



Oh No it Won't Happen, Oh Yes it Will AND Oh Yes it Did!

After an uncertain start with no music and no lighting, Sue Pinks and Sharon Winter managed to produce a brilliant, colourful, entertaining pantomime. Neil Davis came to the rescue with the most amazing music and sound effects and the lighting was eventually spectacular. The cast consisted of village members of all ages and it was watched by about 350 people over five performances, including a matinee which was attended by many children who were given glow sticks and treats. A good profit was made, with proceeds going to the Great Ormond Street Hospital and The Friends of St Mary's.

So much goes on in the background with a production like this from ticket and raffle sales to the making of costumes and props, building of the stage and scenery and then of course there is the dismantling of it all. It was a grand effort by everyone involved!



The Connell family as Aladdin, Princess Jasmine, Widow Twankee and Pandora.

Ruth Porter

And a personal message from writer and director, Sharon Winter:



"The lights went out, the curtains down,
But have no worries, no time to frown.

Aladdin was a great success, so much fun, and Cranky's dress!

We thank you all for all who came, and can't wait to see you all again."

A huge thank you to everyone who supported and paid to watch Aladdin. We raised a fantastic sum of money which all goes towards Great Ormond Street Hospital and our wonderful village "Hunching". I personally would like to thank cast and crew for their tremendous work and support through yet another great show. There are exciting things in the pipeline. Keep you all posted!

Your Local Contacts:

School: Secretary/Head Teacher 820360
Under 5's Pre-School: 820309
Pre-School Supervisor: 07972067110
Pond and Tree Warden: Mike Summersgill 820429
Rector: Revd. Peter Callway 747570*
Hon Associate Rector: Revd. David Jones 741474*
Associate Rector: Revd Eileen Doyle 204241**
Churchwarden: Alison Ellman-Brown 820288
Village Club: Philip Nichols 820804

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

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

Diary Dates

Sunday 1st May **Farmers' Market** East Farleigh 10am-1pm
Tuesday 3rd May **Hunton WI** Village Club 7.30pm
Sunday 8th May **Dawn Chorus Walk** Community Orchard 4.30am
Saturday 14th May **Wine Tasting** Village Club 7pm
Tuesday 17th May **Parish Council Annual Meeting** Village Hall 7.30pm
Friday 20th May **Hannah Sanders & Ben Savage** Village Hall 7.30pm
Saturday 21st May **Churchyard Working Party** 9am-12pm
Sunday 22nd May **Charity Cricket Event** Playing Field 11am onwards
May Fair Primary School 12-3pm
Monday 23rd May **Annual Parish Meeting** Village Hall 7.30pm
Thursday 2nd June **Farm Visit** Poultry Farm, Marden 6pm

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 Jonny Goddard 820096
Cllr David Heaton 820678
Cllr Ron Porter 820220
Cllr Roger Sawtell 820731
Cllr Tony Stanbridge 820761
Cllr Annette Trought 820448
Cllr Steve Wyles 820403

I am currently training to be a guide at Rochester Cathedral. The course is accredited by the Institute of Tourist Guides, so it is not easy. Twelve of us started, I just hope twelve will finish!

It irritates me somewhat when people say it was Augustine who brought Christianity to Britain. He brought it to the Kingdom of Kent in 597 which is the year Columba died; who had already been Abbott of Iona for 35 years by then! In 604 Justus arrived to help Augustine and he was sent to Rochester. Our cathedral is the second oldest foundation in the country, after Canterbury. Justus founded a church in Rochester, which was in need of repair when Gundulf arrived after the Norman Invasion. Gundulf demolished the church, moved it eastwards, and began to build the cathedral, which developed into the one we see today. So Rochester has stood witness to the Christian faith for over 1400 years. Gundulf also built the White Tower in London so we have a tenuous connection with the Tower of London.

The Prime Minister David Cameron recently proclaimed that, "We are a Christian country and proud of it". Do you agree? Whose side are you on? Cathedral or Tower? Currently it feels as if the Tower is winning as Christianity is pushed more and more to the edge by the politically correct, all-inclusive movement. It is up to us to claim it back and challenge those who would dilute our Christian heritage. I trust that in another 1400 years our cathedral will still be a vibrant beacon of faith and not a quaint memorial to a bygone age. Are you up for the challenge?

