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The Parish Plan Events: 18th September - Hunton Calling - We're Listening!! - Saturday 12th February 2011 drop in at the Village Hall anytime from 1-3pm

The results are in! Since November the Parish Plan Committee has been analysing the comments from the questionnaire. It has been a time consuming process to digest a respectable 55% return. We are nearing the final stages of completing the Plan but we need to narrow the results further to establish a consensual list, in priority order, of the wishes that were made in the questionnaire.

Please drop in at the Village Hall on Saturday 12 February any time from 1-3pm to fine tune what will be in the Action Plan - for those of you who may remember our event 'Ideas Night' in May last year this time we are hoping to tempt you out of your warm homes with soup and a roll!

Please support this event so that we can start working on the stuff that is important to us in Hunton. Attending this meeting will be the ideal opportunity to let us know if you would like to volunteer to become part of or set up a local interest group to help tackle what we, as a village, feel can make Hunton great(er)!

Look forward to seeing you there!

CPRE Backs Parish Council's Objection for Planning on Plots

Hunton Parish Council has gained backing in its objections to plans to provide two plots for gypsy travellers including the stationing of two mobile homes, two touring caravans, stable buildings and two utility blocks on land off Lughorse Lane.

Protect Kent CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) Maidstone says that it has serious concerns about the planning application to develop the site as residential, in the open rural countryside in an area given considerable protection from inappropriate development by the Maidstone borough-wide local plan.

"Any additional residential occupation in such an area is usually regarded as inappropriate unless to improve the efficiency of a land-based enterprise such as farming or forestry," says the CPRE.

"That is not relevant for this application as most horse-keeping activities are not regarded as farming and no indication is given as to the type of horse-keeping to be carried out connected with the planned stables.

"The exceptional circumstance claimed in this application is the gypsy status of the applicants and the wish to be settled so that their children can have access to a regular school-based education.

"This is a laudible objective but not on a site where such a settlement would have an adverse effect on the character and appearance of protected countryside by introducing buildings and other domestic paraphernalia, and would have an adverse effect on the amenities of local residents."

Applause Ro:toro in Concert Sunday 20 March at 7.30pm

We have great pleasure in promoting Ro:toro as the first of our two Spring concerts this year.

Ro:toro play traditional Estonian melodies and songs from remote parts of Russia, have their origins in the Valjandi Cultural Academy of the University of Tartu and regularly perform at folk music festivals in Estonia and abroad.

Something different!! For more information and to listen visit: www.rotoro.mco.pri.ee. Venue: Hunton Village Hall . Tickets £10 (£5 under 21's) available from Alan 820683, Jane 820127 or David 820678. Licensed bar.

Forthcoming Applause event: Kerr Fagan Harbron Friday 13 May www.kerrfaganharbron.co.uk

Your Local Contacts:

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

*not available on Fridays **not available on Mondays

Dates for Diaries:

Saturday 12th February "Hunton Calling - We're Listening!!" Village Hall
drop in anytime from 1-3pm

Sunday 20th February Snow drop day - 'Southover', Grove Lane, 11.00am-4.00pm.

Sunday 20th March Applause Event - Ro:toro in Concert Village Hall, 7.30pm

Friday 13th May Applause Event Village Hall - details next month

Saturday 25th June Hunton Summer Fete and the Launch of the Parish Plan

Parish Councillors contact details

Parish Council Chairman
- Roger Sawtell 820731

Clerk to the Parish Council
- Sharon Goodwin 681238

Cllr Les Leonard 820858 Cllr David Heaton 820678
Cllr Moira Walter 745765 Cllr Keith Eatwell 745569
Cllr Gary Thomas 820691 Cllr Ron Porter 820220

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

Hi All

Well 2011 has been with us one month, and the increase in VAT, petrol prices, rail fares have had time to bite. We are promised a time of real austerity and cutbacks and as I hear and read in the media outbursts are many, with interest groups pleading their case not to have to bear the brunt of the cuts.

Over recent weeks the word 'fair' has been used to justify changes to the way things are financed. The increase in VAT is said to be 'fair' because it affects everyone. True but not equally. Tuition fees are 'fair' because people with degrees earn more than people without but do they? And so it goes on. Cuts in library services in one county are set against spending on children's services. Road repairs are set against care for the elderly. Each group feels they are a special case. We look at how 'cuts' affect us and we shout loud and clear if we feel the pinch.

