



Wares Farm Planning Application

A formal planning application has now been submitted for the expansion of the Wares Farm industrial site in Redwall Lane. The proposal is to build a new storage, packing and distribution facility on the Southern side of Redwall Lane for the use of Berry Gardens Ltd, the company that currently occupies the main part of the current site. The company is expanding rapidly and expects to double its workforce to over 900 employees. The existing buildings will be retained and it is envisaged that they will be let as small light industrial units. The main direct impact on Hunton appears to be an expected increase in traffic through the village. Whilst the application includes some proposals to help mitigate the impact of increased traffic movements at the Redwall Lane / Linton Hill junction and at the Linton Crossroads, there seems to be little consideration of Hunton other than signage to route HGVs towards the A229 when leaving the site. The application can be viewed on the Maidstone Borough Council website, planning application number 16/508659/FULL. There are over 60 documents, which you may not wish to plough through, but the "Planning Statement" gives a summary of the proposal. If you wish to express your view of the development to MBC this can be done in writing, via email or via the planning portal on the website.

Discount for Early Renewal

It's time to renew your club membership! Just drop in to the club to collect your new membership card and pay your subscription. The cost of an annual membership remains the same as last year at £20 or £15 for senior citizens, but if you renew before the end of February you can take advantage of a £5 early renewal discount.

If you're not currently a member, why not join now and make the most of your annual membership? There are numerous events held at the club throughout the year including the popular village lunches, gardening club suppers, quiz nights, karaoke, wine tastings and more. Not only is it the only remaining licensed premises in the heart of the village, it's also the home to Hunton WI, Needles & Natter, the book group, pop-up shop and yoga, as well as a meeting place for many village committees. Your membership will help to support the maintenance and running of this vital community facility.

The club is still looking for a new Chairman and Secretary; if you are interested in taking on either of these roles or would like to know more about what's involved, please contact Phil Nichols on 01622 820804.

Spot On at the WI

Several WI members had fallen ill with one of the bugs currently circulating this winter and so it was decided to cancel the January meeting. The next meeting, when we hope everyone has fully recovered, will be held on Tuesday February 7th at the village club. Sue and David Heaton will be speaking about Spot on Produce and how they ventured onto the world of pig farming in Hunton. The doors open at 7.15 pm, refreshments from the bar are available, with cake and coffee served after the speakers. New ladies are very welcome.

Your Local Contacts:		Village Hall Booking:	www.huntonvillagehall.co.uk
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	Community Warden: Adam McKinley	07811 271021
Rector: Revd. Peter Callway	747570*	PCSO - Megan Day	101 (or via Huntonwatch)
Hon Associate Rector: Revd. David Jones	741474*	Helen Grant MP helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk	0207 219 7107
Associate Rector: Revd Eileen Doyle	204241**	Hunton Bell Ringers, Michael Webb	745716
Churchwarden: Alison Ellman-Brown	820288	*not available on Fridays; **not available on Mondays or Tuesdays	
Village Club: Philip Nichols	820804		
Contact details for other village clubs and organisations are available at www.hunton.org.uk/contacts			

Diary Dates

Thurs 2 nd February	Village Lunch Village Club 12.30-2pm
Tues 7 th February	Hunton WI Village Club 7.30pm
Thurs 9 th February	Village Lunch Village Club 12.30-2pm
Thurs 16 th February	Village Lunch Village Club 12.30-2pm
Fri 17 th February	Gardening Club Supper Village Club 7pm
Thurs 23 rd February	Village Lunch Village Club 12.30-2pm
Fri 24 th February	Needles & Natter Village Club 8pm
Sat 25 th February	Fun Darts Tournament Village Club 8pm for 8.30pm
Thurs 2 nd March	Village Lunch Village Club 12.30-2pm

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

If you would like to add an event, email diary@hunton.org.uk

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 Roger Lee	820210
Cllr Tony Stanbridge	820721
Cllr Annette Trought	820448
Cllr Helen Ward	820810

Pastoral Letter

I recently visited a friend who has moved from London to Greatstone. She is now coming to terms with having a mile and a half round trip to the nearest post box, learning how the council deal with refuse/recycling and not having a major shopping centre on the doorstep. She is thrilled to be able to walk the dog on the beach each day, the better air quality that is improving her health, getting to recognise birds in the garden and the thrill of hearing the RHD railway as it crosses the end of the road. She is also trying to learn some of the history of "The Marsh" which makes it special.

