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Friends of St. Mary's Hunton

We are very pleased to announce that Sue and Lawrence Martin are opening their garden for a Train Ride event and Friends of St. Mary's will be the beneficiaries. It is very kind and generous of them and we very much appreciate what they are doing for our Charity.

The date is 24th July from 2pm through to 5pm. Tickets will be £10 per head with the exception of babes in arms or young toddlers who will be free. Those of you who have attended this Train Ride event before will know what great fun it is for all ages but particularly children. The event will include a generous tea and there will be additional attractions for the children.

We expect the demand for tickets to be high; indeed at the time of preparing this note 20 tickets have gone already. We are restricted to 160 persons including children and we cannot under any circumstances exceed that number.

To avoid disappointment put the date in your diary and contact any one of the Trustees of The Friends of St. Mary's Charity to make sure you are not too late.

Finally we are also pleased to announce that we have a new Trustee and that is Dr. Lisa Dolman who has already attended her first meeting. It is very clear that Lisa will be a most important addition to our team and I am delighted to make this announcement today.

Ron Porter, Chairman

Train Rides and Afternoon Tea

Sunday 24th July, 2-5pm, Tickets £10 per head (except babes in arms and toddlers), 01622 820678/820220/820508

Don't Miss This One....

Applause Concert Friday 13 May at Hunton Village Hall - presenting **Kerr Fagan Harbron**

Kerr Fagan Harbron are a dynamic new Anglo-Australian acoustic super-trio featuring Nancy Kerr on fiddle and viola, autoharp and vocals, James Fagan guitar-bouzouki and vocals, Robert Harbron English concertina, guitar and vocals. They are described as a joy to listen to, three consummate musicians delighting in their art. Beautiful tunes, wonderful songs and tremendous musicianship. There surely can't be a finer trio on the folk scene.

Nancy and James have just won the prestigious Radio 2 Folk Award as Best Duo for 2011.

Terrific live music on your doorstep. www.kerrfaganharbron.co.uk www.myspace.com/kerrfaganharbron

Tickets now available £10, under 21's £5, available from 01622 820683 or 820678. Licensed bar

All proceeds go toward the Village Hall maintenance fund. Next major project - working towards a more sustainable heating provision.

The White House

Jan at the White House organises various events throughout the year and has raised considerable funds for charity in the course of a year that amounts to about £2,000-£2,500. A quiz night and a raffle over Christmas and the New Year raised a further £200-300.

Charity Walk Sunday 1st May, 11am, Meet at White House pub, Contact Jan 01622 820520

Plant Sale Sunday 29th and Bank Holiday Monday 30th May 2011, 10.30 - 4.00pm. In aid of age concern.

Plant donations gratefully received. Please ring Jan on 01622 820520 *Herbs* *Veggies* *Bedding* *Perennials*

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 Tom Mepstead/Richard Chainey	604392
Village Club: Doug Redfarn	820495		

*not available on Fridays **not available on Mondays

Dates for Diaries:

Sunday 1st May **Charity Walk** White House 11.00am
 Sunday 29th May **Church Doors Open Day** from 2.00-5.00pm
 Friday 13th May **Applause Event** Village Hall
 Thursday 12th May **Parish Council Meeting** 7pm and **Annual Meeting** 8pm Village Hall
 Saturday 14th May **Knit and Natter Group** 2.30-4.30pm Yalding Gardens
 Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday 29th and 30th May **Plant Sale** White House 10.30 - 4.00pm
 Saturday 25th June **Village Fete** Village Green
 Thursday 14th July **Parish Council Meeting** 8pm Village Hall
 Sunday 24th July **Train Rides and Afternoon Tea** 2-5pm
 Next **Freighter Service** Hunton Village Hall Car Park Saturday 14 May - 13:40 - 1410

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 June edition to the Editors as soon as possible, and by 15th May, please

Dear Folks

Although this is the letter for May I feel that the last few weeks of April are still events that may be uppermost in our minds and especially the last two Fridays in particular. Both could be called 'Good Friday' for both say such a great deal about important relationships. The first, the relationship between God and humanity and the second the relationship that God gave for humanity.

Relationship is at the heart of our being. How we relate to the world God created and our relationships with the rest of the living world influences our view on life. We all are reminded of God's love in the commandments and in the events of Easter and in particular in Good Friday when he showed that ultimate example of love in giving to us his Son Jesus Christ to die for us.

These last weeks our television screen have been filled with the greatest examples of love between two people in the marriage of Prince William and Catherine Middleton. Yet that outward sign of love is changing. Marriage, either in church or other places, is on the decline.

