



## Annual Parish Meeting Roundup

Below are summaries of reports from the large number of village groups and organisations, which were presented at the 2015 annual parish meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> May.

### Police Report

There has been a slight reduction in crime over the last 12 months in the Coxheath and Hunton Ward, with seven less victim based crimes, three less burglaries and four less cases of criminal damage and theft. The support of the community and parish councils allows low levels of crime to be sustained. Victims of crime have been given crime prevention advice, speed monitoring carried out by parish councils and neighbourhood watch schemes promoted to increase membership. CCTV cameras have been used to great effect in the detection and prevention of crime and have reduced incidents of anti-social behaviour. The police aim to provide a high visibility presence to provide reassurance to communities.

### Hunton Primary School

Herschel Santineer, Chair of Governors, reiterated that the school is keen to improve links with the community. The school is expecting an Ofsted inspection at any time; in preparation for this a former Ofsted inspector visited and considered the school to be good and working towards outstanding. Results are above national averages. The Department of Education now insists that schools promote British values, one of which being democracy.

(Continued on page 4)

### Hunton Fete - Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2-5pm - Don't Miss it!

We will have plenty to occupy our younger guests with face painting in the games tent, silly races in the arena, the Big Red Balloon Show, large bouncy castle for the bigger children and a ball bit for the little ones. **New for 2015** Pukka Ponies will be bringing two gorgeous little Shetland ponies along for you to pet!

#### Does Hunton Have Dog Talent?

Calling all talented pooches. Our dog show at the fete, sponsored by Oscars Dog food, will have four categories:

- Waggiest Tail
- Most Appealing Eyes
- Best Trick
- Agility

Rosettes to the top three in each category.

#### The Great Hunton Bake Off

Do you have what it takes to be crowned Hunton's Best Baker? Bring along your finest Victoria sandwich or chocolate sponge to the cricket pavilion at 2pm for entry into our baking contest, which will be judged by the WI.

**See enclosed flyer for full fete details.** All proceeds to the Hunton fete and community events fund.

#### Your Local Contacts:

School: Secretary/Head Teacher	820360	Maidstone Police	690690 or 101
Under 5's Pre-School:	820309	Neighbourhood Watch: <a href="mailto:huntonwatch@gmail.com">huntonwatch@gmail.com</a>	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 <a href="mailto:helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk">helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk</a>	0207 219 7107
Village Club: Philip Nichols	820804	Hunton Bell Ringers, Michael Webb	745716
Village Hall Booking: Kathy Reid	820092	<b>*not available on Fridays; **not available on Mondays</b>	

Contact details for other village clubs and organisations are available at [www.hunton.org.uk/contacts](http://www.hunton.org.uk/contacts)

#### Diary Dates

Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	<b>Hunton WI Village Club</b> 7.30pm
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>East Farleigh Farmers' Market</b> 10am-1pm
	<b>Orchard Tidy Up</b> Community Orchard 2-4pm
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Freighter Service</b> Village Hall Car Park 1.40-2.10pm
	<b>Hunton Fete</b> King George V Playing Field 2-5pm
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Train Day</b> Wayside, Amsbury Road 2pm

Check out [www.hunton.org.uk/diary](http://www.hunton.org.uk/diary) for the latest events.

If you would like to add an event, email [huntondiary@btinternet.com](mailto:huntondiary@btinternet.com).

#### Parish Council Contacts

Parish Council Chairman – Gary Thomas	820691
Clerk to the Parish Council – Sharon Goodwin	681238
Cllr Roger Sawtell	820731
Cllr Ron Porter	820220
Cllr David Heaton	820678
Cllr Tony Stanbridge	820761
Cllr Steve Wyles	820403
Cllr Annette Trought	820448

As you read this, I will be in a distant land having jetted away for our annual holiday, which reminds me of a story which I now share with you.

Young Jimmy returns home from Sunday School and immediately gets out his toy aeroplane and zooms it around the lounge. His mum asks the usual question, "What did you learn today at Sunday School?" Jimmy was a bit miffed and said, "Mummy can't you guess, I am playing with my aeroplane and I am being Moses." Completely confused mum replies, "What has Moses got to do with an aeroplane?" Jimmy scratches his head in disbelief and responds, "Moses was the first and only pilot in the Bible." Mum, not wanting to sound ignorant asks Jimmy to explain. Jimmy excitedly explained that they had learned that Moses headed up the "*flight*" from Egypt"

In life we often undertake journeys which either lead us away from one thing, or perhaps forward to experience something new and exciting. Our personal life journeys can take many forms, some experiences we may want to leave in the past, others we definitely want to hang onto as long as possible. The important thing for me is not travelling alone on life's journeys. People to share the highs and lows of such journeys with. Jesus in what is known as "The Great Commission Matthew 28v20" reminds us that he is always with us and will never leave us.

