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## 100 not out!

With this, the 100<sup>th</sup> issue of The Hunton Herald, it seemed appropriate to report on what has been achieved and to thank those involved.

When a small group got together to try to provide a replacement for the previous Parish Magazine it was hoped that a shorter, more widely focused and cheaper to produce news sheet would be viable. A key requirement was that this publication would be delivered free to every house in the village and that advertising revenue generated would be ploughed back into the village community.

We started off with a colour version, thanks to financial support from the Parish Council, a large number of individuals and one particularly kind and generous benefactor (this came at a critical time and was a great morale booster).

After three years we were forced to move to black and white. This has proved much easier to manage and has significantly increased our annual surplus, helping us to distribute £8,000 to the school, the restoration of the church and other village causes. In addition to this financial success, the recent Hunton Calling survey revealed that the Herald was considered to be the most important information source for village news!

These results have been achieved through the hard work and support of those who write (and gather) the articles, prepare the layout, edit, proof read and print/copy the finished product, and then an army of deliverers to distribute them. We also thank those who have supported the project through arranging, placing and then printing the adverts. Thank you all. This success can only be maintained if you, the village, continue to support us with articles as the items submitted to it drive the character and content of the Herald. Please keep it going and help us to make the next 100 issues what you would like them to be.



**Easter Raffle** It's chocolate time! Come along to Hunton Club and, whilst you enjoy a drink, buy a raffle ticket or two. It's your chance to win a fabulous Easter Egg. The draw will take place at lunchtime on Easter Sunday. Proceeds will go towards the cost of internal decoration of the club.

## It's Time to Celebrate!

Come rain or come shine Hunton Village will celebrate the Royal Wedding at the Village Club where we hope to create a street party atmosphere. Come along and celebrate with us. Your club will be open from 11am for you to see all proceedings right through until closing time. BYO picnic or enjoy delicious treats from the BBQ. There will be a fancy dress competition for the children – and the theme - why, "Royalty" of course! Judging will take place at 2.30pm.



**[www.huntonvillageclub.co.uk](http://www.huntonvillageclub.co.uk)** Hunton Village club now has its own website.

By the time this goes to press this site will be live. Why not visit **[www.huntonvillageclub.co.uk](http://www.huntonvillageclub.co.uk)**?

**Coffee Morning at the Bowls Club** Saturday 9 April, 10.00am to 12pm in the Bowls Pavilion, King George's Field, West Street. Entrance £1 to include coffee. There will be cakes for sale, tombola, plants for sale, books and bric-a-brac, etc.

## Hunton Summer Fete 25<sup>th</sup> June Stalls Available

Calling all local artists, crafters, cake makers, smallholders and anyone else looking to make an impact and sell their wares. Get in touch with Annette at [annette@trought.com](mailto:annette@trought.com) or call/ text to 0795 853 6468 to book a stall for the fete. Offers of help and volunteers still needed. Please contact Annette.

### Your Local Contacts:

Parish Council Chairman: Roger Sawtell	820731	Clerk to Parish Council: Sharon Goodwin	681238
School: Secretary/Head Teacher	820360	Village Hall Booking: Jane Crane	820127
Under 5's Pre-School:	820309	Maidstone Police:	608186
Pre-School Supervisor:	07972067110	Neighbourhood Watch:	608173
Pond and Tree Warden: Anne Bishop	820683	'Potholes' concern (KCC): Kim Hills	0845 824 7800
Rector: Revd Peter Walker	747570**	Churchwarden: Alison Ellman-Brown	820288
Associate Rector: Revd David Jones	741474*	PCSO Tom Mepstead/Richard Chainey	604392
Village Club: Doug Redfarn	820495		

\*not available on Fridays \*\*not available on Mondays

### Dates for Diaries:

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April **Parish Plan meeting** 8pm Hunton Village Club  
 Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April **Knit and Natter Group** 2.30-4.30pm Yalding Gardens  
 Easter Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April **Easter Egg raffle** lunchtime at the Village Club  
 Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April **Royal Wedding Celebrations** in the Village Club  
 Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May **Applause Event** Village Hall – **Kerr Fagan Herbrorn**  
 Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May **Parish Council Meeting** 7pm and **Annual Meeting** 8pm Village Hall  
 Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May **Knit and Natter Group** 2.30-4.30pm Yalding Gardens  
**Next Freight Service** Hunton Village Hall Car Park Saturday 14 May - 13:40 – 1410

