



Hundreds Mourn “Social Butterfly”

On 27th January St Mary's Church was filled to capacity when between six and seven hundred family and friends came to say goodbye and lay to rest local woman Nicole Parnell, 22. Nicole was taken to the church from her home in Grove Lane in a splendid horse drawn hearse followed on foot by all those that attended the beautiful service for their “social butterfly”.

Her favourite songs were played and a eulogy given by her Uncle Simon fittingly remembered her short but fun packed life with many happy and funny memories retold. Her Auntie Claire read a carefully chosen poem as the sun shone through the stained glass windows. Family and close friends then attended a committal in the churchyard opposite, which was filled with an overwhelming number of stunning floral tributes.

After the service a celebration of Nicole's life was held at the Village Hall, which had been decorated entirely with butterflies. It was early evening before everyone left having heard all her favourite music, seen her lovely pictures displayed on a large screen and remembered all the special times that they had shared with her. Many generous donations were made, which went to support the Kent Air Ambulance Service.

Nicole, who worked as a carer and had lived in Hunton all her life, died at Kings College Hospital in London after a car accident in which she suffered a serious head injury. Her car collided with a wall between Hunton Hill and Lughorse Lane on 19th December and she was taken to hospital where she spent 11 days before her parents received the sad news that no more could be done and the difficult decision was made to withdraw treatment.

Nicole passed away peacefully in the early hours of 30th December and became an organ donor, saving three people's lives so far. She leaves behind her parents, Sharon and Paul, and her three brothers, Jamie, Thomas and Jack. She will be sadly missed by her family and friends, to whom we extend our heartfelt sympathies.



Primary School News

The school received a letter from the Corporate Director of Education at KCC, congratulating them on the significantly improved results in Reading, Writing and Mathematics from 2013 to 2014.

Borton Class attended a drug awareness workshop at Marden School, where they observed actors enacting scenes of real life drug dealing. The children were educated into the various types of addictive substances and warned of the effects these can have.

The children took part in a two-hour military style workshop called Challenger Troop, which involved a number of team building activities including a river crossing, a land mine course, an obstacle course and army drills.

The school is delighted to be able to offer free clarinet lessons for all pupils through Soundhub, the music education hub for Kent.

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	690690 or 101
Pre-School Supervisor:	07972067110	Neighbourhood Watch: huntonwatch@gmail.com	820403, 820429, 820731
Pond and Tree Warden: Mike Summersgill	820429	'Potholes' Hotline (KCC)	03000 418181
Rector: Peter Callway	747570**	Churchwarden: Alison Ellman-Brown	820288
Non-Stipendiary Minister Revd David Jones	741474*	PCSO - Matthew Judges	101 (or via Huntonwatch)
Village Club: Philip Nichols	820804	Helen Grant MP helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk	0207 219 7107
		Hunton Bell Ringers, Michael Webb	745716

*not available on Fridays; **not available on Mondays

Diary Dates

Sunday 1 st Mar	East Farleigh Farmers' Market 10am-1pm
Tuesday 3 rd Mar	Hunton WI Village Club 7.30pm
Thursday 5 th Mar	Lunches Village Club 12.30-2pm
Sunday 8 th Mar	Lambing Day Smith's Hill Farm 9.30am-6pm
Monday 9 th Mar	Parish Council Meeting Village Hall 8pm
Saturday 14 th Mar	Afternoon Teas Linton Church 2.30-5pm
	Red Nose Race Night Village Club 8pm
Saturday 21 st Mar	Doctor Jazz Village Hall 7.30 for 8pm
Saturday 28 th Mar	Litter Pick Village Hall 10am-12pm
Tuesday 31 st Mar	Gardening Club Supper Village Club 7.30pm
Saturday 4 th Apr	Pop-Up Shop & Café Village Club 9-11am

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 Ron Porter 820220; Cllr David Heaton 820678;
 Cllr Tony Stanbridge 820761; Cllr Gary Thomas 820691;
 Cllr Steve Wyles 820403; Cllr Annette Trought 820448.

