



Hunton Village Club – The Future?

It is time for the members of the Village Club to decide upon its future as it has now become clear that it is not viable to continue with operations as we are at present. Ten years ago the club experienced a crisis in that it had debts of thousands of pounds, had lost all credit worthiness and no one would supply beverages. The members rallied at that time and the committee, supported by volunteers, turned things around, raised funds to pay off debts and redundancy to the steward and have run the club on a voluntary basis ever since.

However, times and social life have changed in the last ten years to the extent that very few people now attend the club for just a social drink and chat. So much so that invariably only a few members visit the club outside of Wednesday evening darts playing nights. Some of the volunteer bar staff who give up their evenings to run the bar are questioning if it is really worthwhile. We have been fortunate this year in that the East Farleigh darts team have now joined our club as East Farleigh Club is also struggling to make ends meet as they pay their bar staff. With our club now having two darts teams there is a match being played most Wednesday evenings and a few of them practice on a Sunday evening. A few members, myself included, enjoy a drink around Sunday lunchtime as a result of which Wednesdays and Sundays enjoy a reasonable income.

The rest of the week is a very different picture. Monday night bingo has now stopped due in part to dwindling numbers. On Tuesdays the club is closed but is hired to the WI once a month and the committee also hold their monthly meetings on a Tuesday. Wednesday is darts and Thursday is an open evening with the two book groups holding their meetings on the first and second Thursdays of the month. We do not have enough volunteers to man the bar on Fridays and Saturdays unless an event is held. The bar takings on Mondays and Thursdays rarely cover the fixed running costs involved and if we were to rely solely upon non event earnings the club would only open on a Wednesday and Sunday, which is a sad state of affairs. We do hold evening events at the club, some of which are more successful than others but the last few events have attracted very few members so clearly one questions if there is a true village demand for such a facility.

I was delighted to read in the Herald last month that the Neighbourhood Plan showed that villagers do wish to keep the club but I am afraid that without the villagers' support that is unlikely to happen. We are not at the crisis point we found ourselves in 10 years ago, as we do not have the debt, but, unlike that time, there does not appear to be the strength of support from the membership.

The AGM is to be held at 8.30pm on Friday 4th December and the committee would very much like to hear the views of members and villagers upon how they see the future of the club and the events they would attend.

Phil Nichols, Chairman

Early Deadline

Our printers are closed between Christmas and New Year so we will need items for the January Herald a little earlier than usual. All submissions to the editor by Friday 11th December please.

Your Local Contacts:		Village Hall Booking:	www.huntonvillagehall.co.uk
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: Revd. Peter Callway	747570*	PCSO - Matthew Judges	101 (or via Huntonwatch)
Hon Associate Rector: Revd. David Jones	741474*	Helen Grant MP helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk	0207 219 7107
Associate Rector: Revd Eileen Doyle	204241**	Hunton Bell Ringers, Michael Webb	745716
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	
Thursday 3rd Dec	Autumn Lunches Village Club 12.30pm	Parish Council Chairman – Gary Thomas	820691
Friday 4th Dec	AGM Village Club 8.30pm	Clerk to the Parish Council – Sharon Goodwin	681238
Saturday 5th Dec	Quiz Night Village Club 8pm	Cllr Roger Sawtell	820731
Tuesday 8th Dec	Youth Club Village Hall 6-8pm	Cllr Ron Porter	820220
Saturday 12th Dec	Xmas Market St Mary's Church 4-7pm	Cllr David Heaton	820678
Saturday 19th Dec	Christmas Party Village Club 8pm	Cllr Tony Stanbridge	820761
Sunday 20th Dec	Carol Service St Mary's Church 6pm	Cllr Steve Wyles	820403
Wednesday 30th Dec	It's a Wonderful Life Village Hall Doors 6pm	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 .			

What a year 2015 has been! Commencing with Magna Carta there has been a succession of commemorations: The Battle of Britain; a celebration of the end of World War II; Waterloo; even Agincourt. Then of course we always remember the miracle of Dunkirk. Is there anything that we can learn today from these important historical occasions? In 1940, when this country really thought that at any moment we would be invaded by the Nazis, there was a surge of Christian faith, a universal understanding that we truly needed God's help if we were to survive as a free nation.