### Parish Councillors contact details

**Parish Council Chairman**  
 – Roger Sawtell 820731  
**Clerk to the Parish Council**  
 – Sharon Goodwin 681238  
 Cllr Les Leonard 820858 Cllr David Heaton 820678  
 Cllr Moira Walter 745765 Cllr Keith Eatwell 745569

**All items for the May edition to the Editors as soon as possible, and by 15th April, please**

Dear Friends,

*'For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that he was buried, and that He was raised again the third day' (1 Cor15:3-4)\**

There is an account written on the last day on earth of the philosopher Socrates (399bc) as he awaited execution. Some of his followers came to visit him.

The conversation turned to the subject of immortality. Where would the philosopher go after death? What lies beyond the grave? Could Socrates shed any light on these questions? They argued this way and that and concluded that it was almost impossible to attain any certainty about these enquiries.

All people could do, they reasoned, is take the best of human notions and let that be as a raft on which to sail through life – such a voyage was risky they determined, but unless there was a sure word from God which would carry them safely they saw no way out of their dilemma. There was no sure word.

We now have the 'sure word' for as Saint Paul made clear to the church in Corinth (see above quote\*) Jesus was resurrected from death and in this we share that resurrection hope.

The resurrection of Christ which was accomplished over 2000 years ago is a spiritual reality for us today. Jesus who died that we might live ensures that life in all its fullness is secure, for in his death and rising from it, all hope is ours. For this we must offer our daily lives as the living reality of this truth. So the most mundane activity can now be seen as 'sacramental' even the most routine of activities: the housework, mowing the grass, the meal preparation, the washing and the ironing, going to the office and so on.

All of life is to be an integration into the Living Christ. In a real sense we shouldn't leave a church service to 'go home', but to see the whole activity of life caught-up with the Jesus who walks alongside us as he did on that first Easter day with the two disciples on the Emmaus Road. A seamless continuity.

We need to welcome afresh the reconciling, living Jesus Christ whom the Father has sent to assure us of His great love and saving power. Easter Day is a powerful reminder of that new life and hope which the Son of the Living God offers and for whom we seek to serve each day of our Christian pilgrimage.

We both send our love for a Holy Easter

Peter and Diana

## School News Victorian Britain and Exploring the Moon

**Reception** Class' topic this term is Growing and New Life which means the pupils plan to spend lots of time in their newly painted garden getting the vegetable plot ready. They will be learning about the life cycles of plants, frogs and butterflies and reading lots of traditional stories about fruit, vegetables and animals.

**Lower School** will be learning about climate differences around the world and how this affects food growth and how our treatment of the world can affect the climate. In science they will be investigating how long it takes for seeds to germinate.

**Middle School** will be learning about astronauts, moon landings and the geography of the moon and all about the planets. In RE they will be completing their work on the parables of Jesus and looking at the Easter story.

**Upper School** continue their focus on schools and pastimes and have been very engrossed in cross stitch sewing having looked at a sampler which was sewn by a student of Hunton School in 1853! They also filled a large box with books to consider how heavy a coal truck would have been to push as a child in Victorian Britain.

**Don't Forget the Art Exhibition for the Hunton Fete** Start thinking about what you want to enter - there is no theme and you can submit as many entries as you like and the choice of media is yours! Everyone is welcome! Please submit your work (preferably already mounted with name and telephone number on the back) to Barbara Wright, Wealden Hall House, East St 01622 820218 **no later than 20 June 2011.**

**Residence Available at Peace Cottages** Following thorough refurbishment, a one-bedroom, single-storey residence will become available at Peace Cottages almshouses in West Street, Hunton. Applicants should have some connection with Hunton. Enquiries to Ruth Porter on 01622 820220.

