



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

## Hunton Club News

The Rugby World Cup comes to the UK this autumn and for the opening match England is scheduled to play Fiji at Twickenham on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September at 8pm.



The club will be open for members and villagers to come along and watch the matches. Perhaps "en masse" we can send good vibes and encourage our teams to do well in the competition. There will be a sweepstake if you wish to join in and also other fun rugby inspired competitions to take part in.

All England matches will be screened on ITV and ITV4 at the club. Hopefully, if volunteer bar staff can be arranged, we'll be showing other home team matches too. Check out the fixtures on [www.itv.com/rugbyworldcup](http://www.itv.com/rugbyworldcup). Also check the September issue of The Herald for confirmation on which days/nights you can watch at the club.



Rosemary, after many years of loyal service, has decided that she will cease her job of bar duties at the club. She intends to continue her support of the club but from the other side of the bar! The Committee would like to thank her for her help and support over the years and for the voluntary work she has undertaken.

Unfortunately, this will also mean that the club may not be open every Friday and Saturday evening until extra bar staff can be found. If anyone is interested in volunteering for this task, even once a month would help, please contact Phil on 820804.

## Oh No it Isn't! - Oh Yes it Is!! - Aladdin is on the cards – Easter Holidays 2016

Actual dates yet to be confirmed, but the pantomime next year is Aladdin. The past two productions were such great successes, so let's go for a third! Sharon Winter is the Director and Sue Pinks will be the 'getting it all together' back up for Sharon.

There are masses of parts for everyone who would like to be involved and that includes those who do not wish to be on stage! The production will need actors and actresses as well as back stage crew, which includes stage manager, props, scenery, costumes, lighting, bar staff (Friends of St Mary's) front of house, ticket sales, etc. etc.

Rehearsals will start with a few read throughs in November and then we will be rehearsing generally twice a week, which will be on a Sunday about 5 to 7 pm, and probably a Tuesday in Hunton Club for two hours. The rehearsal schedule will make sure that only those people needed for a particular scene in the pantomime need to be there, so your time to start with will be well organised.

We had such fun with the last two productions and were sold out every night; so if you would like to be part of a great village event, please contact Sue Pinks on 01622 820709.

### 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	*not available on Fridays; **not available on Mondays	
Contact details for other village clubs and organisations are available at <a href="http://www.hunton.org.uk/contacts">www.hunton.org.uk/contacts</a>			

### Diary Dates

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August **East Farleigh Farmers' Market** 10am-1pm  
 Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> August **Hunton WI Village Club** 7.30pm  
 Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August **Cocktails and Reggae** Village Club 8pm

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

I am sitting by the open window listening to a skylark! I have not heard one for ages but years ago there were a number nesting in the fields around and when I was walking the dog I used to try to spot them up in the sky. We had cuckoos too, but I have not heard one here for a number of years.

There was a protest song with the refrain 'When will they ever learn' and I often wonder - when will we ever learn?

God created the heavens and the earth. He then made man 'in his image' and saw that 'it was good' (Genesis 1:31). He expected man to care for the planet but instead we have used it, abused it and plundered it to the brink of extinction.

A report produced by WWF and the Zoological Society of London has found that the number of vertebrates – mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish – on earth has fallen by more than half since 1970. The report concludes, there are 52 per cent fewer vertebrates alive on Earth than there were when someone now in their forties was born. Likewise, the number of insects worldwide had fallen by 45 per cent since the Seventies, while human populations had almost doubled.

We could help to save the planet by being more considerate and less self-centred. As God's children we are interdependent. There are resources enough if we only take what we need and stop throwing consumables into landfill and throwing half the contents of the fridge onto the compost because we bought too much and it is now past its 'sell by' date.

Leviticus 19:9-10 states that, "When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner," yet we insist on reaping beyond the edge time and again.

I am trying to 'declutter' although progress is slow. However, there are occasions now when I see something and think ooh! Then I think 'Do I really need this?' It feels good when the item goes back on the shelf. Try it and see how it feels.

As the Psalmist in Psalm 24 says, 'The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.' That includes all the other creatures.