In early December I was invited to a consultative meeting attended by six officers and five members of the Maidstone Borough Council to discuss possible reductions/savings in expenditure by the Borough Council to take effect over the next three years. I had been invited as chairman of Churches Together in Maidstone and three other interest groups had accepted the invitation. Although a public meeting only one member of the public attended. We were asked where we would like to see savings in the Council's budget. Little progress was made as any suggestions made were unacceptable to others present.

The debate started me thinking firstly about 'fairness' in a world that is obviously not 'fair' and never has been since God created this world and mankind thought they could do a better job.. What is 'fair' to one person is unfair to 'another'. So then my thinking turned to the values that I as a Christian might adopt. The meaning of Joy - putting Jesus first, others second and ourselves last comes to mind. The summary of the Ten Commandments direct us 'Our Lord Jesus Christ said, 'You shall love your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength.....love your neighbour as yourself'. Perhaps if we all applied that Commandment to the cuts/savings as they come along then, whilst we might not all agree, at least we may be generous in accepting what needs to be done.

To be honest I haven't reached a conclusion and maybe I need others to point me in the right direction. Everything I think of seems pious and not particularly practicable. But what I do think is important is that we enter into debating the ideas as they are made and recognise that people who are in authority and we ask to make decisions have sometimes to make difficult decisions.

What could you change in your personal life to make a difference or better still how could you improve the lives of those around you?

David

Roland (Roly) Day

It was with great sadness that many learned of the death of Roland Day on the 4th January. It was not unexpected as he was nearly 96 years old.

Not many people were as well known, admired and held in such affection as Roland and that was reflected in the number of people that attended his funeral at St. Mary's on the 12th January. Over 210 mourners were there to celebrate his life and to join with his widow Brenda and their family including children Robert, Simon and Diana and grandchildren. The Internment was accompanied by a bugler from his old Regiment "The Rough Riders" part of the City of London Yeomanry. It was a most fitting and appropriate end to the service that had been conducted so well by Rev. Peter Walker who had become a friend of the family over recent years.

Roland had asked me a while ago if I would say a few words at his funeral. I was privileged to do so. It gave me the chance to remind all there of what he had achieved over so many years. A farmer who farmed a variety of crops and ran sheep for nearly 50 years at Elphicks Farm. A soldier who was awarded six campaign medals for his service during the duration of WWII, Chair of West Farleigh Sports Club, a Hunton Parish Councillor for 32 years of which he chaired the Council for 23 years, loved cricket and tennis and had played regularly for West Farleigh, had hunted with the Mid Kent Staghounds, had enjoyed Point to Point, rode several winners and had great success as a horseman under the National Hunt Rules. He and Brenda played Bowls for Hunton Bowls Club for many years. He had joined as a young man The Loyal Tickle Back, Jack Sparrow, Rat and Mole Club and at the end of each AGM of that Club the evening closed with Roland performing one of his songs from his considerable repertoire. Many of you will recall him performing at the Hunton Village Annual Harvest Lunch and he continued to do that well into his 80's. It was so fitting that Clive Baxter was able to perform, as a tribute to Roland, in the Village Hall the song that Roland did so well and that was Flanagan's Band.

He has left us now. No more will we see a stream of traffic stuck behind a green VW pickup travelling at 15mph and parking where it stops, no more cones warning all of us of potholes that never get repaired, pubs can now open a few minutes late if they like and put their half pint glasses away and the yellow lines outside Coral's in Tovil can be restored.

Many lives and the community have been so enriched by Roland and what he has done. He will be missed by so many. A great character that I doubt we will ever see the likes of again.

Ron L Porter

Hunton Club Book Group January Book Review

OPEN by ANDRE AGASSI

He is one of the most gifted men ever to step onto a tennis court but from an early age Andre Agassi hated the game. Forced, as a 7 year old, to practice all day under the obsessive gaze of his violent father, hitting hundreds of balls a day, Agassi tells his story of a life balanced precariously between self destruction and perfectionism.