## Hunton Club Book Group - JANUARY'S BOOK REVIEW

**Nothing to Envy by Barbara Demick** *Nothing to Envy* follows the lives of six North Koreans over fifteen years – a chaotic period that saw the death of Kim Il-sung, the unchallenged rise to power of his son Kim Jong-il and the devastation of a famine that killed one fifth of the population. Taking us into a landscape most of us have never seen, this book brings to life what it means to be living under the most repressive totalitarian regime today. We follow the six average North Korean citizens' lives as they fall in love, raise families, nurture ambitions and struggle for survival. One by one we experience the moments when they realise that their government has betrayed them.

*Nothing to Envy* is an eye-opening and shocking look at a closed world where children do not celebrate their birthdays but only their leader's - Kim Il-sung's. Where citizens have no electricity as it is needed to illuminate his statues and where time is dated not from the birth of Christ but from 1912, the birth date of Kim Il-sung!

Our group agreed that the book was thought provoking, enlightening and disturbing. Some thought it was totally and utterly brilliant whilst others found the book a little too much like a text book and felt they should be studying it and didn't finish it. Overall, we agreed that Barbara Demick's profession as a reporter resulted in a book that read as just that, a report. We would have enjoyed it more had it been more flowing and incorporated more emotion as it left us out of touch with the characters. We awarded this book 6 ½ out of 10.

Our book for February is *A Patchwork Planet* by Anne Tyler - See review on opposite page.

**Snowdrop Sunday** Following last year's Snowdrop Sunday the Friends of St Mary's hosted the event at the church on the 20<sup>th</sup> February. Though the weather was a bit dismal about 200 people viewed the snowdrops in the churchyard, including the Hunton Giant. The cool weather enabled the Friends to serve a lot of hot tea and raise funds. It is hoped that this will become a regular event as the numbers of snowdrops are increasing both naturally and by volunteers who split clumps on an annual basis. These are distributed around the churchyard to increase the charm of these delicate precursors of spring. The last working party planted clumps right round the churchyard path on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> February.

On the same day as, and in conjunction with, the St Mary's Snowdrop event David and Anke Way opened their garden, 'Southover', under the National Gardens Scheme. Here many varieties of snowdrops were on display all neatly labelled as a testament to the many years of collecting by David and Anke. Over 300 people attended and about £1,000 was collected for National Charities and the Friends of St Mary's.



**Parish Council** **Police Warn of Increased Crime Threat.** There were a number of thefts in the Hunton area during February. PC Mepstead and PCSO Chainey attended the meeting and warned that there is a rise in thefts of heating oil from both private and business properties. People should be aware of suspicious vehicles, normally box vans or horse boxes, which are the disguise for tanks which thieves use to transport stolen fuel. The police have also warned that there are many people looking for scrap due to increases in metal prices. Some of these people do not confine themselves to legitimate scrap and are stealing anything metal that they can get their hands on. All suspicious vehicles should be reported to the police.

**Footpath** Chairman, Roger Sawtell, reported that he and other councillors had had a meeting with David Smith, the Footpaths Officer. Mr Smith allayed councillors fears and stated that even with cuts in public spending, KCC has sufficient funds to pay for the footpath infrastructure. He also told councillors that the landowner agreements are with their legal department and he hoped that they should soon be authorised. (A working party, including four councillors, on 5<sup>th</sup> March started to clear the dead and ivy choked hedge bordering this footpath prior to replanting. This work may look drastic, but has been carried out following advice from the Medway Valley Partnership.)

**Traffic.** Councillors discussed the issue of speeding in West Street; the 20mph limit by the school, and the general state of repair of West Street. The Parish Council continues to lobby, with the support of Borough and County councillors, Kent Highway Services for all of these. In particular, councillors met with KHS representatives to discuss the widening of the road along the edge of the recreation ground. KHS stated that it was not their policy to allow roads to become wider even inadvertently. They went away to consider how this can be rectified and the Parish Council will be pursuing this matter vigorously. The Council also discussed the volume of HGV's on Hunton Hill following a letter from residents. The Council will continue to seek a solution to this matter through discussions with KHS.

**Fete.** Parish Councillors voted to loan the Fete committee £1000 for expenses that will be incurred running up to what is hoped will be a successful day.