Hope you have a good summer and do listen out for skylarks.

*Christine Bostock*

## Hunton's Who's Who

This month's Who's Who focuses on Gary Thomas, the new Chairman of the parish council.

Born and raised in Hampton Hill in Middlesex, Gary's association with Kent began in 1970 when he moved to Boxley. He quickly involved himself in the local community, joining Boxley Parish Council, of which he was Chairman during a particularly challenging period that saw the building of the Walderslade Woods development, Grove Green and the Channel Tunnel Rail Link, all within the parish. His background in engineering proved very useful when the parish council successfully fought for alterations to the design of the rail link in order to minimise the impact on the Boxley valley. He was also a borough councillor for Maidstone from the late 70's until 1988, sitting on the planning committee as well as having particular involvement in housing and transport.

Gary moved to Hunton with his family in 1996 and has served on the parish council since 2002. He is heavily involved with CPRE (the Campaign to Protect Rural England), as the Chair of the Kent branch from 2003-08 and currently the Chair of the Maidstone branch. It will therefore come as no surprise that Gary's desire for the future of our beautiful, rural village is that it should remain largely unchanged; he particularly values Hunton's sense of community and its extensive network of public footpaths. He spends much of his leisure time gardening and restoring his classic cars.



## West Street Closure

West Street will be closed from 3<sup>rd</sup> August for up to five days.

The road will be closed between East Street and the Village Hall to install a new kerbline.

## Hunton Hill Collision

There has been another serious head-on collision on our village roads, the second in two months. Two cars collided on the bends on Hunton Hill at lunchtime on 2<sup>nd</sup> July and, although both vehicles were severely damaged, fortunately there were no reported injuries. The road remained closed until 5.30pm whilst an oil spill was cleared.

## Parish Council Roundup

The hedge along the playing fields will be trimmed back to improve vision when exiting the car park. Due to the increase in events the waste bins are in need of more regular emptying. There have been issues with parking when events at the village hall and playing fields have coincided – this is being looked into. The drainage system at the village hall has been blocked by wet wipes again. The trenching to install the electric cabling to the cricket pavilion will take place on 27<sup>th</sup> July. The interior decorations and electrics are almost finished and the plumbing will be done soon; the pavilion should be completed by the beginning of September. Annette Trought has taken over from Christina Harrison as Chair of the Village Hall Committee.

The pre-school have purchased a defibrillator; the playing field committee, the Hunton Herald and the parish council will fund the purchase and installation of a cabinet to put it in, which will probably be mounted on the outside of the football club changing rooms.

Herschel Santineer, Chair of Governors at Hunton School, reported that the recent SATS results had exceeded government targets. The school hopes to have over 100 children for the first time, based on applications received. He had put a personal message in the school newsletter asking parents to park safely and considerately and to use the village hall car park wherever possible.

Speedwatch has three new members and a meeting is planned to discuss strategies and dates. No crimes have been reported in the village recently although there have been a number of burglaries in surrounding villages. Huntonwatch gained three new members from its stall at the fete.

The Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) has disputed MBCs housing target figure of over 18,000 properties, questioning their methodology. It has put forward a reduced figure of around 10,000. In the event that KALC seek a judicial review, the parish council agreed to support this with funding of an estimated maximum of £1,000.

## Congratulations...



Amy with proud parents Ann and Roger.

**To Darcie Trought**, a member of Intensity Cheer Extreme (ICE) Cheerleading Academy. As the regional champions representing Kent, the team competed in the UK National Championships, held at the Copper Box Arena in London on June 27<sup>th</sup>. They won, becoming the national champions. Well done Darcie and everyone at ICE.

**To Amy Sawtell** who graduated with a PhD in Immunology from the University of York in July.



Darcie (front left) with the winning ICE team.

We love to celebrate your achievements. If you have some news that you would like to share please contact the editor using the details on the front page.