Whilst we may prefer to have a trained pilot at the controls when flying, there is no one that I would rather have to travel with me on a daily basis than Jesus. Where ever life is leading you at present, good or difficult, I pray that you be aware of your travelling companion, unseen but ever present.

*Eileen*

## Hunton's Who's Who

It's June and time for our village fete, so we have asked Annette Trought, Chair of the fete committee, to introduce herself to you:

"Born in Warwickshire and raised in Solihull in the West Midlands, I moved to London to study for my degree in history. A chance opportunity to work for Islington Council's press office proved to be a game changer for me. I found working in public service irresistible, so much so that I stayed to work for Islington and its neighbour Camden for the next 25 years. 20 of those years were spent in the health service working alongside clinicians on performance management, commissioning and service development.

Another chance opportunity was finding Hunton. In 1999 we moved here and the next year our daughter Darcie was born. In 2011 I left the health service and this meant for the first time I was able to think about helping out with things around the village.

I am Chair of the Parish Plan Steering Committee and the Fete & Village Events Committee; lead for the neighbourhood plan, community orchard and pop-up shop & café; village hall and village club committee member and am a litter picker and speed watcher. I am also now a co-opted parish councillor.

I love to travel with my family and recent trips have taken us to New York, Los Angeles and Las Vegas as well as Barcelona at Easter. What I love most about Hunton is its authenticity. This is no ersatz, flat packed, approximation of a rural settlement; this is the real deal and as such its future cannot be left to chance. The other thing I really love about Hunton is its people; so many competent, hardworking and good humoured folk who pull together not because they have to, but because they choose to. It's nothing but a pleasure to work alongside them."



## Flood Prevention Measures on Agenda

At the parish council meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> May, Cllr Gary Thomas was elected as Chairman for the forthcoming year, with Cllr Roger Sawtell taking the role of Vice-Chairman. Parish council elections will be held in 2016.

County Councillor Paulina Stockell advised that the Southern Regional Flood Committee will have a site visit to Hunton and other villages affected by last year's severe flooding at the end of July. Parish councillors are very concerned to ensure that the flood prevention measures proposed for the River Beult do not adversely impact on Hunton in order to prevent flooding in Yalding. Cllrs Thomas and Heaton are pushing to meet with the committee during their visit.

KCC have agreed that the bus stop at the bottom of Hunton Hill can be moved to the green opposite Lughorse Lane and will chase up MBC to ensure that this is done.

Kerbing will be installed on West Street alongside the playing fields in July. Five speed monitoring devices will be placed in various locations throughout the village to gauge the scale of the speeding problem before considering whether a speed limit reduction is appropriate.

## Hunton Neighbourhood Plan – Progress Report

We are heading towards the end of our initial consultation stage. With over 60 detailed responses to our five open questions some themes are already emerging. It is clear that the majority of respondents like the atmosphere and size of the village as it is - with the surrounding countryside, open spaces and quintessentially rural nature of Hunton scoring highly. Also scoring highly is the friendly nature of the village and the wide range of activities and clubs available to us all - with the Fete, the Christmas Market and the music events at the village hall all being mentioned regularly. On the other side of the coin, a large majority of respondents did not like the speeding traffic, state of the roads, heavy lorries and parking around the school. The historic buildings in the village were high on the list of things that we should protect, in particular the church, and there was a strong feeling that the village should remain largely as it is now with little or no expansion in housing.

A detailed analysis is yet to be carried out so this is just a high level summary of the findings taken from well over 1,000 comments received so far but it is allowing us to get a fairly comprehensive picture of what exactly is important to us in the village. There is still time to give your views if you have not yet done so. You can email us at [huntonnp@gmail.com](mailto:huntonnp@gmail.com) or phone Annette (820448), Steve (820403) or Ron (820220) and ask for a questionnaire. The more responses we receive, the more robust our plan will be.

*Neighbourhood Plan Team*

## Spring Session Reflections

Well, the 2015 Spring Sessions are over and I hope that everyone who came to one or more of them found them enjoyable. The last one, 4Square, were the 'frantic foursome' they said they would be, with a clog-dancing violinist, vibrant percussion, some old songs and some new instrumentals (and a pirate balloon in the rafters to complement their final song!) – lots of people turning up on the night meant we almost reached 50 in the audience, who managed to quaff all but the cider stock.