As a nation we have recognised our need for God at these many and difficult times. If God will help a nation that is worried and afraid, how much will he not help us who believe in him? Jesus did tell us, "If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it. Let not your hearts be troubled neither let them be afraid." In our own lives too Christmas and New Year is a time for looking back as well as looking forward. We remember happy occasions in the past as we plan for new ones ahead. Does Jesus feature at all in these plans of ours, or are we in danger of omitting him completely in the midst of all the other things we have to think about? What we ought never to forget is that Christmas came about as a commemoration of the birth of Jesus Christ. It is a time to commemorate the coming into the world of God's only son, bringing with him love and hope for the future.

May you all have a blessed Christmas.

Hugh Grainger

December Events at the Village Club

Friday 4th – Club AGM

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

Saturday 5th – Christmas Quiz Night

Gather your team together or join one on the night for this general knowledge quiz. Teams of 4-6 recommended.

Saturday 12th – Mulled Wine & Mince Pies

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

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. Missed it before? Then make sure you don't this time!

From the Rectory

As we approach Christmas and the year end, I want to take this opportunity to say a very big thank you to all the folk who do so much across the benefice in so many different ways to enable the life of worship and community engagement to flourish. Thank you for all you do. May we also take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

With love, *Peter and Alison*

Christmas Market - Bottle Stall and Parking

Our team will be calling during the first weekend of December to collect bottles for the bottle stall. Please give generously for this good cause. We do hope you will come along to the market on 12th December but due to limited parking we would be grateful if those who are able could make use of the footpath between Bensted Close and the church.

It's a Wonderful Life!

A theatre event suitable for all the family (ages 8+) comes to the village hall on Wednesday 30th December, when the Farnham Players present "It's a Wonderful Life", the classic Frank Capra movie about Christmas in small town America on our own stage! Farnham Players are touring 50 village halls with this play from now through to the end of January, so expect a great show.

Doors will open at 6pm and the performance should be between 6.30-8.30pm, including interval. We are offering a "family" special at £30 for up to 5 persons/children; otherwise tickets are £10 adults and £5 for under 18s, although if you had a flyer through your door already, there's a concession rate of £7.50 for tickets booked in November. Just ring Mike on 820429, Steve on 820403 or email bookings to senseass@btinternet.com.



Hunton Christmas Market



St Mary's Church Hunton

Saturday 12th December 2015
4 till 7pm

Craft Stalls, Food and Drink Stalls, Homemade Cakes,
Antiques, Collectables - Great Christmas Presents!



Bottle Stall, Mulled Cider, BBQ

Editorial – Too Important to Lose

It was wonderful to learn from the Neighbourhood Plan update in last month's Herald that top of the list of things that we like about Hunton is its community spirit. How sad then to have to report this month that our village club, where many of our popular community events are held, is struggling to survive. Do you attend the village lunches, the pop-up shop and café, the quiz nights or the gardening club suppers? Are you a member of the WI? Did you come along to the wine tasting evening or the walking group BBQ? Are you on a committee that holds its meetings there? If so, whether you are a member or not, I urge you to come along to the AGM at 8.30pm on Friday 4th December and share your views of what you want from the club. As our only remaining licensed premises and the only place in the village where we can hold these kinds of events, can we afford to lose this valuable community asset?

Kathleen Bernthal nee Burles (Kate) 1929 – 2015

Kate's funeral was held at St Mary's Church on 18th November. Her eldest granddaughter, Jadie, remembers her Nan:

"Kathleen and Cyril (Nip) moved to 4 West Street, Hunton in 1976 where they lived for 20 years with their youngest daughters Lorinda and Wendy, who both married in Hunton Church, moving later to Richmond Way, Cripple Street. Kate loved her home, friends and time in Hunton.

Kate grew up roaming the countryside around Maidstone with her best friend Doreen and could recall in perfect and hilarious detail their escapades. She was a truly funny lady. She passed on to her daughters and grandchildren a real love of nature. I remember my Nanny Kate taking us on nature walks through the orchard, lifting us up to peek into birds nests hoping to catch a glimpse of a little blue egg, and adventures collecting mushrooms, chestnuts and blackberries from the lane. Through her imagination she created a magical world where fairies were as real as foxes and both were our kin.

