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Parish Council Meeting 14th September

PCSO Matt Judges reported that crime rates in the village remain low, thanks in no small part to the active Huntonwatch membership. Almost half of the village are now members and there is still a trickle of new joiners. The annual inspection of the children's play area has been carried out with no major issues or concerns being identified and the few minor observations made will be addressed by the playing field committee as appropriate. Work on the new cricket pavilion has gone very well and all of the major work is done. All that remains now is to add the finishing touches. The cricket club is considering options for a formal opening ceremony of this lovely new building at the start of next season.

The village hall has become a victim of its own success and with so many wedding receptions and other events (including the popular village music events) now being held in the hall it has become necessary to change the way in which drinks licences are handled to ensure there is always a bar facility when required. Much work has been carried out on the hall drainage and waste systems, which have caused issues on and off over the summer and the hope now is that the problems have finally been resolved.

Chair of Governors, Herschel Santineer, reported that the school role has increased to about the 100 mark this year. A number of pupils had sat the 11 plus within a few days of the start of term with results expected later in the year. He thanked the various clubs and the parish council for continuing to work to forge closer links between the village and the school and made particular mention of the highly successful bat and moth evening held recently at the community orchard which had attracted a good number of families from the school.

Following completion of the work to install kerbing in West Street along the length of the playing field, it was agreed that work will be carried out to replant those areas of the hedge that need it. The hope is to have this work completed before the end of the year. Work will also be planned to clear the footpath between the village hall and Bensted Close.

The parish council has been working with KCC Highways and Yalding Parish Council to try to introduce more realistic speed limits between the two villages and in particular to make the advisory 20mph limit by the school permanent. We will continue to push for this since feedback from the village shows that speeding vehicles are a major concern. With several new volunteers for the Speedwatch team you can also expect to see them out and about more frequently in an attempt to encourage drivers to keep to the speed limits.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 9th November.

Hunton Parish Council

Your Local Contacts:		Village Hall Booking: Kathy Reid	
School: Secretary/Head Teacher	820360	Maidstone Police	820092
Under 5's Pre-School:	820309	Neighbourhood Watch: huntonwatch@gmail.com	690690 or 101
Pre-School Supervisor:	07972067110	'Potholes' Hotline (KCC)	820403,820429, 820731
Pond and Tree Warden: Mike Summersgill	820429	Churchwarden: Alison Ellman-Brown	03000 418181
Rector: Revd. Peter Callway	747570*	PCSO - Matthew Judges	820288
Hon Associate Rector: Revd. David Jones	741474*	Helen Grant MP helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk	101 (or via Huntonwatch)
Associate Rector: Revd Eileen Doyle	204241**	Hunton Bell Ringers, Michael Webb	0207 219 7107
Village Club: Philip Nichols	820804	*not available on Fridays; **not available on Mondays or Tuesdays	
Contact details for other village clubs and organisations are available at www.hunton.org.uk/contacts			

Diary Dates	Parish Council Contacts
Saturday 3rd Oct	Rugby World Cup Village Club 8pm
Sunday 4th Oct	East Farleigh Farmers' Market 10am-1pm
Tuesday 6th Oct	Hunton WI Village Club 7.30pm
Saturday 10th Oct	Litter Pick Village Hall 10am
	Rugby World Cup Village Club 8pm
Saturday 24th Oct	Pop-Up Shop & Café Village Club 9-11am
	Christopher Evesham Village Hall Doors 7.30pm
Thursday 29th Oct	Autumn Lunches Village Club 12.30pm
Saturday 31st Oct	Halloween Fright Night Village Club 8pm
Saturday 7th Nov	Hannah Scott Village Hall Doors 7.30pm
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 a conference at which over 200 clergy gathered in a university campus to worship, pray, discuss and enjoy fellowship around the theme of "Reconciliation" which has been a theme explored in depth by Bishop Brian, Bishop of Tonbridge. We learned that reconciliation is a theme which begins and ends the Bible, runs as a thread through it, and captures the essence of God's mission – to reconcile all of creation to himself. We were also reminded that we are God's ambassadors and he has trusted this ministry to us – his church. We were privileged to have two special guests with us: The Archbishop of Tanzania and Bishop of Mpapwa, Jacob Chimeledya, and the Bishop of Kondo, Given Gaula. A few years ago I led a small group on a visit to Bereko, Kondo and was this week again reminded of the challenges they face in their daily living and the amazing approach they have to life as they seek to bring reconciliation to the people of Tanzania.