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Village Club Events

A heads-up on what is coming up at the Village Club for 2011

Saturday June 4	Choose the new name of the Club
Saturday July 2	Race Night
Saturday August 6	Quiz Night
Saturday August 27	Caribbean Cook-Out
Saturday Sept 17	Live Music – Les Blackburn
Saturday Oct 22	Bistro Night
Monday Oct 31	Halloween Night – Children's Fancy Dress
Saturday Nov 19	50's Night
Saturday Dec 10	Christmas Quiz
Saturday Dec 31	New Year's Eve Party

Cream Teas

Nettlestead Place

Sunday May 15th 3 - 5.30pm

Donation for teas £4

Children ROLL up for JONJO the clown at 3.30pm

Enquiries 01622 871945, 01622 813322

Proceeds to Christian Aid

East Peckham and Nettlestead Christian Aid Committee

Help 4 Heroes

Jeremy Scott takes up the New Forest Bike Ride Challenge

On 15 May, Jeremy Scott will be taking part in the 68 mile Help 4 Heroes New Forest Bike Ride Challenge. This is a circular route all in and around the New Forest organised by the Help 4 Heroes Charity, and he is hoping to raise money through sponsorship for this outstanding charity. Jeremy, being both Ex Royal Navy and Ex Territorial Army, feels a strong bond with this charity and their aims and objectives. If you would like to assist him raising money, please contact him directly on 01622 820571 or visit his charity web page at www.bmycharity.com/JeremyScott

Hunton Summer Fete: Saturday 25th June

Hunton Fete Needs Your Donations!

A heads up that we need your unwanted good quality children's clothes and second hand books. Also items suitable for tombola and lucky dip. Items can be stored with Lisa Halliday at Scott's House so please contact **Lisa on 820 508**.

Stalls Available at the Fete

Are you a local artist or crafter? Do you have a vegetable plot or small holding or even a farm? Do you make bread, cakes, pastries or sweets? Do you have unwanted good quality clothing, toys or books to sell. Then rent a stall at the fete this year. Contact **Annette for details on 0795 853 6468**.

Volunteers Needed on the Day

We really want to make the fete happen this year and the committee is working hard to organise something which we can all enjoy but we need lots more volunteers to help on the day with running stalls and activities. Please contact **Annette on 0795 853 6468** to add your name to the list. Thank you

The Book Groups will be running a book stall at the Fete. Are you able to donate books? If so, they can be left at the Club - open from 12-3pm on Sundays & from 7.30pm every night except Tuesdays. Alternatively, please call 820804. Thank you!



Hear all about it...

Do you know what's been going on in Hunton.....?

All the clubs and groups in the village have the opportunity to report back to the Parish Council on what they have been up to over the last year. This is a good opportunity to hear all about what is going on in your village. Everyone is welcome. The Annual Meeting **at 8pm 12th May in the Village Hall**.

East Farleigh Farmers' Market

Sunday 1st May from 9 -12 noon in the car park of The Bull.

There will be a wide choice of produce on sale this month, including Grahame's fresh olives and Marcello's delicious Italian breads which proved such a hit last month! We are pleased to introduce a new stall offering Thai food and herbs run by Archard Organic Oriental. Treat yourself to these goodies and our other fresh food and have a May Day picnic! Alternatively select some new plants (including vegetable seedlings) and have a relaxing time in the garden. Do bring your family, friends and neighbours along to support us.

School News

Year 5 and 6 residential trip

The older children went on their annual residential trip and all returned to school looking refreshed with tales of their achievements and successes including undertaking a zip wire activity, leap of faith and a range of other outward bound activities.

Alice in Wonderland

The children's drama club performed their drama of Alice in Wonderland in the outdoor classroom. The children have been working really hard since September writing the script, casting and directing. Everyone enjoyed the performance, which was well acted with all the children involved learning their lines and providing costumes. The sunshine and setting added to the occasion.

Improvements to the School

The School has undertaken some work in the school grounds which has included a new pergola and fencing in the Reception garden and decking in the pond area where the children will be able to stand and pond dip. A small outdoor stage has been made next to the hall; this was a request from the school council. The plan is to replant in the pond area, the flower bed at the school entrance and the Reception Garden using the £100 gift vouchers received from Eden as a reward for gaining the Food for Life Award.

Visit from Bishop James and the Rural Dean of East Malling

The School had a visit by Reverend Peter, Bishop James and the Rural Dean of East Malling, who spent some time in each class and looked at the facilities offered within the school.

Reception's trip to Brookside Garden Centre

Reception class went to Brookside Garden Centre and began the day with a treasure hunt and learned how to handle stick insects, guinea pigs and rabbits. They looked at the fish and had a phonic search outside in the plant area and all had an excellent morning.

The Other Hand – Chris Cleave

Shh. This review goes against the author's wishes. The usual synopsis found on the reverse of most book covers is deliberately missing on "The Other Hand", creating intrigue for some, and mild annoyance for others. For me, however it sets the tone of the story, which is simple in its narration, but deeply complex and ambitious in terms of the key issues it tries to address.

The Other Hand is a book in which two worlds collide. Steeped in irony and drama, its backdrop swings between the harsh realities of a war torn Nigeria, and the comfortable middle class trappings of London's suburbia. A couple, on a free holiday to an 'up and coming' tourist resort in Nigeria take a trip outside the hotel compound, which leads to disturbing, and ultimately tragic consequences.

The book starts promisingly, picking up the storyline through the eyes and ears of Little Bee, a young Nigerian refugee, staying at a Detention Centre in Essex. She battles her way to understanding the 'Queen's English' and to find the British couple that saved her during that disturbing encounter on an African beach. As the story unfolds, the image of the white middle family life unravels, revealing few, true heroes, with the exception of Batman, a four year old little boy who refuses to remove himself from his favourite superhero outfit. But even he, in the end, leads to the downfall of Little Bee.