**Annual Parish Meeting.** The next Parish Council meeting will include the Annual Parish Meeting at 8:00pm on 12<sup>th</sup> May when representatives of societies and organisations in the village will give short presentations of the past year. All parishioners are invited to attend.

### **Out and Out - Wild About Gardens**

Each year the Kent Wildlife Trust is part of a scheme to encourage us gardeners to show how wildlife friendly our gardens are and to share the secrets of their success. If you sign up for the scheme an assessor will visit, offering advice and awarding bronze, silver or gold certificates to deserving gardens. One or two gardens in Hunton already enter as does the Churchyard. This year entries will be accepted until 30<sup>th</sup> June. I intend to enter my garden this year and will report to you on my progress. Gardens are incredibly important to wildlife, offering spaces for them to hunt and breed away from the tumult of modern agriculture. Wildlife is mostly appreciated in my garden and is encouraged with planting and an organic approach; however, if marks are given for bat boxes and bought insect homes, then we will come away empty handed. If you would like to join in go to the Kent Wildlife Trust website and follow the links to Wild About Gardens. You can also phone for an entry form (01622 662012).

*Christine McSweeney*

**Hunton Club Book Group - February's Book Review: A Patchwork Planet by Anne Tyler** This is not a gripping tale with a dynamic plot but rather it is a studied commentary on life with detailed and light hearted observations of the people within it. Barney Gatlin has spent his life trying to rebel against his socially conscious family but never quite managing to escape from them or to atone for his past indiscretions. The way the story is told and the character of Barney made some of us think of a grown up Holden Caulfield from The Catcher in the Rye. We enjoyed the quirky characters and were sometimes aggravated by Barney's methods but everyone agreed that the company he worked for, 'Rent a Back', was a marvellous idea. We gave the book 6 out of 10, several of us would definitely read more books

**Village Hall Applause Concert Friday 13 May - Kerr Fagan Harbron** a dynamic new Anglo-Australian acoustic super-trio featuring Nancy Kerr on fiddle and viola, autoharp and vocals, James Fagan guitar-bouzouki and vocals, Robert Harbron English concertina, guitar and vocals. They are described as a joy to listen to, three consummate musicians delighting in their art. Beautiful tunes, wonderful songs and tremendous musicianship. There surely can't be a finer trio on the folk scene. [www.kerrfaganharbron.co.uk](http://www.kerrfaganharbron.co.uk) [www.myspace.com/kerrfaganharbron](http://www.myspace.com/kerrfaganharbron). Tickets now available £10, Under 21's £5, available from 01622 820683 or 820678, licensed bar. All proceeds go toward the Village Hall maintenance fund. Next major project - working towards a more sustainable heating provision.

## At St Mary's Church in April

### Notices

**Coffee Rota** Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April Anke Way

### Churches Together in Maidstone 2011

#### EASTER IS COMING!

**Maundy Thursday April 21<sup>st</sup> 7.30pm** Holy

Communion Service at the Union Street Methodist Church led by Rev Clifford Newman, Minister of Union Street Methodist Church

**Good Friday April 22<sup>nd</sup> 10.30 am** – Walk of Witness from Baptist Church, Knighttrider Street leaving at 10.30am

**11.00am Open Air Service outside M&S.** The speaker will be Commissioner Barry Swanson, Chief of the Staff Salvation Army. The service will be led by Rev Clifford Watt and music provided by the Salvation Army Band.

**11.30am Good Friday Service** at Salvation Army with Commissioner Barry Swanson speaking.

**7.30pm Churches Together Choir Service** in United Reformed Church

**Easter Sunday April 24<sup>th</sup> 6.30am Sunrise Service**, top of Bluebell Hill (organised by Tonbridge Road Methodist Church and led by Rev Gary Watt)



### Services

#### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent (Mothering Sunday)

