £11,000 of donations to good causes within the village over the life of the Herald. Barbara Wright would like to step down as advertising coordinator and was thanked for her hard work. A volunteer to fill this crucial role is being sought.

Borough Cllr John Wilson congratulated Hunton on its huge number of activities and commented that it is one of the best villages he visits in the whole of Kent.

Hear, hear!

Come and Join the Churchyard Working Party - 7th June

From 9am until 12 noon on Saturday 7th June, the Churchyard in Hunton will be a hive of activity getting the area spruced up and looking smart. The working party is a group of volunteers who keep the area looking good, making St Mary's Church a desirable venue for weddings, the craft and antique fair and the popular Christmas market.

We are always pleased to have more help with this task so if you can spare some time between 9am and 12pm on that Saturday do come along, dressed for labour and bearing tools! For further information contact Christine on 01622 820852 or Christine.mcsweeney@gmail.com.

Hunton Village Club Celebrates Fathers' Day Sunday 15th June from 12 noon

The Club is celebrating Fathers' Day so bring the whole family along for fun and games.

Guest beers, burgers and sausages will be available but should any Dad prefer a juicy steak instead then just bring it along and we'll pop it on the coals so he can enjoy it, as it's his special day!

No need to book, just turn up.



Hunton's First Baking Competition @ the Fete

This is our first one so we're keeping it simple. We are looking for the best chocolate cake or Victoria sponge. Lakeland vouchers, rosettes and bragging rights for the year to the winners. Please bring your entries to the cricket pavilion for 2pm. After judging they will be sold at our cake stall.

Book a Stall at Hunton Village Fete Saturday 21st June 2-5pm

Calling all local artists, crafters, cake makers, smallholders and anyone else looking to make an impact and sell their wares. Get in touch with Annette at annette@trought.com or call/text to 0795 853 6468 to book a stall for the fete.

Orchard to be Launched at Village Fete

Visitors to Hunton fete on Saturday June 21st will have the opportunity to see the launch of the Village Orchard located in the corner of the King George V Playing Field between the Bowls Club and the cricket pavilion. Children from the village primary school will be planting bulbs for the wild flower meadow in the orchard, which is to be planted with a heritage stock from the Tree Council. The trees will supplement those from the Parish Plan's successful bid to the Kent Orchards for Everyone project with this funding stream requiring local children to benefit from the development of the Orchard with children from the local pre-school taking part.

Fete visitors will also be able to see pictures and plans for the new Hunton Wanderers Cricket Club pavilion being built on the edge of the playing field after the Parish Council's successful bid to Sport England for a £50,000 grant. Work will start on the new building at the end of the season and it is hoped to be ready for players in 2015.

Hunton Neighbourhood Watch will also have a stand at the fete. Steve Wyles, leader of the village team, reported that seven new members were enlisted at the last Pop-Up Shop, bringing the number in the parish to 115, representing 40% of the village and covering all areas.

Parish Councillors heard that further Speedwatch readings are to be taken of vehicles in West Street after disillusionment by the operatives at the failure of the police to issue any warning notices despite two motorists being recorded at 46 mph in the speed limit area. Advisory letters are issued when a driver is recorded twice breaking the limit.

Roger Sawtell has agreed to serve as Parish Council Chairman for a further term with Gary Thomas as Vice Chairman.

Live Music in the Village Club

What a busy Easter Saturday we had in Hunton. The Pop-Up Shop and Café were positively bustling. Following on from that were Ann's lovely Ploughman's Lunches – they must be one of the area's best kept foodie secrets – a treat at just £3. In the evening Neil Davies played a full repertoire of blues, folk, acoustic and some of his own original songs. He was very good indeed and managed to persuade some of us to help out with the bongos – who knew that our very own Steve Wyles was such a one man band of talent! There was even some dancing. A great evening to round off what had been one of the busiest days in the Club for a long time. Check out the photo on the Hunton Facebook page and watch out for the date of his next performance.

Debut Art Exhibition

Young local artist, Lewis Triplow, invites you to his debut exhibition where he will be displaying a selection of animal based oil, watercolour, pen, acrylic and pencil sketch art works, all available for purchase. **Saturday July 5th 5pm-10pm** at Unit 8, Loddington Farm, Loddington Lane, Linton, ME17 4GT. www.lt-art.co.uk

Hunton Village Fete Saturday 21st June 2 – 5pm Volunteers still Needed!

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered so far – I will be in touch nearer the time with details for you. More volunteers are still needed so please get in touch if you think you could help run a stall for an hour or help with children's games in the games marquee. We also need volunteers to sell raffle tickets on the day as well as looking for anyone who could take some to sell round their neighbours or work colleagues. The fete is a fundraiser for the village - it enables us to put on the fete and provide things such as the gazebos and Christmas lights – so if you can sell some raffle tickets for us we'd be very grateful. Contact Annette 820448; annette@trought.com

Friends of St Mary's Church

I am so pleased to report that the recent most successful pantomime, enjoyed by so many of you, produced a net profit of just over £3000. That is a truly amazing achievement.

Sue Pinks has allocated £500 of that money to The Teenage Cancer Trust which provides care for children with the disease, a £100 donation has been made to the Hunton Club and the balance of approximately £2400 is with Friends of St Mary's.

This has provided a very healthy boost to our bank account just at a time when we have contributed £4000 towards restoration of the damaged window in the south aisle of St. Mary's and we are currently considering a major project within the church itself. We are now in liaison with the PCC scoping this internal work, which will then lead to the PCC seeking authorisation from the Diocese, then between us, looking at the finances. This will coincide with Friends launching a major membership and fund raising drive, which will be launched at the Village Fete on the 21st June. The financial target for the work in the church will be our immediate financial objective.

