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Christmas Fair Thanks

Although inclement weather affected the turnout for our Christmas Fair, those who did brave the wind and rain had a wonderful time. Santa's visitors increased, there were many more stalls offering a wide range of gifts, crafts and food and Hunton Primary School provided the lovely angel window decorations in the church.

Final accounts are not yet ready but early indications are that the profit from the event, to be shared between St Mary's Church, the Friends of St Mary's and the village events committee is also greater than last year.

The fair organisers wish to express their sincere thanks to all volunteers who helped plan, prepare and run the event and of course to all who attended.

A full report will be given in next month's Hunton Herald.

A number of items of lost property have been handed in following the Christmas fair. If you think they may be yours please call Steve and Sue (01622 820403).



Twenty-One Today

Twenty-one walkers and one dog followed Roger on a circular walk from Hunton Village Club on Saturday 24th November, taking in Bishops Lane, East Street, George Street, St Mary's Church and Hunton Village Hall. This was followed by an excellent lunch of sausages, sausage rolls, ham, salads, cheeses and sweets. A further 11 people joined them in raising money for the club improvements. Thanks to Roger, Lesley and all the volunteers for organising the walk and lunch. You can find out about these and other events by being a club member (pop into the club to collect an application form) or keep an eye on the Hunton Facebook page.

Your Local Contacts:

School: Secretary/Head Teacher	820360	Village Hall Booking:	www.huntonvillagehall.co.uk
Under 5's Pre-School:	820309	Maidstone Police	690690 or 101
Pre-School Supervisor:	07972067110	Neighbourhood Watch: huntonwatch@gmail.com	820403, 820429, 820731
Pond and Tree Warden: Mike Summersgill	820429	'Potholes' Hotline (KCC)	03000 418181
Rector: Revd. Peter Callway	747570*	Community Warden: Adam McKinley	07811 271021
Hon Associate Rector: Revd. David Jones	741474*	PCSO - Jasmine Pay	101
Associate Rector: Revd Eileen Doyle	204241**	Helen Grant MP helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk	0207 219 7107
Churchwarden: Alison Ellman-Brown	820288	Hunton Bell Ringers, Michael Webb	745716
Village Club: Gil Robertson	820059	*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

Parish Council Contacts

Parish Council Chairman – David Heaton	820678	Clerk to the Parish Council – Sharon Goodwin	681238
Cllr Jonny Goddard	820096	Cllr Roger Lee	820210
Cllr Annette Trought	820448	Cllr Helen Ward	820810
		Cllr Tony Stanbridge	820721
		Cllr Gary Thomas	820691

Diary Dates

Thurs 3 rd Jan	WI Open Meeting 'Appalachian Adventure' Village Club 7pm
Thurs 31 st Jan	Winter Warmer Lunches Village Club 12.30pm

The Winter Warmer Lunches continue every Thursday throughout February with the final one on 7th March.

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

Pastoral Letter

Dear friends, here we are at the beginning of a brand-new year. For many it will be a time of making New Year resolutions. A time when we hope to make some changes in our lives for the better. Whether it be to lose a bit of weight, eat more healthily or even exercise, our intentions are good. Some people may be considering making some changes that will affect not only themselves but also other people's lives; perhaps to smile and greet people, to be more patient or to strive to listen better. It is the simple things that can make a huge difference to the people we live with, work with or come into contact with.

The Gospel stories tell of how Jesus went that extra mile to come alongside people. He took time to listen to them, to be available and to reach out and touch their lives for the better. I wonder what sort of world it would be if each of us followed the example Jesus gave. Perhaps a good place to start would be to follow the prayer of St. Francis and make it our resolution for 2019?

The Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is doubt, faith,
Where there is despair, hope,
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy;

O Divine Master
Grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

On behalf of the Ministry Team in the Coxheath Benefice, may I wish you all a blessed and peaceful New Year.

Rev Eileen Doyle

Poppy Appeal

Many thanks to everyone who supported the 2018 Poppy Appeal in Hunton. The donation boxes at Hunton Primary School, the playgroup, White House pub and the village club raised a total of £388.34.

Susan Gunton

WI Open Meeting – Appalachian Adventure

The January meeting will be one of our popular open meetings when everyone is very welcome – ladies, gents and non-members! This will be held at the village club on 3rd January, a Thursday and not the usual first Tuesday. Doors open at 7pm and we feel sure that many in the village would like to come along and hear Hunton resident, Megan Dolman, talking about her Appalachian Adventure. There will be a charge of £5 to include refreshments for non-members.

