



Parish Council Update

The meeting on Tuesday 15th March saw the last sitting of Hunton Parish Council in its present format as all seats are up for election on 5th May this year. Councillor Ron Porter has announced that he does not intend standing for re-election but all other councillors announced that they would be putting their names forward. It was noted that several other people had expressed an interest in joining the parish council so it is likely that there will, for the first time in many years, be a contested election for the 7 seats, which is encouraging and must bode well for the future.

It was reported that the new cricket pavilion was very close to completion and a grand opening is being planned for early May.

Following the closure of Hunton Hill for filling of a number of pot holes it was noted that Barn Hill and Upper Barn Hill had suffered some damage whilst in use as the diversionary route. This, and some large potholes in West Street in particular, have been reported to KCC Highways.

Speedwatch sessions are continuing and agreement has been reached with the Yalding speedwatch team to borrow their equipment to enable the monitoring of vehicle speeds in two directions, or indeed two locations, simultaneously.

In closing the meeting a motion was passed to thank Ron for his efforts firstly as Parish Clerk and latterly as a parish councillor. Among the tributes he has received since announcing his retirement was this from KCC Highways: "Over the last few years the relationship between KCC and the parish has improved due to your commitment and understanding. We have often referred to the Hunton model of working together as good practice", and from Councillor Paulina Stockell, "We shall all miss you", a sentiment echoed by all his fellow parish councillors.

Community Warden

My name is Adam McKinley and I work for Kent County Council as a Kent Community Warden in the areas of Coxheath, Hunton, Linton, East Farleigh and West Farleigh. A community warden is a trusted friend in the community, listening to and encouraging vulnerable residents of all ages to resolve problems and enhance their quality of life. My role includes dealing with low-level crime and antisocial behaviour, such as vandalism, graffiti and fly tipping. I can help with neighbourhood disputes (noise, boundaries etc). I can help with parking issues but I must stress that I am not a traffic warden and I will only pass information to Maidstone Borough Council and cannot deal with the situation myself. I work with primary schools on safety in the community and doing lots of fun talks such as "stranger danger", road safety and internet safety. I am accredited to work with Kent Police and regularly meet with PCSO Matt Judges to discuss issues in the area. I have two powers:

Taking names and addresses for people over 18; and

Diverting traffic in an emergency situation

My background is in education and social care for young people. I personally love sports and community spirit and I can see from meeting people in the village that Hunton has that.

You can contact me on 07811 271021 or Adam.McKinley2@kent.gov.uk.

Your Local Contacts:

School: Secretary/Head Teacher
Under 5's Pre-School:
Pre-School Supervisor:
Pond and Tree Warden: Mike Summersgill
Rector: Revd. Peter Callway
Hon Associate Rector: Revd. David Jones
Associate Rector: Revd Eileen Doyle
Churchwarden: Alison Ellman-Brown
Village Club: Philip Nichols

820360
820309
07972067110
820429
747570*
741474*
204241**
820288
820804

Village Hall Booking:

Maidstone Police
Neighbourhood Watch: huntonwatch@gmail.com
'Potholes' Hotline (KCC)
Community Warden: Adam McKinley
PCSO - Matthew Judges
Helen Grant MP helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk
Hunton Bell Ringers, Michael Webb

www.huntonvillagehall.co.uk

690690 or 101

820403, 820429, 820731

03000 418181

07811 271021

101 (or via Huntonwatch)

0207 219 7107

745716

*not available on Fridays; **not available on Mondays or Tuesdays

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

Diary Dates

Thursday 31st March **Pantomime** Village Hall 7.30pm
Friday 1st April **Pantomime** Village Hall 7.30pm
Saturday 2nd April **Pantomime** Village Hall 2pm & 7.30pm
Sunday 3rd April **Farmers' Market** East Farleigh 10am-1pm
Tuesday 5th April **Hunton WI** Village Club 7.30pm
Friday 8th April **Race Night** Village Club 8pm
Saturday 9th April **Churchyard Working Party** 9am-12pm
Coffee Morning Bowls Club 10am-12pm
Saturday 16th April **Freighter Service** Village Hall Car Park 1.40-2.10pm
The Runaways Village Hall Doors 7.30pm
Saturday 23rd April **St George's Day Walk** Village Club 11am

Check out www.hunton.org.uk/diary for the latest events.