At 13 he is banished to a Florida tennis camp that feels like a prison to him. He rebels and at 16 turns professional. Despite his raw talent and lightening fast returns he struggles early on as he loses to the world's best and we learn of his confusion as he starts to win, shocking the world, and himself, as he wins the 1992 Wimbledon Championship.

In clear prose Agassi evokes his loyal brother, his wise coach and his gentle trainer, all the people who helped him regain his balance and find love with Stefanie Graf.

Our group had very mixed responses and opinions about this autobiography. Overall it was thought that Agassi is terribly self-possessed, a whinger and should have sought counselling. We all felt sorry for the little boy suffering at the hands of his violent father and the disturbed adolescent he became because of his treatment. However, we couldn't understand that although he continually stated he hated tennis he continued to play. We also thought hearing more about the school he founded for deprived children in his home town of Las Vegas and still supports would have been interesting. Our score reflects our mixed opinions and we awarded this book 5/10.

Our book for February about life in North Korea is Nothing to Envy by Barbara Demick.

Tricia Nichols

School News Topics from space travel to longships

The Reception class are going to be exploring space and space travel, the stars, the moon and planets. Whilst Lower school are learning about the life of the artist Vincent Van Gogh and musician Stevie Wonder in their topic on Famous People. They will be investigating some of Van Gogh's painting techniques and trying them out in Art and Design.

This term Middle School's topic is Vikings and Saxons. They will be researching early Saxon settlers, Viking invaders and their settlements using various resources. They will be creating and using maps in and exploring the role of an archaeologist. Middle school will also be learning about Saxon tools, techniques and buildings to create their own Saxon settlement and investigating Viking art and crafts and researching the construction of longships.

Upper School are learning about life for children in Victorian Britain and studying the different jobs that children were forced to do, in particular studying extracts from Oliver Twist.

Temenos Chamber Choir Concert

Sunday 27th March 7.30pm St Peter & St Paul, Yalding

Tickets £7 including drink and nibbles

T: 01622 814267 Email : gambleproject@aol.com

and available on the door

English sacred music in a time of change

With Roger Evernden - Harpsichord

PCSO Jo Watts will spend 3 months on the Isle of Sheppey

CSO Jo Watts has been selected for an attachment on the Isle of Sheppey as a PCSO Supervisor until the end of March 2011. Jo will start this attachment in early January and PCSO Richard Chainey will cover Jo's areas for this period.

Get Out and About in February

Snowdrops in Hunton on Sunday 20th February

One of the most charming harbingers of spring are the snowdrops.

There are widely different kinds of snowdrops and many of them can be seen in the 1 1/2 acre garden at 'Southover', **Grove Lane, Hunton**, open between **11.00am-4.00pm**.

Simultaneously the Friends of St Mary's Church, Hunton will be welcoming snowdrop visitors to the old churchyard which has a wealth of snowdrops in a charming setting.

Refreshments and snowdrop sales. Entry to Southover £3.50 (children free). Entry to churchyard free to all

Out and Out Ivy in trees, to be or not to be?

With all the leaves off the trees it is easy to see where ivy is climbing up in search of more light. Whether it is snaking its bright green stems up the trunk or covering the whole bole in fluttering butterfly leaves, ivy is attractive and a good shelter for wildlife, but is it good for the trees?

Whilst the ivy remains on the trunk, it does little harm to the tree using it only for support in its climb towards the sky. Once it spreads into the crown of the tree it will start to block light from the dormant buds on the smaller branches. Also the evergreen ivy leaves will act like a sail in the wind putting strain on the roots of the tree. It is best to control ivy before it reaches this crown smothering stage. Cut through some or all of the ivy stems at the base of the tree and strip the ivy or leave it to die off for later stripping. The ivy will regrow from the roots so the task will have to be repeated every few years. Winter is a good time to do this when the extent of the ivy's growth is in clear contrast to the unclothed trees.

