



Fun at the Fête

"The highlight of my trip to the UK." This, from visitors from Arkansas on a trip to see family here, was just one of the many positive comments we received after this year's fete. Over 500 people came to take part in the traditional games, listen to the live music or sit and enjoy some wonderful food. The field layout this year had all the games and activities alongside the orchard and a free to enter nature quiz allowed families to explore the work that the orchard committee has achieved since its inception a few years ago. Young and old alike tried their hands at target bowls, archery, putting and car racing. A coconut shy and penalty shoot out tested many,



bouncy castles and the speedwatch kit allowed the younger visitors to burn off their excess energy whilst others sat and relaxed with a Pimms, a pint or a good old cup of tea. Old favourites duck fishing, face painting and lucky dip were busy all day. The plant stall again proved popular and there was a constant queue at the Barbeque, Indian snacks, strawberries and ice cream stands. Two lovely ponies gave rides, the bottle tombola and teddy tombola both proved very popular, local honey was on sale, wool spinners demonstrated their art and the Kent Air Ambulance again had a stall. In the arena great fun was had with the dog show, tugs of war and races. Finally, who could miss Froojamaflip and Fred as they wandered around the grounds. The organising committee would like to thank all who helped during the run up to the fete and on the day itself. A summary of the accounts will be included in the August edition of the Herald and look out for details of our next big event - the Hunton Christmas Fair to be held on Saturday 8th December.

Big Conversation on Rural Transport in Kent

KCC is currently consulting on the future of the subsidised public transport services that it provides to rural communities in the county. Hunton's bus service is one of those that is subsidised. Against a backdrop of ever decreasing funding for local councils, they want to maintain and, where possible, improve rural accessibility for those without alternative means of travel, and have come up with three initial ideas to provide a more sustainable and improved service.

Idea 1: Feeder services: a small bus or a taxi would be used to connect rural passengers with a commercial bus service for the onward journey.

Idea 2: Bookable, flexible bus services: a bookable bus service would collect passengers from designated points within a community and could be used to access a range of destinations in a given area.

Idea 3: Taxi-bus style services instead of a bus: instead of a bus a smaller vehicle, such as a people carrier or minibus would run to an agreed timetable and would stop at agreed points in each community it serves.

The consultation runs until 8th August and KCC would like your views on your usage of public transport and the journeys you make; what your priorities are for a sustainable rural transport service, feedback on the three initial ideas they have developed and any additional information you think they need to consider when shaping the services for the future. The consultation documents and questionnaire can be found online at www.kent.gov.uk/bigconversation. Paper copies are available from Kent Libraries and Gateways, or by telephone on 03000 421533. A number of public meetings to discuss the proposals will be held between 7 and 9pm, with the nearest to us being on 19th July at Sessions House, Lecture Theatre, County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 1XQ. (Yes, I have pointed out to them that the buses don't run at that time of day!) I will be attending their seminar for parish councillors on 5th July and it would help me to represent you if those who use the buses in the village could let me know about their current usage of the service and any feedback they have on the ideas that KCC have come up with. Please call me on 01622 820810 or email helen@helenward.org.

Helen Ward

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: Gil Robertson 820059

Village Hall Booking: www.huntonvillagehall.co.uk
Maidstone Police 690690 or 101
Neighbourhood Watch: huntonwatch@gmail.com 820403, 820429, 820731
'Potholes' Hotline (KCC) 03000 418181
Community Warden: Adam McKinley 07811 271021
PCSO - Jasmine Pay 101
Helen Grant MP helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk 0207 219 7107
Hunton Bell Ringers, Michael Webb 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

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

Diary Dates

Tues 3rd July **WI Meeting** Ann Sawtell's Garden 7.00pm Mon 16th July **Parish Council Meeting** Village Hall 7.30pm
Check out www.hunton.org.uk/diary for the latest events. If you would like to add an event, email diary@hunton.org.uk

