



Hunton Neighbourhood Plan - Progress So Far

Make Sure You Have Your Say

A very successful consultation café on Saturday 21st March, the pop-up shop on 4th April and a number of emails to the huntonnp@gmail.com address have given us well over 30 A4 pages of comments. There is still time to comment at the pop-up shop on 23rd May, where you can post comments on the graffiti wall or fill out a questionnaire. You can contact us by e-mail or speak to us directly if you would like to receive a questionnaire: 820403 (Steve), 820448 (Annette) or 820220 (Ron).

Already there are some common themes emerging from the input received so far. A Neighbourhood Plan is only as good as the information on which it is built and it is crucial that as many people in the village as possible tell us what they think. We urge you to take a few moments of your time to help us make sure that our village flourishes in the way we want it to.

Are you new to the village; lived here for many years; are commuting; have retired; are still in education; have special needs or are about to move away? We also need to hear from you. Tell us what you think and we will record your comments in strictest confidence. Younger residents we need to hear from you too - you can use Instagram; a link will be circulated via the Hunton Facebook page soon.

We will report back to you in detail over the summer.

Litter Pick

Around 20 volunteers took part in the first litter pick of the year on 28th March. It had been five months since our last outing and the roads and hedgerows around the village were desperately in need of a clear up, being copiously littered with drinks cans and crisp packets in particular; in total we collected over 40 sacks of rubbish. As there was such a good turnout we decided to tackle the woodland on Upper Hunton Hill as well, with around 15 sacks of rubbish, seven tyres, and various other items coming from that area alone, until we ran out of sacks and time. I hope you'll agree that the village looked lovelier as a result. However, it is a never-ending story and we will be out again in June ensuring we are clean and tidy in time for our Village Fete.

If you would like to join the team please contact Di Martin on 820115 or email di.martin1@btinternet.com.

Forests, Theme Parks and More...

The children of Hunton Primary School had a very busy time leading up to their Easter break. Devas class had a wonderful day exploring the beautiful grounds of Bedgebury Pinetum to celebrate their Spring topic. The children were able to learn all about the trees, spot the signs of Spring and immerse themselves in a full sensory experience of the forest. They even met the Gruffalo! Bannerman class enjoyed Africa day where the children learnt about African instruments and were able to play the drums, making an exciting African beat. They had the opportunity to listen to tribal music and sing and dance along to it. They also made their own African necklaces in a jewellery-making workshop.

Porteous and Borton classes had a very exciting trip to Chessington World of Adventures as the culmination of their learning in the topic of Thrills & Spills where they studied the historical and scientific facts of theme parks and rides.

Borton Class carried out fundraising activities as part of the Apprentice Project, with each group being given £5 to invest in resources with the aim of earning as much profit as possible. Events included: a carrot treasure hunt; a car wash for staff; pie throwing; a lemonade sale; a talent show and a cake and refreshment stall (including cake making competition). The team made a profit of £82, which will go to reducing the cost of their residential trip in June.

Your Local Contacts:

School: Secretary/Head Teacher	820360	Maidstone Police	690690 or 101
Under 5's Pre-School:	820309	Neighbourhood Watch: huntonwatch@gmail.com	820403, 820429, 820731
Pre-School Supervisor:	07972067110	'Potholes' Hotline (KCC)	03000 418181
Pond and Tree Warden: Mike Summersgill	820429	Churchwarden: Alison Ellman-Brown	820288
Rector: Peter Callway	747570**	PCSO - Matthew Judges	101 (or via Huntonwatch)
Non-Stipendiary Minister Revd David Jones	741474*	Helen Grant MP helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk	0207 219 7107
Village Club: Philip Nichols	820804	Hunton Bell Ringers, Michael Webb	745716
Village Hall Booking: Kathy Reid	820092		

Parish Council Contacts

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

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

Contact details for other village clubs and organisations are available at www.hunton.org.uk/contacts

This month's pastoral letter draws upon resources from Christians in Politics. I attended a fascinating workshop at the Spring Harvest Conference in April facilitated by CiP. More details from www.christiansinpolitics.org.uk