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 April edition to the Editor as soon as possible, and by 15th March, please

The Motherhood of God

Reflecting that this is the month of Mothering Sunday I remembered this little story that resonated with my own experience, and maybe yours, of being a mother and grandparent, living some distance away with the hope of a card, a call or a visit:

Sue was glad when the phone rang and the number it showed was her eldest son's mobile. She hadn't spoken to him for a week or so and was always glad to have a chat. She asked him how the sale of his house was going and was a bit surprised to discover that he had already moved. She would have liked to know all the details, to have a look at the new house before work on it started, maybe to help with the clearing and packing, but she knew that he and his wife liked to do things their own way and they would have managed it all perfectly well. After she put the phone down, for a moment she wondered whether she was a neglectful mother, missing whole areas of her son's life, but really she knew that it had been right to let him go, to let him manage his own life and involve her as much or as little as he wanted or needed.

This story reminds me of the pain of that mother's experience. Mary the mother of Jesus, had to watch her boy grow away from her, creating for himself a new family of followers, wilfully putting himself in danger and finally painfully executed. But Mary knew that the best thing that parents can do for their children is to let them go and do what they have to do for themselves.

God is spoken of in the Bible as a father, but also occasionally as a mother. If good human parents know that they need to let go and allow their children the freedom to grow up and make their own way, how much more must God our father, our mother, know that same truth? Sometimes we are tempted to make the parenthood of God an excuse to adopt a childish attitude to our relationship with God. We expect God to tell us what to do, to answer all our prayers and manage our life for us. As God's children, we evade our responsibilities. We go to church to be told what to think and what to do and avoid the hard work of thinking and decision-making that goes with being an adult. But God is a good parent, one who knows about giving up control and letting children grow up. God wants us to be adults, to make our own choices, even if that means we make a mess of things. Of course God also wants us to keep in touch regularly, to talk about what has gone right and what has gone wrong and to get a fresh perspective. God is still, as it were, waiting for the phone to ring!

Kay Mason, Diocesan Evangelist

New Facebook Group

Do you have items that you would like to advertise for sale or free of charge to others in the Village? Would you like to be able to offer and request help or pass on local information to members of your community? There is a new Facebook group, "**Hunton, Kent – Community Group**", where you can do just that. This is a closed group, so anything posted here can only be seen by members of the group. Why not join and invite your friends and neighbours in the village to do so too? Let's get Hunton talking!

Horse Abandoned

A horse was found abandoned in freezing temperatures in George Street on Monday 3rd February. Police and a vet were called, but the horse was so weak and emaciated that sadly it could not be saved and was put to sleep. KCC are investigating.

Chegworth Valley Juices

Delicious award-winning farm pressed fruit juices from Harrietsham, sold in their farm shops at Borough Food Market and Notting Hill, are now available at our Village Club - ask for them at the bar. Buy them at the Pop-Up Shop too!

Sutton Valence Choral Society Spring Concert. Sunday 29th March – 7.30pm at All Saints' Church, Maidstone

Sutton Valence Choral Society will be joined by the Beresford Sinfonia and four top-class soloists, Helen Bailey, Frances Bourne, David de Winter and Gavin Horsley, for a performance of two compositions by Antonin Dvorak: Romance for solo violin and orchestra is paired with his setting of "Stabat Mater". The Society's Music Director, Bryan Gipps, will be the solo violinist.

Tickets, priced £12 (£6 for under 18s and those in full-time education), are available from choir members, from Music Matters in Week Street, by ringing 01233 840540 or via the website at www.suttonvalencechoral.co.uk.

Sutton Valence Choral Society (Regd. Charity No 1119160) supports Dandelion Time and Blackthorn Trust

The Vicar's Picnic 2015

The Vicar's Picnic Music Festival was originated by four Yalding locals, Dave King, Mike Davies, Jo Davies and Jo Mayfield in 2012 as a tonic to the disappointing news that they narrowly missed out on tickets for Glastonbury. Finding its name from its original Vicarage Road location in Yalding, the festival has developed into a fantastic event for the whole family and community, bringing nationwide bands and the festival experience to our doorstep, all the while supporting local charities. This year the festival opens its gates at 6pm on Friday 28th August for two days of festival fun with camping as an option over the first two evenings of the bank holiday weekend. Last year tickets sold out well in advance so get your ticket early for this brilliant two day event available from Yalding Post Office or online via their website www.vicarspicnic.co.uk - tickets on sale from 2nd March. The sensational and internationally acclaimed tribute act, Guns 2 Roses will headline on the Saturday evening, finishing the event in a blaze of glory! Other attractions include a fully licensed bar plus a cocktail bar, fantastic food, plenty of fun for the kids and more besides. The organisers promise other surprises that they are just itching to share. More info from www.vicarspicnic.co.uk

Easter Pop-Up Shop & Café - Saturday 4th April. 9 – 11am @ our Village Club

The first Pop-Up Shop & Café of the year will be Easter themed. There will be the usual Hunton produce - bacon, sausages and joints from Spot On Produce, eggs, handmade croissants and bread from Hunton bakery, handmade flavoured butter and seasonal vegetables. There will also be local cheeses, wonderful cold pressed rapeseed oil from Staplehurst, handmade cakes and lovely little chocolate tarts as well as Chegworth Valley fruit juices. Jenny's pastries will also be available at the café. See you there.

