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## Parish Council News

**Increasing Concern over Caravans** - Nine angry residents attended the November meeting of the Parish Council to express their alarm at plans for a change of use of land in Lughorse Lane to provide two plots for gypsy travellers. Councillors agreed to strongly object to the plans. One caravan is already sited on one of the nine plots of land on the south side of the lane. Borough Councillor, Brian Mortimer, stated that one of the reasons temporary permission was granted on one of the plots three years ago was because the inspector that gave permission did not want to see the applicant become homeless, so three years temporary permission seemed a sensible timescale for MBC to find a permanent site. However some residents reported that the applicant had a home elsewhere and was not always living on site. Further more Cllr Mortimer said that he fully understood the anger over the latest application and has agreed to meet with residents to help fight this application.

Parish Councillor David Heaton said that the Environment Agency had expressed concern that the new plans for a site for gypsy travellers included the installation of a cesspit. There were fears that a nearby stream could become polluted. It was reported that the Borough Council was originally looking to accommodate 36 gypsy travellers and this number had now been increased to 93. It was understood that the Council had received 20 applications for gypsy sites in one week.

Mr Mortimer said that he could understand residents' alarm and agreed to attend a meeting with them.

**Traffic Troubles** - Resident Jacqui Francis whose cat was killed by a motorist outside her home in West Street, has expressed alarm at the speed of traffic, fearing that it would not be long before a serious accident occurs. She suggested organising a petition calling for action to be taken in a bid to slow speeding vehicles. Parish Councillor Ron Porter, who had suffered three cats being killed in the street, felt that perhaps support could be sought from neighbouring Yalding and Linton which have similar traffic problems.

"We witnessed the chaos that occurred on Barn Hill and in Lughorse Lane where there were several accidents when these narrow lanes were used by increased traffic due to the closure of Hunton Hill."

The police had carried out speed checks in West Street and the Parish Council is to ascertain the results.

Kent County Council is reviewing all A and B roads in the county until 2014 but Parish Councillors feared that until someone was killed in a road accident no action would be taken.

**A Hunton Summer Fete is on the Cards** - Three Hunton groups are combining their efforts to organise a Hunton Summer Fete for 2011 with a provisional date set for June 25<sup>th</sup>.

Keith Eatwell, Chairman of the King George V Playing Fields said that the fete organisation was a little onerous for one group and was pleased to learn of the support from the Hunton Parish Plan group and the Friends of St Mary's. Initially it was planned for the proceeds to go towards the new footpath between the Village Hall and Bensted Close but now it has been decided that money raised should be used to help provide new children's play equipment for the playing fields. The Village Hall car park is again in need of repair work and the Parish Council is to investigate possible solutions to the problem. It is also seeking to find out who is responsible for emptying the litter bins at the playing fields which are getting filled and not being emptied.

**Funds Raised for Children in Need** The Children in need 'Family Art and Craft' day in November raised £150 with the help from friends and local families. Emma Godden-Wood

<b>Your Local Contacts:</b>		Clerk to Parish Council: Sharon Goodwin	681238
Parish Council Chairman: Roger Sawtell	820731	Village Hall Booking: Jane Crane	820127
School: Secretary/Head Teacher	820360	Maidstone Police:	608186
Under 5's Pre-School:	820309	Neighbourhood Watch:	608173
Pre-School Supervisor:	07972067110	'Potholes' concern (KCC): Kim Hills	0845 824 7800
Pond and Tree Warden: Anne Bishop	820683	Churchwarden: Alison Ellman-Brown	820288
Rector: Revd Peter Walker	747570**	PCSO Jo Watts/Gary Shaw	604392
Associate Rector: Revd David Jones	741474*		
Village Club: Doug Redfarn	820495		

\*not available on Fridays \*\*not available on Mondays

<b>Dates for Diaries:</b>	<b>Parish Councillors contact details</b>
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December - Applause Event New Budapest Cafe Orchestra Village Hall, 7.30pm	<b>Parish Council Chairman</b>
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> December Yalding Yuletide Market 4.45 pm- 8.00pm	- Roger Sawtell 820731
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> December E Farleigh Christmas Farmers' Market The Bull car park, 9am-1pm	<b>Clerk to the Parish Council</b>
Saturday 11 December Hunton Village Club Quiz Night - 8.00pm	- Sharon Goodwin 681238
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December Village Club AGM - The way Forward at 8.00 pm	Cllr Les Leonard 820858 Cllr David Heaton 820678
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> December Knit and Natter Group at Yalding Organic Gardens 2.30 -4.00pm	Cllr Moira Walter 745765 Cllr Keith Eatwell 745569
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> December 'New Year's Eve Party' at the Village Hall from 8.00pm until 1.00am.	Cllr Gary Thomas 820691 Cllr Ron Porter 820220
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> February "Hunton Calling - We're Listening!" Village Hall 1-3pm	

All items for the January edition to the Editors as soon as possible, and by 15th December, please

Dear Friends,

*'Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord has made known unto us'*  
(St.Luke 2)

How do you respond to an exciting and memorable event or activity?