While there were a dozen less on May 3rd for Miss Caledonia, I had many people call me afterwards to say what a performance the Canadian artists gave, and could we have more stories/'plays' like that – I learnt something new as well (you can buy black bedsheets at Argos Chatham, at very short notice for stage backdrops! – can't quite see who would want to sleep on black sheets, but...)

We haven't booked anything for the autumn yet, as the Applause list is not yet available, but we have a couple of interesting duos who want to play at the hall, having heard about our lovely venue/audience from other musicians. Problem is finding a suitable weekend when there isn't a wedding booking (there are three in October and two in December already!), as it's not as good to hold events on a Thursday or Sunday, looking at the lesser numbers attending the last three gigs.

In the interim, would anyone who has ideas for events or bands/musicians they would like to see, please contact Mike Summersgill on 820429 or at 'senseass@btinternet.com'. Each event makes a little for hall funds (mostly on the bar receipts, rather than the door!), brings some artistic life to the village, and seems to draw people from wider communities into our small, but perfect, venue. My thanks again to the volunteers who always help us set up, make food, man the bar and clear away.

*Mike*

Thanks also to Mike and Christine for all their efforts in putting on these events for us. A huge amount of work goes on behind the scenes and sometimes even involves providing accommodation in their home to the visiting artists, thereby taking up not just a few hours of their time, but their entire weekend.

*Ed.*

## Connecting Hunton

Have you discovered the new Hunton Community Facebook Group yet? With currently 50 members we have: found new homes for unwanted furniture, warned of dangerous trees, got the Downsmail back into the village, informed of emergency road closures, discussed the Neighbourhood Plan, discovered a debut novelist in our midst, offered holiday accommodation in France and more! If you would like to join us just search for "Hunton, Kent – Community" on Facebook or click the "Sign Up" button at the top of the Hunton Facebook page. The Hunton Herald is also now on Instagram and coming soon, Hunton on Twitter

## East Farleigh Farmers' Market

The May Farmers' Market was well supported despite blustery, damp weather. Thank you to all our customers. As a result we were able to donate the sum of £90 to the Earthquake Appeal in Nepal. The money was sent to the Red Cross fund so that it would be used to directly benefit those in urgent need of help.

The next Market will be held on Sunday June 7th in The Old School Hall, Lower Road from 10am to 1pm. Low Wood Nursery returns with a wide variety of shrubs and perennials, whilst the Kenward Trust and Sutton Park will have further stocks of plants for the vegetable garden and flower borders. Don't miss the delicious Farleigh asparagus and hopefully the first strawberries too, plus all our usual local products.

### The Herald Grows

You'll have noticed that the Herald has expanded this month. With so much going on in the village we're often short of space so we're considering producing the occasional double sized issue to bring you more news and information from your community. We'd love to know what you think!

*The Herald Team*

### East Farleigh Village Fete -

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June,**

**Vicarage Lane Recreation Ground 2-5pm**

Featuring live music from 2BC and Old School Samba Band, maypole and morris dancing, hot food from the Kenward Trust chef, stalls, games, pony rides and more.

## Speedwatch Needs YOU!

Looking at the initial feedback for the Hunton Neighbourhood Plan, one thing that very many people do not like is the speed of traffic through the East Street and West Street 'rat runs'. Your speedwatch team is doing what it can to slow traffic down and has had some success with the percentage of cars speeding having dropped over the last 12 months. BUT WE NEED TO BE OUT MORE OFTEN AND FOR THAT WE NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS. If you really feel that speeding traffic is a danger why not get in touch and offer your help? It involves attending a short course at the police headquarters and then 1-2 hours a week maximum (and not every week). Want to help? If so, please contact me on 820403 and I can tell you more about it.

*Steve Wyles*



*(Continued from page 1)*

Mr Santineer asked for ideas on how the children could be involved in the activities of the Parish Council. Schools must also now have independent observers to ensure that SATs are conducted in accordance with regulations and it is hoped that this is a way that the school can involve the local community. Parents and the governing body are providing feedback for the Neighbourhood Plan. There are waiting lists for Reception and lower classes but vacancies further up the school; filling these would help with school finances and they hope the school is one the community would recommend.