If you would like to add an event, email 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



Hunton

www.hunton.org.uk



@HuntonVillage

I have spent the last six weeks or so in a cancer ward. Not as some act of ministry or piety but because my wife, Alison is there, and will be for several more months. Her prognosis is good, with the aim a complete cure from the lymphoma that has attacked her bones. The damage to the bones means she is immobile at present, hence the long stay. It is an amazing and thought provoking place. The nursing staff are incredibly hard working and caring. The doctors communicate well and regularly and treat patients with respect and dignity. The complexity of the medical conditions and the consequent treatments is amazing and very impressive when you begin to understand how it all works (and I'm the kind of person who needs to know). Most thought provoking however, and cause of much reflection, are the other patients. Without breaking any confidences I would like to share some of their stories. Names are not real, but the people are.

Joan had been ill for a long time. She came in for yet another round of treatment. She was bright, intelligent, a driving force in her family and her business, and a delight to talk to. Everything organised and in its place. One day, it all went wrong, and she began a downward spiral very quickly. She decided that she had had enough and after consultation with the family, she withdrew treatment. She died a few days later, at peace and comfortable, with her family around her.

Chloe had been in for two months after admission because her local hospital was closed. Her family had miles to travel to see her but they came as often as they could. She was a positive, cheery force in the ward who just wanted to get her treatment sorted so she could go home. She went home with a smile.

Janet was a mum, whose teenage daughters, mother and sisters visited almost every day. They laughed a lot, and kissed a lot. Sometimes they laughed at the silly things Janet said because her brain tumour made her confused. They laughed together and with each other, never once demeaning or without love in the laughter. Janet died, peacefully and with her family around her.

The attitudes of these people with whom deep but short term relationships have formed in an alien environment have mostly been inspiring. Several other people have come and gone – either home or sadly passed on. Their approach to a time when their lives are ending has been almost universally one of peace tinged with the immense sadness of those around them. In getting to know them, I have learned a little of their own faith – for some it was strong, and for others tenuous at best.

In this season of Easter we rejoice in the resurrection of Christ and all that means to us. Jesus said that he came so that we can have life in all its fullness (John 10:10) and that he brings hope eternal (John 3:16). I've witnessed both in spades these past few weeks.

Peter Callway

I'm sure you will join me in wishing Alison a full, even if not a speedy recovery. Ed.

International Day at Hunton School

Hunton Primary School recently held a very successful International Day. The children took part in many different activities, starting the day with Wake Up Shake Up Japanese style. The Japan Foundation, London supported them tremendously by providing a teacher for the day, Mrs Ito, who taught aspects of the Japanese culture, language and art. The foundation also supplied kimonos for pupils and staff to wear for the day. Other cultures and countries such as France, Brazil, Turkey, South Africa, Greece, Poland and Lithuania were represented. Pupils sampled traditional foods, sang songs, danced, wrote postcards and prayed in different languages. The day ended with a lovely assembly where the children were able to showcase what they had learnt.



History of Sissinghurst

The WI had a real treat at the March meeting with Stephen Harmer speaking on the history of Sissinghurst. Stephen gave a very lively, informative and amusing account of the history and the life and times of Vita and Harold Sackville-West/Nicolson and, more recently, the role of the NT at Sissinghurst. The famous tower was originally built to watch Elizabethan hunts in the extensive grounds and was used as a look out in WW2. Vita was very much a hands on gardener and worked to Harold's formal design to create an Arts and Crafts garden with many separate 'rooms'. She was influenced by other gardeners and by gardens she had seen, especially in Italy. Their unusual lifestyle, which included living in several different buildings around the grounds, meant they were always walking around the gardens, so her attention to detail was constant. Despite 30 years of work, Vita never thought the garden was finished. After her death in 1962, the NT took over and made some modifications to the planting, with the approval of her son, Nigel, to accommodate the high number of visitors.

All agreed this was one of the best so far and are now looking forward to the meeting on 5th April when Paul Ledger with dog Yorick will be enlightening us on Hearing Dogs for Deaf People. As always, new members and guests are welcome to come along to this friendly group.

Hunton Village Club Entrance Area

Over the years various volunteers have kindly given up their time to try to work on the area outside the club. Now a small group of members are willing to try again to improve this area with the aim of making the entrance more attractive and to make it welcoming, which might encourage more people to visit the club. If you have ideas you think the team could consider or would like to be involved in this project please contact the Club Chairman, Phil Nichols on 01622 820804 or email him at phil.nichols@btinternet.com before Friday 22nd April. All ideas are welcome and should include any maintenance proposals but please note that only a small budget is available.