A very simple (and somewhat mundane) recent example from home was the fact that we were thrilled to get some new lounge room furniture; well, not 'new' but it looks it! Just as was Betty when she inherited the furniture we no longer wanted. It was a simple swapping around of furniture which in fact pleased three lots of people and all achieved in one evening!

Far more exciting and life-changing was the event which took place in remote fields over two thousand years ago. Simple shepherds tending their sheep - oblivious to the fact that evening that their lives would be changed forever. What those shepherds saw in the skies that night near Bethlehem was unprecedented in human experience. An angel accompanied by countless numbers of heavenly messengers suddenly disturbed their ordinary existence and gave them the news of the Saviour's birth.

Frightened out of their wits they talked among themselves as what to do.

*(Continued on back page)*

**Don't Forget Applause Event New Budapest Cafe Orchestra** December 3<sup>rd</sup> Village Hall 7.30pm, Great music, great café atmosphere and great food - Goulash - Let Alan know if you prefer a vegetarian option - Tickets £10 Alan 820683 or David 820678

**Hunton Village New Year's Eve Party!** Village Hall 8.00pm - 1.00am. Live Music - *Ocean Blue* and a licensed bar run by the Village Club - bring your own nibbles or supper. Tickets £10 Tricia 820804/Kathy 820092

### **Hunton Calling - We're Listening!!**

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> February, 1-3pm - Village Hall**

Warm yourselves with some soup and a roll and come along to hear the results of the questionnaire and help to shape the priorities for the village plan. The analysis is still underway and there are some obvious emerging hot topics!

### **Village Club AGM - The Way Forward**

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2010 at 8:00 pm

Since 2006 Hunton Village Club has been run on a voluntary basis with all business being managed by more or less the same committee members with the help of a few dedicated members.

Our hope is to see the club survive and grow into being the social centre of the village. We don't have a pub and the club has to be the next best thing. In order to achieve this we need a new image and a revitalised management team supported by small working groups or sub-committees to move things forward. We need existing members to become more involved in not just attending but also in helping to run the Club. We also look forward to welcoming new members. So if you have been considering joining, don't delay. Fresh ideas, encouraging interests within the club like the existing Book Group could be organised. Perhaps gardening or rambling groups could be formed, please give us your ideas. Your club needs your help.

We would like to see as many members and villagers interested in joining the club as possible at the AGM which will be held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2010 at 8:00pm to discuss the above and other items on the agenda. If you can't attend the AGM but would like to volunteer to help or wish to become a member, please call Phil on 820804 or e-mail [pk.nichols@btinternet.com](mailto:pk.nichols@btinternet.com).

**School News Bronze Food for Life Award** The school are delighted to have been awarded the Bronze Food for Life Award. They are the first primary school in Kent to receive this award! The school uses Eden as contractors to gain this award and Eden are delighted with their achievement. There will be a celebration day in January for the whole school where they will be presenting the school with £100 of gardening gift vouchers as a reward! Big thanks go to the schools healthy schools committee for their many hours of hard work and especially to Mrs Crane who submitted folders of evidence over three years!!!

**Out and About** Middle school went for a walk through the woods in association with their science topic.

Upper and Middle school are going on a tour of the Olympic 2012 Stadium in Stratford and will be learning about the Excel centre, O2 arena and Greenwich Park's participation in the Olympics.

Lower school are having a visit from the Rainbow Theatre and the children will take part in a workshop and production based on the Great Fire of London.

The Reception class visited Waitrose in Paddock Wood and they were given a guided tour of the store and came back to school with vegetables to make a curry.

**East Farleigh Christmas Farmers' Market** will be held on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December from 9am-1pm in The Bull car park. There will be a wide range of food and gifts on sale so come along and buy your Christmas treats from a range of superb local produce. A proportion of profits will go to local charities. Prospective stall holders can ring 01622 726164/725959 for further details.

### **Hunton Village Club**

Quiz Night

Free Entry

Saturday 11 December - 8pm

Phil on 820804 or e-mail

[pk.nichols@btinternet.com](mailto:pk.nichols@btinternet.com).

## Hunton Club Book Club November 2010 Review - 'Mansfield Park' by Jane Austen

Fanny Price, the eldest of nine siblings, is rescued from a life of relative poverty and drudgery when she is taken in by her wealthy relatives, Sir and Lady Bertram. At first she is terrified in the huge house with her well-meaning, but rather selfish and careless cousins, but her cousin Edmund (the younger of the two Bertram brothers) takes pity on her and shows her kindness and friendship. Thus starts the love Fanny feels for Edmund throughout the book.

