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Hunton Summer Fete

25th June We want to pull this off!

The most wanted item that you would like to see in Hunton from the Hunton Parish Plan Questionnaire was a Summer fete. We want to make sure we can pull this off. We have a small group so far, but to make this summer fete one to remember we urgently need your help! This is not going to happen with just a handful of people, we want to be able to fill the field with as many attractions as possible but we need lots more people involved.

If anyone can help with a stall and/or organise setting something up or has great ideas of what will bring in the punters and someone to do it, please contact Annette Trought on annette@trought.com or telephone 01622 820448. Alternatively, if you want to join the committee, the next meeting is on Thursday 3rd March at 8pm in the Village Club - see you there!

Also.....please save all your unwanted crockery to ensure that we can have a 'smashing time'.

Hunton Calling - We're Listening Restoration Starting in the Summer

We had a good turnout, with about 60 coming along to 'We're Listening' on Saturday. There were stands and displays to peruse while drinking mugs of tasty leek and potato soup.

The results of the questionnaire showed that the key areas of concern and wants were as below. Saturday's event enabled us to put these in order of priority in the action plan as voted by those that attended. The priorities were voted on using a hi-tech 'i.button' voting system! Here are the results (in numerical order)

- HGVs/Highways/Pot Holes/Parking
- Central Hub (including children's play equipment)
- Footpaths/verges/quiet lanes etc.
- Speeding
- Fly tipping
- Sustainability
- Transport
- Farmers' Market
- Recycling
- Allotments/Community Land

Next month we will expand on the next step of the plan and the actions.

Some points from the recent Hunton Parochial Church Council meeting:

Ancient doors at St. Mary's are to undergo expert restoration work.

It is hoped that work can start at the beginning of summer.

Very substantial grant offers had been received from interested groups aware of the historic significance of the doors.

Repair work is needed to the external clock, the bells, the chancel ceiling and the gate to the church cottage. A contractor for gutter cleaning is urgently needed.

Following the funeral service of Roly Day, a donation of £502 was given to the church from the retiring collection.

The Rector informed the meeting of the forthcoming Lent courses being run in the United Benefice. Chris Bostock will be leading one of these commencing on March 15th and ensuing Tuesdays at the home of Mary Johns.

Due to the lack of numbers at last year's Good Friday service it was decided not to have one at St.Mary's and to join with Coxheath or Linton. The next PCC meeting will be on Thursday March 24th.

Your Local Contacts:

Parish Council Chairman: Roger Sawtell	820731
School: Secretary/Head Teacher	820360
Under 5's Pre-School:	820309
Pre-School Supervisor:	07972067110
Pond and Tree Warden: Anne Bishop	820683
Rector: Revd Peter Walker	747570**
Associate Rector: Revd David Jones	741474*
Village Club: Doug Redfarn	820495

Clerk to Parish Council: Sharon Goodwin	681238
Village Hall Booking: Jane Crane	820127
Maidstone Police:	608186
Neighbourhood Watch:	608173
'Potholes' concern (KCC): Kim Hills	0845 824 7800
Churchwarden: Alison Ellman-Brown	820288
PCSO Jo Watts/Gary Shaw	604392

*not available on Fridays **not available on Mondays

Dates for Diaries:

- Thursday 3rd March Fete meeting Hunton Village Club - 8pm
- Saturday 5th March 1.40 - 2.10pm Freighter Service Hunton Village Hall
- Wednesday 9th March Parish Plan meeting Hunton Village Club - 8pm
- Thursday 10th March Parish Council Meeting Village Hall 8pm
- Sunday 20th March Applause - Ro:toro in Concert Village Hall - 7.30pm
- Friday 13th May Applause Event Village Hall - Kerr Fagan Herbron
- Thursday 12th May (Annual Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting)

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 April edition to the Editors as soon as possible, and by 15th March, please

Dear Friends,

'Thou therefore, my son be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus' (2 Timothy 2:1)

Those Scriptural words were written in my little book *'The Hill of the Lord'* given to me by the school chaplain on the occasion of my Confirmation on Lady Day, March 25th 1965. It is a small guide to prayer and the service of Holy Communion.

March 1965 was also significant because it was my mother's 45th birthday on the 14th and seven days later on the 21st she was there by my side when I was baptised in the Parish church of St.Mary, Shoreham-by-Sea. Four days later I was confirmed by the Bishop of Lewes in the same church. My parents had never thought it necessary for either my sister or I to be baptised as babes in arms.

In England Lady Day was New Year's Day up to 1752 when, following the move from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar, the 1st January became the start of the year.

A vestige of this remains in the UK tax year, which starts on April 6th - i.e.: Lady Day adjusted for the lost days of the calendar change.

As a year-end and quarter day that conveniently did not fall within or between the seasons for ploughing and harvesting, Lady Day was a traditional day on which year-long contracts between landowners and tenant farmers would begin and end in England and nearby lands. A result of this was that farming families who were changing farms would travel from the old farm to the new one on Lady Day. After the calendar change 'Old Lady Day' (April 6th), the former date of the Annunciation to the Virgin Mary, largely assumed this role. The date is significant in some of the works of Thomas Hardy, eg: *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* and *Far From the Madding Crowd*.