Pastoral Letter

Do you sing in the shower? Perhaps you sing in a crowd. Or perhaps you sing along with the radio or your favourite CDs in the car. It is a known fact that singing is good for you, but before you tell me that you can't sing, stop right there. If you can speak then you are highly likely to be able to sing. You may need a little help... but even if you can't you surely can make a noise and that is good enough. 'Sing aloud unto God our strength; make a joyful **noise** unto the God of Jacob'. (Psalm 81:1)

Does God sing? Well yes, even God sings! Most of the descriptions of singing in the Bible are of the people singing but there is one where God is singing: 'The LORD your God is with you, ... He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.' (Zephaniah 3:17)

I'm writing this letter after spending a day at a conference all to do with folklore and folk music and it made me think about folk music and the church.

The composer Ralph Vaughan Williams famously used folk tunes in his instrumental music, e.g. English Folk Song Suite, but he also used them for hymns. He was the music editor of *The English Hymnal* and included more than 40 hymns based on folk tunes. His task as editor was an ideal opportunity to introduce some of the folk tunes collected by him and others at the end of the 19th century and beginning of the 20th. He used existing poems and texts, not his own original thoughts. On the other hand John Bell, a clergyman sometimes heard on Thought for the Day on Radio 4, uses the tunes of folk songs but adds his own contemporary words. He began writing hymns whilst ministering to young people in Glasgow and finding that there were none that said what he or they wanted to say; they couldn't relate to them. He uses words that are direct and speak about the issues faced daily by the people he ministers to. "What hymns are there that deal with unemployment, or with women abused by men? I'd like to feel that we are able to address domestic situations not in a patronizing way ... but as the stuff of human existence ... which deserves to be recognised in prayer and song."

For Vaughan Williams the cultural strength of using English folk tunes was important; he wanted forgotten tunes to be remembered because they were from the songs of the mainly rural English people whose livelihoods were disappearing with industrialisation, and because the tunes were worth remembering. Bell uses folk song because it is there and ready for use; people know the tunes, they are already culturally embedded. The imperative is not to save tunes that may be lost, but to save souls!

Singing matters. Souls need songs.

Yours, in Christ, Sue Elliott – Pastoral Assistant

School Activity Week

On Monday 11th June, pupils from Hunton CEP School went to Windmill Hill, Hailsham, East Sussex, on a residential trip for a week. PGL is an activity centre, where children stay away from home and their parents; you do, however, get to spend time with your teachers and your friends and complete fun activities. There were 18 pupils from Hunton and we separated into two groups and completed the activities with our group, nine in each. With each activity came a new instructor. Our main 'groupie' – Rebecca – was responsible for looking after us for the week and providing the evening activities such as 'Passport to the World' and a disco. During the course of the week, we did activities such as: raft building, tunnel trail, Jacob's ladder, Trapeze and the Giant Swing. These activities were incredible and really fun. It also helped conquer children's fear of heights! As well as all these fantastic activities, PGL also taught us to be more independent and it was really fun staying with all our friends. Hunton CEP School would like to thank the teachers and Rebecca the 'groupie' for a brilliant PGL.

Jacob and Freddie

Gigs at the Hall go out on a High

What a fantastic concert we went out on; Track Dogs on 2nd June. Lovely weather, superb musicians, a nice picnic outside, and a complete sell-out. Our first audience in three figures (including volunteers!), so all 98 chairs were used up and a few had to stand or dance! The last best attendance was 98 for Jo Harman's trio appearance in 2015, and 83 for Will Pound.

Christine and Mike would like to thank Steve and Sue for organising the card and Showtime rose bush, and for their sterling work on ploughman's over the past five years, and David for his ever diligent bar work, and Mark et al for assisting in stage/table erection. It takes a lot of people to put on these music events, and we thank them all for their efforts...and those who helped Alan Bishop set the gigs running for at least a decade before handing over to Mike.