## Flood Risk

At the Parish Council meeting on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July, Neil Gunn from the Environment Agency (EA) gave a presentation and answered questions on the EA findings from their investigation into the 2013 floods. He also set out in broad terms what the EA is planning to put in place for future flood relief. He was accompanied by Geraldine Brown (Chair of Yalding Parish Council), with whom he has been working on those plans. At this time Mr Gunn was unable to go into any detail of what may be planned other than to give a broad timeframe for the project as follows:

- Now - early investigation into potential options
- May 2016—February 2017 - outline design
- May 2017 - Submission of business case to DEFRA
- 2018 - Detailed design
- 2019 - 2022 - Construction

Many properties and land in Hunton are under threat of flooding. Projections suggest that global warming and other factors may increase that threat. Because of this your Parish Council is seeking to form a close working relationship with both the Environment Agency and Yalding PC on this crucial piece of work.

The first action we are taking is to ask Hunton residents to let us know if their house or land was affected by the flooding at Christmas 2013 and into 2014 and at any time previously (2000 being the other major flood in Hunton). This is to ensure that the Environment Agency have the correct information on the database that they will be using to explore potential options. It is essential to update this information as we were informed by Mr Gunn that in 2000 only one property in Hunton was flooded - clearly not the case. So, if you have been affected by floods (land and/or property) please would you send details to Sharon, our Parish Clerk, at [huntonpc@googlemail.com](mailto:huntonpc@googlemail.com). If you would like to receive flood newsletters from the Environment Agency, please email Neil Gunn at [neil.gunn@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:neil.gunn@environment-agency.gov.uk).  
Parish Council

## Bright Young Things

Maidstone Symphony Orchestra's 105<sup>th</sup> season is nothing less than a festival of youthful virtuosity. Music Director Brian Wright brings to Maidstone the BBC's current Young Musician, Martin James Bartlett and his predecessor Laura van der Heijden. Also still in their teens are virtuosos of piano and violin Taek-Gi Lee and Callum Smart. Principal trumpet of the London Philharmonic Orchestra, Paul Beniston, completes this impressive roster of soloists who will perform concertos ranging from Mozart and Rachmaninov to Walton Prokofiev and Arutiunian. Audiences will be treated to some of the most exciting showpieces and finest symphonies of the orchestral repertoire beside some real 'desert island' favourites. For more information and Tickets: 07817 429143 [www.mso.org.uk](http://www.mso.org.uk)

### Neighbourhood Plan Update

The team is currently engaged in analysing the data provided during the initial engagement stage. The information will be presented in a report to the village in a special autumn edition of the Herald

### Pony Care Days

Pukka Ponies Equine Rescue, who provided the pony rides at the village fete, will be running beginners' pony care days for 4-11 year olds on 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> August in the field behind The White House Pub. There are two sessions each day to choose from; 11am-12.30pm or 1.30-3pm. Each session costs £6 per child or 4 sessions for £20. There will be lots of hands on activities and talks in small groups supervised by a team of experienced volunteers, with a different session each week. To book or for more information please call/text 07922 954557 or visit [www.pukkaponies.org.uk](http://www.pukkaponies.org.uk).

## Churchyard Clean Up – Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> August

Thanks to everyone for helping to keep our churchyard looking cared for by regularly mowing the grass and helping at working parties. New helpers are always wanted...as are the 'old' ones! The next working party will be on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> August from 9am-12pm with a coffee/tea break. Come along for as long as you can spare. The main task this time will be to cut back the nettles so if you have a scythe or petrol strimmer do please bring it but lots of other jobs will need doing including edging the paths and round graves so do bring any tools you like to use. Sue Heaton and Christine McSweeney, who usually lead these events, may not be able to attend but this is one of the few Saturdays when there is not a wedding in the church, so we are taking the opportunity to hold this event and I will be there with biscuits for our break. I look forward to seeing you and would love to hear from you in advance to know how many biscuits/buns to bake!  
[lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com](mailto:lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com) 01622 820210

## At St Mary's Church in August

### Flowers

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Wedding	9 <sup>th</sup>	Liz Oliver
16 <sup>th</sup>	Liz Oliver	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Ruth Porter
30 <sup>th</sup>	Ruth Porter (Hunton Benefice)		

### Coxheath Church Fete

Saturday 5th September 1.30pm  
On the grassed area around the church  
Free Entry!  
Strawberry Teas, BBQ, Entertainment,  
Local Produce, Raffle, Tombola, Coconut Shy  
and many more Stalls and Games.  
Fun for Everyone!

