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Croissant Catastrophe

After two and a half years of supplying the village with delicious bread and croissants, we are sorry to report that the Hunton Bakery is to close. The news has been greeted with dismay, particularly by our neighbours in Yalding, with the following notice being displayed in the post office window:

“Lisa’s Croissants...Sad News!

From the end of January Lisa will not be making any more croissants. Despite pleas from the Three Musketeers and the Scarlet Pimpernel, a promise of a “hot date” with Nicolas Sarkozy and a “picnic” with Eric Cantona she has confirmed that her last croissants will be available on Saturday 30th January. Lisa is giving up baking and moving onto other things. We wish her the best of fortune with her future endeavours and will fondly remember her magnificent time as the producer of Britain’s Best Croissants”.

I’m sure that here in Hunton we would echo those sentiments and send Lisa our best wishes as she takes up a new career in dog grooming.

Flood Prevention Measures

You will not be at all surprised to know that the topic of flooding features on the parish council agenda, especially at this time of the year. Soon an article will appear in the Herald informing you of the work being done with the Environment Agency and liaison with other villages, none the least Yalding. In the meantime we are grateful to Jeremy Scott for what he has done to help prevent the road flooding from his land bordering West Street, which occurs quite often after heavy rain just up from the Gudgeon Farm House. We do of course involve the authorities and at the time of preparing this notice Maidstone Borough Council is power clearing the culvert that runs under West Street where that particular flooding takes place. To help all these efforts can we suggest that all concerned, where ditches abut their properties, ensure that grills, watercourses and any other channels are kept clear and regularly checked.

Hunton Parish Council

Village Fete - Saturday 18th June 2016

Our village fete takes place this year on the traditional 3rd Saturday of June. We desperately need additional fete team members. In particular we need someone to organise parking so that we have a smooth system, which keeps West Street moving and enables us to take plenty of money. We also need someone to deal with stall bookings and field management on the day. Please help us out so that we can deliver a fete we can all enjoy and be proud of. Contact me on 01622 820448 or annette@trought.com

Annette

Ring the Changes

The Hunton Bell Ringers achieved a service touch consisting of 720 changes of Grandsire Doubles in a time of 28 minutes on Sunday 3rd January. This was done to enhance the church service and as a start to the New Year. In bell ringing circles this is not a great achievement but is worthy of note as Hunton ringers have not attempted this for many years. Ringing at Hunton takes place on the first and third Friday of each month 7.30-9pm, with ringing for the church service on the first Sunday of the month at 10.30am. Anyone interested in joining the ringers will be most welcome. For further information please contact Michael Webb at leahcimbew@yahoo.co.uk or phone 01622 745716.

Your Local Contacts:		Village Hall Booking:	
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	Event	Parish Council Contacts
Tuesday 2nd Feb	Hunton WI Village Club 7.30pm	Parish Council Chairman – Gary Thomas 820691
Thursday 4th Feb	Light Lunches Village Club 12pm	Clerk to the Parish Council – Sharon Goodwin 681238
Sunday 7th Feb	Farmers’ Market East Farleigh 10am-1pm	Cllr Roger Sawtell 820731
Thursday 11th Feb	Light Lunches Village Club 12pm	Cllr Ron Porter 820220
Friday 12th Feb	Mixed Doubles Darts Night Village Club 8pm	Cllr David Heaton 820678
Thursday 18th Feb	Light Lunches Village Club 12pm	Cllr Tony Stanbridge 820761
Friday 19th Feb	Gardening Club Supper Village Club 7pm	Cllr Steve Wyles 820403
Thursday 25th Feb	Light Lunches Village Club 12pm	Cllr Annette Trought 820448
Friday 26th Feb	Photographic Club Meet Up Village Club 8.15pm	

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

In the UK a new record has just been achieved in the pay out on the National Lottery – two winning tickets each collecting 33 million pounds. The Euromillions prize for the upcoming weekend draw is estimated at £61 million. The US Powerball lottery jackpot was £1.04 billion sterling. Yes, over a billion pounds. £1,040,000,000. Each of these are astonishing and clearly life changing amounts of money to win. I wonder how many of you reading this buys a ticket regularly? And how you feel each week as the draw is made? The UK National Lottery has been running for 21 years – that’s just over 1100 weeks. Is it now a matter of routine? Has the draw lost some of its excitement? I guess so. I occasionally buy a ticket (paradoxically when the prize is at its biggest and so have less chance of winning!) but each time I do, I think about all the good things I could do with that amount of money. I always hope that I’ll win, but never expect to.

