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## Lottery Grant for School

Hunton Primary School is delighted to have been awarded £8,665 from the Big Lottery Fund for a sensory and development room. The grant will enable the school to redevelop a classroom so that it provides a great environment for helping the children's social and emotional development during extra-curricular provisions.

The room will encourage a variety of different activities, with special areas for art, computer use and reading and with furniture that can be easily moved about to allow for activities requiring more space, including dance, art and drama sessions. The new classroom will allow a great variety of new activities to take place at the school. In addition the room will be used as a 'sensory' play area for children to use during lunch hours and will host new lunchtime and after-school clubs as well as being used as a resource during the daily breakfast club.

The school would like to thank Mr Elson and Mr Eaton wholeheartedly for their time and dedication in order to secure the funding on behalf of the school.

## Christmas Market

A crisp, moonlit evening provided the perfect, festive backdrop for last month's Christmas Market. The stallholders were kept busy with a steady flow of visitors and the cool air ensured the popularity of the mulled cider and BBQ. A superb sum in excess of £1,400 was raised, which will be shared between the church, The Friends of St Mary's and the village hall. Many thanks to everyone who came out to support us, to the stallholders, to everyone who helped out before, during and after the event, to those who baked cakes and donated bottles, and to Andrew, George and Sara from Hunton Arborists, who saved the day by stepping in at the last minute to put up the Christmas lights on the village hall. A special thank you must also go to Ann Sawtell for organising another fabulous Hunton event for us all to enjoy. Further photos from the evening can be found on the Hunton Facebook page – just search for Hunton Community.



## After the Housing Needs Survey - A Neighbourhood Plan for Hunton

Hunton Parish Council has taken the decision to produce a Neighbourhood Plan for the village. This will replace the Parish Plan but will incorporate and build upon areas of concern identified within it. The Neighbourhood Plan will be the definitive statement of the vision for the development of the village over the next 20 years. To produce this Neighbourhood Plan, the Parish Plan Steering Committee will commission an independent piece of work that will establish exactly what the village wants to keep, to change and to develop over the next 20 years. Work will commence in 2015.

<b>Your Local Contacts:</b>		Clerk to Parish Council: Sharon Goodwin	681238
Parish Council Chairman: Roger Sawtell	820731	Village Hall Booking: Kathy Reid	820092
School: Secretary/Head Teacher	820360	Maidstone Police	690690 or 101
Under 5's Pre-School:	820309	Neighbourhood Watch: <a href="mailto:huntonwatch@gmail.com">huntonwatch@gmail.com</a>	820403,820429, 820731
Pre-School Supervisor:	07972067110	'Potholes' Hotline (KCC)	03000 418181
Pond and Tree Warden: Mike Summersgill	820429	Churchwarden: Alison Ellman-Brown	820288
Rector: Peter Callway	747570**	PCSO Alan Hunter	07772 226151
Non-Stipendiary Minister Revd David Jones	741474*	Helen Grant MP <a href="mailto:helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk">helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk</a>	0207 219 7107
Village Club: Philip Nichols	820804	Hunton Bell Ringers, Michael Webb	745716
		<b>*not available on Fridays; **not available on Mondays</b>	

<b>Diary Dates</b>	<b>Contact details for other village clubs and organisations are available on the website</b>
Tuesday 6th Jan <b>Hunton WI</b> Village Club 7.30pm	<b>Parish Councillors Contact Details</b>
Monday 12th Jan <b>Parish Council Meeting</b> Village Hall 8pm	<b>Parish Council Chairman</b> – Roger Sawtell 820731
Thursday 5th Feb <b>Lunches</b> Village Club 12.30-2pm	<b>Clerk to the Parish Council</b> – Sharon Goodwin 681238
Sunday 8th Feb <b>Snowdrop Spectacular</b> St Mary's Church 12.30-2pm	Cllr Ron Porter 820220; Cllr David Heaton 820678;
	Cllr Tony Stanbridge 820761; Cllr Gary Thomas 820691;
	Cllr Steve Wyles 820403.