In terms of numbers, we've had 25 events (21 music, 4 plays) over the past four and a half years, with a total audience of 1,500 people. Applause Rural Touring has assisted with nine of the events, subsidising the plays and some of the other performers. Over that period, gross takings have been £17,000; including £4,500 from the Bar. That has made a total surplus for the village hall funds of £3,400, split roughly equally between door and bar 'profits'. Not all events have been profitable, especially in the past 18 months, but that seems to be the nature of the new home entertainment 'market'. Hopefully, we've introduced you to some interesting new music, and I look forward to seeing you at other gigs in Kent in the future.

If anyone does want to take on the role of promoting/managing future events at the hall, I'm willing to provide advice (but not labour) and help, just as I'm doing for new promoters in the area, as part of my Applause Rural Touring trustee role. Ring Mike on 01622 820429.

P.S. Anyone who has enjoyed the music of **4Square** at the village hall, they are the headline group at Kemsing village hall on Friday 20th July, for St Edith's annual Summer Party. A rare chance to see these young musicians in Kent again, and maybe some tap-dancing violin playing will ensue...

World Cup at the Club

Hunton Village Club will be screening all the England matches during the World Cup, with the club opening 30 minutes prior to each match. All welcome to come along and enjoy the footie over a drink or two.

Appalachian Adventure

Hunton Resident Megan Dolman is thru-hiking the Appalachian Trail – all 2,190 miles of it! When we left Megan last month she was 70 days on the trail, had reached mile 863 and was looking forward to entering the Shenandoah National Park in Virginia. Unfortunately her week in Shenandoah was almost as rubbish as ‘The Smokies’, with heavy rain and thunderstorms everyday, which turned the trail from a path into a river, and high humidity resulted in permanently damp clothes no matter how much she tried to dry them over a fire. The highlight of this week was her first bear encounter, when she was lucky enough to see a mother black bear with her two cubs, almost 20ft off the trail, just moseying around. “When we began to walk past, the mother got defensive and sent her cubs up a nearby tree, whilst she remained at the base of the tree growling. Seeing a bear made me realise that I am much less afraid of them than I imagined I would be, but I was still very grateful that I had two other hikers with me for my first bear experience!”

From Shenandoah it was on to ‘The Roller Coaster’, which Megan describes as a “14-mile stretch of steep and pointless ups and downs” situated either side of the 1,000- mile mark. The day of reaching the 1,000-mile mark was particularly tough as the realisation sank in that they were not yet halfway. From Virginia the trail continued into West Virginia, but only for 4 miles, where they reached the official halfway point at Harpers Ferry, and then into Maryland, state 6 of 14. By the beginning of June they had crossed into southern Pennsylvania where they were rewarded with miles and miles of hiking through fields of green and open flat farmland. As Megan says, “It was the closest I have felt to being back in Kent (minus the many mosquitos!).” It wasn’t to last though, as this was followed by ‘Rocksylvania’ – 130 miles of extremely tough, rocky terrain, not designed for little legs and heavy backpacks – not to mention, lots of snakes hidden in the rocks! On 13th June Megan left the mountains of Pennsylvania at mile 1,294 and 100 days in, 7 states down and 7 to go. “New Jersey, here I come!”

You can follow more of Megan’s adventures in her blog at megdolmanat2018.wordpress.com.

Bat Walk and BBQ -

Sunday 12th August, 7pm till Late

At the Community Orchard, Hunton Playing Fields

Join us for a BBQ with music by Llunic to celebrate the community orchard and discover what bats and moths are flying at night with Simon Ginnaw.

Bring your picnic rug and drinks to go with the free BBQ. Wear sensible footwear and clothing and bring a torch. The bat walk will begin after the BBQ.

Event is free, all ages welcome.