Advertisement

Pilates With Samantha

**New term starting the week beginning 7th
January 2019.**

Local, small, friendly classes in Hunton,
West Farleigh and East Farleigh.

I work with beginner and intermediate
participants helping to improve your mobility,
flexibility and strength.

For more information take a look at my website
pilateswithsamantha.uk
or contact me on 07799 763536.

Winter Warmer Lunches

Another series of six Thursday lunches will start on 31st January in Hunton Village Club. Funds raised from these events are donated to St Mary's Church and the club. Thanks to those who attended the lunches which took place in November; over £500 was donated to both of them. For a requested donation of only £6 (though more is always gratefully received!) you can enjoy a choice of two homemade soups, bread, cheese, gammon, pickles followed by homemade cakes with your tea or coffee. The Club opens at noon and lunch is usually available from about 12.30pm. Everyone is welcome at these sociable events so do bring friends and family. Lesley will be happy to hear from you if you are willing to help by making soup or cakes and do contact her if you have special dietary needs as she will do her best to cater for you. Lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com or 01622 820210.

Governors' Clerk Required

Hunton CEP School's Governing Body is seeking to appoint a clerk. Working closely with the Chair of Governors, Head Teacher and School Business Manager, the role is to support the meetings of the Full Governing Body and a small number of other meetings as well as providing advice and support. The Full GB meetings take place at Hunton School at 4pm, 6 times a year. If you would like further details please contact Rev Peter Callway by email peter@callways.co.uk or phone 01622 747570.

Hunton Wanderers CC End of Season Report

Hunton Wanderers CC fields three regular league sides, two on Saturday in the Kent Regional Cricket League (Divisions 1A Central and 1C Central/East respectively) and one on Sunday in the Kent Village Cricket League, Division 3. We also play occasional friendlies and T20 games, participate in the Maidstone District Indoor League during the winter months and hold winter indoor nets at the Grammar School.

I am pleased to report that we fulfilled the majority of our fixtures in the 2018 season, although we did concede a couple on Saturday and one on Sunday due to lack of numbers. This is a theme running through Kent recreational cricket at the moment; indeed during the season several clubs withdrew from the Saturday Leagues, five withdrew from the KVCL on Sunday and several local clubs have folded completely.

The problem seems to be keeping youngsters engaged during their teenage years - so many clubs with good youth set ups find it difficult to retain young players past their 16th year. They just seem to lose interest - or maybe they simply find other, more exciting alternatives! As the older club members fade into the twilight zone of umpiring and scoring, there are simply not enough youngsters to replace them any more.

Back to Hunton cricket and, blessed with a long, hot summer we lost only two games to bad weather although the lack of rain took its toll on the cricket square by the end of the season.

On the pitch, our three teams battled valiantly and all retained their positions in their respective divisions. The Saturday 1st XI struggled to get runs all season but avoided relegation with victories over Leybourne, New Ash Green, Southfleet and the Mote 3rd XI. The 2nd XI, amazingly, did not finish bottom of their division this year, winning four fixtures; and the Sunday XI finished well above the relegation places, although we lost the games we expected to win, and had unexpected victories against strong opposition, the highlight being a win against High Halstow early in the season.

We hope that 2019 starts with the same level of enthusiasm as this season, when we were frequently oversubscribed for Saturday games. However, we will always welcome new players, regardless of age, background or ability. Please come and join us to enjoy truly friendly, recreational sport in beautiful village locations. Our contact details are on the village website contact page, or call me, Simon Taylor, on 07795 340008.

Simon Taylor, Chairman, HWCC



Hunton Wanderer's CC number 3 batsman, Alex Newman, in full flight.

Your Last Chance to save our Herald!

In July 2018 we reported that the current Editor, Helen Ward, would be stepping down in April 2019 after five years in the role. We asked for volunteers to take over but were met with a deafening silence! In September 2018 we asked again but again there were no volunteers.

The Herald has been delivered free to every house in the village for 16 years. It circulates village news and forthcoming events and raises money for village causes (£20,000 has been raised and £15,000 given to about 10 village fund raising groups).

Accepting that having been blessed with three editors (averaging a little over 5 years each) there is now no one willing to take on the role, we have tried to find a way of keeping The Herald going and, as a last effort to save this village asset, are suggesting putting a team together with a shared responsibility.