#### *Hunton and Linton Pre-School*

New manager, Louise Horlock, reported that there are currently 50 children on role. 30 will be going to primary school this year but a steady influx of children means numbers look healthy for September. Much custom comes through word of mouth and a recent parent questionnaire brought fantastic feedback. Staff members are all highly skilled and qualified and attend professional development courses. There are eight permanent members of staff, four support staff for children with additional needs and a small number of bank staff. The Sensory Impairment Team and Ofsted have requested to visit to observe their work with children with additional needs as they have heard what a great job they are doing. They have obtained a defibrillator grant from KCC but a further £400 is required for it to be securely housed on the outside of the building for community access. They would be grateful for any funding from the parish.

#### *St Mary's Church*

It has been a successful and productive year with many baptisms, weddings and other services. Attendance has been steady and school services well supported. The Christmas Fair, Antique & Craft Fair and Light Lunches were popular. Working parties keep the churchyard looking smart and welcoming.

#### *Peace Cottages*

Minor repairs have been carried out to the interiors. A handyman/gardener has been appointed and will work as required. Financial provision has been made for possible major repairs to the roof and future improvements are being assessed. There has been a small increase in the residents' contribution.

#### *Friends of St Mary's*

The main target remains funding the internal refurbishment of the church at a cost of around £25,000. Fund raising plans for this year include the village fete BBQ, the Train Day in July and the Autumn Supper Dance in November. Ron Porter, Chair of the Trustees, thanked all the trustees, members and those who have made generous donations for their support. A recent membership drive attracted new members but not as many as hoped. Membership Trustee, Ian Pinks, would be pleased to hear from anyone wishing to join the Friends.

#### *Bowls Club*

It was a busy 2014 season with the annual bowls tour to Eastbourne, a full list of fixtures and the ladies winning the Maidstone and District Ladies Rinks League. Three ladies also reached the finals of the M&D Triples competition. A coffee morning, quiz night and Uno evening were the main fundraising events. Six new members were welcomed last year and hopefully another four this year. Anyone interested in joining is invited to come along to Thursday practice from 6pm or any weekend there is a home game.

#### *Cricket Club*

Good progress has been made on the construction of the new pavilion. It will be officially opened at the fete and should be complete by the end of the summer. Chairman, Simon Taylor, thanked all from the club and parish involved in the project. The Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> team finished a respectable 4<sup>th</sup> in their division and the 2s managed not to come bottom of their league, with a couple of memorable victories. The Sunday XI were promoted for the second year in a row (although, due to a league restructure, so were nine other teams!). The club reached the final of the Maidstone indoor tournament in the winter and were unlucky to be defeated by Linton Park. Approx £1,500 was raised last year through sponsorship and events with the highlight being a chest and back waxing of two of their hairiest members.

#### *Football Club*

This is the club's 117<sup>th</sup> year in existence – it is possibly the oldest football club in the country! Chairman, Dave Elliot, brought along photos of the teams going back to 1920. The club remains solvent and has sponsorship from a bar/restaurant in Maidstone. They are mid table in Division 1 and made the semi finals of the Tunbridge Wells Charity Cup. They had the biggest win in Maidstone & District league history last season when they beat Watlington 28-0.

#### *Village Club*

The club continues to provide a growing service to the community. The pop-up shop and café, village lunches, WI meetings and other committee and group meetings all take place here. The committee wish to further encourage community use and are endeavouring to hold regular functions. In the past year there have been music nights, quiz nights, a race night, a pizza night, a mixed couples darts tournament and a VE Day celebration. Further plans include a wine tasting evening, fish and chip supper, reggae and cocktails night, games night and possibly a murder mystery night. Members can hire out the club for private functions. The cost of membership is comparatively low so it is hoped that more villagers will consider joining. The windows in the WCs were replaced last year and extensive roofing repairs are required. Improvements are planned to the seating. The help of volunteers, who keep the club functioning, is gratefully received.

#### *Book Groups*

There are two village book groups meeting at the club on the first and second Thursdays of each month. Yalding Library supplies books selected by the members. The groups enjoy discussing the books they have read, which have ranged from "Sherlock Holmes – A Study in Scarlet" by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle to "Life" by Keith Richards. They also maintain a small bookcase at the club from where books can be borrowed for 50p each.