11.00 am Family Service – Rev David Jones

Readings: Preacher's choice

#### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

09.30 am Holy Communion – Rev Ron Gamble

Readings: Ezekiel 37:1-14 and John 11:1-45

#### (2pm Baptism – Rev Peter Walker)

#### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April – Palm Sunday

11.00 am Morning Prayer – Rev David Jones

Readings: Isaiah 50:4-9(a) and Matthew 21:1-11

#### Maundy Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April

7.30pm West Farleigh - Rev Peter Walker

Readings: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 and John 13:1-17, 31b-35

#### Good Friday April 22<sup>nd</sup>

12.30am - Coxheath and West Farleigh

2pm - Linton and East Farleigh

Readings: Preacher's choice

#### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Day

11.00 am Holy Communion – Rev Peter Walker

Readings: Colossians 3:1-4 and John 20:1-18

#### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May

11.00 am Family Service

Readings: Preachers Choice

## Friends of St. Mary's Annual General Meeting held at the Village Hall 3<sup>rd</sup> March

### Chairman's Statement

A warm welcome to the second Annual General Meeting of the Friends of St. Mary's Hunton. It seems difficult to me to grasp that this local Charity has just entered its third year, such has been the pace of its development.

There is no doubt that there is a real upsurge in community activity in Hunton and we feel as a Board of Trustees very much part of that. We have enjoyed a most successful year and we have plans to continue with that success.

It is perhaps just worth reminding ourselves of the purpose of our existence and why we were granted Charitable status. We are here to raise funds for the protection of the Church building and it's fabric for future generations. Of course, we do not only raise money for the Church but we use those funds wisely following the terms of our Constitution. As an illustration we have contributed towards the restoration of the Fane Memorial and have committed funds towards the restoration of the Church doors and will be liaising with the PCC which is faced with a potentially serious problem of damp along the north wall of the Church.

We have been fortunate that our membership numbers have grown, albeit slower that we would have wanted and our fund raising efforts this year have been really successful.

Many of you attended a Barn Dance in September; we ran the raffle courtesy of the Hunton Club at their very successful New Year's Eve Party; received the refreshment money when Sue and David Heaton opened their gardens last summer; and of course the snow drop event which has been even more successful this year. This will now be an annual event. It would be remiss of me if I did not acknowledge the inspiration of this event and this is of course David and Anke Way.

Of course none of this would not have happened without the hard work of our Trustees not infrequently supported by their children. My thanks go to John Scott whose idea this was in the first place, David Heaton for taking on the Treasurer's role when Tony Young left us. To Lisa Halliday for taking on the role of the Minute Secretary and being integral in the success of the snow drop event. To Kate Banks for driving the Barn Dance and for opening her home by hosting our Trustee meetings and to Roger Sawtell for his wise counsel and being an excellent link with the PCC.

I also wish to express my thanks to our outgoing Treasurer Tony Young and thank him for dealing so well with all our start up issues which were not straightforward. We have not replaced Tony yet but we have made an approach to someone who we think will be a great asset to our team if they accept our invitation.

My thanks to you all who are members and to those who support our fund raising events. It is a most worthwhile cause and we hope that this year will see our membership continue to grow. Thank you. Ron Porter, Chair of Trustees

April	3rd	10th	17th	24th	1st May
Coxheath	11.00 HC	11.00 MP	11.00 HC	11.00 FS +HC	11.00 HC
E. Farleigh	11.00 FS	08.00 HC 11.00 FS	6pm Palm Sunday	08.00 HC	09.30 Matins
Linton	09.30 HC	09.30 FS	08.00 HC	09.30 HC	09.30 HC
W. Farleigh	08.00 HC	11.00 MP (Trad)	9.30 MP (Mod)	09.30 HC	08.00 HC
HC: Holy Communion, MP: Morning Prayer, (bcp) Book of Common Prayer, FS: Family Service, SW: Service of Word					



# HUNTON CALLING – WE’RE LISTENING 12 FEBRUARY 2011

## And the next step – the Action Planning

The results of the Parish Plan questionnaire were in and the last opportunity to capture residents’ views took place on Saturday 12 February at the Village Hall. The turnout was good; an estimated 60 people walked through the Village Hall doors.