What she does not like is the number of cars delivering and collecting children from school. Parents block the road, despite a huge school car park; they will not give way to residents trying to get home and some arrive an hour before school ends then sit waiting with the engine running blowing fumes across the school car park. Nationally tests have shown that the most polluted air in a community is often around the school. I wonder how many parents actually need the car for the school pick up? We know from our own schools that some children live too far away to walk but others live within a reasonable distance. Apart from the exercise, when I was at school we used to enjoy the camaraderie on our walk to school, or later the bus journey. We learnt some independence and responsibility along the way and we know exercise is good for us. Apart from which, what is it teaching this next generation?

All church members are encouraged to "strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and to sustain the life of the earth". However, this should be the responsibility of ALL of us. We only have one planet earth. Hildegard of Bingen said that "God made all things in consideration of everything else" – it is only man who destroys all things regardless of everything else.

So this Lent it would be a good idea to give up waste.

- Turn the thermostat down and add another layer
- Boil only the water you need
- Use only the water you need (turn the tap off)
- Buy less - therefore waste less
- Think about the packaging

As John Taylor said "Let us live simply so that others may simply live". We all have that responsibility.

With Kind Regards, *Chris Bostock*

Head Moving On to Pastures New

At the beginning of term five in April, the head teacher of Hunton Primary School, Mrs Denise Gibbs-Naguar will be moving on to take up the leadership of another school in Kent. Mr Stewart Murdoch, the current deputy head, will take over as interim head teacher and will continue in his role as Borton class teacher. Mrs Zoe Shephard, formerly the teaching assistant of Porteous Class, was appointed their new class teacher at the beginning of January. We wish them all well as they settle in to their new positions.

Event Cancellation Procedure

After the recent inclement weather, we thought it would be sensible to have a procedure in place to notify people should a village event need to be cancelled due to bad weather or for other reasons. Notification will be posted on the Hunton Facebook page, Facebook community group and on the Hunton website www.hunton.org.uk, so if you think an event might be cancelled due to the weather, please check one of these places before setting out. We will also endeavour to notify as many people as possible by email via the gardening club, village club and Huntonwatch, who have all agreed to circulate information to their members regarding event cancellations.

If an event is cancelled, could the event organisers please contact me using the Hunton Herald contact details, so that I can ensure the information reaches people as quickly as possible.

Helen

Can You Help?

Are there any budding or closet journalists who would like to contribute to the Hunton Herald? Perhaps you've been to a village event and could do a write-up, seen something out and about that others would be interested in, or have some local news that you think people should know about. I would like the Herald to be interesting and representative of the community as a whole, so if there is something you would like to contribute, please don't be shy. If you're not entirely confident of your journalistic skills, don't be put off, as I can proofread and edit as necessary. Any submissions can be emailed to the Herald email address, and you're welcome to phone for a chat first if you're unsure of anything. If anyone who would like to help on a more regular basis with some of the editing tasks, that would also be very welcome.

Many Thanks, Helen

Fun Darts Evening

The village club is holding a doubles darts tournament on Saturday 25th February. Come with a partner or team up with one at the club. This will be a light-hearted evening so don't worry if you have little or no experience – just come along and join in the fun. The format will be a round robin to ensure that everyone gets as many games as possible. Please register by 8.15pm for an 8.30pm start.

Active Kids Vouchers for Pre-School

Active Kids Vouchers will be handed out at Sainsbury's from 25th January and our village pre-school would very much welcome any vouchers collected to enable them to receive free sports or cooking equipment. Please drop any vouchers at Hunton Village Hall. If this is outside of pre-school hours they can be left (in an envelope please) in the post box on the front of the hall.

January Parish Council Meeting Roundup

Police - PCSO Megan Day had responded to the questions asked at the last meeting about the two traffic incidents in West Street. With regard to the concrete mixing lorry that hit the school barrier, Megan understands that this was not dealt with at the time as it should have been. One report of this was called in from a receptionist at the school; the information passed to the police was that the lorry had hit the barrier due to parked cars and could a PCSO and a Warden attend for advice about parking restrictions. As a result of this information the call was not seen as immediate and therefore no police officers attended. The incident where the two parked cars were written off was seen as a civil case as there were no injuries. The driver causing the accident exchanged insurance details and there was no proof that he was speeding, so there was no further action to take. Megan has now moved on from our area. Her role is being covered by a PCSO from another area until a new permanent PCSO can be appointed.