### *Huntonwatch*

Membership has grown steadily to 124 households with new members including Hunton Engineering. Anyone who has not yet joined is encouraged to do so. A network of co-ordinators and members cover the whole village so communication of incidents is rapid. Sadly missed is Grove Lane co-ordinator, Les Leonard; a replacement is yet to be found. Phil Nichols has taken over from Harriet Stevens as co-ordinator for Bensted Close and West Street. Feedback from our PCSO about the effectiveness of the group has been positive. Huntonwatch attended village events, distributing free of charge UV marker pens, shed alarms and smart water and produced five newsletters during the year. Crime numbers for Hunton remain low compared to surrounding villages. Many reports to the team concern vehicles in suspicious circumstances – these are passed to the police for addition to their database. Nationally this results in a significant number of arrests and prosecutions. As well as combatting crime the team set up a network of 4x4 owners to help out in bad weather, dealt with lost property, missing pets, an abandoned horse and helped release a horse trapped in fencing. They even had news of a naked, male cyclist seen around the village!

### *Hunton Herald*

The Herald has been very busy. The occasional bumper issue is being considered. Village news and information is also available from the Hunton website, Facebook page and KM column, all updated regularly by the Herald Team. New this year is the Hunton Community Group on Facebook, allowing members to communicate directly with each other. Donations were made towards the purchase of gazebos for village events, improvements to seating in the club and a contribution to the purchase of stage lighting for the village hall has been agreed. The team were sad to lose former editor Les Leonard just before Christmas – his input was invaluable. Dudley Farman has taken over the layout, Lisa Halliday the co-ordination of deliveries and Sue Pinks the organisation of advertising. The deliverers were thanked for their help.

### *Speedwatch*

Eleven sessions were held last year opposite the school and four have been held so far this spring. Around 10% of motorists are speeding, although most slow down when they see the team, (with a few speeding up and 'waving'). Advisory letters were sent to motorists caught speeding more than once and sterner letters to those doing more than 45mph. A minimum of four volunteers is needed for each session (usually lasting an hour). With only seven fully trained volunteers, new team members are urgently required.

### *King George V Playing Field Committee*

The committee has continued to ensure that the playing field is kept clean and tidy, with grass mowed, trees and hedges cut back, bins emptied and rabbits and moles kept under control. The play area was enhanced by the installation of a picnic table and bench. Volunteers resurfaced the car park and installed drainage to stop it flooding. The football club changing room roofs have been repaired. Poplar trees bordering the football pitch will be topped shortly and the committee intend to clear the wasteland behind the pitch.

### *Parish Plan Steering Committee*

It has been a very busy year. The pop-up shop (with new espresso machine!) has brought the community together and raised money for village events. The fete is the major fundraiser, bringing in around £2,000. Last year's fete was very well attended, helped by the fabulous weather and advertising on Facebook and other websites. The most important current project is the Neighbourhood Plan. Comments are still being collated and will then be analysed. The next stage is likely to be holding workshops to drill down on the issues raised, followed by the production of a draft plan for consideration by the community.

### *Village Hall Committee*

Chair, Christina Harrison, is stepping down from the role due to work commitments. A new chair will take over after the AGM. There has been an increase in bookings, now being taken a year in advance, and the accounts show an improvement. The hall has been completely redecorated internally and has new fire exit doors, a refurbished floor, new flooring in the WCs, a burglar alarm, CCTV, new door locks and numbered security keys. The next stage will be to repair and redecorate the exterior, install a new boiler and possibly purchase new tables. Problems during the year included the theft of 10 solar panels and two blockages in the sewage system caused by wet wipes and paper towels. Mike has continued to organise music and other applause events, which contribute to hall funds.

### *Tree and Pond Warden*

Mike Summersgill took over from Anne Bishop in early 2014. He had already carried out a survey of the ponds and ditches in the parish and will be surveying the wildlife in some of these with the permission of the relevant landowners. Mike will be attending an 'Introduction to Tree Wardening and Tree Care' training day in June and possibly a Hedgerow one in September.

### *Walking Group*

Ann Sawtell recounted some of the highlights of the walking group's outings over the last few months (see separate article).

### *Hunton WI*

In September 2014 the Hunton WI reformed. It is part of the Medway Valley District of WIs. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at the village club with a variety of speakers and activities being enjoyed. Currently there are 26 members, with an average of 19 attending each meeting. Complimentary refreshments, provided by members on a rota, are provided. Members have attended a variety of district activities and meetings at other local WI groups. In a draw at the March meeting, one lucky member won a ticket to attend The Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace celebrating the WI's centenary. An embroidery square representing Hunton WI has been made for the district tablecloth by Susan Harris.