Christine Bostock

Church Restoration Completed

We are very pleased to report that the ambitious project to completely restore and redecorate the interior of St Mary's Church has now been completed and the church is looking really beautiful. The Friends of St Mary's have so far contributed in the region of £12,000 - their support and financial help enabled the Parochial Church Council to secure grants from a number of bodies that meant the work could proceed without delay. The Friends and their supporters worked hard over a long period of time to raise this sum, partly from direct donations but also by organising events in the village and supporting those organised by others. If you attended the train day or the supper dance, bought a drink at the harvest supper or pantomime, enjoyed a burger at the village fete or the Christmas market, then you will have contributed to the restoration. So please do pop in and see how your money has been spent. The Friends and the PCC hope to hold a summer concert to celebrate the completion of the project and would be delighted to see you there - or you can of course come along to any of the Sunday services.

In Yalding this Month

Throughout May – exhibiting at the new RIVERSIDEpopupGALLERY is local abstract artist, Anne Telfer and photographers Conrad Feaver and Valerie Lovett. The gallery is situated next to the bridge, behind the post office and is open Monday, Thursday and Saturday 2-5pm and by appointment – just pop in to the post office and ask. It will also be open during the garden safari on Sunday 22nd May. www.RIVERSIDEpopupGALLERY.weebly.com

Sunday 15th May – Yalding Art Group's **Arts and Crafts Fair** at the village hall in Lyngs Close. 11am-4pm.

Sunday 22nd May – Yalding Scout Group's **Garden Safari**. 2pm-5.30pm. Nine lovely gardens to visit, all within walking distance of each other from the centre of Yalding village. Admission £5 (children free). Pay and start at the gazebo in the High Street. Refreshments and plant stalls, pizza and prosecco. Includes entry to RIVERSIDEpopupGALLERY.

Parish Council Election Uncontested

Despite early indications that we would have the first contested parish council election for many years, when nominations closed just six people had put themselves forward. Since there are seven seats on the council this means that there is no need for a contested election and the six nominated people will be elected by default. With effect from 11th May your parish councillors will be Gary Thomas, David Heaton, Tony Stanbridge, Annette Trought, Steve Wyles and Jonny Goddard, (Roger Sawtell and Ron Porter having decided not to stand again). The annual meeting of the parish council will take place on Tuesday 17th May at 7.30pm at the village hall when one of the first items of business will be to elect the chair and discuss the need, or otherwise, to co-opt a seventh member to the council.

Dandelion Time May Fair – Saturday 14th May 12-3pm

Set amongst beautiful surroundings in the Dandelion Time gardens and farm in Charlton Lane, West Farleigh, ME15 0NY. Pottery, farm tour, bread making, clay modelling, tearoom and BBQ, plants, crafts and lots more. Dandelion Time is a farm-based project for children struggling with emotional and behavioural difficulties. The project engages the children and their families in a programme of farm and craft work activities and therapies in art and music, supporting their development and improving their sense of self-worth. www.dandeliontime.org.uk

New Cricket Pavilion - Grand Opening

To mark the grand opening of the new cricket pavilion, Hunton Wanderers Cricket Club are holding a charity cricket event on Sunday 22nd May with all profits going to the British Lung Foundation in memory of Paul Matthewson, a previous player, chair and president of the club. Proceedings will start around 11am with matches taking place throughout the day along with teas, a bar and BBQ. The opening ceremony should take place around 2pm and everyone in the village is invited to come along to take a tour of the new pavilion, catch some of the cricket and watch the opening ceremony. The cricket club are always looking for new players and if anyone is interested in joining or coming along to one of their summer nets sessions, they can contact the club secretary Steve Jones on 07860 833693.

Hunton's Biggest Pumpkin Contest

A fun competition is being held to find the grower of Hunton's Biggest Pumpkin. You are welcome to employ any growing technique of your choice, whether that be singing to your plants, treating them to a pint of beer, or reading them the entire works of Charles Dickens, but to keep things fair, all entrants will need to grow one of two varieties. Adam Benton has very kindly supplied 100 seeds of the Howden variety and for those with ambitions to produce a gourd to rival Cinderella's carriage, 30 seeds of the larger Big Max variety. Just pop in to the village club during opening hours (8-11pm Wed-Fri, 12-2.30pm and 8-10.30pm Sun) to pick up your seed and register your entry. The grand weigh-in and measure will take place at the club's Halloween celebrations on Saturday 29th October when prizes will be awarded for the largest pumpkins of each variety.