Playing Field - The committee is looking at new play equipment and exploring possible funding opportunities. The contract for litter bin emptying has been changed from MBC to a private company at a quarter of the previous cost.

Village Hall - The number of weddings held in the hall this year will be capped at 16 with priority given to 10 community events. New roman blinds will be purchased to replace the ageing curtains.

Footpaths - The Water Lane footbridge over the Beult, which has been closed for some time as the wooden supports are rotten, is due to be replaced in the summer by Public Rights of Way (PROW). A resident had raised the problem of accessing footpaths with large dogs when there are stiles. Cllr David Heaton said that stiles do not have to be dog accessible but that PROW encourage their replacement with gates, which they will supply to landowners for £25.

Roads - Cllr Jonathan Goddard had asked Kent Highways to review the positioning of the current 7.5t weight limit on East Street to ensure that it is operating correctly and stopping HGVs from using the village roads inappropriately. KCC advised that the cost of any adjustments would be around £2,000 and there was no money available for it. He also asked about traffic calming outside the school, but again there was no money available. The parish council is to look into alternative means of funding. Cllr Goddard has signed up to the Lorry Watch scheme and it is hoped to run this in conjunction with Speedwatch.

The French Connection

Plans are afoot for Hunton to host a visit from representatives of Montauban De Picardie, a village in the Somme area of northern France, with the possibility of exploring a formal twinning. Maidstone has connections with Montauban going back to the early 1920s, and as the village is of a similar size and nature to Hunton, with a church, village hall and some great countryside around it, Borough Councillor Brian Mortimer felt that Hunton would be the ideal place to host the visit. The history of the connection with Maidstone is explained in this extract from a book written by Brian:

“After the devastation of the First World War, northern France was no more than a land of rubble, mud and a nation that in parts did not have even the basic utilities that we all take for granted today. Towns and villages that included churches, schools, homes, town halls electric and water supplies were all gone. In 1920 a charitable organisation named “The British League of Help” was set up with a single purpose to provide aid to the communities of northern France devastated by the Great War. Almost 100 British towns took on the challenge to adopt their chosen “Godchild”. It was usual to select the town or village for adoption where British service men and women from their town had been involved in a significant military operation. Maidstone adopted Montauban De Picardie mainly because the Royal West Kent Regiment, who were raised in Maidstone, fought in and around Montauban in the first week of the “Battle of the Somme” and where many Kentish men were laid to rest in local cemeteries.”

As a result, over £20,000 was raised by public subscription, an enormous sum in the 1920s, which provided a water tower for fresh water, electricity for the first time and even enough money to allow children from the village to come to Maidstone and Kent for a month's holiday.

In the run up to the centenary of the beginning of the First World War, Brian was instrumental in re-establishing contact with Montauban and on August 20th 2014 representatives from Maidstone went over to the village where they were “met royally with flags a-flying by Montauban's mayor of 38 years standing, M. Gilbert Froment...councillors and other members of the local population.”

Plans for the return visit are very much in their infancy, but it is hoped that it can be arranged for later this year possibly in April.

Festive Family Fun

It was wonderful to see so many families out together enjoying the entertainment in the village over the festive period. Avanti & Artizani: 6 Impossible Things played to a full house at the village hall on 29th December, taking the audience on a thoroughly entertaining journey of bizarre twists and turns, culminating in the unexpected appearance of a 10 feet tall lobster called Maureen! It was also a busy night for the karaoke at the village club on New Years Eve with lots of new faces. Vocalists of all ages sang their way through hits spanning six decades including some crowd-pleasing numbers that had the whole room joining in. To quote someone who had only been along to listen before but decided to sing this time, “I would never have put us down as karaoke sort of people but they really are fun at the club!” The next karaoke evening will be on Saturday 25th March, so put the date in your diary now.