Yalding Summer Play Scheme

The Summer Play Scheme in Yalding will be held for three weeks from Monday 30th July to Friday 17th August and will again be open to children aged 5 to 13 (4 if they have started school) resident in Hunton. Sessions each day will run from 11am until 3pm at Yalding School with activities including crafts, messy play, music, table tennis, pool, outside sports, Jaws ‘n’ claws, water fights and an end of scheme party with entertainment. The cost is £5 per day or £4 per day per child for families with two or more children attending the same session. (Children will not be excluded on financial grounds, please talk confidentially to the Yalding Parish Council Clerk if you have any concerns). For further information please contact Angela Gent on 01622 814134 or email clerk@yaldingparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Pre-School Places for September

Hunton and Linton Pre-School has places available for the September intake. It is based at the village hall in Hunton and is open Monday to Friday term time.

Play based learning through the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS); Funding for eligible 2-4 year olds available
Highly qualified and friendly staff; Fantastic range of resources and activities; Vast outdoor area and spacious hall
Ofsted rated GOOD
Tel: 01622 820309; Email: huntonpreschool@hotmail.com; Facebook/[huntonandlintonpre-school](https://www.facebook.com/huntonandlintonpre-school)

Water Main Replacement Update

You’ll have seen that work has started to replace the water main on Hunton Hill. The contractors, Clancy Docwra, have changed the estimated dates slightly (although these are subject to change depending on progress), and are now as follows:

18th June – 4th July: Lughorse Lane closed with lights on East Street / West Street junction.

5th July – 22nd August: Lughorse Lane reopens and traffic lights removed. Hunton Hill closed.

23rd August – 3rd September: Hunton Hill reopens and Lughorse Lane closed again with traffic lights on East Street / West Street junction to connect new pipe.

3rd – 5th September: Hunton Hill closed between 09:30 and 15:30 for resurfacing.

The contractors on site will do their best to answer any questions you may have while the pipe is installed, but if they are unable to help you can call their Customer Liaison Officer, Helen Tucker, on 01634 276503 between 8.30am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday. If Helen is unavailable please call Customer Services on 0333 000 0002 or for out of hours emergencies please call 0333 00 00 365.

HGV Traffic

In an attempt to avoid problems with large vehicles meeting on the diversion route when Hunton Hill is closed, KCC and South East Water have agreed a one-way system for HGVs with Fruition and Amsbury Farm. Fruition will ask their hauliers to follow an inbound route along the A229 to Marden and into Hunton via Chainhurst and East Street. The outbound route will be along West Street, Vicarage Road and up Yalding Hill. This route has been shared with Hunton Engineering, who are being encouraged to do the same. To allow Hunton Engineering to manage their planned abnormal loads, there will be a couple of occasions where the excavations on the hill will be back filled and the road opened temporarily to allow the vehicles to pass.

Bus Service

A very limited bus service will run through the village from 3rd July until 3rd September. Buses will only run at school times as well as one return journey daily timed for shoppers. The times will be different to the usual timetable with buses taking a longer, diversionary route. The timetable is available on the Hunton website under the road closures section, and on the Nu-Venture website (www.nu-venture.co.uk).

At St Mary's Church in July

Flowers

Sue Pinks

Services

Sunday 1st July – Trinity 5

9.30am Holy Communion – Rev Peter Callway

Sunday 15th July – Trinity 7

9.30am Family Service – Rev David Jones

Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

Wed-Fri 8-11pm

Sun 12-2.30pm & 8-10.30pm

Watercolour Group

Following a successful taster session and the enthusiasm of the attendees, it has been decided to make the Watercolour Group a regular fixture on the village club's calendar. The group will meet at the club on the fourth Tuesday of each month from 7-9pm, starting on 26th June. All levels of ability are welcome up to 15 people on a first come first served basis. Ten people have already committed to attend at the moment. If you wish to add your name to the list please contact Jennie Boatwright on 07842 370481 or 01622 820214. Please bring your own equipment where possible - paints, water carrier, board for supporting the watercolour paper, masking tape, and paintbrushes. If you do not have these items a limited number will be available on the night. Watercolour paper may be bought on the evening. Cost per session per person is £8

