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Parish Council News

New quotes are to be obtained for fitting solar panels on the roof of the Village Hall to generate energy, after it appears that equipment costs have dropped following the recent Government announcement on tariffs. Hall Committee Chairman, Alan Bishop, reported to the January Parish Council meeting that with planning permission having been granted, he had been advised that as a Government appeal over the feed in tariffs was pending, the work should be carried out as soon as possible.

The Hall Committee will contribute to funding, with a supporting grant offered by the Parish Council. A sub-committee meeting is to be called to discuss the plans when a final quote has been received.

"Payment from the feedback to the National Grid once the panels have been installed will be advantageous to the hall finances over many years to come," said Mr Bishop.

The Parish Council is planning to authorise workmen to dig out the ditch at the side of the Village playing fields by the roadside from the foot of Hunton Hill to the Village Hall. Excavated earth would be used to reinforce the hedge by West Street.

Hall Chairman Alan Bishop felt that the work would relieve the pressure on the car park which frequently suffered water damage.

An urgent site meeting has been called with the Kent Highways Authority to discuss the ditch work. An operation to ease the flooding from the BT junction box at the bottom of Hunton Hill is thought to have been successful.

A free pack of 105 small trees is to be obtained from the Woodland Trust for planting on public land across the Parish, possibly between West Street and the village playing fields.

Maidstone Borough Councillor John Wilson reported to the Parish Council meeting that plans to bring in weight restrictions for heavy goods vehicles using Benover Road and crossing the historic bridge in Yalding, were likely to come into existence later this year, although local commercial business lorries should be exempt. Mr Wilson hoped that an overall study of HGV movements across Kent would be initiated.

A spate of thefts of underground earthing cables - valuable for their scrap metal content - has taken place across the Maidstone area, including two in Water Lane and Bishops Lane, Hunton.

Police have appealed to householders aware of any suspicious activity outside their premises, such as the appearance of old style BT vans, to inform officers at the local station.

Outbuildings in the area, including one in Bishops Lane, have also been burgled with mowers and garden equipment stolen.

Applause - Pinocchio Saturday 11th February at 6.30pm - An Unmissable Treat

"Strangeface Theatre Company" are bringing their wonderful production to the Village Hall. They have been receiving rave reviews from their Christmas period residence at 'The Stables' Milton Keynes and we are thrilled they are coming to Hunton.

Do have a look at www.strangeface.co.uk and www.youtube.com/watch?v=KqKA7o6ADaA

A show to be enjoyed by all, except the very young. Tickets will be in great demand when word gets out. £10 adults, £5 u-21. Available on 820683 and via huntonvillagehall@hotmail.com

Bragatanga - Live in concert - Friday 23rd March at 8pm. www.myspace.com/bragatanga Ticket details as above.

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
Non Stipendiary Minister: Revd David Jones	741474*	PCSO Tom Mepstead/Richard Chainey	604392
Village Club: Doug Redfarn	820495	Hunton Bell Ringers, Michael Webb	745716

*not available on Fridays **not available on Mondays

Diary Dates

Saturday 11th February **The Amazing Adventures of Pinocchio** Village Hall 6.30pm
 Sunday 12th February **Snow Drop Sunday** Event Friends of St Mary's
 Saturday 17th March **Litter Picking** Village Hall
 Friday 23rd March **Bragatanga - Live in concert** - Village Hall 8pm
 Friday 13th April **Pantomime - Cinderella** Hunton Village Hall
 Saturday 14th April 2012 **Pantomime - Cinderella** Hunton Village Hall
 Saturday 16th June **Litter Picking** Village Hall
 Saturday 22nd September 2012 **Litter Picking** Village Hall

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 Gary Thomas 820691
 Cllr Ron Porter 820220

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

Dear All

I have just returned from a long walk through the fields in the Linton and Hunton area. No car, simply left the house and walked across Amsbury Road and down the hill. You know I've lived in this area for nearly 45 years and never done that walk before and I doubt if I can repeat it as I lost the footpath signs and found myself in orchards looking for ways out. Round two reservoirs, (no doubt trespassing) with wild life in abundance, passed two clumps of primroses and the sun shining in my eyes it was so low. What a way to spend an afternoon! What should I have been doing I kept thinking as I walked. What emails awaited my return from people not able to attend a meeting that evening? Oh, how I longed for that cup of tea in front of the fire when I got home! Was I disappointed? Did anyone miss me or want me? Well, happily the answer to the first was 'no', I am not disappointed with the cup of tea and to the second? Again, 'no', only one email and no phone calls. Sometimes we simply need to do what we want and not bother too much about the 'self inflicted' consequences which may never happen.

So where does all this lead me? Well, it is to the verse that the Ministry Team decided to use for 2012. From the Psalms, it reminds us to 'Commit ourselves to God, trust in Him and he will act!'

* Perhaps my life is too well organised in my own strength, perhaps I have a 'self inflated' opinion of what is required of me, perhaps the world, mine or others, will not come to an end if I take an afternoon off. Perhaps I might be the better for it? Who knows but certainly this afternoon was worth it and maybe another afternoon waits for me?

Go on, stop trusting always in yourself and trust God to provide. At least in my case the February letter was written quicker and with more enthusiasm. That might not be obvious to the reader of course!

Hope to see you out and about.

David

*Psalm 37 v 5

Hunton Village Club

Membership Renewals

Annual Club membership fees for 2012 are now due. This year the cost remains the same at £10 or £5 for those 65 or over.