Three things stand out in that little Lady Day book of mine in connection with the Holy Communion service: First, we may expect *fellowship or communion with our Lord Jesus Christ*. 'Thus we come as to a trysting-place where we shall meet the Lord and Master whom we love and adore' so the book recounts. Secondly we may expect *fellowship with one another*. We are at the family meal of Jesus' family. Whatever our station in life, we all share one loaf and drink of one cup. Lastly we may expect a *fresh supply of strength*. We open our hands to take what God of his goodness gives us -strength for the body and soul.

So this coming Lady Day, as every Lady Day, I will remember again all that happened in March 1965 and give thanks that God has given me His grace to remain strong in Him as those words (now a little faded) in that modest book enjoined on me 45 years ago.

With my prayers,

PETER

Happy Birthday Book Group

March 2011 and Hunton Club Book Group celebrate their 5th Birthday! 60 books and 5 years on and the Book Group is still going strong. We began with 12 founder members; we have lost 4 along the way but welcomed 2 new members. The group now stands at 10 which we believe is the perfect number to stimulate discussion. We have read a variety of books, enjoyed some and disliked others but believe that is the attraction of being a book group member and trying out those books that we may not necessarily choose ourselves. Popularity spread and 2010 saw the formation of a second group.

These groups meet monthly in Hunton Club and we celebrate not only the 5 years but the luck of having somewhere so fitting within our village to meet. The club is a comfortable and friendly venue and the low cost of drinks a real bonus. So Happy Birthday Book Group - long may you continue to flourish!

Tricia

The Hunton Wanderer - Andrew Vickers

It was with shock and disbelief that the club learned of the sudden and untimely death of Andy Vickers at the age of 23. Andy was a keen sportsman, an accomplished rugby player and an enthusiastic cricketer. Even during the past few years, when he was at Exeter University, both as an undergraduate and more recently studying for a post graduate qualification, Andy still played regularly for HWCC when back in Maidstone.

A true club player, Andy would play for any team, home or away, with determination and passion. His athleticism in the field was his trademark - he would run after everything and frequently chased down what looked like a certain boundary. Having overtaken the ball he would launch an immense throw, (usually) over the stumps. Andy would be the first to admit that his spin bowling style was exotic and sometimes unpredictable, but this never stopped him trying and his "moon ball" frequently bamboozled the batsman—merely because it stayed in the air for so long. When he was back in Maidstone, Andy was a keen supporter of club events and, most recently, took part in the Tour de Hunts charity bike ride in August. Above all Andy was always positive, polite and impeccably behaved on the pitch. We will all miss him and our thoughts are with Sheila, Steve and Matt.



Does anyone know who the Choir boys are?

Ted Mordey of Amsbury Road writes that although he left Hunton some few years ago he still likes to keep in touch with current happenings. As part of this 'process' he regularly reads the Hunton Herald on-line.

So, in the February edition, he was saddened to read of the death of Roland Day. "I knew him well and I last met him, on a flying visit in February 2009, just by the lych-gate to the old churchyard where he was undertaking his regular duties of filling in a few potholes with stones and rubble".

He continues to say that he has "attached a photograph of the church officials and choir that I sadly have not dated but I guess it's about 1960. The Rector at the time was the well-loved and respected Douglas McLeod whose ashes are buried near to the west door of St Mary's.

You will recognise Roly Day and Simon, his son, and also the late Philip Moore who had already been the organist and choirmaster for some years, while a pupil at Maidstone Grammar School. Also in the picture is Tom Scott, John's father, of Grove Farm. Roly and Tom were churchwardens. I also feature in the photograph but I leave you to guess! Some of the choirboys probably still live locally". Can anyone identify the people in the photograph?



Art - Exhibition - Hunton Fete

On the back of the success we had last year at Hunton Calling!, here is another opportunity to admire and enjoy the work of Hunton artists. This year there is no theme but it will be an opportunity to show the residents of Hunton and hopefully people from further afield, your talent. The entries will be displayed at the Summer Fete on Saturday 25th June. You can submit as many entries as you like and the choice of media (drawing, painting, collage, photography or film) is entirely up to you. It would be great if we could have a variety of age groups involved - everyone is welcome! Please submit your work (preferably already mounted) to Barbara Wright, Wealden Hall House, East St O1622 820218 **no later than 20 June 2011**. Please put your name and telephone number on the back of your entries so that they can be returned to you.

School News

Spring is in the air

In RE at the school, the focus is on New Beginnings through the Easter story and the wonder of spring time. Some of the work will be taken to the church as a display for Easter.