Community Orchard Dawn Chorus Walk – Sunday 8th May

Come along on Sunday 8th May at 4.30am when Simon Ginnaw will lead this family friendly event. You will hear our very own choral concerto made up of different and distinctive parts. The RSPB says that although the dawn chorus may sound like a frantic shouting match, actually all the singers know exactly when their slot is. Simon will help us to discover which birds are singing their hearts out. It is a very early start for a Sunday morning but May is the month when the dawn chorus is at its peak. You only need to do this once to experience this melodic and clever natural piece of wildlife entertainment.

News from The Club

The winners of the Easter egg draw were Gil Robertson, Megan Webb and Phil Nichols.

Thank you to everyone who came along to support the Race Night on 8th April. The evening raised £102 for the Friends of St Mary's and the Grand National sweepstake was won by Tony Atkins.

Around 50 people joined the St George's Day walk followed by lunch at the club. Thanks to Phil and Tricia Nichols for leading the walk and to Lesley and Roger Lee for organising lunch.

Date for your diary: **Queen's Birthday Tea – 12th June 3-5pm.** An afternoon of tea, scones, cakes and celebration. Any and all cake/scone donations very welcome. All money raised to go to the Friends of St Mary's.

Village Fete – Help Needed!

A reminder that the village fete takes place on Saturday 18th June from 2-5pm. Volunteers are still needed to organise the parking. Please let Annette know on 01622 820448 if you are able to help.

Annual Parish Meeting - Monday 23rd May 7.30pm

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place at the village hall on Monday 23rd May. All parishioners are invited to come along to this informal evening to hear about the activities of the various clubs and organisations within the village over the previous twelve months. Refreshments will be provided from 7pm with the meeting starting at 7.30pm.

New Stalls for East Farleigh Farmers' Market

We were delighted to welcome a much larger number of visitors to our market in April. Stallholders commented on the increased trade and we are all very grateful for your support. The profit of £100 from the February market has been donated to Involve Cancer Support, part of Macmillan Volunteer Service, which specifically helps local people living with cancer.

I am pleased to announce that we will have three new stalls at our market on Sunday 1st May. The newly established Teston Bakery run by Per Nevryn will be selling freshly baked sourdough loaves and crusty baguettes and Edward Sandeman, who has established The Kent Biltong Company in West Farleigh, will have a selection of flavoured Biltong for you to try and buy! Finally don't forget to bring all your garden, professional and household tools that require sharpening to Knife Ninjas fully equipped van on site. All your other favourite stalls, with the exception of Carol May Cards, should be there including Low Wood Nursery and hopefully The Kenward Trust offering garden plants and shrubs.

Sue Morris

Folk (and More) at the Village Hall

What a great night it was with The Runaways at the village hall! Lots of dancing and a-jiving to the rock'n'roll sounds of the 50/60's; almost a capacity crowd; lots of Hunton people turning up (and a raiding party of 9 from Coxheath!); and you almost worked your way through a firkin of Goachers. The band was equally pleased with their night's work, and have asked to come back soonish (for those that can't wait, they have Kent gigs some Saturdays in the summer months – www.therunawaysuk.co.uk

We return to a more sedate kind of music in May – folk duo **Hannah Sanders & Ben Savage** on **Friday 20th May** at 7.30 for 8pm. Hannah has a lovely voice, which is sometimes compared to Sandy Denny or Joni Mitchell; the duo interpret traditional songs from the USA and UK in their own way. They recently played Kemsing and the audience reacted with superlatives, like *"When they came on stage, angels came down and rested on their shoulders, and orchestrated an amazing set."* And *"The sheer intimacy of their music was totally beguiling"*. We've even persuaded the church bell-ringers to take a break that Friday evening, so you can hear her vocals clearly in our lovely acoustic setting. More info on www.hannahsandersfolk.com; you can hear some of her CD 'Charms Against Sorrow'. Pay on the door - £10 with the usual ploughman's at the interval, or ring Mike (01622 820429) before Polling Day on May 5th to reserve a pair of tickets for £15 in advance. After then, please reserve with Steve on 01622 820403. We've also squeezed in a support set from Bearsted's own **Kirsty Macleod**, who played here before Hannah Scott last year, as many of you asked to hear her lovely singing again.

The hall then reverts to 'wedding mode' from June to August, apart from the fete, but we have managed to get a real treat from Spain during their UK tour: **TrackDogs** on **Sunday 24th July**. You might have seen their impromptu set on an EasyJet flight on YouTube, or caught them at Rochester Sweeps weekend; we'll be making this an earlier timing to use the daylight and probably have a Barbie! That's after the Vicar's Picnic in Yalding, but the second day of Ramblin' Man in Mote Park.