I remember when I was little being out in the strawberry fields helping make up trays and later when I was grown Nanny Kate helping me fill my own punnets, the sun on our backs and the song of skylark in the air. I remember the Hunton of my Nan, a world where Mr Scott, Bill, Kath, Bet and Rosemary were the kings and queens of the strawberry fields. A world where the vegetable patch was a treasure trove of broken china and the club was where grandad could be fetched from, for Sunday lunch.

My best days are still those with my toes in wellies, my hands in the earth, sitting at break time with a flask of tea reflecting on what has been done and from where I have come. A day without the sky above is a day lost.

Kate, much loved, you will be terribly missed."



Parish Council Meeting 17th November

Work on the new cricket pavilion has continued and all that now remains is some final internal fitting and decoration and the building of decking to the front of the building. A formal grand opening will take place at the start of the 2016 season.

The parish council has purchased 100 plants to fill the gaps in the hedge on the road side of the playing field and these will be planted by the community orchard working group in January, weather permitting. A number of minor repairs have been carried out to the play equipment on the King George V field and work is on going to ensure the safety of users. Moles are again becoming a problem on the field and there is also an increase in the number of rabbits in the area. The playing field committee will be looking to address these issues over the coming months. It was reported that the broken gateway between the field and the car park is to be repaired.

The speedwatch team will be participating in a countywide campaign during the week of 23-29 November and will be out several times during that period. A report will be included in the next edition of the Herald. Following the session held early in November it was reported that three letters had been sent to drivers who had been recorded doing speeds of more than 45mph outside the primary school.

The Chairman has received notification from the Environment Agency that a second newsletter concerning flooding issues in the area will be issued in the coming weeks. The parish council will study this carefully and will continue to lobby the Environment Agency to ensure that any work proposed for alleviating the flooding issues in Yalding also benefits us here in Hunton. Maidstone Borough Council is also seeking to speak to parishes regarding flooding issues and we are hoping to have a meeting with MBC towards the end of November.

The 2016 KALC Community Awards Scheme was launched in October. Having had no nominations for the 2015 award the parish council decided not to take part in the 2016 scheme.

The dates for parish council meetings in 2016 were agreed and it was noted that the parish council elections will take place in May.

Hunton Parish Council

Churchyard Thanks

Many thanks to all those who came along to the churchyard clean up on 7th November. With 18 of us in total we were able to complete the job in only two hours, in time for the Remembrance Sunday rehearsal and just before the rain came. The churchyard is looking very neat and tidy now and hopefully will remain so for the Christmas Market and throughout the winter months.

Lesley

Bus Stop to be Moved

As a result of pressure being applied by the parish council following requests from a number of Hunton residents, we have received news that the bus stop at the bottom of Hunton Hill at its junction with East Street is to be moved from its present location to the grass triangle on the other side of the junction. This will have the effect of providing bus users a safer crossing of the road and more space when disembarking from or waiting for a bus. We are hoping that the work will be completed early in the New Year and will provide an update in the next edition of the Hunton Herald.

Hunton Parish Council

New Youth Club in Hunton - Tuesdays 6-8pm from 8th December

Stepahead Support is an organisation funded by KCC to provide a service for all youths. We are opening a youth club in Hunton for all 11+ year olds, which will run every Tuesday evening from 6-8pm at Hunton Village hall. The club will be opening on 8th of December, when all 11+ year olds are welcome. The club is free of charge every week and provides fun activities of choice. The activities we run range from sports to art and cooking. It is a fun and safe place to hang out and meet others around the same age. We also plan day trips out such as go karting, theme parks and pantos. For more information visit our Facebook page [Facebook.com/stepaheadsupport](https://www.facebook.com/stepaheadsupport) or visit our website www.stepaheadsupport.org.uk.

At St Mary's Church in December

Flowers

6th Sue Lawrence / Liz Oliver
 13th Sue Lawrence / Liz Oliver
 20th All
 27th All

Services

Sunday 6th December – 2nd Sunday in Advent
 11.00am Family Service – Miss Chris Bostock

Sunday 13th December – 3rd Sunday in Advent
 9.30am Holy Communion 1662 – Rev Peter Callway

Sunday 20th December – 4th Sunday in Advent
 6.00pm Carol Service – Rev David Jones

Thursday 24th December – Christmas Eve
 9.30pm Holy Communion – Rev David Jones

Friday 25th December – Christmas Day
 9.30am Family Service & Holy Communion – Rev Eileen Doyle

Sunday 27th December – 1st Sunday of Christmas
 10.30am Benefice Service at East Farleigh

Autumn Lunches

Don't miss the final village lunch of the year at the club on Thursday 3rd December. Enjoy homemade soup, bread, cheese, homemade cake and tea or coffee all for a donation of £5. The club opens at 12 noon with lunch served from 12.30pm. All welcome.

