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Church Decoration Gets Go-Ahead

It is widely known that the current fund raising objective of the Friends of St Mary's is to raise sufficient funds to enable the PCC to be in a position to sanction the much-needed internal decoration of our church. The church itself is still a most attractive venue for couples to marry in as seen by the number of weddings held already and still planned for this year, but nevertheless the redecoration is overdue. This has to be undertaken by specialist firms so is not cheap, but I am happy to announce that we have raised sufficient funds so far to enable stage one to start in September this year and the PCC, with whom we are working very closely on this project, will be instructing the builders appropriately.

The Trustees have worked hard, giving up hours of their spare time to get where we are, but we could not have done that without our members' support, generous donations from individuals, a grant from Cobtree Trust and another successful Train Day, courtesy of Sue and Lawrence Martin; despite the dreadful weather it was a spectacular success and generated in excess of £1,600 on the day. The grant from the Cobtree Trust of £3,000 plus funds raised from earlier events mean that our current bank balance is over £17,000. We still have a little more to come from the Train Day, we will be running the bar at the Harvest Supper on the 27th September, holding our Autumn Supper Dance on the 14th November, providing the BBQ at the Christmas Market on the 12th December and we have just been asked to run the bar at the pantomime next year. This means a busy time for us, but so worthwhile.

It would be remiss if I did not pay tribute to the PCC lead by Rev Peter Callway. They have managed the actual project from the start, which is far from straightforward, but we have co-operated closely throughout to bring us happily to where we are now.

I understand that the total cost of the work, which will be done in stages, is in the region of £25,000 plus VAT. There will be other expenses, but between us we are confident that this will be a most successful enterprise for all of you to see quite soon.

Sincere thanks to everyone who has supported us to bring us to where we are now and look forward to seeing you again in the future.

Ron Porter, Chair of Trustees

Aladdin – Come and Join in the Fun

The 2016 Hunton pantomime is Aladdin, which will be performed on Friday 31st March, Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd April. Sharon Winter is the Director and Sue Pinks will be the 'getting it all together' backup for Sharon.

There are masses of parts for everyone who would like to be involved and that includes those who do not wish to be on stage! The production will need actors and actresses as well as back stage crew, which includes stage manager, props, scenery, costumes, lighting, bar staff (Friends of St Mary's) front of house, ticket sales, etc.

Rehearsals will start with a few read throughs in November and then we will be rehearsing generally twice a week, which will be on a Sunday about 5 to 7 pm, and probably a Tuesday in Hunton Club for two hours. The rehearsal schedule will make sure that only those people needed for a particular scene in the pantomime need to be there, so your time to start with will be well organised.

We had such fun with the last two productions and were sold out every night; so if you would like to be part of a great village event, please contact Sue Pinks 01622 820709.

Your Local Contacts:			
School: Secretary/Head Teacher	820360	Maidstone Police	690690 or 101
Under 5's Pre-School:	820309	Neighbourhood Watch: huntonwatch@gmail.com	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 - Matthew Judges	101 (or via Huntonwatch)
Non-Stipendiary Minister Revd David Jones	741474*	Helen Grant MP helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk	0207 219 7107
Village Club: Philip Nichols	820804	Hunton Bell Ringers, Michael Webb	745716
Village Hall Booking: Kathy Reid	820092	*not available on Fridays; **not available on Mondays	

Diary Dates		Parish Council Contacts
Tuesday 1 st Sept	Hunton WI Village Club 7.30pm	Parish Council Chairman – Gary Thomas 820691
Sunday 6 th Sept	East Farleigh Farmers' Market 10am-1pm	Clerk to the Parish Council – Sharon Goodwin 681238
Friday 11 th Sept	Moth & Bat Evening Community Orchard 8pm	Cllr Roger Sawtell 820731
Monday 14 th Sept	Parish Council Meeting Village Hall 7.30pm	Cllr Ron Porter 820220
Friday 18 th Sept	Rugby World Cup Village Club 8pm	Cllr David Heaton 820678
Saturday 26 th Sept	Pop-Up Shop & Café Village Club 9-11am	Cllr Tony Stanbridge 820761
	Rugby World Cup Village Club 8pm	Cllr Steve Wyles 820403
		Cllr Annette Trought 820448

Check out www.hunton.org.uk/diary for the latest events.
If you would like to add an event, email huntondiary@btinternet.com.