When you read this, the UK will be about to go to the polls for one of the most hotly contested elections in living memory. Yet many Christians are ambivalent about it. Some people think that politics and faith don't mix, but some would say that misunderstands God's nature. If your God is not interested in politics then you are not worshipping the God of the Bible. Take the Lord's Prayer for example. In it we pray that God's Kingdom would come - that is a politically loaded prayer. It is asking that the reign of God would come to fruition here on earth as it is currently in heaven. We pray not that souls would escape up to heaven, but for God's kingly reign to invade our world. Of course, politics is far more than voting in general elections. We seek God's reign for every second of our Christian lives, not just for one day every five years. So in one sense voting is the very least we can do. It is us, as believers, playing our part in the democratic process that we have been invited to participate in. Here are 10 reasons why Christians should vote

1. Voting publicly recognises that we submit to the authority of the political system in our nation as established by God.
2. Voting recognises the equality of all people and their right to speak and be heard.
3. It is one way that we can obey God's command to seek the good of those around us and our nation as a whole.
4. It shows that we care deeply about who our leaders are as we are urged to offer prayer and intercession on their behalf.
5. It is a simple yet significant way we can do something about politics in our nation. 'All that is required for evil to prevail is for good men to do nothing', Edmund Burke.
6. It makes a difference the way a grain of salt makes a difference, and that is how we are to influence our society for good.
7. It is a privilege not to be taken for granted. Those of us who reap the benefits of living in a democracy should play a part in upholding democracy.
8. Not voting is a form of voting, as it will influence the outcome. We need to take responsibility for our actions, as well as our lack of actions.
9. Voting has biblical precedence for example Acts 14:23 describes that the early Christians elected elders by voting.
10. Voting is part of our stewardship to use all the resources we have been given in ways that honour God; to waste a vote is to squander a gift.

And beyond that, politics matters. It determines our life from the moment we wake up to the moment we go to bed. It affects our homes, our jobs, our welfare and our families.

While we understand that politics matters, sometimes we can't see how what happens in an old building in Westminster affects us... or how we can affect it. Getting involved, no matter what your party politics, at a local level or wider, is a real act of commitment and service.

Peter Callway, Rector

Pop-Up Shop and Café

23rd May 9-11am @ our Village Club

There will be all the usual Hunton goodies - Spot on bacon, sausages and pork; Hunton eggs, bread and croissants; plus yummy cakes, seasonal items and cheeses, along with Taste of Kent Award winning Chegworth Valley fruit juices and more... Come along and have a chat, read the papers, get a coffee from our new Dualit coffee machine and enjoy handmade pastries from Jenny. There will also be another chance to contribute to our Neighbourhood Plan by posting your views on our graffiti wall or filling out a questionnaire. See you there!



The First Pop-Up Shop of 2015

What's On at your Village Club

VE Day Celebrations – Sunday 10th May 12-3pm



On 8th May this year it will be 70 years since Britain celebrated VE Day. Your club can't offer you the same atmosphere as on that emotional day but it can offer you a warm welcome, a patriotic atmosphere, some wartime nibbles and even a special celebration cocktail. Keeping in with the theme, the club will be offering Spitfire Beer too! So come along and enjoy a drink before your lunch, make it an opportunity to meet up with friends and neighbours and just enjoy the day! If you have any 1939-45 wartime memorabilia or photos that we could borrow or copy, or maybe some memories of Hunton during the war that you would be happy to share, please call Phil on 820804 before the day.

Quiz Night – Saturday 16th May 8.15pm

There is no fee to pay, just come along with your ready-made team or join one at the club. Teams are usually 4-6 people. These quizzes are extremely popular and it's always a fun evening, so come early. The quiz will start promptly at 8.15pm. Club opens at 8pm. All welcome!



Village Hall Gig – 4Square – Sunday 17th May

Thanks to all who turned out for the Dr Jazz and Sarah McQuaid concerts; two very different gigs. Our final gig in the Spring Sessions is the return of a young 4-piece band that Alan first booked in 2011, when they were still at music college. Some of you might remember a clog-dancing violinist, a dreadlocked mandola player, and the percussionist apparently sitting on a wood block. They're also Christine's favourite new band of this generation, so we had to get them back on their spring tour. Billed as the 'Frantic Folk Foursome' from Manchester, there's a new mandolin player but the other three remain the same and are now even more accomplished musicians (across the jazz, folk and latin spectrum) and entertainers, playing with several bands when not out as 4Square. This will be a Pay-on-Door event again, usual 7.30 Doors for 8pm Music. As it's the final session, we're making it a special price – £8 single, £15 per couple. Please pre-reserve with Mike (820429) or Steve (820403).