On all US currency, coins and notes, the motto of the United States is printed or embossed. That motto is “In God we trust”, which it is said comes from the words of the Star Spangled Banner, “And this be our motto ‘In God We Trust’”. In a country where church and state are legally separate, it is perhaps surprising to see this still present, and a third legal attempt is currently under way to have it removed. All of this begs the question, in whom do we trust? Our Christian Bible has something to say on the matter. “The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil” (note: not money itself!) from 1 Timothy 6.10. “No one can serve two masters ... you can’t serve God and mammon” from Matthew 5.24. These verses give pause for thought about trusting money as the saviour of our problems and issues. The Psalmist writes that we are not to “put our trust in princes, in human beings” because of course they will always let us down eventually. Rather, the writer of Proverbs (probably King Solomon) tells us to “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding” (Pr 3.5). It isn’t easy to do that, of course, if you are like me and want to solve all your own problems and all those around you. The very next verses in Proverbs suggest that we can do that by simply asking God on a regular basis, “in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight” (v6); soaking up the awesomeness of God and “not be impressed with your own wisdom, instead fear the Lord and turn away from evil”. And the benefits of placing our trust in God? His peace, which goes beyond human understanding. Joy in the face of challenge and difficulty. And a promise of hope for the future.

Many blessings, *Peter Callway, Rector*

Revised Opening Times & Prices at The Village Club

In an effort to return to more definite bar opening and closing times and with the kind cooperation of our volunteer bar staff, the committee has decided to trial for a couple of months or so the following timetable:

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: 1st Tuesday - WI only, 2nd Tuesday - committee meeting only, 3rd & 4th Tuesdays - pantomime rehearsals only
- Wednesday: Open 8pm-11pm
- Thursday: Open 8pm-11pm
- Friday: Open 8pm-11pm
- Saturday: Closed unless a function is arranged
- Sunday: Open 12pm-2.30pm & 8pm-10.30pm

The club is available to members for hire and with the consent of the committee a private hire may be possible. Details are available on the club's website at www.huntonvillageclub.co.uk under the tab "Venue Hire".

The 2016 renewal membership cards are now available for collection at the club with a £5 discount available for renewing members provided that the subscription is paid before the end of February. It will be appreciated that we have a Club Premises Licence and therefore alcoholic beverages may only be sold to club members and their guests. Membership is £20 or £15 for senior citizens, which represents good value for money for a one-year membership at less than 40p a week.

Most of our bar prices have been held at the same level for close to three years, over which time there have been a number of rises in the cost to us. The committee felt obliged to make a small increase to some prices to avoid making a loss, although they are still well below pub prices.

Queen's 90th Birthday Clean Up

Our first litter pick of 2016 will be on Saturday 5th March. This is a little earlier than usual but it is to coincide with the Queen's 90th birthday. From 4-6th March borough councils across the country are organising clean ups so hopefully, when the Queen goes on her various tours, everywhere will look neat and tidy!

We will meet at the village hall at 10am as usual to collect the "gear". If you would like to join our team of volunteers to help out with this or any future clean ups, please ring Di Martin on 01622 820115.

Farmers' Market

The first farmers' market of 2016 will be held on Sunday 7th February from 10am to 1pm in the Old School Hall, Lower Road, East Farleigh. We look forward to welcoming you for another successful year of charity fundraising. In 2015 we donated a total of £842 to The Blackthorn Trust, Porchlight, The Nepal Earthquake Appeal, Kenward Trust, Restoring Hands, Restoring Hope, Help a Maidstone Child and Maidstone Samaritans. Thank you to everyone involved in this achievement! Please try and support the February market even though the weather may be miserable – our stallholders need an income all through the year! Should there be heavy snow the market might be cancelled, so keep an eye on the weather forecast.