Medical Detection Dogs Discussed at WI

Millie Harris, an ex-nurse who has been involved with this 10 year old charity for four years, supported by her colleague, Biddie, gave Hunton WI a lively account of the origins, current work and future plans of Medical Detection Dogs. It all stems from anecdotal evidence of changes in a dog's behaviour around someone with an undiagnosed medical condition. On investigation, it was found that a dog's vastly superior sense of smell is capable of detecting minute levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) given off by changes in metabolism that accompany disease in the body. They can be trained to detect these compounds in either in a sample of exhaled breath or urine. A trained dog has 95% accuracy in detecting these VOCs in early stage cancers, long before symptoms develop. Currently, several NHS trusts are conducting research trials, and around the world trials are underway into Parkinson's, malaria, diabetes and other conditions to be detected at a much earlier stage than is currently possible.

Another branch of their work is Medical Alert Dogs, which using the same principles of a dog's sense of smell, will alert a patient (with whom the dog lives), to changes in their biochemistry. Dogs are successfully being used with diabetic patients to alert them to high or low blood sugar levels, typically 15 minutes before a problem develops and also for epileptic patients to warn of changes in brain activity. Although dogs have been shown to be a reliable biosensor, work is underway to try to develop an electronic version of a dog's nose, thus providing a non-invasive method for early detection of cancer.

The next WI meeting is a garden party to be held in Ann Sawtell's garden on Tuesday 3rd July starting at 7pm. New Ladies are welcome and should phone Ann (01622 820731) for details.

Little Owls on the Up

Charlie Russell from The Kent Little Owl Project returned to the village in the middle of June to check on the progress of the little owl chicks, and it was very fortunate that he came when he did! Two of the chicks, which were very close to fledging but not yet able to fly, were on the ground underneath the box. The other two were in the box, but sadly one had died. Charlie cleaned out the box and popped the remaining three chicks back in, who were well fed and active. He checked again the following morning to find two chicks left in the box, so thinks that the third had fledged, probably successfully, and expected the others to follow within a few days. This is a really good result for the first year of the project, and with two more landowners within the village expressing an interest in having nest boxes on their property, things are looking positive for Hunton's little owl population.

School Event Traffic

There are a number of school events in July to be aware of where traffic on West Street is expected to be busier than usual:

18th July - End of Year Production 1.30pm and 5.30pm

19th July - Two classes going to Chessington.
Pick up 8am return 6pm. Coach will be in the area.

24th July - Leavers service at the church
9.00am

24th July - Term ends 1.15pm

Time For a Change – and a Chance to Edit The Herald!

After four and a half years of editing the Herald I feel it would benefit from an injection of new ideas and enthusiasm, and so I will be standing down in the near future. It's been a great way of getting to know everyone and everything in the village and I've enjoyed my time as editor, but I look forward to handing over the reins to someone who can take it to the next level. I'm sure there is someone out there who would like to grab the opportunity to take this on. You'd be part of an existing team who already get the Herald on the road, from setting out the layout, proof reading, printing, collating and delivering, and I'd be happy to work with the new editor until they find their feet. If anyone is interested or wants to find out more about what's involved, please contact Helen Ward on 01622 820810 or email herald@hunton.org.uk.

July	1 st	8 th	15 th	22 nd	29 th
Coxheath	11.00 HC	11.00 FS	11.00 HC	11.00 FS	
E. Farleigh	09.30 MP	08.00 HC	09.30 HC	08.00 HC	
Linton	09.30 FS	09.30 HC	08.00 HC	09.30 MP	10:30 Benefice Service
W. Farleigh	08.00 HC	09.30 FS		09.30 HC	
HC Holy Communion, MP Morning Prayer, FS Family Service					

All items for the next edition of the Herald to the Editor by 15th July, please