At St Mary's Church in May

Flowers				Services	
1 st	Liz Oliver/Sue Lawrence	8 th	Liz Oliver/Sue Lawrence	Sunday 1st May – Easter 6	
15 th	Ruth Porter	22 nd	Ruth Porter	11.00am Family Service – Rev Peter Callway	
29 th	Benefice			Sunday 8th May – Easter 7	
				9.30am Holy Communion 1662 – Rev Peter Callway	
				Sunday 15th May – Pentecost	
				11.00am Morning Prayer – Miss Chris Bostock	
				Sunday 22nd May – Trinity Sunday	
				11.00am Holy Communion – Rev David Jones	
				Sunday 29th May – Trinity 1	
				10.30am Benefice Service at Coxheath	

Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

Wed-Fri 8-11pm

Sun 12-2.30pm & 8-10.30pm

Farm Visit and Supper

Edna Dennison has kindly arranged an early evening visit for Hunton Gardening Club on Thursday 2nd June to farms run by HE Hall & Son (www.hehall.co.uk) in Marden, and would like to invite anyone else who would be interested to join them. The group will meet at Poultry Farm at 5.45pm for a 6pm tour of an organic apple orchard, organic hops and grapes. They will then drive to Little Mill Farm for a short tour followed by a talk by Ray Morris MA MSc about the conservation work being done for the RSPB. The evening will be rounded off with a ploughman's supper for a donation of £5 per head. If you would like to join this visit please contact Edna on 01622 746103 edmaden@googlemail.com or Lesley on 01622 820210 lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com so they can reserve spaces for you and give you further details.

Churchyard Working Party

Thank you to everyone who came along to help out with the tidy up on 9th April. There will be another working party on Saturday 21st May from 9am-12pm with a break for refreshments. Any help is very much appreciated, even if you are unable to stay for the whole time. Please contact Lesley on 01622 820210 lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com if you are able to come along or would like further information.

Weight Restriction Orders in Place

KCC has now put in place orders prohibiting goods vehicles over 7.5 tonnes from using East Street, George Street and the section of Redwall Lane between George Street and East Street. There are a number of exemptions including access to land and property and vehicles engaged in agricultural activities. It will be interesting to see if this has any affect on the number of HGVs inappropriately using our narrow village roads.

Hunton Beer & Cider Festival - Date for the Diary and an Invitation to Get Brewing!

Plans are afoot for a Beer and Cider Festival in the village. The weekend of 24th/25th September has been earmarked for the occasion. It is not all about boozing - there will be a host of activities taking place including apple bobbing, apple pressing at the community orchard and lovely apple pies for sale thanks to the WI! We also hope to run a home brew competition - with a special external 'expert' judge adjudicating! There will be a small range of categories to enter, including beer, cider, wine and 'best overall brew'! For more information or to get involved please contact Liz Ridgway at ridgwayliz@gmail.com

Wine Tasting – Hunton Village Club - Sat 14th May 7pm for 7.30pm

Following last month's announcement, we have been approached by Graham Ashlin, who lives in Hunton and works in the Wine Promotion Business. Graham has kindly agreed to present and sponsor this event and will show eight wines for blind tasting – the majority of the wines will be those that you can buy locally and a couple for that special occasion. This will be a light hearted, fun and informative evening – prizes will be given to whoever can identify the most grape varieties, country of origin etc and maybe even a prize for the silliest answer!

A buffet supper as well as the wines will be included in the £10 ticket price. This is a ticket only event and tickets must be purchased in advance. So don't delay, ring either of the numbers below to reserve your place and help support the club. Tickets available from Lesley 01622 820210 and Tricia 01622 820804.

Hunton School May Fair

Please do come and support Hunton Primary School's May Fair on Sunday 22nd May from 12-3pm in the lovely school grounds. It promises to be a great day with a wide variety of stalls and sideshows, a bouncy castle, BBQ, music and drinks. We anticipate a bit of an animal theme with creepy crawlies on display and a planned dog show – check the Hunton Facebook page for more details! So, lots of family fun and a great chance to support your local school. If you would like to run a stall (£15 per pitch) please contact ptahunton@gmail.com. Spaces are limited so please hurry!

May	1 st	8 th	15 th	22 nd	29 th
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 H	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