So what is involved? A key challenge is to ensure that there are enough articles each month and that key village events are both advertised in advance and reported on after they have occurred. This generally requires emailing round to encourage others to put pen to paper and some editing of anything offered. The only computer skill required is a basic knowledge of MS Word. **There is no need to worry about layout as another member of the Herald team manages this.**

We understand that a regular monthly commitment is off-putting and so we are looking to put together enough volunteers to allow sub teams of 2-3 to share the role each month, with each individual doing as much or as little as they are able to do. On a monthly basis, this might allow one to edit/write, another to proof read and another to email round, pulling in articles, or all roles could be shared.

So far we have a few volunteers but need more to make this approach work. Please email me, James Forster, at forsters.hunton@btinternet.com if you can help, stating what aspects of the role you are happy to take on and what (if anything) you would prefer not to have to do so we can try to suggest teams that could work together. Alternatively if you want to suggest your own teams that would be even better! Please say how many issues you would be able to help with but ideally I would like a big enough team to ensure each group covers up to a couple of months through the year.

As Helen said in an earlier article, "It's a great way of getting to know everyone and everything in the village" so if you have recently moved in, or want to expand your involvement in village life, it offers a fantastic way of doing so!

Your Last Chance to save our Facebook Page!

While Helen has been Editor of the Herald she has developed the Hunton Facebook page as a real-time news feed for the village - this role also needs to be filled if it is to continue.

Whilst this requires some IT expertise, if you are on Facebook, it should not be difficult or very time consuming to take on.

If you want to know more about what is involved please speak to Helen and she will be happy to explain!

Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

Wed-Fri 8-11pm
Sun 12-2.30pm & 8-10.30pm

Road Closure

West Street, Hunton and Vicarage Road, Yalding will be closed between the B2010 Yalding High Street and Hunton Hill from 14th January for up to 5 days and nights between 09.30 and 15.30 and between 20.00 and 06.00 to enable works on an underground structure to be carried out by BT Openreach.

Greensand Ridge AONB

The following article was published in the December Linton newsletter, but is equally relevant to us here in Hunton:

One of the most special things about Linton is its far-reaching views, out across the Weald and beyond. Historically, these views have been protected by Maidstone Borough Council under local designations such as "Special Landscape Area" etc. Unfortunately, as the recent major industrial development in Redwall Lane has demonstrated, these "protections" have no statutory or legal base and even though they are enshrined in the Maidstone Local Plan, they can therefore be ignored by developers and planners alike, with impunity. Our views are therefore being steadily eroded, and we need to do more before they disappear entirely.

For a number of years, Linton Parish Council has been asking for statutory protection through the creation of a new Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). This imposes strict rules on what is and is not permitted, and gives them full legal backing that cannot be conveniently ignored. The recently announced Governmental Review of national parks and AONBs has given some impetus to our suggestion which has now been taken up by the Borough Council and hopefully will be progressed. Linton Parish Council supports this initiative as part of our Environmental Policy and you can help!

Every time you speak to a Borough Councillor, County Councillor or MP, tell them that the Greensand Ridge should not be treated as a building site and must be protected for our children and the future. Ask them what they are doing to support and encourage this proposal, and vote accordingly! Our rural location is precious but is also fragile.

These matters take a long time to go through, but if we are firm and clear in what we need, we will get there in the end. More on the Linton Website: <http://lintonkent.org/planning>.

Not Just Natter

On the third Friday of each month Hunton Club hosts a "Needles & Natter" evening. Activities have included sewing, knitting, quilting, crochet and even pantomime costume making!

More recently a few of the ladies joined forces and produced several bonding squares and a cosy blanket. Having learned from a midwife, also a WI member, that mothers of premature babies use bonding squares to bond with their newborn, work began to make a batch to pass on to Tunbridge Wells Hospital. Additionally, we learned that mothers of stillborn babies use the Hope Butler Suite and word has filtered down that a blanket would be useful. So, we gathered wool, decided on making hexagons, which resulted in the blanket shown.

If anyone is a keen crafter or needle user feel free to come along and join in with us. Some of us have even learned new skills. So make a note in your diary, the third Friday of each month from 8pm. All welcome.



At St Mary's Church in January

Flowers	Services
Sue Scott	Sunday 6th January 9.30am Holy Communion – Rev Peter Callway Sunday 20th January 9.30am Family Service – Rev David Jones

Other services in the Benefice				
January	6 th	13 th	20 th	27 th
Coxheath	11.00 HC	10.30 FS	11.00 HC	11.00 FS
E. Farleigh	09.30 MP	08.00 HC	09.30 HC	08.00 HC
Linton	09.30 FS	09.30 HC	08.00 HC	09.30 MP
W. Farleigh	08.00 HC	09.30 MP		09.30 HC

HC Holy Communion, MP Morning Prayer, FS Family Service

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