While she has the benefits of a good home and an education, she is always a bit outside the Bertram family, and her other aunt, Mrs. Norris, never stops making her aware that she is lucky to be there on their sufferance. She becomes the helper and companion of the air-headed Lady Bertram, and puts up with a lot of fairly ill treatment with grace and forbearance. While Sir Thomas Bertram and his eldest son are away in the West Indies, the young and handsome Crawford siblings arrive in the area, and shake things up considerably.

The siblings are orphaned, good-looking and wealthy, and Henry Crawford, while a gentleman, is clearly a bit of a rake. Mary Crawford, his charming sister, has a fortune of nearly 20,000 pounds and feels drawn to Edmund, even though he is the younger son, and planning to become a clergyman. She makes an effort to befriend Fanny, and seems amused by her brother's flirtation with both the Bertram sisters, even though Maria Bertram, the older, is engaged to another man.

Once Maria Bertram marries her rich, but ridiculous and silly suitor, and her younger sister Julia is hurt by Henry Crawford's attentions to her sister, he sets out to make Fanny Price fall in love with him instead. This backfires, and he falls in love with her instead, finally offering for her. Fanny is appalled, having quietly watched as he toyed with her cousins, and as she's in love with Edmund, refuses him multiple times. Edmund, however, only has eyes for the lively Miss Crawford.

Whilst the majority of our group really enjoyed reading this book once they mastered the language, a few found it rather slow and long winded. However we all had rather strong feelings about most of the characters. Fanny although very kind and self-sacrificing, is sometimes rather feeble. Edmund could do with a little push. Aunt Norris, was every one's worst nightmare, and Sir Thomas was really quite kind and loveable. Some of us felt that the ending appeared "rushed" as if the book was long enough and had to finish. A lovely "read" which we scored 8.

### **Yalding Yuletide Market Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December, 4.45 pm- 8.00pm.**

The market was started to celebrate the millennium and consists largely of charity stalls selling goods to raise funds. Private traders are charged a small fee that is used to cover cost of seasonal entertainment, including musical entertainment, stilt walkers, snow machine, etc. Generally it is a much loved event.

## **!Hunton Flower Club is on the Move**

Thank you to everyone who has supported Hunton Flower club over the past 5 years. As Hunton is now very skilful in flower arranging, it is time to move on. We are relocating to Aylesford Village Community Centre, Forstal Road. Hopefully they will be as keen as Hunton Ladies in joining in the classes

Once a gain a huge thank you to all who supported the classes on Tuesday afternoons and the Christmas door wreath days.

You will be more than welcome in Joining Aylesford if you miss us, and the chats or making a Christmas door wreath for this year on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 10.00am Just phone to book your place. It would be lovely to see you there. Best Wishes to you all. Jackie Brooks Tel 01622 753053 [www.jackiebrooksflorist.co.uk](http://www.jackiebrooksflorist.co.uk)

## **Winter Programme for Yalding Gardens - [www.yaldinggardens.org](http://www.yaldinggardens.org) - December Events**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December- Tree dressing day Family Fun 10am-12pm and 1-3pm drop in sessions** Tree Dressing Day celebrating trees in city and country. Tree dressing is based on many old customs from all over the world and at different times of the year. FREE activity when you pay to enter the gardens.

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Cookie Decorating workshop Family Fun 10-11.30am and 1-2.30pm** Learn how to beautifully ice cookies to have at Christmas or to give as gifts.

Cost: Adults: £4 non-members, £3.50 members. Kids: £2 for non-members, £1.50 members per session.

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December- FREE IT help drop in sessions. 10am- 12pm in the Bushel Box Café at Yalding Gardens** Come to the Bushel Box café for FREE computer support with IT Harmony Ltd. We will also be offering a Bacon roll and tea or coffee for a special price of £3.50 for those who drop in for IT support.

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December- Kids Christmas holiday crafts** We will be trying to ease the seasonal stress by offering kids crafts on these three days before Christmas.

All sessions are drop in and will run between 10am -12pm and 1-3pm and cost just £2 per child.

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December- Natural Christmas decorations** Come along and make natural decorations for your trees from pine cones and willow.

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December- Make a Christmas card** Come along and make an extra special Christmas card just in time for someone you love.

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December- Make a 'Santa Stop Here' sign** Make sure Santa knows where to find you by making a 'Santa Stop Here' sign to hang in your bedroom window.

