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A New New Year's Eve

This year the village club hosted a family New Year's Eve party for the first time. About 50 adults and children enjoyed the evening. The adults were treated to a welcome glass of fizz and another to celebrate the New Year. A separate games area was set aside for the children and a full buffet dinner was provided for all. The club's new kitchen was put to good use and in particular the new three-minute cycle dishwasher was welcomed by those who would have otherwise spent their evening in the sink! Thanks to all those who supported this event, provided food, donated wine and who helped set up and clear up. Just over £400 was raised which will go towards the project to upgrade the club's toilets.



Charity Quiz Night

Local resident, Emma Dolman (sister of Megan of Appalachian Trail fame), is running the London Marathon 2019 in aid of Spinal Research UK, a charity close to her heart. In order to race she must raise a minimum amount of money and so has organised a quiz night to be held at Hunton Village Hall on 16th March.

Teams will be 6-8 people with tickets £12 per person, which includes a welcome drink on arrival. Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start. There will also be a raffle with multiple prizes worth up to £400, including the chance to win a luxury stay at a 4 star hotel.

Contact Emma on 07840 332187 / 01622 820344 or email emmadolman@icloud.com for more information or to register your team.

Gardening Club Meeting and Supper – Saturday 16th February 7pm

Everyone will be welcome to join members of Hunton Gardening Club to hear a talk by the popular speaker, Scott Raffle, an agricultural specialist and member of the Agricultural and Horticultural Development Board, which will be held at the village club. A tasty buffet meal will be available from 7 to 8pm for a donation of only £7.50 with funds raised going towards equipment for the club kitchen. Please contact Lesley to reserve a place for supper and don't forget to tell her if you have any special dietary needs. She will also be very happy to hear from you if you can offer to help on the night or cook something for the buffet.

Email Lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com or phone 01622 820210.

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	Community Warden: Adam McKinley		07811 271021	
Rector: Revd. Peter Callway	747570*	PCSO - Martin Chivers		101	
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	
Churchwarden: Alison Ellman-Brown	820288	*not available on Fridays; **not available on Mondays or Tuesdays			
Village Club: Gil Robertson	820059				
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 Tony Stanbridge	820721
Cllr Annette Trought	820448	Cllr Helen Ward	820810	Cllr Gary Thomas	820691

Diary Dates					
Sat 2 nd Feb	Movie Night	Village Club Doors 7pm	Thurs 7 th Feb	Winter Warmer Lunches	Village Club 12.30pm
Thurs 14 th Feb	Winter Warmer Lunches	Village Club 12.30pm	Sat 16 th Feb	Gardening Club Supper	Village Club 7pm
Thurs 21 st Feb	Winter Warmer Lunches	Village Club 12.30pm	Thurs 28 th Feb	Winter Warmer Lunches	Village Club 12.30pm
Thurs 7 th Mar	Winter Warmer Lunches	Village Club 12.30pm	Sat 16 th Mar	Charity Quiz Night	Village Hall Doors 7pm
The Winter Warmer Lunches continue every Thursday throughout February with the final one on 7 th 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

Queen Elizabeth II is the head of the Church of England, a duty she fulfils with grace and a deep faith. Her Christmas broadcasts in latter years have always had a reference to that faith, which sustains her in her daily life. She will be 93 this year (she shares a birthday with Eileen, our associate rector – but I'm not sure the queen is aware of that fact) and has been scaling back her public appearances slowly. There is a "secret" plan which is now public knowledge (code word "London Bridge has fallen") about what happens when she dies. As well as the formal announcements, with tradition demanding a black bordered note affixed to the gates of Buckingham Palace, there would be radio and television announcements. Immediately radio stations would play "inoffensive music" while BBC Two would suspend their scheduled programming for the day and switch to BBC One's broadcast of the announcement. Four days after the Queen's death, her body would be moved to Westminster Hall and lie in state for four days. The state funeral would be held at Westminster Abbey nine days after the Queen's death, after which her body would be buried in a prepared tomb at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. The nation will mourn, and plans are in place across the country to facilitate that (you may have seen Maidstone Borough Council's plans published in the KM recently). Churches, including our own, will open for private prayer and for books of condolence to be filled in by those who wish to do so. We have services and sermons ready to go, and will deliver those on the first Sunday following. Thinking about such things has been on my mind of late – as well as the regular ministry of funerals, my own father has been unwell and spent time in hospital.