### Gardening Club

The Gardening Club enjoyed a variety of activities including a tutored day of willow weaving. A small group joined a private tour of Saltwood Castle and grounds followed by a cream tea, hosted by Jane Clark, widow to the MP Alan Clark. There were two interesting visits to Amsbury Farm where one summer afternoon was spent learning about fruit growing methods whilst walking through the orchards and an autumn morning touring the processing, packing and storage facilities. A social evening in March saw Kay & Tony Mason present a very entertaining gardening video they had produced and an informal gardeners' question time was held in November. Gardening Club members continued to help maintain the churchyard, contributed produce to the pop-up shops and ran a profitable stand at the village Fete. Since 2011, when the club was started by 18 locals, the membership has grown to almost 70.

### Parish Council Chairman's Report

In the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 the Council was mainly financed by a precept of £17,000 (£57.10 for a Band D property) raised on local householders and collected within the council tax. MBC also passed on local council tax support of £1,061 and provided Parish Services Scheme funding of £1,874 to assist with the maintenance of the recreation ground, play area and street lighting. Feed-in tariffs of £2,624 were received from the solar panels on the village hall roof. Main expenditure was a donation of £5,800 for playing field maintenance, £1,937 towards insurance and £4,000 towards refurbishment of the village hall and car park repairs of £1,637. The Council was consulted on 19 planning applications on which it put forward recommendations that it felt best represented the interests of local parishioners. In addition to its many activities already widely reported in the Herald, a system of CCTV cameras and a number plate recognition camera were recently installed in the car park and around the outside of the village hall to improve security. The Council meets bi-monthly at the village hall and parishioners are welcome to attend. Minutes are available on the Hunton website. Councillors or the clerk can be contacted directly when more urgent issues arise.

## Volunteering in Palestine

In January, I went on a ten-week placement to the Occupied Palestinian Territories, volunteering with International Citizen Service (ICS), a government scheme funded by the Department for International Development (DfID). ICS works in partnership with nine different charities, sending out volunteers between the ages of 18-25 to help developing countries fight poverty and tackle the global issues that they are currently facing. The partner charity I chose to volunteer with was International Service who focus on human rights, particularly the rights of women and children. The ICS scheme is an excellent and inexpensive way for young people to volunteer abroad as the placement is largely funded by DfID and each volunteer only has to fundraise a minimum of £800 towards their placement, receiving continuous support from ICS. My fundraising activities included a quiz night at the local pub where I worked and a homemade sweets stall at the Hunton pop-up shop. I'd like to thank everybody who supported me, particularly Tricia and Phil Nicholls.

I was living and working in East Jerusalem for ten weeks, which was an eye-opening experience. I volunteered with the Youth Development Department (YDD), a non-governmental organisation that provides recreational and life skills activities for Palestinian youths in East Jerusalem. They work alongside community based organisations to implement activities for young people in areas where opportunities are not always available for them.

I worked alongside a team of Palestinians, helping them to enhance their social media and I created a website for them to raise awareness for their organisation and the great work that they do. I also helped them with funding proposals for international donors and photographed a number of activities that YDD and local groups organised for the Palestinian youths.

I learnt so much from the ten weeks that I was away. I lived life under Israeli Occupation and passed daily through checkpoints. I experienced the conservative Palestinian culture in East Jerusalem and crossed the street into the much more westernised culture of West Jerusalem. My experience is one that I will never forget and I would recommend the ICS scheme to any young person who would like the opportunity to help people, experience different cultures and gain life experiences.

*Helen Redfarn*



*The Youth Development Department's winter camp in Jericho - Helen rewrote their brochure and this is one of the photos she took for it.*

Do you have some news that you would like to share with us? A sporting endeavour perhaps, or an academic achievement; a musical performance, family celebration, volunteering experience or charity fundraiser...we'd be particularly pleased to hear what the younger members of our community have been up to. You can contact us by phone or email (details on the front page), send a message on the Hunton Facebook page or via Instagram.

## So Long ...

As many of you are aware the Ferns family has been on the verge of a move for a while; by the time this is in The Herald we should be in Jersey. I just wanted to thank the many villagers who have been so kind over the four and a bit years we have been in the village and to remind you all of this amazing small village with a huge heart and great community spirit. I have thoroughly enjoyed being involved on walks, with fetes, village lunches and the WI and wish every part of Hunton village life continuing success. I would also like to welcome Dr and Mr Robertson to the village and hope they enjoy living in Hunton as much as we have.