## At St Mary's Church in December

Notices	Services
<p><b>Coffee Rota</b> Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December Simmons Family</p> <p><b>Flower Arrangers</b> <b>December</b> 5<sup>th</sup> Mrs. McLoughlin 12<sup>th</sup> Mrs. McLoughlin 19<sup>th</sup> All carol service 26<sup>th</sup> All for Christmas</p> <p><b>Hunton Sunday Club</b> - the club for children of primary school age in Hunton</p> <p>Our meeting in December has moved forward one week to Sunday December 12<sup>th</sup> so as not to clash with the Carol Service at St Mary's on the 19<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at Gudgeon Farm House, West Street at 5.15pm until 6.45pm. The meeting in 2011 is also in West Street, this time at 'Scotts Farm House on Sunday January 16<sup>th</sup>. Contact David Jones 741474 for further details.</p>	<p><b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> 11.00 am Family Service - Rev David Jones Readings: Preachers Choice</p> <p><b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> 09.30 Holy Communion - Rev Michael Shaw Readings: Isaiah 35 v 1 - 10 and Matthew 11 v 2 - 11</p> <p><b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December - 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> 6.00pm Carol Service - Rev David Jones</p> <p><b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Eve</b> 11.30pm Holy Communion - Rev Peter Walker Readings: Hebrews 1 v 1-4 and John 1 v1 - 14</p> <p><b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Day</b> 09.30 Christmas Day Service followed by Holy Communion - Rev David Jones Readings: Titus 3 v 4 - 7 and Luke 2 v 1 - 7</p>

'Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass'.

Since Bethlehem sits on a ridge, the shepherds probably had to walk up the two or so miles from the fields to the town.

To see 'this thing' as reported by Saint Luke. In the original Greek text this means literally 'word' or 'reality'. The shepherds knew that they had received a word from God, and the reality of it was that the Messiah had been born that same day. The reality was something that they could confirm tangibly because the angel gave them a sign to look for: a baby wrapped in cloths lying in a manger. Their hearts were without doubt so excited and eager to see 'this thing'.

It is clear that the shepherds had a revelation from God and believed it! Their experience and their obedient, faithful response was really comparable to how people come to a saving faith in Jesus Christ. Salvation comes by hearing a message from God, by hearing and believing the truth about Jesus (Romans 10:9-10)

We read that they 'came with haste' - literally 'with great enthusiasm and eagerness' as they searched for the mother, father and divine child.

'Has anyone heard of the birth of a child this night?' asked the shepherds as they looked everywhere in that little town. Before long they 'found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger'.

The shepherds' response after finding Jesus continues our analogy of what happens when God saves people. They tell others. Now and again I have witnessed folk who have that life-changing experience being excited and ready to share with others. These shepherds were changed men - we read: 'they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this child'.

In reality, these shepherds became the first New Testament Evangelists!

'All those who heard it marvelled at what at those things which the shepherds had told them'.

So this well loved account which we will read again soon and sing that carol about shepherds watching their flocks by night, is once more a pattern that illustrates the Christian life. You first hear the Gospel telling of Jesus (for me that was when I was a very small boy) -then you begin to believe it, and then you pursue and embrace Jesus. Having become a witness to your conversion, you begin to share that with others and change one's lifestyle in obedience to the Good News and under the power of God's Holy Spirit.

One becomes to realise 'I am a child of God', and study and ponder God's Word so that it changes one in order to attain to that life for which I (you) was created.

We know nothing much else about those shepherds - but we can be sure that their lives were changed forever. Tending their sheep on that hillside, as Jesus the Good Shepherd tends us his flock today.

My wife Diana joins me in wishing you all a Happy and Holy Christmas and Blessed New Year!

Peter

December	5 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve	25 <sup>th</sup> Christmas Day	26 <sup>th</sup> Boxing Day	2 <sup>nd</sup> January
Coxheath	11.00 HC	11.00 MP	4.30pm Carol Service	5.00pm Children Service 11.15pm HC	11.00 Christmas Service followed by HC	10.30 Benefice E Farleigh	11.00 HC
E. Farleigh	09.30 Matins	08.00 HC 09.30 FS	6.00pm Carol Service	4.00pm Christingle 11.30pm HC	No service	10.30 Benefice E Farleigh	09.30 Matins
Linton	09.30 HC	09.30 FS	08.00 HC 6.00pm Carol Service	11.30 pm HC	09.30 Christmas Day Service followed by HC	10.30 Benefice E Farleigh	09.30 HC
W. Farleigh	08.00 HC	4.00pm Carol Service	9.30 MP	09.30 pm HC	10.00am Christmas Day HC	10.30 Benefice E Farleigh	08.00 HC

HC: Holy Communion, MP: Morning Prayer, (bcp) Book of Common Prayer, FS: Family Service, SW: Service of Word