The Runaways Return – Saturday 16th April

We have **The Runaways** returning to the village hall on **Saturday 16th April**; doors 7.30pm for music 8pm. Those that caught, and danced to, their 60's renditions of Shadows and other Rock 'n' Roll hits two years ago will surely be coming again...and telling your mates...maybe Cliff will turn up too! Please pre-book with Mike on 01622 820429 or Steve on 01622 820403, so that we have the right amount of food and Goachers on tap. Entry is £10 including interval Food. Licensed Bar too!

Those with a musical inclination may also want to note the 6th Maidstone Fringe Festival is in town from 27th April to 2nd May, with over 100 live bands across 14 venues/pubs in town. Canterbury prog-rock band Caravan are at Pizza Express on the Saturday (Mike saw them this month in Godalming!), Coco & The Butterfields there on Monday, and Nick Harper at the same venue on Thursday. Many venues are free entry, so enjoy.

Upcoming at the Village Hall on **Friday 20th May**, is a real treat for those folk fans who've 'complained' about all the soul, jazz, electro-pop & blues we've been seeing here recently. A beautiful singer whose voice is being compared to Joni Mitchell and Sandy Denny in style - **Hannah Sanders**, accompanied by Ben Savage, and with Kirsty Macleod again giving 'local' support. We've even persuaded the church bellringers to miss their Friday evening practice just this once, so we can hear Hannah's pure voice in our lovely acoustical hall - so let's make it a success.

Discontinuation of Saturday Freighter Service

Maidstone Borough Council has announced that the Saturday Freighter Service, which collects household waste from pick-up points around the borough, is to be discontinued. Due to the introduction of more environmentally friendly ways to dispose of the borough's rubbish, such as the kerbside recycling and garden waste services, the number of people using it has fallen dramatically. The last collection for Hunton will be on Saturday 16th April from 1.40pm-2.10pm in the village hall car park.

Road Closure

Dean Street, East Farleigh, will be closed from 18th April for up to 5 days. There will be no access between the junction with B2010 Lower Road and Forge Lane.

Book Group Review – The Tiger's Wife by Tea Obreht

Tea Obreht's first novel, *The Tiger's Wife*, contains elements of magical realism, family drama, and war narrative. Set in contemporary Yugoslavia but featuring many passages set in the past, the novel forms a tapestry of people and events as it sets out to capture the personality of an entire region. The narrator is Natalia Stefanovic, a young doctor who has grown up in an unnamed Yugoslavian city with her mother and grandparents. Whilst on an aid mission Natalia learns that her grandfather has died from cancer. Natalia begins to recall the stories her grandfather told her over the years, many involving the remote village where he grew up and two supernatural characters, the tiger's wife and the deathless man.

Few of us read the whole book but here are one member's thoughts:

"This book was an enjoyable read with some parts of it compelling and intriguing. I was fascinated to see how it would all come together with everything slotting into place, but this is where I thought the book failed. It did keep me hooked until the last page, but there was no resolution. For me this made the read unsatisfactory. My score out of ten is six."

Parish Council Elections

It's good news to hear that there are likely to be sufficient candidates to hold an election for our parish council. If you have been considering standing, it's not too late to put your name forward – the deadline for submitting nomination papers is 4pm on Thursday 7th April. Further information is available from the parish clerk, Sharon Goodwin, on 01622 681238 or email huntonpc@googlemail.com. We hope to publish details of all the candidates in the May Herald.

Scams on the Rise – Huntonwatch Reports

Recent spells of bad weather have resulted, almost predictably, in a spate of scams by people looking to take advantage of us when we are most vulnerable. Common themes include "you have loose tiles on your roof which must be fixed - let me have a look for you". "I see your fences are damaged, I can fix them for you at a very reasonable rate" - you get the idea. Our advice is simple. If you are approached by anyone offering to do some work, do NOT agree without checking them out first. These people will take your money and if they actually do the job (even if it is not necessary in the first place) the workmanship is likely to be poor. If you need repairs carried out, approach companies who have been recommended to you, or who are listed in Checkatrade or have 'WHICH' accreditation. If you think you may have fallen for a scam, or you are unhappy about work done for you, then contacting the Trading Standards Office is a good place to start.

There has also been an increase in financial scams. Themes here are alleged "overpayment of council tax", "criminal use of your account", and "checks on details because of a systems upgrade at the bank or other financial organisation". In all cases the scammers at some point seek to get you to reveal your PIN and password. Barclays Bank is running an advertising campaign on TV at the moment to alert you to this type of fraud. Be aware - banks, building societies and police will NEVER ask you for a full PIN or password. If you receive one of these calls then take a note of the number and let us know.