I have just returned from holiday with Alison, and as well as enjoying some time with the family, we had some time just to ourselves. As part of that we explored a new part of Switzerland (which some of you will know has family connections on Alison's side and where we visit fairly frequently). We went off on a journey eastwards towards Lichtenstein and Germany, via the Italian part of Switzerland. We went over amazing mountain passes as high as you can imagine, and along deep valleys where the powerful rivers and waterfalls flowed. We saw vast plains of green in the agricultural areas as well as inhabitable rocky mountaintops. We drove (and walked a bit) along valleys that seemed to go on for ever, breathing in clean fresh air. We were mightily blessed with incredible scenery and beautiful landscapes. It reminded me of the majesty of God's creation and the beauty of this earth, which we are privileged to inhabit and be given stewardship of. It reminded me also of the passage set for the Sunday before we left on holiday which talks of God's love being higher, closer, wider, deeper and further than we can imagine. The scenery was so impressive that it sometimes took our breath away but the thing that is really wonderful is that God, the creator of all of that, wants to be in a relationship with us, and whose love is so deep and wide and tall that we cannot bypass it, whether we try to go over, under or round it, and that he wants us to go further with him and achieve things that are beyond our imagining – the passage (Ephesians 3:14-21) tells us that God wants to do immeasurably more with us and for us than we can ask or imagine. We aren't all able to see mountains and lakes as Alison and I have this past couple of weeks, but if we look for God in the small things of creation – a dewdrop reflecting the sun, a rainbow, a flower bud opening, a bird singing, a butterfly fluttering by – we can be inspired by the wonder of creation, and the depth and height and width and closeness of his love for us, and maybe go a little deeper and further with God than perhaps we had imagined.

Many blessings, Peter

Hunton's Who's Who - Mike Summersgill

Many of you will know Mike from music events at the Village Hall, fortnightly footpath orientations, or perhaps in his newer role as volunteer Pond & Tree Warden. Although he and Christine moved to the village in 2009 to renovate Grafton, their ties to Hunton go back much longer. Two things about Mike he will probably have told you; he's a Civil Engineer and a Yorkshireman – well, maybe just the second one! He's probably also mentioned Kent as being just another 'overseas' posting, albeit of 28 years (actually now longer than he's lived in GodzOwnCounty).

Mike trained to become a Civil Engineer when at Yorkshire Water (also being a part-time local DJ!), and then went to work in the Middle East (UAE/Oman) for most of the 1980's, before moving back to the UK. Having worked on big contaminated land projects in London (Dome, Woolwich Arsenal), he has run his own consultancy firm in recent years (where there's muck, there's brass?); Mike was delighted to be President of his professional Chartered Institution (www.CIWEM.org) in 2013-14 and has also been chairman of the regional Institution of Civil Engineers branch, and a Governor at MGS.

The Hunton connection came in 1987, when Christine, Mike, and two very young daughters arrived back at Gatwick ten days after the hurricane, to take up a job with an ex-colleague in Maidstone (at A.G.Weeks & Partners). Looking for a place to rent in the KM, he spotted a small cottage in George Street that was next to a 'PH' on the firm's old Ordnance Survey map. Whittingstall Cottage was an enchanting change from the desert, but the Bull PH next door had closed eight years earlier! In fact, the other pub in the village closed soon after Mike arrived, and so they upped and moved to Loose!

But during that short stay, Christine had enrolled Freya in the local Playgroup and started to help out with her (reception) teaching skills at the Village Hall...and that continued for many years, as Katy and then Paul made nursery friends (with walks/picnics around Reed Court and the Beult that they still remember!). The family used to come back to Hunton for parties & gigs regularly, and were even at the village hall for the Millennium NYE party. Of course, Mike now sees a lot more of the hall as it's treasurer (especially its drainage system recently) and both those 'young' daughters have celebrated their weddings there this summer, along with friends they made at playgroup and later schoolmates.

What Mike particularly likes about Hunton are the lovely quiet and flat routes/paths you can choose to run/cycle, in three directions at least, in the early spring and summer mornings; he's less keen on the frost and fog pockets in autumn, and the 8am/5pm rush hour along East Street. Oh, and the lack of a pub!