Village Landmark Back in Action

After two years the wheel at the watermill between Yalding and Hunton is turning again. The watermill variously known as Yalding Watermill, Cheveney Mill and the Cheveney Institute is actually just inside Hunton and was built in the 1850s. Since then the building has served as a mill, a hospital, POW accommodation, a chicken farm, a village hall/Institute and finally as two houses.

The current wheel was made in 1985 when the Institute was converted. It was substantially strengthened by Terry Horrod in the 1990s, but began to clank in 2013, the cause of this loud but mysterious noise eluding all until a young lady diagnosed the obvious, "It'll be the bearings". She was right; inside the housing was a soup of bits of metal and grease.

Over the last few months, AC Blasting of Ticehurst cleaned and painted the metalwork, Pike Cranes of Coxheath lifted the wheel up while Laddingford Engineering replaced the bearings, finally Richard Oldfield replaced the paddles and got it going.

For the technically minded the wheel is welded mild steel, 16' in diameter, 4' wide, has 16 oak paddles, weighs 2 tonnes and rotates at about 8 RPM when there is enough water in the river to drive it.



Huntonwatch Update

As evenings draw in and there are longer periods of darkness we need to be more aware of securing items in gardens and fields. We have already had one reported incident of a padlock on a gate having been cut with bolt cutters with evidence of someone nosing around a parked vehicle, so our advice is to check gates and padlocks regularly and hide from view any easily removed items. It would be worth considering investing in CCTV and the alarming of outbuildings to improve security and if you have any worries or concerns please report them to the police by calling 101. Of course, if you see intruders on your property then use the emergency number 999.

It is a sad fact that the number of telephone and email scams is on the increase. Criminals are taking advantage of recent well publicised security breaches in companies such as TalkTalk to be ever more inventive in their attempts to gather personal information. There are a few golden rules to reduce the chances of being a victim of these scams:

- If you receive an email "from a bank" asking for your financial details (bank accounts, credit cards etc) do not provide that information and do not open any attachments. Notify your bank / credit card company but NOT using any contact number that may be contained in the email.
- If you receive a phone call from a "reputable source" such as the police or the bank that asks you for your personal details (because, for example, your card or account has been compromised) DO NOT PROVIDE THEM. Hang up and use a different phone to notify your bank or the police but DON'T use any number given to you during the call.

If you are concerned and need more advice you can always contact us by email (huntonwatch@gmail.com) or phone (820403). Finally, Christmas presents openly displayed around a tree or in a car might prove too much of a temptation for the opportunist thief, so please be careful – a thief will not be concerned about ruining your Christmas.

Huntonwatch

WI Gets Crafty

On the first Tuesday in November at the village club, the ladies of Hunton WI had a fun evening taking part in a Christmas craft workshop organised and led by members of the committee. They each made an iris pattern Christmas card, an origami Christmas tree and decorated a die cut angel. Most were very pleased with the results of their efforts, which revealed some hidden talents. The next meeting is on Tuesday 1st December when Christmas games will be organised by Neil Davis.

December	6 th	13 th	20 th	24 th	25 th	27 th
Coxheath	11.00 HC	11.00 MP	16.30 CS	17.00 Children's Service; 11.15pm HC	10.45 FS & HC	
E. Farleigh	09.30 MP	08.00 HC; 11.00 FS	18.00 CS	16.00 Christingle; 23.30 HC	09.30 FS	10.30 Benefice Service
Linton	09.30 HC	16.00 CS	08.00 HC	23.30 HC	09.30 FS & HC	
W. Farleigh	08.00 HC 1662	11.00 MP Mod	18.00 CS	21.30 HC	09.45 FS	

HC Holy Communion, MP Morning Prayer, FS Family Service, CS Carol Service

All items for the next edition of the Herald to the Editor by 11th December, please