Friends will be holding their own event in October this year as part of our continued fund raising efforts. It will be an event that as many people as possible can enjoy whilst supporting our local charity at the same time. Full details will be published as soon as we can.

Ron Porter

Beating of the Bounds Walk Postponed Due to unforeseen circumstances, this popular, annual village walk had to be postponed but it is planned to go ahead at a later date.

Pop-Up Shop, Café and Ploughmans' Lunches Saturday June 28th Hunton Village Club

We will have plenty of very local produce as well as all our usual lovely stuff. There will be outdoor seating so please drop by – have a coffee, a chat and a read of the newspapers. Shop and café open from 10am – 12 noon. If an early start isn't for you then Ann's Ploughmans' lunches are a real treat at £3 each – great with a pint or a Pimms 12 – 2pm.

At St Mary's Church in June

Flowers – June

1st – Sue Pinks	15th – Joy McLoughlin
8th – Sue Pinks	22nd – Joy McLoughlin
	29th – Sue Scott

Services

Sunday 1st June – Easter 7

11.00am Family Service – Rev. David Jones

Readings: Preacher's choice

Sunday 8th June – Pentecost

09.30am Holy Communion 1662 – Rev. Peter Callway

Readings: Acts 2.1-21 and John 7.37-39

Sunday 15th June – Trinity Sunday

11.00am Morning Prayer – Miss Chris Bostock

Readings: Isaiah 40.12-17, 27-31 and Matthew 28.16-20

Sunday 22nd June – Trinity 1

11.00am Holy Communion – Rev. David Jones

Readings: Jeremiah 20.7-13 and Matthew 10.24-39

Sunday 29th June – Trinity 2

10.30am Benefice Service

Readings: Bishop's Choice

Lent or even Light Lunches

Again the Club has been busy on Thursdays throughout Lent with delicious soups being served, with in total a hundred and thirty two mouths being fed. A huge thank you to the supporters of the lunches and, of course, huge thanks must also go to the amazing soup makers and cake bakers. In total over £508 was raised, so the Club and St Mary's have both received £254.

East Farleigh Village Fete

East Farleigh Village Fete is to be held on Saturday 28th June from 2-5pm, on the recreation ground off Vicarage Lane. It will have a strong musical theme this year with the fantastic Blues Brothers Little Brother returning after their success in 2012. There will also be Maypole dancing by the primary school and a lively performance by the recently formed Old School Samba Band, which will get your toes tapping and hands clapping!!

As usual we will be offering both a WI tea tent and a beer/Pimms/soft drinks tent to cater for all ages and preferences. Delicious bacon rolls and tasty hot dogs from locally bred Gloucester Old Spot pigs will be served by 'Spot On Produce' from Hunton. There will be a wide variety of other stalls and games, plus pony rides organised by The Horseshoes Riding School. If you would like to book a stall for £15 please call Sue Morris on 01622 726164.

David Bullivant

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of David Bullivant who had been a member of the Hunton Village community for over 35 years. David had served on the Village Hall Committee, been a member of Hunton Cricket Club and in his later years a committee member of the Village Club. He was a huge sports enthusiast and coached juniors for Kent County Cricket Club in the skills and finer points of the game. David always supported village functions and will no doubt be remembered by many for his BBQs at the village fete come rain or come shine. Even in his later years when walking was a challenge he would be seen at events, attending on his mobility scooter. He attended and much enjoyed the pantomime in "Huntonia" and could be found enjoying a glass of wine or whisky at the Club on a Sunday prior to lunch. David will be missed by the community as well as his family and friends, to whom we extend our heart felt sympathy.

The Huntones

After a short break for the very successful village panto, which involved a good few members of our group, The Huntones have reconvened. We are a small, friendly and very informal singing group who meet fortnightly on a Thursday evening. We sing largely for our own enjoyment – mainly popular music and songs from the musicals, nothing too heavy – but also give the occasional performance within the village. You don't need to be an aspiring Michael Ball or Elaine Page, all are welcome. If you are interested in joining The Huntones or would like more information, please contact Sue Pinks on 01622 820709.

Hunton Book Group A Review – “The Sense of an Ending” by Julian Barnes

A short but deft book that looks at perception and memory and how imperfect memory can throw up surprises. In this case as a small legacy and long forgotten letter appear in Tony's settled life...

Our group enjoyed this Booker Prize winning book finding it a very good observation on life and amusing in places. It is worth reading for its eloquent prose alone. We gave it a score of 7/10.

Hunton Club Photographic Competition

Congratulations to the winners of our photographic competition: Angela Baptie, Tanya Graham and Alison O'Doherty. The winning photographs have been enlarged and are hanging on the wall of the Club for all to enjoy.

Hunton Gardening Club

On Wednesday 2nd July there will be a tour of Amsbury Farm starting at 3pm for about two hours. If you would like to join the tour contact Lesley on 01622 820210 lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com.

<i>June</i>	<i>1st</i>	<i>8th</i>	<i>15th</i>	<i>22nd</i>	<i>29th</i>
Coxheath	11.00 HC	11.00 MP	11.00 HC	11.00 FS	10.30 Benefice Service at Hunton
E. Farleigh	09.30 MP	8.00 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	
HC: Holy Communion, MP: Morning Prayer, (bcp) Book of Common Prayer, FS: Family Service, SW: Service of Word					