Sue Morris

New Year's Eve Karaoke

Having volunteered to man the bar at the village club on New Year's Eve and to organise a karaoke night all rather at the last minute, Mark and I wondered whether we were destined to spend a quiet evening serenading one another. We need not have worried, as the good people of Hunton did not disappoint. We were joined by a lively crowd of revellers, whose ages must have spanned at least eight decades, all keen to participate in the spirit of the evening. We were treated to some entertaining renditions of hits from across a whole range of genres, including a courageous performance of Queen's Bohemian Rhapsody, all delivered with great gusto. Thanks to everyone who came along – we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did. We're intending to organise another karaoke night later in the year, assuming the club will have us back. Watch this space!

Helen Ward

Churchyard Snowdrops

As St Mary's Church is in the process of redecoration, there will be no Snowdrop Sunday this year but everyone is welcome to wander through the paths of the churchyard to look at the beautiful bulbs. Depending on weather conditions, the snowdrops should be at their best in early February.



Photo: Roger Sawtell

Aladdin - The Hunton Pantomime

Performance dates:

- Thursday 31st March 7.30pm
- Friday 1st April 7.30pm
- Saturday 2nd April 2.00pm
- Saturday 2nd April 7.30pm

Ticket Prices:

Adults £8.50, Children Under 14 £5.00

Tickets will be available from 1st March from Ann Sawtell on 01622 820731 or ann.sawtell@btinternet.com.

Hunton Book Group

February sees the 10th anniversary of the original Hunton Club Book Group. By way of celebration, the members have decided to mark the event by dining out at a local pub. Besides the current members, past members, some of whom have since moved away from the village, have also been invited. The second group that formed some years later was not forgotten and they too were invited to celebrate the success of this long running gathering.

The members read books kindly supplied monthly by Yalding Library, so no expense is incurred by the readers. So, with 12 books a year the original group has devoured 120 novels over the time. Some have been enjoyed whilst others have been endured and some just plain disregarded! It's been interesting to learn the different opinions of different people. But the really good aspect is reading books that one would not necessarily have chosen oneself and finding them enjoyable. It's certainly broadened our literary horizons.

Happy Snappers

Do you have a camera? Do you enjoy snapping away at nature, wildlife and scenic landscapes or capturing the fun of Hunton life at our many village events? If so, you will be interested to know that we have a newly formed photographic club. The initial idea is to have a bit of fun getting residents together to share their photographs of Hunton taken throughout the year with a view to producing a village calendar. The club has its own Facebook group, which you'll find by searching for Hunton Photographic Club, where members have already been posting some superb shots. For those who don't use Facebook, please contact Adam Benton on 07588 468321 if you would like to find out more or to register your interest. There will be an informal get together in the village club on Friday 26th February from 8.15pm for anyone who would like to be involved. Please come along – all ages and abilities will be very welcome.

“Phil the Bag” for Hunton School

There is the opportunity to donate unwanted textiles to raise funds for our village school as part of the “Phil the Bag” fundraising programme. You can bring clothing, shoes, handbags, belts, hats, curtains, towels and household linen. If you would like to support us, please bring your items to the school on:

Saturday 6th February between 2pm and 4pm

Monday 8th February between 9am and 3pm

Many thanks, *Ettie Small*

Hunton Village Club 2016 – Upcoming Events

There are a whole host of exciting events and activities planned for 2016, kicking off with a **Mixed Doubles Darts Night** on **Friday 12th February**. The plan is to have a round robin event for maximum games. Come with a partner or join up with another player at the club. Other dates for the diary over the next few months include:

Friday 11th March - Quiz Night in aid of the village pre-school. Do you remember Morph, Rainbow, Bill & Ben? Then come along and have a go at our childhood inspired quiz night! This is the first of three quiz nights planned at the club this year and a great opportunity to support both the club and the pre-school - two brilliant village based amenities.

Friday 8th April - Grand National Race Night. Take a flutter and have a gamble on who will win the real Grand National the next day!

A whole host of events are planned throughout the year including a tea party to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday, mini Olympic Games for all the family to enjoy and a Cider & Beer Festival!! Keep your eyes peeled for further details coming soon in the Herald, on posters, the village Facebook page and website!