Tanzania as a country is financially growing slowly and remaining peaceful, but the poverty in the rural areas is a major challenge. The percentage of those living below the poverty line is the 15th or so worst in any country of the world. Bereko (which is 90% Muslim) is in the heart of the rural area with 95% of the people there living on the crops grown in the ground around their homes, which have no electricity or water. (I heard this week that electricity has now made it to the village at least.) Their town council and schools have plans for growth and expansion but are thwarted by the lack of resources. This affects their lives and wellbeing directly. For example, across Tanzania 5% of women die in childbirth whilst in Bereko it is as much as 20% - 1 in 5 women. A recent appeal from our Bishops highlighted the devastation that comes when the rains fail – this year the drought was so severe that even the animals were dying of thirst, and the crops had failed completely.

In spite of all that, the people we visited there gave us the warmest welcome and hospitality imaginable, sharing all that they had and more and I was impressed with their attitude and the deep faith and spirituality which runs through everything they do.

The Diocese of Rochester has established links with Mpapwa, Kondo, Harare (Zimbabwe), and Estonia. The aim of these is to support and encourage each other in God's mission; commit ourselves to learning about each other's history, tradition and partnership; share our spiritual resources and our material ones; build strong and lasting friendships in order to advance the Kingdom of God within our Dioceses. The truth of the matter is that we can learn much from them and Bishops Jacob and Given are both humble and inspiring. As we celebrate our Harvest, take time to give thanks for all we have, to pray for the link dioceses, and take time to ponder how blessed we are to have them as partners. The conference learned a new Swahili prayer this week. Bwana Asifiwe! Praise the Lord!

Many blessings, Peter

Speedwatch

The new 'speedwatch season' got off to a flying start on 17th September. A 90 minute session outside the village hall had the desired effect of alerting drivers to their speeds with the result that all but one of the 203 vehicles passing us slowed to within the 40mph speed limit for that stretch of road. The exception was the driver of a red Nissan sports car who clearly thought it was a good idea to accelerate past us reaching a speed of 52mph. The details of the vehicle have been passed to the police in line with our normal procedures and the driver may expect to receive a letter at some point in the future.

The team has nearly doubled in size over the summer so we will be out and about a lot more this year. Contrary to popular belief it is not our aim to catch drivers speeding. We actually want drivers to be more aware of their speed and to drive more sensibly around our village. There have been five serious accidents in and around the village in the past ten months and the last thing we want is for a child from the school, a person in a car or a pedestrian walking along the road to be involved in an accident and injured - or worse.

Community Orchard Bat & Moth Event

Around 45 adults and children came to our bat and moth event, which took place on the evening of Friday 11th September at 8pm. It was a beautiful, mild, still and dry evening - perfect. Pippa Palmar from "Kent Orchards for Everyone" led the way, handing out digital bat detectors and setting up her special moth traps in the orchard and the churchyard. Details of the moth and bat species detected will be made available to us and to the relevant wildlife groups when Pippa returns from her holidays.

Little Angels Toddler Group

A new toddler group has started in All Saints Church, West Farleigh, on Fridays between 1pm - 2.30pm, term time only. Suitable for all parents/carers of preschool children, birth to 5 years. Do go along and meet other young children and help to make this new group a success. More information from Becky on 07949 646865.

Something Fishy at the WI

Nick Willoughby gave a very interesting and informative talk, which included many artefacts, on his career as a marine biologist advising governments on sustainable fishing in tropical waters. His anecdotes included close encounters with venomous snakes, giant squirting clams, a vicious 6m crocodile (he now has its skull mounted in a frame!), a coup in Fiji, caviar and vodka parties in the Caspian Sea and the role of plain brown envelopes in getting work done. He concluded by opening a debate on the existence of the Loch Ness monster, he believes it to be an 18ft sturgeon! Nick commented on Hunton WI being a friendly, sociable group covering a wide range of ages, who all so obviously enjoy getting together.