**Check out [www.hunton.org.uk](http://www.hunton.org.uk) for changes and see the latest up-dated version.**

*If you would like to add an event to the village diary email [huntondiary@btinternet.com](mailto:huntondiary@btinternet.com). New events are being added all the time.*

**All items for the February edition to the Editor as soon as possible, and by 15th January, please**

Dear Friends

Another year has gone and another lies ahead. Do you look back on 2014 and say, "Thank God that 2014 is over and I hope next year will be better"? I know people who do every year and look forward to the New Year as a fresh start, a change of fortune, an opportunity to move forward with hope. Sad really to have to wait each year for that moment as 1<sup>st</sup> January is a purely human idea and is part of the way our world is organised. Until 1752 in England the New Year began on 25<sup>th</sup> March as the year beginning and ending was related to the seasons for farmers. In Scotland the change took place in 1600 and for the next 150 years England and Scotland marked the New Year on different days yet still had the same calendar. We still have a remnant of this in the tax year, which begins on 6<sup>th</sup> April, because when the calendar was changed 11 days were taken off the year, so the next day to 25<sup>th</sup> March became 6<sup>th</sup> April. Confused? Google it and all will be revealed!

In reality the start of any new year is really simply a start of something we need to count from; in other words, a new start. Which of course raises the question of why we need new starts? We have our birthday, our wedding anniversary and a new school year as examples of new starts. We could simply mark our birthday by counting days since we were born, so I would be around 24,300 days today! Every day would then be a fresh start; every moment in fact would be the beginning of something new.

So as a new year approaches what are you going to begin and what are you going to put behind you? What are you going to hang onto and what are you leaving behind? For each of us it will be something different and personal. It may be to do with relationships with others or even with ourselves. It may be that you want to achieve something that you have put off for a long time or even finish something started years ago. Whatever it is, you actually don't have to wait until that arbitrary date of 1<sup>st</sup> January. Each moment is a moment to take hold of and to move forward with fresh hopes and new beginnings.

Maybe the place for a new start is in our relationship with the God who created the world and everything in it. Paul, writing to the church in Corinth said, "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone and the new has come!" (2 Corinthians 5 v 17) It is our relationship with God that is so important in all our dealings with others. Not that we should be perfect but that we should be aiming at seeking the best way forward in everything we try to do and the best way is always in union with the one who created us, loves us and on the cross brought us into that perfect relationship with him.

Have a great 2015!

*David Jones*

## Village Hall Spring Sessions

After a break in the autumn, we have five events lined up for your delectation in the New Year. Some are on Saturdays, some on other days; all musical, but all different. And three are artists who some of you may have seen at the Hall before, who have specifically asked to come back as they enjoyed the ambience/audience. More details about these in future Heralds, but for your diaries:

- Saturday 21st February – A concert for Alan, with a performance from Jo Harman as a 3-piece. (Jo's five piece band performed at Alan's last gig, and although Jo is now an international soul/blues singer of renown, appearing at the Royal Albert Hall and on radio, she has kindly agreed to come back to Hunton).
- Saturday March 21st – Kent's own Dr. Jazz – a 6/7 piece traditional jazz group, who will fill up our stage!
- Thursday April 16th – Sarah McQuaid, a singer/songwriter that Alan brought here from Cornwall.
- Sunday May 3rd – (Applause) Miss Caledonia, a Canadian musical/comedy play with Melody Johnston
- Sunday May 17th – Return of 4Square, a bunch of young 'ferocious folk' musicians from Manchester!

For those of you that enjoyed the 3-piece DLM here last March, they're playing at Kemsing village hall on Friday 20th February; there will be some of us going to that on the night before Jo Harman's gig. And we want as many Kent people as possible who remember Alan to be at the February 21<sup>st</sup> gig, so it won't be listed on Jo's website until 3 weeks before. So please reserve your tickets with Mike (820429) during January. They're £12.50 each (including food), with £2.50 of the ticket price going to cancer/hospice charities.

## Potholes Being Addressed

Following a meeting with representatives from KCC Highways we are pleased to note that many of the worst potholes in the village roads have been fixed. The job is, however, far from finished and we will continue to push for the remaining work to be completed as soon as possible. We will also be looking into possible longer-term solutions to the perennial issue of road verge subsidence. If you are aware of any potholes then please report them to KCC Highways on 03000 418181 and also to us (with the reference number you are given) so we can monitor progress on your behalf.

### As the Wet Weather Approaches...

We all remember the floods of last year and the way that ditches, drains and roads were inundated as the rain fell. We would like to ask you all to please:

- Report to the Parish Council and KCC (on 03000 418181) any blocked drains or localised flooding you come across in the village.
- Ensure any drainage ditches on your land are clear of dams and obstructions (the Environment Agency require you to do this).
- Report to the Parish Council any sewers that are discharging via manholes etc. and also report sewage discharge to Southern Water (0845 2720845). If no action is taken the Environment Agency (0800 807060) needs to be notified and they will 'encourage' Southern Water to take action.
- If you do contact any of the agencies above please let your Parish Council know (with any reference number or incident number you are given) so we can monitor and chase on your behalf.