Jesus said that he has come that we might have life in all its fullness (John 10.10). He meant that we are to embrace life with all its ups and downs, highs and lows, joys and griefs, and to be thankful to God for the opportunity to live a life with meaning and purpose. Whoever our role model, whoever inspires us – whether it is somebody like the Queen or somebody completely different, let us give thanks for every day, and seek always to live life to the full.

Many blessings,

Peter Callway, Rector

WI Learn of the Trials of the Appalachian Trail

January's WI meeting was an open meeting with speaker Megan Dolman relating her journey on the Appalachian Trail which took her from 5th March to 14th August 2018 to complete.

Megan gave an enthusiastic and very entertaining account of her journey, including pictures of some of the highs and lows. Reading Physical Geography at University in Oxford had given her the idea of tackling all 2190.9 miles of the Appalachian Trail (AT) across 14 States of the USA from Springer Mountain in Georgia to Mount Katahdin in Maine. The trek took her 162 days in all weathers, from sub-zero temperatures (where she had to defrost her shoes in the mornings) to summer drought conditions, and all terrains, she climbed the equivalent of Everest several times over!

Megan undertook extensive research in preparation for her adventure, ensuring she had the correct equipment and mind-set, but very little physical training as she thought, quite correctly, that she would soon get fit on the trail. Nevertheless, she wore out 4 pairs of hiking shoes, damaged her tent and broke a hiking pole but did manage to avoid any major mishaps. Although there are 120 shelters for hikers on the AT, Megan preferred her tent to avoid the mice, overcrowding and other hikers' snoring.

She needed 5,500 calories a day to supply the energy she needed, and had to carry 3-4 days of food before being able to re-supply, the heaviest single item in her rucksack. Water had to be filtered from supply points, once even from a beaver dam. Food had to be stored away from bears – 12 feet up in a tree and 6 feet away from the trunk, not easy when tired at the end of the day. Megan had several encounters with bears, snakes – including poisonous rattlesnakes – and wild ponies that licked sweat from hiker's arms and legs for the salt!

Highs on the trail included meeting inspirational people, (an 87 year old man walking the trail again, a family of 6, the youngest only 2 years old), the kindness of strangers and amazing scenery in the latter part of the trail. Megan learned to be more flexible in her outlook, to slow down, relax and enjoy the little things in life.

Her remarkable achievement can be seen in some of the statistics: of the 12 000 hikers who begin the trail each season, only about 3 000 complete it and only 25% of the hikers are female, putting Megan's journey into perspective. In 2018, only 4 UK women completed the AT, Megan being the youngest.

Megan received a very enthusiastic response to her talk; all those present were most fortunate to hear her story before she returns to Oxford to continue her studies.

Christmas Fair Raises More than Last Year

Despite the weather the money raised at the Christmas Fair was more than we achieved in 2017. We were able to make a donation of £434.20 to St Mary's church (compared to £380.40 in 2017), Friends of St Mary's made £275.00 (the 2017 total was £233.00) and we have carried forward £201.90 to underwrite the 2019 event. We must thank the PCC for making the church and churchyard available to us and the Parish Council for the funding it puts towards the use of the hall.

Plans are already underway for both the summer fete and the next Christmas Fair and we hope to see you there.

The Events Committee

Notes From a Smallholding

January - A Sow Goes to the Vet

Since we started our new venture nearly 7½ years ago, a few people have asked us why we don't write something in the Herald. At the time I was editor and our New 'Spot On' business made us feel uncomfortable about what might be seen to be advertising.

Seven and a half years since our first piglets arrived and it does not seem possible – we are still learning. One thing we have enjoyed enormously has been getting to know our animals. Some are with us for a short period, but in the main we have a large contingency that are here for the long run and their characters and interactions and antics provide us with no end of amusement. We thought we might share these with you as we progress through our farming year.

Her litter was about 6 weeks old when Curly became lame on a back leg. 100% lame, not putting her foot to the floor at all. Handling her foot and leg to the hip there seemed no obvious discomfort and after discussion with the vet we started her on a course of anti-inflammatory injections, suspecting some soft tissue damage. But nothing improved. Then about 5 days later she developed an abscess on the top of her foot. We started antibiotic therapy and continued with the painkillers. The vet tried to lance the abscess, and we tried hot compresses but to no avail. We decided to book her in for the removal of the toe joint. This was our only option to relieve her discomfort, or put her down.

The day came to take her to the vet and to our relief Curly loaded into the trailer very easily with only three legs to negotiate a ramp, and tempting her in with food she could not eat because of the impending anaesthetic. Unloading at the vet was a different story! A pig will only move when they want to. After much cajoling and coaxing we realized half the problem was her good back leg kept slipping on the trailer floor. With the aid of a horse blanket and rope, her bottom was supported so she could be pulled to her feet. This worked a treat and over an hour later she emerged from the trailer pretty stress free. Fortunately she was the only patient on the list!