World Custard Pie Championships 50th Anniversary

Registrations are now being taken from teams wishing to compete in the 50th World Custard Pie Championships, which will be held at Coxheath Village Hall on Saturday 3rd June. Manic and messy but great fun, the event attracts competitors from all over the world. Teams of four are asked to dress in either Victorian costume or ‘with-it’ gear of the 21st century, with a prize being awarded to the best-dressed team. Entry fee £40 per team. You can register a team via the website worldcustardpiechampionship.co.uk or by contacting Mike 01622 743270 or Brian 07803 909191.

At St Mary's Church in February

Flowers				Services	
5th	Alison Ellman-Brown	12th	Alison Ellman-Brown	Sunday 5th February – 4 Before Lent	
19th	Ruth Porter	26th	Ruth Porter	11.00am Family Service – Rev Peter Callway	
				Sunday 12th February – 3 Before Lent	
				9.30am Holy Communion 1662 – Rev David Jones	
				Sunday 19th February – 2 Before Lent	
				11.00am Morning Prayer – Rev Peter Callway	
				Sunday 26th February – Sunday Before Lent	
				11.00am Holy Communion – Rev Eileen Doyle	

Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

Wed-Fri 8-11pm
Sun 12-2.30pm & 8-10.30pm

Women's World Day of Prayer – Friday 3rd March 7pm

Our benefice churches of Coxheath, East Farleigh, Hunton, Linton and West Farleigh join together with the Congregational Church for this annual service. Both men and women are warmly invited. This year's service will be held at The Congregational Church, 157 Linton Road, Loose, ME15 0AL. The service has been prepared by Christian women of the Philippines and is entitled "Am I Being Fair to You?" All are most welcome and there will be refreshments following the service.

Gardening Club Meeting

On Friday 17th February there will be a Gardening Club meeting when Stephen Betts from Laurence J Betts Ltd has kindly agreed to talk about growing salads and other crops in the Hunton area. He will also try to offer some hints on how to improve producing salads in our gardens. The Village Club will be open from 7pm and, before the talk at about 8.15pm, a buffet supper will be available for a donation of £5. Everyone is welcome. Please contact Lesley on 01622 820210 or email Lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com for more information or to let her know if you hope to attend so enough food can be provided.

Maidstone Symphony Orchestra Concert – Saturday 4th February

Maidstone Symphony Orchestra, with conductor Brian Wright, welcome back their president, the great pianist John Lill, for a performance of his favourite Beethoven Piano Concerto, No 3. It's darkly emotional, with a gloriously lyrical slow movement and a rumbustious finale. The program also includes Weber's gently romantic Oberon Overture and Brahms' 4th Symphony, which fuses the musical architecture of the Baroque and Classical periods with the lyrical sound of the Romantic era.

The performance takes place at the Mote Hall at Maidstone Leisure Centre on Saturday 4th February at 7.30pm. Tickets £26, £21 and £12, students £5, 18s and under FREE! Available from 07817 429143 or on the door, or book online at mso.ticketsource.co.uk.

Village Lunches

The current series of village lunches continues every Thursday in February (2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd) and will end on Thursday 2nd March. The Club opens from 12 noon and from about 12.30pm there will be a choice of two homemade soups with bread, biscuits, cheeses & pickles followed by tea or coffee with homemade cakes for a suggested minimum donation of £5. Everyone is welcome including family and friends but if you need a special diet please email Lesley in advance so the team can try to provide lunch for you. Lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com.

Friends against Scams

Due to the increasing number of scams that adversely affect the lives of millions of people across the UK, the National Trading Standards Scams Team has set up an initiative called "Friends Against Scams", which aims to protect and prevent people from becoming victims of scams by empowering communities to "Take a Stand Against Scams". By providing information about scams and those who fall victim to them it will enable communities to understand scams, talk about scams and cascade messages throughout their community about scams prevention and protection. Friends Against Scams encourages communities to take the knowledge learnt and turn it into action.

Anyone can become a Friend Against Scams by attending a short awareness session either in person or online. After this session you will be asked to start taking action to "Take a Stand Against Scams". This could perhaps be by talking to your neighbours, friends or family about scams or writing to your MP asking them to promote scams awareness, displaying a poster in your window to promote the initiative or taking part in a local scam awareness event.

Further information on the initiative is available at www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk.

February	5 th	12 th	19 th	26 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 February, please