Rugby World Cup at Hunton Club

We promised you England Rugby World Cup matches will be screened at the club and here is the schedule:

England v Fiji	Friday 18 th September	
England v Wales	Saturday 26 th September	Kick-Off
England v Australia	Saturday 3 rd October	8pm
England v Uruguay	Saturday 10 th October	



The club will open at 7.45pm on these dates to ensure everyone is ready for kick-off. Don't forget to have a go at the sweepstake. There will be other, fun, rugby inspired competitions to take part in too.

If volunteer bar staff can be arranged we'll be showing other home team matches as well. If England make it through to the knockout stages, these begin on Saturday 17th October, so look out for posters at the club and on the village notice boards for all screening information. If in doubt, call Phil on 820804.

New Drama Classes at West Farleigh

Poppysseed Theatre Arts is a new stage school and education company who are beginning drama classes for young people of all abilities aged between 6 and 18 at All Saints Church in West Farleigh every Saturday from 12th September 2015 onwards. As a husband/wife team our training includes The BRIT School, The Old Vic, Royal Central School of Speech and Drama and Bird College. In addition, we are both experienced and fully qualified primary/secondary teachers. Initially, we will offer two classes: 6 to 9 year olds between 10am and 11am followed by 10 to 18 year olds between 11am and 12noon. We will be offering inclusive skills based training with regular showcase performances and the chance to take LAMDA Drama Examinations. For our first week on Saturday 12th our special offer price will be £1. Thereafter it will be £5 per lesson on the day or £4 per lesson if booked in a block of six. See our website www.poppysseedtheatrearts.co.uk or call 07548 934125 for more information. We are fully DBS checked and first aid trained.

Music at the Village Hall

We have squeezed in a third gig for the autumn - on Saturday November 7th Hannah Scott & Stefano will return (a guitar/cello duo who played in November 2013) with some new/old material and we will have a 'local' singer-songwriter, Kirsty Macleod, opening for her. More details on that in the next Herald, but tickets for Christopher Evesham on Saturday October 24th will be arriving from Applause shortly. Christopher is a classical guitarist and graduate of the Royal College of Music, and has a chatty on-stage manner, covering both Spanish and Brazilian classical & bossanova styles, as well as popular favourites like Cavatina and Danny Boy, with background stories about the songs. Advance tickets for Hunton Herald readers are £8, from Mike on 820429 or Steve on 820403; on the door price is £10, or £6 for Students/Scholars.

East Farleigh Farmers' Market

The weather was splendid for the August farmers' market. We had a constant stream of customers and stallholders reported pleasing sales. The new fish stall was well received, as was Sutton Park's wider range of meat. They will continue to bring as varied a selection as possible and often have frozen back up supplies, so please ask if you cannot see what you require. We donated the profits from the July and August markets, a total of £120, to Restoring Hands. This is a charity committed to supporting the local Maidstone community by providing assistance to improve quality of life, restore dignity and promote hope for the future. They seek to assist people who find themselves in need or hardship.

The September market will be held on Sunday 6th September from 10am to 1pm in The Old School Hall. Kenward Trust should be back with their woodcrafts and plants and Spice of Life return with their delicious Indian Pickles and flavoured oils. There should still be some soft fruit, plums and apples, lots of freshly made preserves plus all our usual selection of food and crafts.

Huntones

After a break for the summer, we start again on Thursday 10th September, 7.30pm at Barnhill House, Barn Hill. Anyone is welcome to join this lighthearted singing group. Information from Sue Pinks 01622 820709.

Darts Success

Congratulations to members of the Hunton Club darts team, who competed in the Maidstone and District Darts League doubles knockout tournament on 19th August. Diana Day and Eddie Chambers put up a magnificent showing to reach the semi-finals, where their winning streak was eventually brought to an end by a very on form pair from top of the division Tovil Club. Helen and Mark Ward made it to the quarterfinals but were unable to match the high quality darts played by The Lower Bell. The team were delighted to get so far in the tournament, particularly as in the singles competition earlier in the season, only Pete Bishop had made it beyond the first round.

Peter Harvey

It is with sadness that we report the death of Peter Harvey, a resident of Hunton for very many years. Originally from Medway, Peter moved to Bishops Lane with his wife in the 1970s, but after a short period his wife sadly died; the couple did not have children. Throughout his life Peter travelled widely, with the Boy Scout Movement in his early years, on overseas assignments whilst working for the government and, following the death of his wife, visiting numerous countries where tourists had yet to popularise, including Nepal, China, India, remote parts of South America, the Galapagos Islands and even a trip on a Russian ice breaker to Southern Antarctica! An excellent photographer, he kept detailed folders of his photos with captions, telling the story of his amazing adventures.