On 6th October Christine, our speaker, who restrung the Queen's pearls during her days with Garrards, will be telling us about pearls and demonstrating her pearl stringing skills. Guests and new members welcome.

Forthcoming Events at Hunton Village Club

October – Coming Soon

Saturdays 3rd & 10th – World Cup Rugby – England Matches

Club opens 7.45pm for you to get your drink in and settle down before kick-off at 8pm. Sweepstake and other rugby inspired fun to be enjoyed.

Saturday 31st – Halloween Fright Night

Club opens 8pm. This night is for adults but we won't turn any little monsters away. We hope to have live music and there will be Halloween cocktails to die for! Dress up if you want, or not, it's entirely up to you.



December – Dates for your Diary

Friday 4th – Club AGM

The committee needs a secretary and also desperately needs more volunteer bar staff. Maybe you would consider helping out?

Saturday 5th – Christmas Quiz Night

Gather your team together or join one on the night. Teams of 4-6 recommended.

Saturday 12th – Mulled Wine & Mince Pies

The club will open early for villagers to come along and relax after the Christmas Craft Fair.



Saturday 19th – Christmas Party

You'll be able to enjoy "A Minute to Win it" party games. This exciting and very slick fun night, hosted by Neil Davis, proved very popular this summer. If you missed it then make sure you don't this time.

Beware – Telephone Scams

Fraudsters are tricking people in Kent into giving their money to someone pretending to work for the police. Don't be fooled! This is how they do it:

1. A fraudster calls pretending to work for the police. They claim there is fraudulent activity on your bank account. They usually say your card has been used by someone else, or someone at the bank is stealing from customers.
2. They tell you to hang up and call the police or bank to ensure the call is genuine. **They stay on the line** so when you redial you think you are through to the police or your bank, but you're not. Then they tell you to transfer your money into a "safe account".
3. They tell you to keep the transaction secret because a member of staff at the bank is under investigation. By this time you have unwittingly transferred all your money into a criminal's account.

Remember: The police will never ask you to transfer your money to them. Do not be pressured over the phone. If you think you have been a victim of this type of crime, call Kent Police on 101.

Book Group Review – 'The Miniaturist' by Jessie Burton

Most of our group found this a very interesting book. The start was slow but promising and worth the effort; the story picked up enticing us to read more, although some thought the charm wore off towards the end.

The scene is set in the puritanical era of the late 1680s alongside the canals of Amsterdam. The burgomasters and their control within the city was fascinating - greed alongside austere facade. The heroine, Nella, was rather before her time, beginning her new life as the wife of a wealthy and curiously distant merchant and open to all the prejudices (race, homosexuality) and coping with it all at such a young age. The intrigue of the odd wedding present, a cabinet at the heart of the story and furnished by an elusive miniaturist whose creations rang eerily true, was unusual and mostly well handled.

Overall, we enjoyed the book. Our score out of 10 was 7½.

Christmas Market Stalls

Hunton's Christmas Market takes place this year at St Mary's Church on Saturday 12th December from 4-7pm. This is a wonderful, festive occasion and a highlight of our village calendar. If you are an artist, craftsperson or small local food producer and would be interested in having a stall please contact Ann on 01622 820731 for further information. Stalls are only £20 or £18 if paid before 16th November.

Pantomime - Aladdin - Easter 2016

We still need more cast members please. Don't be shy - lots of parts - big ones and little ones to suit everyone! There will be a read through/casting session in late October/beginning of November in the village club - date to be confirmed. If you wish to be involved, please contact Sue Pinks on 820709 or suepinks@icloud.com and if we have your contact details, we can let you know what is happening nearer the time. If you have already contacted Sharon Winter or myself, we have you on our list so no need to contact us again.

Village Lunch Dates

Thanks to the support from many people, both in Hunton and locally, our occasional "light lunches" have raised over £3,000 since they were founded by Louise Ferns in 2013 when her aim was to encourage villagers to meet but also raise funds for the Village Club and St Mary's Church.