The School had a very special day organised by Eden Catering. In November they were awarded the Food for Life Bronze Award in partnership with Eden Catering. Hunton Primary School is only the second primary school in Kent to receive this award! It is linked to their healthy eating and gardening activities and the children's understanding of the importance of keeping healthy through a good diet. The day included cup cake making and Eden presented four children with £10 high street vouchers for the best decorated cup cakes. There was a special presentation by the Managing Director of Eden to the school.

Four of the older children went to Waterringbury School to participate in the able writers' workshop with children from other schools. They worked with a children's poet and were given the challenge to write non rhyming poetry which they found difficult but thoroughly enjoyed.

In March Upper School will be visiting a Victorian classroom to find out more about life as a child in Victorian times.

Applause Event Sunday 20th March 7.30pm

Ro:toro in Concert

Venue Hunton Village Hall . Tickets are £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

Dog Mess A resident expressed concerns over a recent occurrence of Dog Mess on the pavement in West Street. Having raised this at our Parish Plan event with Jim Boot - Maidstone Borough Council is now on the case. Local authorities and town and parish councils can make a Dog Control Order to provide controls on the handling and behaviour of dogs on areas of land within their authority.

Knit and Natter Group Yalding Gardens

Come and join in our monthly knitting group. All experience levels welcome, just bring some needles and wool. A chance to swap ideas or learn new skills. £4 per session includes cup of tea and cake from the Bushel Box Tearooms.

Now from 2.30-4.30pm.

Saturday 12th March, Saturday 16th April & Saturday 14th May

For more info phone Tracey on 01622 820019.

At St Mary's Church in March

Notices

Coffee Rota

Sunday 6th March Forster family

Flowers

6th March wedding

9th March Ash Wednesday clear flowers for Lent.

Services

Sunday 6th March - 5th Next Sunday before Lent

11.00 am Family Service - Rev David Jones

Readings: Preachers Choice

Sunday 13th March - 1st Sunday in Lent

09.30 am Holy Communion - Rev Peter Walker

Readings: Genesis 2 v 15 -17; 3 v 1-7 and Matthew 4 v 1-11

Sunday 20th March - 2nd Sunday in Lent

11.00 am Morning Prayer - Mr David Barnes

Readings: Genesis 12 v 1-4 (a) and John 3 v 1-17

Sunday 27th March - 3rd Sunday in Lent

11.00 am Holy Communion (shortened slightly) - Rev Peter Walker

Readings: Romans 5 v 1-11 and John 4 v 5 - 42

Sunday 3rd April - 4th Sunday in Lent

11.00 am Family Service

Readings: Preachers Choice

5P Men's club - Dates

Saturday March 5th "Who Let the Dads Out" Holy Trinity Church

Time 9.30 am to 12 noon Father and kids session- brunch, games and fun.

Monday 21st March 7 pm Curry Night- Marden Tandoori

Women's World Day of Prayer

Friday 4th March, 7.30pm at the Congregational Church, 157 Linton Road.

Our Benefice churches are joining with the members of the Congregational Church for this annual service. (Last year there were members of at least ten churches present which was great for Christian unity.) All are very welcome - men, women and young people. The service has been prepared by the women of Chile and the guest speaker is Jenny Thompson, our new Benefice secretary.

Confirmation 2011

It has been the custom and practice in the Church of England to baptise babies and children and when they come to faith as older children or adults to be confirmed by the Bishop. We have not booked a Confirmation Service in our Benefice for 2011 but it is always possible to join with another church locally who have booked a service. We are planning to do that and, either go to Hildenborough on Sunday April 10th at 10am or St Justus, Rochester on May 8th at 6.30pm. The newly installed Bishop of Rochester, Rt. Revd. James Langstaff, will officiate at both services.

If you would like to consider being confirmed, would you contact Revd. David Jones 741474. Confirmation is open to all adults and teenagers who have made a commitment or are thinking about making one to follow Jesus in their lives.

David Jones

Tearfund

Wednesday 23rd March at 7.45pm in Loose Baptist Church, Maidstone

Ian Roberts will talk on the topic of "A Christian View of Disasters". This will be followed by prayers for Tearfund projects and for the needs of the World.

If Tearfund is one of the mission societies supported by your church, could you possibly encourage your members, (or at least one!) to join us on that evening. You may also like to visit the website, www.tearfund.org to see the latest news of their work.

Gordon & Karen Mackley

Heart of Kent Hospice

We need some volunteers to help out at events

19th March 2011 - Skydive - Headcorn Aerodrome. Experience a once in a lifetime challenge! Skydive while harnessed to a professional instructor, freefall through the air for several thousand feet before deploying your parachute. Raise £400 in sponsorship and join the event for free! Various dates available. For more information visit: www.headcornparachuteclub.co.uk

26th March 2011 - Gig Night with "Miles from Next Door"- East Malling Village Hall. Rock until you drop with this fabulous 5 piece band! The band will perform live music from classic rock to a chilled out acoustic number. Tickets only £12 each. Bring your own drink.

March	6 th	13 th	20 th	27 th	3 rd April
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 Baptism 2pm	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