Village Hall Gig – Doctor Jazz – Saturday 21st March

After the great audience reaction/participation to The Runaways last February, there were many calls for another band that recreates the great sounds of the pre-punk/prog/folk/rock era that Mike was brought up in. We didn't have to look far, as mid-Kent has its own 'traditional/Dixieland' jazz band. Formed in 1978 and still going strong, and seen at the Stilebridge and Farleigh Hall quite recently (thoroughly recommended!), the 7-piece **Dr Jazz** play regular monthly gigs at the Duke of Wellington (Ryars) and the Nevill Bull (Birling). Now they're coming to give Hunton a taste of the sounds of the deep south (some would say we are well south of Birling!) and a tuneful night. We're even going to put on some hot food with a Southern States feel to it as part of the entrance fee. There will be the usual cash bar and tickets at £10 can be reserved with Mike (820429) or Steve (820403); please don't hesitate, the first gig of the 2015 Hunton Spring Sessions sold out two weeks beforehand! Doors 7.30pm for 8pm start.

Next up after Dr Jazz is the return of **Sarah McQuaid** (www.sarahmcquaid.com) who Alan booked two years ago. With a spring tour and a new album out, Sarah will be here on Thursday 16th April.

Litter Pick

The first litter pick of 2015 will be on Saturday 28th March. As the regular volunteers will know, we meet at 10am at the village hall to collect high-visibility jackets, pickers and rubbish sacks. The job usually takes around 2 hours to complete. If the hall is free we have coffee and biscuits and a chat afterwards.

If anyone would like to join us please contact Di Martin on 01622 820115 or e-mail di.martin1@btinternet.com

Coming Soon

Antique & Craft Fair
St Mary's Church
Saturday 25th April

Road and Footpath Repairs

The Parish Council has continued to press KCC Highways for action on the many potholes that remain on village roads and this pressure has resulted in the planned closure of East Street for essential carriageway repairs (see below for details of dates and diversions). We have also been pushing KCC Public Rights of Way (PROW) for essential maintenance on the footpath from Bensted Close to the Village Hall so as to prevent the deep puddles we have seen this winter. We had been told that PROW has severe budgetary constraints, which means that no work can be done this financial year. However, by pushing further we have established that money is available for the purchase of materials, but not for the labour to carry out the work. As a result the Parish Council has agreed that it will provide the labour necessary to effect the repairs, with KCC PROW paying for the materials. If things go to plan, the repairs should have been completed by the time you are reading this.

Finally, if you need to contact the Parish Council on any matters, please do so via the appropriate contact:

- Roads and Pavements - Ron Porter (or David Heaton)
- Ditches and Footpaths - David Heaton (or Ron Porter)
- School, Police Liaison, Speedwatch - Steve Wyles (or Annette Trought)
- Communications, Village Events - Annette Trought (or Steve Wyles)
- Utilities (Broadband, Water, Electricity) - Tony Stanbridge
- Planning and Environmental matters - Gary Thomas (or Roger Sawtell)
- KCC, MBC, KALC matters - Roger Sawtell (or Gary Thomas)

For any matters not listed above please feel free to contact any councillor and the matter will be passed to one individual who will be your main point of contact.

Hunton Parish Council

East Street Closure

KCC will be carrying out a programme of pre-patching works in preparation for resurfacing, which will necessitate the closure of East Street from Hunton Hill to the river bridge at Stonewall between 9.30am and 3.30pm on the following dates: Sunday 15th March and Sunday 22nd March and then from Wednesday 1st April for 8 days. An alternative route will be in operation via Hunton Hill, Heath Road, A229 Linton Hill, Staplehurst Road, B2079 Maidstone Road, Underlyn Lane, Hunton Road and East Street.

Gardening Club Supper

The next meeting of Hunton Gardening Club will be on Tuesday 31st March in the Village Club from 7.30pm. So that those members who work can go straight to the meeting at the end of the day without needing to go home and prepare a meal, a light supper of soup, bread and cheese followed by cake with tea or coffee will be available for a £5 donation. Funds raised will go to the Club and the Church.