*Louise Ferns*

I'm sure you will join me in wishing the Ferns' all the best for their new life in Jersey and thanking them for their contribution to our community, and in particular to Louise for setting up and running the oil syndicate from which so many of us have benefitted.

*Ed.*

## Invasive Species in the Countryside

Spotting Giant Hogweed or looking out for Asian Hornets might not be what you first think of doing when out on a nature walk, but Invasive non-native species (INNS) such as Himalayan Balsam, Mink and Mitten Crabs (to name but a few) cost our economy £1.7 billion a year. They can damage our countryside, reduce habitat availability for native species, compromise access and recreation and can even damage our health. Whilst you are out and about in the Kent countryside there are several things you can do to help:

### Recorder Apps:

In order to control them and monitor their impacts, we need to know where the aliens are! There are now several apps you can get which allow you to record sightings of INNS.

'Plant Tracker' is designed so you can record the most problematic INNS in the UK. The app features 14 species for you to record, shows you how to identify each species and enables you to easily submit geo-located photos whenever you find one.

'Aquainvaders' allows you to record up to 26 aquatic non-native invaders from Zebra Mussels to Marsh Frogs.

Both apps are available on the naturelocator.org website.

Medway Valley Countryside Partnership manages the Invasive Non Native Plant Project for the Medway Catchment area of Kent and is also hoping to soon support a recording facility on their website, [medwayvalley.org](http://medwayvalley.org)

### High Alert Species

Especially important is recording any 'high alert' species you might see so the relevant organisations can rapidly respond. Current species to look out for include Water Primrose, Asian Hornet and Quagga Mussel

### Biosecurity:

Biosecurity is essential in stopping the spread and impact of many INNS. Many invasive aquatic plants are transported between water bodies for example by hitching a ride on fisherman's nets or on wet waders. Some species, like the Killer Shrimp, can survive out of water for over a week if left on damp equipment or clothing and so can be easily spread to a new location.

As countryside users, it's easy to adopt your own biosecurity methods – just 'Check-Clean-Dry'.

Further information is available on the NNSS website [nonnativespecies.org](http://nonnativespecies.org)

## News from your Village Club

### VE Day Celebrations

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May saw Hunton Club decked out with bunting and Union Jacks, whilst visitors enjoyed red, white and blue cocktails. The event was well supported by villagers who enjoyed a drink with friends and neighbours whilst viewing the memorabilia on display, which included original newspapers, the Hunton war diary, identity cards, ration books, photographs and medals. Perhaps most fascinating was the personal wartime diary of Neil Davis' father. He was a navigator on the bombers and Neil brought along his RAF Flying Log. There were some interesting entries including one about being shot up when attempting to mine the Danube in Yugoslavia in 1944. There were also copies of the propaganda leaflets he dropped and menus from the officers' mess.

### Quiz Night

Once again the Village Club quiz proved popular with eight teams taking part. There was a competitive but fun atmosphere for what proved to be a closely fought contest with The Heralds (containing Hunton Herald editors past and present) just edging out Corinne's team in the final round to be the eventual victors. Thank you to everyone who gave much needed support to your club and to Phil and Tricia Nichols for putting together another enjoyable evening. Watch this space for the announcement of the Autumn Quiz!

## Walking Group

We've climbed hills, wandered in the Weald, sloshed through mud, waded in the Medway, admired churches and castles, witnessed wildlife, delighted in flora and fungi, clambered over innumerable stiles and appreciated the odd pint of ale!

The Hunton Walking Group, now in its fifth year, has been regularly out and about enjoying a variety of walks in the beautiful Kent countryside. Most routes are circular and between four and six miles in length, usually finishing at a pub for a well-earned spot of lunch. Meeting fortnightly on Monday mornings, outings over the last few months have included:

- An autumnal walk in the woods around Colliers Green, Cranbrook and Goudhurst, encountering deer, buzzards, hornets and fungi.
- A circular walk from the Tickled Trout, wading in an overflowing Medway and sloshing through mud.
- A bracing Xmas trip from Hunton to Yalding via Gennings, Barnhill and Buston Manor, with walk leader, Mike Summersgill, being nicknamed "The Grand Old Duke of York". Raised a glass to Les Leonard at the Walnut Tree.
- An interesting walk from the Poacher and Pheasant at Tudeley, visiting two churches en route, one with connections to Thomas Becket and the other with stunning stained glass windows by the artist, Marc Chagall.
- A beautiful walk in winter sunshine around Leeds and Broomfield, taking in the grounds of Leeds Castle.
- A very Kentish walk from the George at Egerton, with Wealden hall houses, lots of sheep and the sound of a skylark.