Part thriller, part satire, the unwillingness of the book and author to confirm to a particular style or genre was disappointing for some members of the Book Club. The emotional upheaval and drama was well written, and at times poetic, but it was felt that the second half of the book was cut short, perhaps by an over eager editor as we felt the energy and strength of the first half of the novel was lacking in the conclusion. It was generally felt to be very thought provoking, with many of the Group commenting about how interesting it would be to meet with, and talk to the author, Chris Cleave. Overall, scores came in at 6.5/10.

Next month's big read is "The Long Song" by Andrea Levy.

At St Mary's Church in May

Notices

Coffee Rota

Sunday 1st May Mary Johns

Flowers

Sunday May 1st Mrs. Bullivant

Sunday May 8th Mrs. Bullivant

Sunday 15th May Mrs. Forster

Sunday 22nd Mrs. Forster

Residence available at Peace Cottages

Following thorough refurbishment, a one-bedroom, single-storey residence will become available at Peace Cottages almshouses in West Street, Hunton. Applicants should have some connection with Hunton. Enquiries to Ruth Porter on 01622 820220.

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Since the 1960's marriage has been on a steady decline so that there are now a third less marriages in this country compared with the 1960's. Divorce is increasing and, whilst I am no advocate of unhappy marriages continuing, it is perhaps a sign that people are searching for love and maybe finding that the love they search for is not the love they expected.

My daughter gets married in July in Canada, to a chap she's known and been living with for many years. Whilst neither family will be attending the wedding, everyone is delighted that at long last they are making that public step of marriage to celebrate their love for each other, and we wish them both well. The fact that no one from the families will be present is sad but a sign, I hope, that whilst the day of the wedding is important, it is their marriage that is more so. We are all looking forward to the day in 2012 when they return to England and there will be a great family celebration.

True love is about 'giving and receiving', but so many see it only in terms of 'receiving'. God 'gave' so that we might 'receive'. He gave us His Son so that we might have Life in all its fullness and we need to accept that to truly understand and receive love. So as the summer days arrive in May and life moves into a brighter phase with the new growth and the colour of May I hope we all look at our relationships and give thanks for the joys that we can experience when they work well and if they are going through a 'rocky' stage, work to put them right.

David

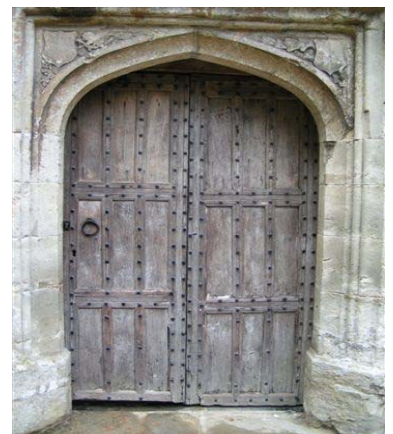
Open Doors Day

Come and see the recent discovery of the true antiquity and heritage significance of the old doors in St Mary's Church.

Sunday 29th May from 2.00-5.00 pm. Displays, tea and cake. Free admission.

The relatively recent discovery of the true antiquity and heritage significance of the old oak doors in Hunton Church has led to interesting outcomes. Their expert restoration, after 600 years wear and tear now seems assured by the very strong financial support already provided by external organisations. Simultaneously, local awareness of the highly unusual manner in which they have been constructed has greatly increased the interest in these major items of Hunton's Heritage.

Two of the three doors will have to be removed and taken to a specialist workshop in Devon. Before this happens later this summer, an Open Doors Day is planned for Sunday 29th May. The church will be open between 2.00 and 5.00pm so that anyone interested can see them and learn how such massive items of medieval woodwork are conserved.



May	1st	8th	15th	22nd	29th	5th June
Coxheath	11.00 HC	11.00 MP	11.00 HC	11.00 FS +HC		11.00 HC
E. Farleigh	09.30 Matins	08.00 HC 11.00 FS	09.30 HC	08.00 HC		11.00 FS
Linton	09.30 HC	09.30 FS	08.00 HC	09.30 HC	10.30 HC Benefice	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

Services

Sunday 1st May – Easter 2

11.00 am Family Service – Mrs Eileen Doyle

Readings: Preacher's choice

Sunday 8th May – Easter 3

09.30 am Holy Communion – Rev David Jones

Readings: Zephaniah 3:14 – end and Luke 24:13-35

Sunday 15th May Easter 4

11.00 am Morning Prayer – Christine Bostock

Readings: Genesis 8:1-19 and John 14:1-14

Sunday 22nd May - Easter 5

11.00 am Holy Communion – (shortened) Rev Peter Walker

Readings: Acts 17:22-31 and John 14:15-21

Sunday 29th May – Easter 6

10.30am Holy communion United Benefice - Linton

Readings: Genesis 8:20-9:17, Acts 17:22-31 and John 14:15-21

Sunday 5th June – Easter 7

11.00 am Family Service

Readings: Preachers Choice