The hall was full of displays and boards highlighting the issues from the questionnaire that most concerned residents or what residents would like to see most in Hunton. These included: Allotments/Community Land; Central Hub (including a community shop and playground equipment); Farmers’ Market; Fly Tipping; Footpaths & Verges & Quiet Lanes; HGV/Highways/Pot holes/Parking; Recycling; Speeding; Sustainability and Transport. Jim Boot (Maidstone Borough Council), Carl Adams (Action with Communities in Rural Kent), and local resident Jacqueline Leach (sustainability) also had stands on their organisations that could help with issues raised in the questionnaire. There was also the opportunity to express interest in joining and setting up local groups and another chance for us to get together as a community and have a bit of a catch up over some lovely hot leek and potato soup!



The winner of the questionnaire prize draw was Mr Oliver and Ms Buckley was the lucky raffle winner of the produce from the Farmers’ Market display.

A PowerPoint Presentation of the results from the questionnaire, which is also posted on the village website, was on a loop so that those attending could get the whole picture. We received 165 questionnaires back, which represented a response rate of 55.2%, which is pretty good for exercises of this sort.

The aim of the We’re Listening event was not only to publicise the results of the questionnaire and to fine tune the order of preference in which we tackle the issues (see section on the i-button voting system below), but also to make residents more aware of the roles and responsibilities of our local

public authorities. Information was provided which will help us to contact the right department when we wish to make a complaint or highlight a problem. The top concerns raised by the village were HGVs and the state of the highways. Whilst we are unable to directly manage these issues as they are not within our hands to achieve, we can lobby the appropriate authorities for action where necessary. However, there is much that we can do within the village and we had a lot of people willing to join various groups among which a walking group was the most popular. Many people were prepared to help with litter picking around the village and quite a few people want to join a yoga/pilates group. We had names for a wine tasting group; a local History group; a group to address speeding in the village; some people signed up to join a Target Shooting Group; a group to look at our Carbon footprint; a gardening group; and a Bee Keeping group. A few wanted a Fish and chip/ curry night – (could be held in the club!) and there was interest in Craft and Sewing clubs, clay sculpture/ drawing/painting and a Flower Group. Petanque and a Classic Car group were also of interest. If anyone is interested and wants to join any of these groups please contact 01622 820678 or email [huntonparishplan@btinternet.com](mailto:huntonparishplan@btinternet.com) and we will hopefully be able get a fair number of these off the ground!

### The ‘i-button’ voting system

It couldn’t have been simpler! When residents came in they were welcomed and given a small packet containing 5 buttons. They were advised to have a look at the displays and mull it over whilst having a cup of soup before coming back to the voting table and putting their buttons in the highly technical hyacinth jars. The ten neatly labelled vases corresponded to the 10 questionnaire topics mentioned above. The glass vases helped residents to see exactly which areas had received most votes.



The buttons were counted and the results were as follows:

<b>HGVs/Highways/Pot Holes/Parking</b>	57	<b>Sustainability</b>	18
<b>Central Hub</b>	44	<b>Transport</b>	18
<b>Footpaths, Verges, Quiet Lanes</b>	40	<b>Farmers’ Market</b>	14
<b>Speeding</b>	39	<b>Recycling</b>	14
<b>Fly Tipping</b>	35	<b>Allotments/Community Land</b>	13

The outcome was much in line with the order of priorities raised in the questionnaire. This is a helpful reinforcement and suggests that the questionnaire has got a reasonably accurate picture of the views of the village residents.



We had a section on the **Central Hub**, an idea that the village would have a focal point that would draw people together where they could bump into their neighbours. Options were for something as large as a new build for the Village club adjoining the Village Hall that got as far as planning stage a few years ago to developing the play area for the children. Many people commented on needing a better play area for 4-14 year olds. It is possible to get grants and we need a group of people prepared to help drive this forward. Carl Adams had information on village shops and we discussed the possibility of a mobile shop to see what interest there might be in the village for a shop. A lot of

people said they would use one, once or twice a week, whilst others felt local shops were near enough.