Another series of lunches with the same aims will start on Thursday 29th October, continue every Thursday through November and there will be a final one on Thursday 3rd December. They will again be held in the club from 12.30pm and soup, bread, cheese followed by tea or coffee with cake will be available for a £5 donation. Lunches are open to everyone both in the village and elsewhere – do plan to bring your friends and relations to enjoy a locally prepared meal in a friendly atmosphere.

Lesley is looking for volunteers to prepare food and assist in the running of these event, so if you can help please contact her on 01622 820210 or lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com.

At St Mary's Church in October

Flowers	Services
<p>4th Fay Joyce 11th Fay Joyce 18th Alison Ellman Brown 25th Alison Ellman Brown</p>	<p>Sunday 4th October – Trinity 18 11.00am Family Service – Rev Peter Callway</p> <p>Sunday 11th October – Trinity 19 9.30am Holy Communion 1662 – Rev Eileen Doyle</p> <p>Sunday 18th October – Trinity 20 11.00am Morning Prayer – Rev David Jones</p> <p>Sunday 25th October – Bible Sunday 11.00am Holy Communion – Rev David Jones</p>

Litter Pick

The next litter pick will be on 10th October. We will meet at 10am at the village hall to collect the "gear". If you would be interested in joining our dedicated team please ring Di Martin or Nigel Parsons on 01622 820115. Look forward to seeing you all then!

East Farleigh Farmers' Market

The September Farmers' Market managed to escape the rain and we had a reasonable number of visitors. However, another stallholder has decided to give up due to lack of custom, which is a great shame. Please try and make a visit to our village market a regular event on your calendar – just half an hour a month would ensure that the market flourishes in the future!

Our October Farmers' Market will be held on Sunday 4th from 10am to 1pm. In the car park we will have fish, meat, vegetables, French produce, fruit juice and a variety of plants and shrubs on sale, plus the return of Galex Gardens with their metal sculptures. The hall will offer bread, cakes, cards, preserves, soaps, fabric crafts, produce from Kenward Trust and a new stall 'Silver Raven' showcasing hand painted glassware and silver jewellery...remember, Christmas is coming!!!

The Last Pop-Up Shop of the Year: Saturday 24th October at 9am in our Village Club

We will be popping up for the final time this year. Please drop by for an opportunity to purchase Hunton's own free range pork products including sausages and bacon; Hunton eggs & veg; Chegworth Valley fruit juices; Hunton handmade bread and croissants; Jenny's homemade quiches & sausage rolls; cold-pressed rapeseed oil from Staplehurst and more. Stay for a coffee, pick up your copy of the Downsmail, read the papers and catch up on village life. See you there!

Applause at the Village Hall: Christopher Evesham – Saturday 24th October

Our Autumn Sessions at the village hall are going to be quite varied musically, hoping to cater for all tastes. We start off on Saturday 24th October with a solo classical guitar recital from **Christopher Evesham**. This is an Applause sponsored event and tickets are available from Mike (820429) or Steve (820403); they are £8 in advance for Hunton residents, £10 on the door (£6 for students/scholars). To give this a classical (Glyndebourne?) feel, we are suggesting that you bring along a picnic for the event; there will be a selection of bottled/canned drinks available for a donation, but no licensed bar. It's the usual doors open 7.30pm with music from 8pm. Let Mike know if you want a table for 6-8 persons.

Christopher is a graduate of the Royal College of Music, and has performed in solo, duo, sextet and orchestral formats; he has also undertaken several performances on cruise liners over recent years, including the Queen Mary and the Oceania – but is equally at home doing village hall concert tours. He likes to create a rapport with audiences, telling the stories behind some of the pieces of music. There will be Spanish classics, Brazilian bossa nova and popular songs like Danny Boy & Cavatina. Hopefully something different and engaging for our first autumn event!

Then, for your diaries, we have **Hannah Scott** returning on Saturday 7th November and **Rita Hosking** from California on Saturday 28th November.

October	4 th	11 th	18 th	25 th
Coxheath	11.00 HC	11.00 FS Harvest	11.00 HC	11.00 FS
E. Farleigh	09.30 MP	08.00 HC; 11.00 FS Harvest	09.30 HC	08.00 HC
Linton	09.30 FS Harvest	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 HC Mod
HC Holy Communion, MP Morning Prayer, FS Family Service				

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