He was very intelligent (daily completing the Telegraph crossword in record time), articulate, fiercely independent and a private person, who loved the outdoor life but hated people fussing over him. Following several falls over a short period, he decided he could not look after himself any more, despite the willing help from friends and residents in Bishops Lane, and so, now in his nineties, he spent the last two and a half years happily being cared for at The Grove Nursing Home, where he reluctantly attended many trips and in-house functions, including Elvis impersonation events. He lived his life to the full the way *he* wanted to and will be sadly missed.

At St Mary's Church in September

Flowers	Services
<p>6th Alison Ellman Brown - Wedding 13th Alison Ellman Brown - Wedding 20th Nicky Williams 27th Nicky Williams</p>	<p>Sunday 6th September – Trinity 14 11.00am Family Service & Baptism – Rev Peter Callway</p> <p>Sunday 13th September – Trinity 15 9.30am Holy Communion 1662 – Rev Eileen Doyle</p> <p>Sunday 20th September – Trinity 16 11.00am Morning Prayer – Miss Chris Bostock</p> <p>Sunday 27th September – Trinity 17 5.00pm Family Service Harvest Festival – Rev David Jones</p>

Pop-Up Shop Returns

The Pop-Up Shop and Café will be back with all your favourite local produce at the village club on Saturday 26th September from 9-11am.

Don't miss it!

Fancy a Flutter?



Come and check out Hunton's nocturnal activities! Discover which bats and moths are flying in Hunton Community Orchard on Friday 11th September at 8pm. All ages are welcome to this free event, which is being run by the community orchard volunteers in conjunction with Kent Orchards for Everyone. Please wear sensible footwear and clothing and bring a torch. Meet at the community orchard on the playing field. For more information contact Annette Troughton on 01622 820448 or Pippa Palmar on 01303 815170 or email pippa.palmar@kentdowns.org.uk.



You are warmly invited to St Mary's Hunton for a service to celebrate

Harvest Festival

Sunday 27th September at 5pm

Followed by Harvest Supper at 6pm for 6.30pm in the Village Hall

Everyone welcome

Tickets from Wendy Simmons 01622 820875

Adults - £5

Children Under 12 - £3.50

Family: 2 Adults & 2 Children - £15

Maidstone Symphony Orchestra – Saturday 10th October – 7.30pm

Maidstone Symphony Orchestra, with Conductor Brian Wright, will perform at Mote Hall, Maidstone Leisure Centre. Featuring soloist Taek-Gi Lee on piano, the programme consists of three works: Khachaturian – Three Pieces from "Gayane", Rachmaninov – Piano Concerto No 3, Rimsky-Korsakov – Scheherazade. Tickets £12, £21 and £26, full time students with a student card £5, available from Nicci Whitaker on 07817 429143 (cash or cheque payment only) or on the door. Card payments available via www.mso.org.uk. Children 18 and under FREE. MSO Registered Charity No 287986.

Heritage Tree Survey

Many thanks for the great response about old and notable trees that 'reside' in the Parish. Mike is still collating the information that came in from local residents and further away (a former resident in Devon recalled the trees in the parkland that he used to play on after school), and we certainly have some interesting specimens for the tree expert to come and inspect and record for the website www.btcv.org.uk/cgi-bin/kenttreemap.cgi. He's not likely to visit Hunton before early autumn, so if anyone still wants to contact Mike with more details, please ring on 820429.

Herald Email Problems

I am having some problems with emails sent to the Herald email address not always forwarding on to me. We are working to resolve this but in the meantime I will acknowledge every email I receive. If you've sent something but not received an acknowledgement, please give me a ring to let me know. If you have my personal email address it might be easier to use that for the time being.

Helen

September	6 th	13 th	20 th	27 th
Coxheath	11.00 HC	11.00 MP	11.00 HC	11.00 FS
E. Farleigh	09.30 MP	08.00 HC; 11.00 FS	09.30 HC	08.00 HC
Linton	09.30 HC	09.30 FS	08.00 HC	09.30 HC
W. Farleigh	08.00 HC 1662	11.00 MP Mod	09.30 MP Trad	09.30 FS Harvest

HC Holy Communion, MP Morning Prayer, FS Family Service

All items for the next edition of the Herald to the Editor by 15th September, please