New members welcome...further information from Lesley on 01622 820210 or lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com

East Malling Research Tour

A small group from the gardening club will be attending a History Tour of Fruit Science at East Malling Research on 14th April - £20 per head including a two-course home-cooked lunch. Please contact Lesley if you are interested in joining them.

At St Mary's Church in March

Flowers	Services
No flowers in Lent	Sunday 1st March – Lent 2 11.00am Family Service – Rev Peter Callway Sunday 8th March – Lent 3 9.30am Holy Communion 1662 – Rev Eileen Doyle Sunday 15th March – Mothering Sunday 11.00am Family Service – Rev David Jones Sunday 22nd March – Lent 5 11.00am Holy Communion – Rev Peter Callway Sunday 29th March – Palm Sunday 10.30am Benefice Service at East Farleigh – Rev Peter Callway

Teas in the Church

Say thank you to someone who cares with a delicious afternoon tea at St Nicholas Church, Linton. Accompanied by music from the shows and light classics played by organist, Bob Caudwell. Saturday 14th March (the day before Mothering Sunday) from 2.30-5pm.

French Exchange

Over the past 15 years, people from the south of Maidstone have taken part in a variety of activities with people sharing similar interests in and around the village of La Seguniere in western France. These activities have included playing football, table tennis, petanque, running, walking, and visiting stately homes and gardens. They have stayed in others' homes and welcomed them to stay in theirs.

If you would like to find out more about how you might take part in an activity of interest to you in a French village with a French family, we will be holding an informal open evening at The Victoria pub on Heath Road on Monday 16th March at 8pm and invite you to join us.

If you are interested in attending the open evening, or if you would like to find out more by e-mail or phone, please contact Colin via email colin.leith@btinternet.com or Laura on 01622 741812.

Coxheath Twinning Association

Red Nose Race Night - Saturday 14th March 8pm

Hunton Village Club is hosting a Race Night in aid of Comic Relief. It may be one day after the nationwide event but who cares? It will be a fun night and a money raiser too, so please come along, support your club and help raise money for this worthy cause.

Hunton Village Club Committee has also planned several entertainment events throughout this coming year. Volunteers from the committee have been working hard to offer something a little different; these will be advertised through the Hunton Herald and e-mails. So look out for them!



Women's World Day of Prayer. Friday 6th March at 7pm

Our Benefice Churches of Coxheath, East Farleigh, Hunton, Linton and West Farleigh join together with the Congregational Church for this annual service. Both men and women are warmly invited. This year's service will be held at The Congregational Church, 157 Linton Road, Loose, ME15 0AL. The service is entitled "Jesus said to them: Do you know what I have done to you?" and has been prepared by Christian women of The Bahamas. All are very welcome. There will be refreshments following the service.

Lambing Open Day – Sunday 8th March

Mr and Mrs Martin at Smith's Hill Farm, West Farleigh are holding an open day at the peak of the lambing season on Sunday 8th March from 9.30am to 6pm, where it is confidently expected lots of lambs will be born. Visitors are requested to use the Hunt Street entrance. It is hoped that many people will attend to experience the thrill of new birth and to understand better the local sheep farming industry, which has undergone a resurgence in the last few years. Do come along – it's free!

Flowers and Perfume

The WI enjoyed a talk by Jen Stuart-Smith from local flower growers and florists, Blooming Green, at their February meeting. Jen described how she had left a career in journalism nine years ago, and how with the help of family and friends, local farmers and a grant for women returning to farming, she has developed a thriving business with her cousin on the family farm – she has even appeared in a TV series with Monty Don!

The next meeting takes place on Tuesday 3rd March at the Village Club at 7.30pm when there will be a talk on The History of Perfume.

March	1 st	8 th	15 th	22 nd	29 th
Coxheath	11.00 HC	11.00 MP	11.00 FS	11.00 HC	
E. Farleigh	09.30 MP	08.00 HC; 11.00 FS	09.30 FS	08.00 HC	10.30 Benefice Service
Linton	09.30 HC	09.30 HC	08.00 HC; 11.00 FS	09.30 HC	
W. Farleigh	08.00 HC1662	11.00 MP Mod	09.30 FS	09.30 HC Mod	
HC Holy Communion, MP Morning Prayer, FS Family Service					