In addition, please report to the Parish Council any footpaths that you come across that need clearing and remember that if you have hedges on your property that are obstructing a footpath it is your responsibility to trim them back.

Many thanks, *Hunton Parish Council*

## Parish Council Vacancy

Following the resignation of Cllr Les Leonard, the parish council is seeking to fill the vacant position by co-option. If you are interested in becoming a parish councillor please submit a written expression of interest by 9<sup>th</sup> January 2015 to the Clerk, Mrs Sharon Goodwin, 11 Barton Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 7BU or by email to huntonpc@googlemail.com. Sharon can also be contacted on 01622 681238 if you would like further information.

To be eligible for the role you must be 18 years or older, be a British Citizen or a citizen of the Commonwealth or European Union and not be subject to a bankruptcy order or have been convicted in the UK within the last five years of any offence for which a prison sentence over three months was imposed. You must also satisfy at least ONE of the following:

- Be registered as a local government elector for the parish;
- Have occupied any land or premises in the parish, as owner or tenant, for the whole of the preceding 12 months;
- Your principal or only place of work during the preceding 12 months has been in the parish;
- Have lived in the parish or within 4.8 km of it for the whole of the preceding 12 months.

## Village Club AGM

The Village Club's AGM was held in early December and gave the chairman the opportunity to express his thanks to all of the volunteers who keep the club functioning. It was also an opportunity to update the members on club matters. Membership within the village is strong and there remains a reasonably healthy bank balance. Events such as the "Pop-Up Shop" and "Lunches" had been well attended and the donations, which totalled in excess of £600, made to the Club by the organisers, were gratefully received. The quiz nights, fun darts tournament, race night and pizza event had also proved popular but it would be good to see more members using the Club in the evening. The treasurer, Doug Redfarn, who is standing down from the position after 10 years loyal service, cautioned that the bar takings are at a dangerously low level and if they continue at such a level are unlikely to cover the cost of electricity and heating in 2015, making the income from the darts team and functions of crucial importance. Repairs / replacement of the flat roofs are likely to be required as are five replacement windows for the toilets, so the balance of £13,643 is likely to be greatly reduced during the year unless more income can be generated. A proposal to increase the annual subscription by £2 and to maintain the £5 discount for payment before 28<sup>th</sup> February was accepted at the meeting, (so members wishing to take advantage of the discount should renew early). The chairman expressed a wish for all persons attending functions at the club to be members so that there is no infringement of rules and regulations and, with the subscription being comparatively low compared to other clubs, hoped there would not be any difficulties with paying this. With more daytime functions planned the club is becoming more of a village community centre and as such should have a future. The committee would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year.

*Phil Nichols*

## Quiz With a Twist

Picture a large room adorned with red and gold Christmas garlands. There's a colour matched 8ft Christmas tree standing proudly with a myriad of twinkling lights. Hordes of people are streaming through the door. Friends greeting friends, family groups assembling; there's a buzz in the air. People begin to find seats but more are needed. This was Hunton Village Club and the Quiz Night in early December but this was a quiz with a twist - every round was inspired by music. Eight rounds, with a marathon during the interval, really got everyone involved and this latest successful quiz was enjoyed by all. The winning team was led by our very own "music man" Neil Davis, who romped home by playing their Joker during the final round. Well done Neil and his team and a big thank you to all those who supported this club event!

## Friends of St Mary's

The New Year is almost upon us and it is a time for reflection over the past year for The Friends. 2014 has been, as ever, a busy year for the trustees. We have concentrated on fund raising to enable us to finance the internal redecoration of our beautiful Church, which, we hope, will be completed during 2015.

Many of you will have enjoyed the events that FOSM have been involved in during the year, culminating in our Autumn Supper Dance which was such a great success owing in no small part to the live band 2bc, lead by Brian Mortimer. Following requests from many of you we have decided to make this an annual event, so you will be able to put the date in your diaries very soon.

However, none of this would have been possible without the regular financial support of our members, to whom we are most grateful. We have also been fortunate to receive generous donations from individuals in the village. We are a registered Charity so are able to reclaim tax on the annual subscriptions and donations. This is a further boost to our funds, which currently stand at about halfway towards the redecoration cost.

There is still a way to go in terms of fund raising but we have plans in place in liaison with the Parochial Church Council to be able to proceed on schedule. The Parochial Church Council will manage the project and FOSM will provide finance and so far we remain on track.