Diary Dates

Saturday 2nd May **Nicole Memorial Fundraiser** The White House 7.30pm
Sunday 3rd May **East Farleigh Farmers' Market** 10am-1pm
Miss Caledonia Village Hall Doors 7.30pm
Tuesday 5th May **Hunton WI** Village Club 7.30pm
Sunday 10th May **VE Day Celebrations** Village Club 12-3pm
Monday 11th May **Parish Council Meeting** Village Hall 8pm
Saturday 16th May **Quiz Night** Village Club 8.15pm
Sunday 17th May **4Square** Village Hall Doors 7.30pm
Monday 18th May **Annual Parish Meeting** Village Hall 7.30pm
Tuesday 19th May **Churchyard Working Party** St Mary's Church 3-6pm
Village Hall AGM Village Hall 8pm
Saturday 23rd May **Pop-Up Shop & Café** Village Club 9-11am
Friday 29th May **Wine Tasting Evening** Village Club 7.30pm
Sunday 7th June **Orchard Tidy Up** Community Orchard 2-4pm
Check out www.hunton.org.uk/diary for the latest events.
If you would like to add an event, email huntondiary@btinternet.com.

Hunton's Who's Who

This month's who's who features **Phil Nichols**, Chairman of Hunton Village Club.

"I landed in Hunton direct from a flight from South Africa where I had been investigating the sinking of a passenger cruise ship as part of my work in marine and transport insurance. During my short stay in South Africa, my wife, Tricia, had been house hunting. She collected me at Heathrow and then immediately showed me round several houses, saving the Hunton house to last. The rest is history and we moved in, from Barming, with our son, Richard, in February 1992.

Before long we joined the Sports and Social Committee of the village hall (now the Village Hall Committee) and became involved in organising all kinds of functions including reintroducing the village fete, until interest eventually waned. Of course there is now a new, vibrant committee that has reincarnated the fete again and I get involved by being the guy behind the microphone.

I joined the Village Club in 1996, around that time also playing cricket for Hunton CC and petanque for the White House pub. For the Village Millennium Party at the hall a sound system was purchased and I subsequently became resident DJ providing gratis music at a number of functions at the hall and other venues. I became Chairman of Hunton Village Club in 2012 and am currently also acting secretary. I think the club is a great asset for the village and hope the community will continue to support it.

I retired last May after 47 years with the same company and, whilst I miss my colleagues, I am too busy with my many interests, including model cars, trains, motor sport and fishing, to miss the work. There are also other village activities, such as the walking group, to keep me occupied. Hunton is a remarkable little village with a wonderful active community and I count myself as most fortunate in being part of it."



Wine Tasting & Supper

Friday 29th May

Tim Fletcher, MD of Rodney Fletcher Vintners, will hold a wine tasting evening in Hunton Village Club. Rodney Fletcher Vintners are a long established local wine merchants and shippers (you can check out their web site at www.rfvintners.co.uk).

The event will start at 7.30pm when Tim will talk about a selection of white wines as you taste them. There will then be a break for a bread and cheese supper with Tim then giving us information about some red wines followed by a desert wine. Tim will be available after the tasting should anyone wish to order wines over coffee or tea and cakes.

A donation of £10 per person will cover the cost of tasting about 10 wines as well as a light supper of bread, cheeses, cakes and coffee. Any profits will go towards the funds needed to replace the club roof.

Please contact Lesley to book for this event or for more information on 820210 or email lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com

Hunton Village Fete

Saturday 20th June 2-5pm

There will be plenty of fun for everyone at our traditional country fete on 20th June. The bells of St Mary's will ring to open the fete at 2pm. Entertainment comes via Applause Rural Touring with the super funny Giant Balloon Show from Dizzy O'Dare - great fun! There will be our ever popular dog show, traditional games in the arena including the popular run off against the speed watch monitor, giant bouncy castle, tiny tots ball pit, homemade cakes, teas, beer tent, jazz band, barbeque, Indian food and much much more including something new for 2015! Don't miss it.

Donations of wine for the drinks tombola and volunteers to help on the day always needed - please contact Annette 01622 820448; annette@trought.com

Yalding Beekeepers Honey Bee

Fayre & Auction

Sunday 10th May

At Riverdale Field, Benover Road, Yalding, ME18 6ES. A fun and educational event for all the family. Wide variety of stalls and a program of timed bee-themed activities including something for everyone. Free entry and on-site parking. Food and refreshments available. Open 10:30am to 4.30pm. Auction starts at 2.30pm.