At St Mary's Church in February

Flowers	Services
<p style="text-align: center;">7th Sue Scott</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No flowers in Lent</p>	<p>Sunday 7th February – Sunday before Lent 11.00am Family Service – Rev Peter Callway</p> <p>Sunday 14th February – Lent 1 9.30am Holy Communion 1662 – Rev David Jones</p> <p>Sunday 21st February – Lent 2 11.00am Morning Prayer – Miss Chris Bostock</p> <p>Sunday 28th February – Lent 3 11.00am Holy Communion – Rev Peter Callway</p>

Almshouse Vacancy

There is a vacancy for a non-smoking single resident in Peace Cottages Almshouses in West Street, Hunton. Those interested, over the age of 55, preferably with a connection to Hunton, should contact Liz Oliver on 01622 820200 or Ruth Porter on 01622 820220 for an application form. Further criteria may apply.

Gardening Club Supper

The Gardening Club will meet at the village club on Friday 19th February when Mary Tate, 'Save our Magnificent Meadows' Partnership Officer for KCC, will give a presentation on the work she does and how we can create our own garden meadows. The club will be open from 7pm with soup, bread and cheese, tea or coffee and homemade cakes on offer for a donation of £5, again raising funds for the club and the church. Mary's presentation will begin at around 8pm. All welcome. For more information contact Lesley on 01622 820210 or email lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com.

WI Meetings

At our January meeting we welcomed two guests and one new member. We were given an insight into hypnotherapy by Heather Smith, a village resident. We learnt that a therapist works with our subconscious for people seeking help with a variety of topics from stopping smoking to a fear of flying. Their work is nothing like the hypnosis acts we see on television where people are given a trigger to perform the strange things asked of them. People are fully aware of what is going on whilst undergoing a session. One member had previously had hypnotherapy and recommended it as a very relaxing experience - she fell asleep! Many thanks to our hostesses, Gilly and Kathy, who provided delicious cakes for us to enjoy with our coffee.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 2nd February and the speaker will be giving advice on make up. Anyone wishing to join will be welcomed at the Club on the evening. Alternatively, please contact Ann Sawtell on 01622 820731 for further details.

Youth Club Closure

Due to low numbers attending, the organisers of the Hunton Youth Club, which started at the beginning of December, decided not to continue with the club into the New Year. What a shame that this great initiative, which could have been a welcome opportunity for the young people of Hunton and surrounding villages to socialise locally, was not at all well advertised nor given sufficient time to become established.

Weekend Yoga

A number of people have said that they would like to attend the yoga class at the village club but cannot come on weekdays due to work commitments. Erika is willing to run an additional class on Saturday mornings from 9.30-10.30 should there be sufficient demand. Each class costs £8. If you are interested please contact Lisa on 01622 820508.

Soup and Cakes

A new series of village lunches begins on Thursday 28th January and will run each Thursday throughout February with a final lunch on 3rd March. This is a great opportunity to meet up with friends and neighbours during these cold winter months whilst enjoying a warming lunch of delicious homemade soup, bread, cheese, tea or coffee and homemade cake all for a donation of £5. Hunton Club opens at 12 noon for drinks with lunch served from around 12.30. No bookings are necessary but food is available on a first come, first served basis.

Walkers Reach Centenary Milestone

On the morning of Monday 22nd February we will be enjoying our Centenary Walk. The group is one of the many successes of the original Village Plan. Several people requested a walking group and the Hunton Group was formed in August 2011. We have 25 members who dip in and out of the walks. We usually choose a circular walk starting from various pubs and enjoy a drink at the end, occasionally having lunch together. Many friendships have been formed between people who have lived in the village for many years and previously did not know each other. We currently have to think outside the box for our walks as the fields are so muddy. One such recent walk was in Rochester, taking in the Castle, Cathedral and the Riverside. If you were on our first walk you might like to join us for this Centenary Walk. Details from Ann Sawtell on 01622 820731 or email ann.sawtell@btinternet.com. New walkers always welcome.

February	7 th	14 th	21 st	28 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 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 February, please