I have chaired this board of trustees since inception in 2009 and that has been my privilege. The trustees of this charity are all very busy people, many working full time and raising families etc. Their enthusiasm and sense of purpose and fun is unique in my experience and I want to thank them publicly through the Herald for all that they do. In case you are not aware of who they are: Lisa Dolman; Lisa Halliday; Jenny Vickers; Kate Banks; Roger Sawtell; Ian Pinks; David Heaton.

May I wish you on behalf of The Friends a very happy, prosperous and healthy New Year!

*Ron Porter, Chair of Trustees*

## At St Mary's Church in January

Flowers				Services	
4th	Sue Scott	11th	Sue Scott	Sunday 4th January – Epiphany 11.00am Family Service – Miss Chris Bostock	
18th	TBA	25th	TBA		
<b>WI Meeting</b> The next meeting of the Hunton WI will be held at the Village Club on Tuesday 6th January at 7.30pm. This month's speaker is Fred Lamont, who will give a talk on Cadbury, Fry and Rowntree, the Chocolate Quakers. All ladies from Hunton and the local area are very welcome to come along and join our friendly group.				Sunday 11th January – Baptism of Christ 9.30am Holy Communion 1662 – Rev. David Jones	
				Sunday 18th January – 2nd Sunday of Epiphany 11.00am Morning Prayer – Rev. Peter Callway	
				Sunday 25th January – 3rd Sunday of Epiphany 11.00am Holy Communion – Rev. Peter Callway	



### Hunton – we have an orchard

On Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December a group of volunteers joined members of the orchard group to help plant out the fruit trees for Hunton's Community Orchard. The trees are a selection of heritage apple and pear varieties and will bear their first fruit in two years time. Thankfully the weather was kind as volunteers were instructed in planting technique by David Heaton. After two hours of digging, planting, watering and staking we were rewarded with a winter picnic of homemade goodies and hot chocolate. Next to be done is the planting of a small number of cherry trees. This will take place in the New Year. Further tasks for the New Year include the erection of chestnut fencing along the boundary of the orchard. There will be more events throughout the year so please watch out for them in the Herald, on the Hunton website and on our Facebook page.

### Snowdrop Sunday

The annual snowdrop spectacular takes place at St Mary's Church on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February from 12-4pm, where you can enjoy the wealth of snowdrops of different varieties that grow in both of the churchyards. Hot chocolate, tea and coffee with biscuits will be available and there will also be a fun competition!

### Happy New Year

The Herald team would like to wish everyone a very Happy New Year and to thank all our contributors and advertisers and the deliverers for their support – we like to hear your news, so please keep those articles coming!

### Lunches at the Club – Back by Popular Demand

Thanks to all those who came to support the lunches in November and December, to all who helped in the running of them and to all those who made soup and cakes; a total donation of £730 was divided between Hunton Village Club and St. Mary's Church. There will be a further series of five weekly lunches taking place each Thursday from 5<sup>th</sup> February to 12<sup>th</sup> March, 12.30-2pm - a wonderful opportunity for you to meet up with friends whilst enjoying a warming soup. As previously, bread, cheese, tea or coffee with cake will be included in your donation of £5 with all profits again going to support Hunton Club and St Mary's Church. Do bring your friends and relations to enjoy the friendly atmosphere and locally prepared meal. Lesley is looking for volunteers to prepare food and to help in the general running of the lunches, so please contact her on 01622 820210 or Lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com.

### Ring the Changes

Hunton bell ringers urgently require more ringers - would you like to join our band and learn the art of campanology? We meet every Friday night from 7.30pm till 9pm. As members of the Kent County Association of Change Ringers we enjoy ringing at many of the other towers in Kent plus joining in with outings to towers all over England.

You do not need to be strong to ring bells, even if in some towers the bells weigh 32 cwt. We have 6 bells at Hunton, the smallest is 6 cwt. and the largest is 11 cwt.

If you are interested or would like more details please contact the tower captain, Michael Webb on 01622 745716 or e-mail leahcimbew@yahoo.co.uk.

January	4 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	18 <sup>th</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Coxheath</b>	11.00 HC	11.00 MP	11.00 HC	11.00 FS
<b>E. Farleigh</b>	09.30 MP	08.00 HC; 11.00 FS	09.30 HC	08.00 HC
<b>Linton</b>	09.30 HC	09.30 FS	08.00 HC	09.30 HC
<b>W. Farleigh</b>	08.00 HC 1662	11.00 MP Mod	09.30 MP Trad	09.30 HC Mod
HC Holy Communion, MP Morning Prayer, FS Family Service				