Entry forms to enter bees or equipment into the auction can be obtained in advance by emailing beefayre@yaldingbeekeepers.co.uk

Orchard Tidy Up

On Sunday 7th June 2-4pm the community orchard group will be tidying up the orchard area on the playing fields. Main tasks will include: mowing; nettle strimming; creating the framework for the espalier fruit; weeding around the fruit trees and a general tidy up. Refreshments will be provided. Everyone is welcome to come and lend a hand - any time you can spare would be really helpful. Some tools will be provided but if you wish to bring your own please do.

At St Mary's Church in May

Flowers

3rd	Louise Ferns	10th	Louise Ferns
17th	Andrea Forster	24th	Andrea Forster
31st	Wedding Sue Pinks		

Services

Sunday 3rd May – Easter 5
11.00am Family Service – Rev David Jones
Sunday 10th May – Easter 6
9.30am Holy Communion 1662 – Rev Peter Callway
Sunday 17th May – Easter 7
11.00am Morning Prayer – Rev David Jones
Sunday 24th May – Pentecost
11.00am Holy Communion – Rev Peter Callway
Sunday 31st May – Trinity
10.30am Benefice Service at Coxheath

Churchyard Working Party

In order to keep our lovely churchyard looking spic and span there will be a working party on Tuesday 19th May between 3 and 6pm. If you are able to help please pop along at whatever hour suits you best.

Tour of Linton Park Gardens – Wednesday 13th May 2pm

There are spaces left on a first come, first served basis to join a group of up to 20 on a tour of Linton Park gardens followed by tea and biscuits. The company charge £10 per head, which goes to their designated charity, Dandelion Time, an East Farleigh based charity helping children and young people traumatised by abuse and neglect. Contact Lesley if you would like to join this tour on 820210 or email lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com

Miss Caledonia

Sunday 3rd May at the Village Hall

A humorous, musical play from Canada
Dora award nominated for outstanding new play
and outstanding female performance

Tickets £10 Concs £7.50 from Mike (820429) or Steve (820403)
Doors 7.30pm for 8pm start
BYO Picnic

Yalding Art Group

Spring Art Exhibition and Arts & Craft Fair
Sunday 17th May 11am-4pm



Yalding Village Hall, Lyngs Close
www.yaldingartgroup.weebly.com

Gardening Club Supper

Many thanks to the volunteers who donated excellent supplies of soup, pies and cakes for the gardening club supper on 31st March, which was enjoyed by 30 members. Another seven members joined us having eaten, so there was a good attendance for the very interesting presentation by Sue and David Heaton on how they planned, constructed and planted their garden. They made it all sound so easy but the photos they showed were evidence of the enormous amount of hard work which they have put into this project – we are very grateful to them for giving up their time to put together and give this presentation. Donations from the supper, together with the money raised from the five village lunches in February, enabled a total of £900 to be split between the Village Club and St Mary's Church.

Annual Parish Meeting

Village Hall Monday 18th May 7.30pm

Why not come along and find out what all the groups and organisations in your village have been up to?
Refreshments served from 7.00pm.

Yalding Parish Playscheme 2015

The Yalding Parish Playscheme for this summer is open to residents of Hunton. Details will be available over the coming weeks and will feature in the Herald, on the Hunton website and Facebook page. For more information please contact Angela Gent, Clerk to Yalding Parish Council, on 01622 814134 email clerk@yaldingparishcouncil.gov.uk

Chairperson Required

The Village Hall Committee is still seeking someone to take over the role of Chairperson from Christina Harrison. If you live in the village, have a knowledge of village life and could be available to assist the treasurer (Mike Summersgill) and the secretary (Kathy Reid) with the day to day running of our lovely village hall, they would be delighted to hear from you. If you would like more information please feel free to contact Christina on 07824 601945 or email crh@harri.org.uk. The AGM takes place on 19th May at 8pm at the Village Hall and anyone interested in the running of the hall is welcome to come along.

May	3 rd	10 th	17 th	24 th	31 st
Coxheath	11.00 HC	11.00 MP	11.00 HC	11.00 FS	10.30 Benefice Service
E. Farleigh	09.30 MP	08.00 HC; 11.00 FS	09.30 HC	08.00 HC	
Linton	09.30 HC	09.30 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, FS Family Service					

All items for the next edition of the Herald to the Editor by 15th May, please