Although crime in Hunton remains low there was a theft of some material from the village hall car park. Unfortunately for the culprits they were unaware of the security cameras and we have been able to pass significant information to the police.

We continue to see a steady trickle of new members with three more households joining since the turn of the year. We provide regular updates via the Hunton Herald. However, our Members receive e-mails and/or phone calls as and when incidents occur, so if you'd rather not wait to get the latest news why not join? Contact us on 01622 820403 or via e-mail at huntonwatch@gmail.com.

The Huntonwatch Team

At St Mary's Church in April

Flowers

3rd Andrea Forster	10th Andrea Forster
17th Di Martin	24th Di Martin

Services

Sunday 3rd April – Easter 2
11.00am Family Service & Baptism – Rev Peter Callway

Sunday 10th April – Easter 3
9.30am Holy Communion 1662 – Rev Peter Callway

Sunday 17th April – Easter 4
11.00am Morning Prayer – Miss Chris Bostock

Sunday 24th April – Easter 5
11.00am Holy Communion – Rev David Jones

Phil the Bag – Thank You

Hunton Primary School are very grateful for all the kind donations of clothes for “Phil the Bag”. They had an amazing 72 bags all together and raised £147 for the school. They will be doing another “Phil the Bag” later on in the year.

Wine Tasting Evening

There will be a wine tasting evening at the village club on Saturday 14th May, 7pm for 7.30pm. The format will be a little different this time with a 'blind' tasting of 8 wines with a prize for the person or team who guesses the most accurate grape varieties and countries of origin for the wines. Tickets £10 a head including a buffet supper, available from Lesley 01622 820210 Lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com or Tricia 01622 820804 Tricia.nichols@btinternet.com.

Soup Success

Over two hundred and fifty meals were enjoyed at the six village lunches in February and March and the Gardening Club meeting and supper. A huge thank you to all the volunteers who made and donated soups and cakes and helped to run these events, and to everyone who came along to support them. A total donation of £1,200 has been divided between St Mary's Church and Hunton Club.

Grand National Race Night

Friday 8th April
At the village club
8pm - first race 8.15pm
Come along and have a flutter
and join the sweepstake for the real
Grand National the next day



East Farleigh Farmers' Market

The April market will be on Sunday 3rd when we will welcome the return of Spice of Life Indian Pickles, Carol May Cards and Trophy Pet Foods. Don't miss the selection of fresh fish from Steve (his dressed crabs are delicious!) or the tasty sausages, bacon and meat from Sutton Park. Make a note that in May a new trader will be joining us - Paul Richards known as the Knife Ninja!! He will be attending with his mobile tool sharpening service, which can deal with scissors, knives, shears, clippers, lawnmower blades, chisels and all manner of cutting implements.

Sue

Clean for the Queen

A big thank you to the 16 volunteers who gave up their morning on Saturday 5th March for the first litter pick of 2016. It was a bitterly cold day but this didn't deter us from having a really good clean up. In total we collected 50 sacks of general rubbish (30 from the village and 20 from Hunton Hill up to Heath Road), 5 car tyres from Hunton Hill, over 30 tyres from Lughorse Lane (thank you to Jeremy for retrieving these for us), as well as various car parts and bits of metal. Hopefully the other Kent villages participating in this nationwide clean up event had an equally successful weekend.

Churchyard Clean Up

There will be two churchyard working parties this spring. The first will be held on Saturday 9th April and the second on Saturday 21st May, both from 9am-12pm with a break for tea or coffee and biscuits. Any help would be gratefully appreciated, even if you are only able to spare an hour or so. If you think you would be able to join us please let Lesley know on 01622 820210 or lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com.

Bowls Club Coffee Morning

Hunton Bowls Club will be holding their annual pre-season coffee morning on Saturday 16th April from 10am-12pm. Please come along and support us. Any contributions of cakes, tombola prizes, plants or any items you may have for the bring and buy stall would be most appreciated. For anyone new to the village we are situated behind the village hall. Any new members would be most welcome to our friendly club.

St George's Day Village Walk – Saturday 23rd April

There will be a circular walk from the village club on Saturday 23rd April starting at 11am. Everyone is welcome so do bring along family and friends. The walk will last approximately one and a half hours ending at the club where a light lunch of soup, cheese and rolls followed by tea or coffee with cake will be provided for those willing to donate £5 (all profits will be shared between St. Mary's Church and the club). If you would like to participate in the lunch please book places in advance by entering your details on the form in the club or e-mail lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com. Lesley can also be contacted on 01622 820210 for further information.

April	3 rd	10 th	17 th	24 th
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 April, please