Christine McSweeney

At St Mary's Church in February

Notices	Services
<p>Coffee Rota Sunday 6th February Leonard family</p> <p>Flower Arrangers 6th February Mrs. St. John 13th February Mrs. St. John 20th February Mrs. Way 27th February Mrs. Way</p> <p>Hunton Sunday Club This club, open to all primary aged children either living in or attending school in Hunton normally meets on the 3rd Sunday of each month from 5.15pm until 6.45pm (with the exception of August). We meet in homes in the village for a time of activity - indoors during the winter but often outdoors during the warmer months and finish with tea. The club is an open club but associated with St Mary's church. Please contact David Jones 741474 for fuller details and if you would like to attend.</p> <p>Our February meeting is on Sunday February 20th at Scotts House, West Street.</p>	<p>Sunday 6th February - 5th Sunday before Lent 11.00 am Family Service - Rev David Jones Readings: Preachers Choice</p> <p>Sunday 13th February - 4th Sunday before Lent 09.30 am Holy Communion - Rev David Jones Readings: 1Deuteronomy 30 v 15 - 20 and Matthew 5 v 21 - 37</p> <p>Sunday 20th February - 3rd Sunday before Lent 11.00 am Morning Prayer - Rev Peter Walker Readings: Leviticus 19 v 1 - 2 v 3 and Matthew 5 v 38 - 48</p> <p>Sunday 27th February - 2nd Sunday before Lent 11.00 am Holy Communion (shortened slightly) - Rev Peter Walker Readings: Romans 8 v 18 - 25 and Matthew 6 v 25 - 34</p> <p>Sunday 6th March - Sunday Before Lent 11.00 am Family Service Readings: Preachers Choice</p>

St Mary's Hunton - Parochial Church Council Meetings 2011

The PCC will meet at 7.30pm on these dates during 2011

Thursday January 27 th	Thursday July 22 nd
Thursday March 24 th	Thursday September 22 nd
Thursday May 28 th	Thursday November 24 th

Items for the agenda should be given to the Churchwarden - Mrs Alison Ellman - Brown at least 10 days before the meeting. Meetings are open to the public, who may not speak at the meeting.

Christmas at Hunton

The workmen descended once again and road closure made life difficult for everyone but the Spirit of Christmas seemed to make people pull out all the stops. Snow came to add to the difficulties but life went on. The Pre-School Nativity presentation in the church was followed by their Christmas Fair in the village hall. The church was packed with children and parents, grandparents and relatives as the children told and sang the Christmas Story. It was lovely to see the youngest members in the village community playing their parts. They're so innocent and free when they are so small.

End of term saw the annual 'Christingle' presented by the school. Another full church and great excitement from the slightly older children who took part. The mud left by the road works had frozen under the snow so life was a little better and the road closure went on.

The Carol Service on the 19th was greeted by a real determination to hold the event despite the freezing of the snow and icy conditions making everywhere very slippery. A 4X4 was sent to collect the organist from Langley, The Huntone Singers came out in force wanting to perform their two carols that weeks of practice had honed into perfection. The church choir were determined to ensure that there was no repeat of last year when the service got cancelled because of weather and ably supported by the Huntone Singers and some very good soloists, led the singing with their usual enthusiasm and high standard. Everyone played their part and 72 people attended and stayed on afterwards for a leisurely glass of mulled wine and mince pies. Midnight Communion had a reasonable attendance given the time and weather and on Christmas morning 44 people turned out for an informal service for Christmas morning with more carols and thoughts about the 'specialness' of Christmas.

All was not finished for in the village hall on New Year's Eve the party went with a huge swing with many folk attending and having a wonderfully informal time. What many didn't hear through the noise however was in the church the old year being rung out by a band of ringers from St Mary's, the chiming of midnight (it is believed that the ringers party in the tower beforehand resulted in 14 strikes of the tenor bell!) before the New Year was rung in. This is a first for Hunton in the memory of many people and it would be interesting to know when a Hunton Band of ringers rang in the New Year.

All this out of the event 'Hunton Calling' Thank you to all who made Hunton special this Christmas and New Year.

February	6th	13th	20th	27th	6th March
Coxheath	11.00 HC	11.00 MP	11.00 HC	11.00 FS	11.00 HC
E. Farleigh	09.30 Matins	08.00 HC 11.00 FS	09.30 HC	08.00 HC	09.30 Matins
Linton	09.30 HC	09.30 FS	08.00 HC	09.30 HC	09.30 HC
W. Farleigh	08.00 HC	11.00 MP (Trad)	9.30 MP (Mod)	09.30 HC	08.00 HC

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