### Services

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August – Trinity 9**  
11.00am Family Service – Rev Eileen Doyle

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August – Trinity 10**  
9.30am Holy Communion 1662 – Rev David Jones

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August – Trinity 11**  
11.00am Morning Prayer – Rev David Jones

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August – Trinity 12**  
11.00am Holy Communion – Rev Peter Callway

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August – Trinity 13**  
10.30am Benefice Service – Archdeacon, Rev Clive Mansell & Rev Peter Callway

A special service at which Rev Eileen Doyle will be re-licensed as Associate Rector.

## Village Hall Gigs

The autumn (and 2016) schedule for musical events at the village hall is firming up, and just so that you have dates in the diary, we have bookings for **Saturdays** as follows:

- October 24<sup>th</sup> - Applause present **Christopher Evesham**, a solo classical guitarist performing familiar songs and the stories behind them.
- November 28<sup>th</sup> - **Rita Hosking & Sean Feder**, an Americana/bluegrass duo from California. The final date of their UK tour (last in Maidstone in 2011).
- January 23<sup>rd</sup> – **Blackheart**, an 'ethereal' acoustic-rock-electronic duo who are touring UK village halls, who Mike has seen supporting Stackridge.

There is nothing in September or December due to hall bookings for weddings and other events (yes, two weddings in December!). More details in the next Herald(s).

## The Vicar's Picnic

Tickets are selling fast for Yalding's independent music festival on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> August. They've sold out the last two years running, so grab them quick while they're still available. Details from [www.vicarspicnic.co.uk](http://www.vicarspicnic.co.uk).

## Almshouse Vacancy

There is a vacancy for a non-smoking single resident in Peace Cottages almshouses in West Street, Hunton. Those interested, over the age of 55, preferably with a connection to Hunton should contact Ruth Porter on 01622 820200 or Roger Sawtell on 01622 820731 for an application form. Further criteria may apply.

## Oil Deliveries

As the Hunton oil syndicate is no longer in operation following Louise's departure from the village, I have been looking at alternatives. I recently came across The Oil Club [www.oil-club.co.uk](http://www.oil-club.co.uk). This is an independent organisation that does not have any links to its suppliers. It runs a large number of local heating oil clubs around the country with Hunton being grouped into a club together with West Farleigh. Deliveries to our village are currently taking place twice a month. I tried them out recently and was very happy with the service and the price (33.99p/litre), which was cheaper than that being quoted by Butler Fuels and Boiler Juice. The club is free to join, currently has 38 members and works in much the same way as our village syndicate did. I asked them to clarify their business model and received this reply:

"We operate like a reverse Ebay. Suppliers bid for the business and once they have won they will pay the club a fee based on the size of order. We also have the shop and adverts on the site. Suppliers have to join the club and do so on the basis that they must supply the club a competitive group rate at all times - not just the summer months. If they do so they will be included in the summer orders. We now manage around 50 million litres a year for our members across the UK and as the members increase so the suppliers take us more seriously with good rates and better services. For the first time this year, we fined a number of suppliers for late delivery over the winter months and this improved customer service from those suppliers noticeably. They can't afford to lose the business now and we can only do this due to the order levels - so the more members the better all-round."

Whilst looking into the various options I discovered that a number of our local suppliers are just different brand names for Certas Energy UK Ltd (formerly GB Oils), namely Emo, Butler, Pace, Southern Counties, CPL and Team Flitwick as well as the website heatingoil.co.uk. Also Boiler Juice, which started out as an independent price comparison, was taken over by GB Oils for a period until the Office of Fair Trading got involved. It is now being run independently again by the original founders.

*Helen Ward*

August	2 <sup>nd</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	16 <sup>th</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup>	30 <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	Benefice Service 10.30am Hunton
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 August, please**