We collected her about 4pm. She went in to the trailer relatively easily. I say 'relatively' because we nearly had her in the car park as she tried to out manoeuvre our barricades! Eventually we managed to get her in. She walked easily out of the trailer into her field, her bandage leaving blood stained footprints as we guided her to the ark where there was water, food and a cosy bed.

Curly has been very good-natured throughout this whole episode and I am sure she must have been in enough discomfort to want to bite someone's head off. She has never once objected to me sticking needles in her...most unusual for a pig. Normally once they are well enough to 'suss' what is going on it is nigh on impossible to inject them. In the haste to inject quickly before they know what you're doing, the syringe separates from the needle with the pressure of the plunger and its contents squirt anywhere other than inside the pig; or the pig decides to run off sporting the needle, and the syringe has flung itself somewhere in the opposite direction in the field. If you are lucky enough to still be hanging onto the syringe, the needle is not at the same angle as when you started!

The next morning Curly had breakfast in bed, she was obviously feeling sore as the local anaesthetic and any painkillers she had had, had worn off. With painkillers and breakfast inside her she was soon up on her feet and outside. The bandage was to come off in 3 days and I had terrible visions of trying to remove a bandage that was hard with dried blood and stuck to her hairy leg, but I needn't have worried, the bandage had completely disappeared by day one - I still haven't found it!

Sue Heaton

Winter Warmer Lunches

Every Thursday during February, and the first Thursday in March, a kind team of volunteers will again be organising buffet lunches in the village club. Doors open at 12 noon with food usually available from about 12.30pm. You will normally find a choice of two homemade soups, bread, cheese, gammon and pickles followed by cakes or biscuits with your tea or coffee. The requested donation for this meal is only £6 but more is always gratefully received as money raised is divided between St Mary's Church and the club. At the moment it is being used at the church to help maintain the fabric of the building where the current problem is to repair some masonry which decided to fall off the outside of a window. Funds donated to the club will go towards more kit for the new kitchen (extractor fan etc) and then the project to upgrade the toilets. These are very friendly events so do come along and bring your friends and family.

If you are willing to help organise these events or to make soup or cakes do contact Lesley. Also let her know if you have any special dietary needs as she will do her best to cater for you. Email Lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com or phone 01622 820210.

Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

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

Fete Date

This year's village fete will take place on **Saturday 23rd June**. Make a note in your diaries now! This is the 4th Saturday in June, not the customary 3rd Saturday.

East Farleigh Farmers' Market

Unfortunately it has been necessary to cancel the February Farmers' Market that was due to take place on Sunday 3rd February. We apologise for any disappointment to our customers.

Sue Morris

Village Club Subscriptions – Renew Now and Save!

Membership cards for 2019 are now available at the village club. Please call in to the club and renew your annual subscription. The annual subscription fee, which is per person, is £20 (there is no longer a concession for over 65s) but if you renew your membership before 28th February 2018 you will receive a discount of £5. This represents excellent value for money, allowing members to benefit from the varied events that are planned throughout the year and to use the Hunton Village Club bar at very favourable prices. New members are welcome. If you wish to join, please email the Membership Secretary, Celia Kennedy-Sloane at celiavks@gmail.com, or call into the club. Opening hours are 8pm–11pm Wednesday to Friday, 12pm–2.30pm and 8pm–10.30pm Sunday.

HUNTON
MOVIE NIGHT
FEATURE: THE LADYKILLERS (1955)

SUPPER £7.50

POPCORN

CINEMA

CINEMA

SATURDAY 2 FEB 2019
TO BOOK CALL 01622 820059
EMAIL LESLEY.A.LEE@BTINTERNET.COM

DOORS OPEN: 7PM
2 COURSE SUPPER: 7.30PM
MOVIE: 8.30PM

HUNTON VILLAGE CLUB
EAST STREET, HUNTON

New PCSO

We have a new PCSO – Martin Chivers – who took over from Jasmine Pay at the beginning of January. Martin can be contacted via the police non-emergency number 101.

At St Mary's Church in February

Flowers		Services			
Moira Ensoll		Sunday 3rd February 9.30am Holy Communion – Rev Eileen Doyle Sunday 17th February 9.30am Family Service – Rev David Jones			
Other services in the Benefice					
February	3 rd	10 th	17 th	24 th	
Coxheath	11.00 HC	11.00 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 February, please