What about our own **Farmers Market** or even a Christmas Fair? The Fete was really top of the list and there is a lot to do to give this a real swing – if anyone wants to help please contact Annette on [annette@trought.com](mailto:annette@trought.com) or call/ text to 0795 853 6468

Could there be more we can do about **recycling**? People are worried about the mess these large recycling units make in car parks. Can we make more use the Freighter service when it comes to the village? We learnt that Maidstone Borough Council can do a lot to help with dog fouling and are successful in catching the perpetrators.

Jaqueline Leach explained about the impact we have on other countries and locally as a community. Individually there is much that we can do to think about the **sustainability** of our planet. Alan Bishop is keen to think about solar panels for the Village Hall so that the building can produce its own electricity and more to send back to the grid; there are grants for this.

Maybe we want to grow our own food and there is opportunity to set up a site for **allotments** if we have enough demand - we had 14 who wanted this from the questionnaire – but these people were not at this event. Please contact us at 01622 820678 or email [huntonparishplan@btinternet.com](mailto:huntonparishplan@btinternet.com) if you are interested and it is possible to make this happen. What about a piece of **community land**? Do you know we have an acre in the village being carefully managed for wildlife with careful planting of wild species that many help to maintain under the careful guidance of David and Anke Way? It is our Churchyard. Fritillaries and yellow rattle have been sown amongst other valuable species.



**Transport** schemes are available for those that need to get around; we need to explore these further as our bus services are limited. **Speeding** was another major concern and the Parish Council is already addressing this. There will be white posts at the speed limit signs within the village that will highlight the limit and aim to slow the traffic. Is there more that people want to do? Does anyone want to set up a speed watch? If so contact 01622 820678 or email [huntonparishplan@btinternet.com](mailto:huntonparishplan@btinternet.com)

**Parking** was an issue for a few in Bensted Close and how much the Borough Council can help may depend on how many houses are not privately owned.

Many people in the village enjoy walking the **footpaths** and a walking group was extremely popular! How about developing our own booklet on walks through the village? We are fortunate enough to have a real network of footpaths within this lovely countryside. We had a display of freshly picked **Litter** and **Fly tipping** from Lughorse Lane. The village does suffer from cans and packaging being thrown out of car windows onto the verges. Many people were really eager to help to clear this up and set up a working party perhaps twice a year. Meanwhile there are contact numbers to alert the council who do come and remove fly tipped rubbish on public land. Would we like **Quiet Lanes** in the village? There are a few roads that are not the major spines through the village that could be designated quiet lanes and could make these roads safer for walkers, cyclists and horse riders. If anyone is interest to help focus on this, please contact 01622 820678 or email [huntonparishplan@btinternet.com](mailto:huntonparishplan@btinternet.com) and we could make some progress.

Other comments from the questionnaire and Ideas Night have been raised, such as the welcoming of newcomers into the village. Many feel the website does not tell them enough and there seems to be little to explain what is going on. As part of this we would like to organise a welcome pack for newcomers to the village, which of course will include a copy of the plan but also useful telephone numbers, the clubs and groups and who to contact. A copy of this little booklet will also be sent out to all residents. Would anyone like to be part of a group to look at what might be useful in the pack? Newcomers may have some helpful suggestions. Do contact 01622 820678 or email [huntonparishplan@btinternet.com](mailto:huntonparishplan@btinternet.com) We thought we would also use the Hunton Herald to provide information on the whereabouts of the notice boards and the village website. Many people raised in the questionnaire that they were unaware of their existence or where they were.

In the main most villagers did not want to see any great changes to the village, they love living here. It is a spread out village and has no real central point, but since the development of a few more groups within the village and the Hunton Calling event in September, many people have commented on there being a real buzz. There are now more activities and it feels like we are beginning to see the development of more of a community. If that is the only change we can effect that will have been a considerable investment for Hunton.

We are currently pulling the ideas together for the action plan and are now quite a way along the road of the development of the format of the document. We aim to have a draft ready for the Parish Council in the next month so look out for its launch at the Hunton Fete on 25 June, after which we aim to deliver one to every household with the Hunton Herald in July.

The Parish Plan Steering Committee would like to thank everyone involved in getting the event off the ground and to the residents who attended, including many children and a group from Hunton Primary School, and of course to everyone who completed the questionnaire.