If this has whet your appetite and you would like to join us, you will be made to feel most welcome. Contact Ann at [ann.sawtell@btinternet.com](mailto:ann.sawtell@btinternet.com)

## At St Mary's Church in June

Flowers				Services	
7 <sup>th</sup>	Wedding SJS	14 <sup>th</sup>	Wedding Sue Pinks	Sunday 7th June – Trinity 1	
21 <sup>st</sup>	Sue Pinks	28 <sup>th</sup>	Sandra Bullivant	11.00am Family Service – Miss Chris Bostock	
				Sunday 14th June – Trinity 2	
				9.30am Holy Communion 1662 – Rev Peter Callway	
				Sunday 21st June – Trinity 3	
				11.00am Morning Prayer – Rev Eileen Doyle	
				Sunday 28th June – Trinity 4	
				11.00am Holy Communion – Rev David Jones	

### Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

Monday – Saturday      8-11pm (Closed Tuesdays)  
 Sunday                      12-2.30pm & 8-10.30pm

### Stroke Care Consultation

Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells hospitals jointly provide acute stroke care and rehabilitation for patients from West Kent and north East Sussex. Reviews have shown that similar to many other hospitals, locally and nationally, we can greatly improve stroke outcomes for our patients and reduce long-term disability.

Our hospital clinicians and GP leads are currently developing higher standards of care for every patient we see. It is our aim to ensure all patients have access to dedicated stroke teams and treatment 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

We are involving our patients, the public and healthcare professionals in this important work over the coming months, using their knowledge and experience to help us build better stroke services. You can find out more about this online at [www.mtw.nhs.uk](http://www.mtw.nhs.uk)

If you would like us to send you more information, or want to share your views and experiences with us on stroke care, to help shape these important improvements, you can email us at: [mtw-tr.myhealthcare@nhs.net](mailto:mtw-tr.myhealthcare@nhs.net) or write to us for free at:

Freepost RTKS – AKZZ - UCZZ, Stroke Services, Room 118, Service Centre, Maidstone Hospital, ME16 9QQ

If you would like to speak to someone anonymously, you can contact Healthwatch Kent by telephone: 0808 801 0102 or email : [info@healthwatchkent.co.uk](mailto:info@healthwatchkent.co.uk)

### Train Day – Sunday 26th July 2pm

The Friends of St Mary's are pleased to announce that, through the kindness and courtesy of Sue and Lawrence Martin, the charity will be hosting a Train Day to be held in the grounds of Sue and Lawrence's home: Wayside, Amsbury Road. Many of you will have been before so will know what a special day this will be.

This event will appeal to all ages and provides fun for all the family with unlimited train rides, teas, children's entertainment and a raffle with generous prizes. It is a major part of our fund raising effort this year to enable us to help finance the internal decoration of the church, which is so badly needed.

We are about halfway towards our target, so please come and support us and enjoy yourselves at the same time.

Tickets £12 per adult, £8 for under 18s, children 3 years and under free, available from Mary Goddard on 07871 556605 or Lucy Dickinson on 07798 745301. Ample parking will be provided.

We are limited as to the number of guests that can be accommodated so to avoid disappointment put the date in your diary and get your ticket order in as soon as you can.



Ron Porter

### Linton Park Tour

Glorious sunshine accompanied the gardening club on their guided tour of Linton Park Gardens. Members enjoyed the wealth of established trees and plants and the stunning views across the Weald whilst learning about the history of the estate from Linton Park's head gardener. Although not normally open to the public, Linton Park plc, who own the property had kindly agreed to the visit in exchange for a donation to local charity, Dandelion Time. Many thanks to Edna and Lesley for arranging the visit.



### Visit to Saltwood Castle - 2pm Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July

Edna has again organised for a small group to enjoy a private tour of Saltwood Castle, near Hythe - [www.saltwoodcastle.com](http://www.saltwoodcastle.com). Those who went last summer highly recommend this visit, which includes the extensive grounds, the library and the castle full of antiques and paintings by famous artists. Owner Jane Clark, widow of politician and author, Alan Clark, explains the history of the property as she takes you round. Tickets are £25 each which includes a homemade tea. A few spaces are left for this tour so if you would like to go contact Edna on 01622 746103 [edmaden@googlemail.com](mailto:edmaden@googlemail.com).

June	7 <sup>th</sup>	14 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>	28 <sup>th</sup>
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	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 June, please**