In order to encourage members to renew their membership promptly it was decided at the AGM to introduce a late payment fee of £5. So renew yours prior to 29th February to avoid this fee. Call in to your club to collect your card.

Forthcoming club events for 2012 will be published on the website, in the Herald, on the Club notice board and via email in the near future.

Seasonal Events

A large number of members enjoyed Christmas Eve at the club. The annual prize draw was held with all monies raised being used to purchase prizes which included spirits, wines, chocolates and cash. Once again it proved to be a popular event.

Christmas Day also saw a good number of members and their families calling in for a drop of Christmas cheer and social chitchat prior to their lunch.

A New Year's Eve party was enjoyed and went on into the early hours. The bar duties were shared by some committee members and their wives enabling all to enjoy their evening. The short period when alcoholic drinks were offered at half price proved to be enormously popular.

Thanks must be given to the Committee, their wives and in particular, to Nick Davies, Alan Blackledge-Smith and Phil Nichols for all their time and efforts over the festive season.

Cinderella

It's Pantomime time – Hunton's very own production!

Hunton Village Hall, Friday 13th and Saturday 14th April.

Make a note of the date in your diary.

Hunton is producing its own pantomime, starring many local faces.

Watch out for further details in the March issue of the Hunton Herald.

Tickets will be available early in March.

Cleaner Wanted

Hunton CEP School requires a cleaner for Monday and Tuesday evenings 3.15-4.45.

Our school is very clean and well maintained; you will work as part of a small friendly team.

Please come and help keep our school in tip top condition!

Please contact Headteacher, Mrs Sue Wood, for further details 01622 820360.



Village Clean Up

The next village "clean up" will take place on **Saturday 17th March** - weather permitting!. If you would like to volunteer for this could you please ring Di Martin or Nigel Parsons on 01622 820115 by the middle of February to ensure that we ask the Council to supply enough jackets, gloves and pickers.

We meet at the Village Hall at 10am and hopefully we will be finished by 12 noon. The first clean up took considerably longer as the job hadn't been carried out for a long time.

Di Martin

Out and Out New Year's Resolutions

For a gardener, February seems a much better month than January to be thinking about the year ahead and making plans. Things are beginning to move in the garden. A few perfumed flowers are braving the cold and it cannot be too long before the native snowdrop, *Galanthus Nivalis*, opens its first flowers. There is a feeling that there is still time to plan without having to wait too long before swinging into action.

In Hunton there is a good feeling that this year will be good for anyone interested in the outdoor life. It is just a few days until the "Snowdrop Splendour" event in the churchyard takes place. Wrap up against the cold and go to see how much the snowdrops have developed, they are lovely, carpeting much of the ground and spreading further each year.

There is also the new Garden Club to look forward to and the continuing walking group (see the Herald for details). Community efforts continue with the Churchyard Working Party and the Parish Plan has a strategy to explore more areas for community involvement, an orchard perhaps or some allotments?

It feels good to be living in a community which has so much going on; perhaps the best resolution would be to make the most of it! See you there.....

Christine McSweeney

Hunton Club December Book Review

The Great Gatsby by Scott Fitzgerald

Jay Gatsby had one reason for living – he wanted to rekindle the love of Daisy, a woman he had met and lost many years ago. Since first meeting her, he had made himself a lot of money and so was able to move in the wealthy society in which she lived. He hoped that Daisy would appear at one of the lavish parties he threw for the rich and famous. But she never did. When her cousin Nick took the house next door to his own for the summer, Gatsby seized on the opportunity of arranging a meeting between himself and Daisy. Daisy was in an unhappy marriage to a husband who was having an affair with the wife of a garage mechanic and so was flattered to meet a lost love. The story begins in Daisy's privileged world and at the extravagant parties in Gatsby's house. It smoulders through his obsession and the relationships of the other characters to an inevitable tragic end. The book club was equally divided on this novel, four members liking it very much indeed and four not liking it at all. Comments ranged from "very eloquent and sad with characters of great depth" to "disappointing, slow and boring." Likewise the scores ranged widely, with three members giving it only 5 and others giving it 8, 9 and even a 10. The average score was seven. Next month's book is *Possession* by A.S. Byatt.

Liz Oliver

School News - New Term Begins

This term **Devas** are learning all about space and have turned their role play area into a spaceship. They will be learning about the moon, our galaxy and rocket maths.

Bannerman will be looking at materials and clothes, particularly what materials people used for their clothes in the past and how they were prepared. In science the children will be learning about the properties of materials and changes that happen to ingredients when they are cooked, frozen and melting.

This term **Porteous** are looking at 'The Romans' and the founding and development of Rome and Roman life in Britain, while **Borton** will be learning about Ancient Greece including the story of the Trojan Horse and the Battle of Marathon and will be appraising the work of Ancient Greek potters and using collage and printing techniques to explore Greek pottery.

Snow Drops

Hunton Churchyard on Sunday 12th February. Open between 11am and 4pm.

One of the most charming harbingers of spring are snowdrops and several kinds are to be seen in the churchyard.

The Friends of St Mary's Church, Hunton will be welcoming snowdrop visitors to both its churchyards which have a wealth of snowdrops in a charming setting.

Refreshments, information and displays and videos for sale. **Entrance free.**

Farleigh Farmers' Market

This year, by popular request, East Farleigh Farmers' Market will be held every month starting on **Sunday 5th February**. There will be a wide range of products on sale including all our regular food stalls offering locally produced vegetables, rare breed meat and game, delicious cheese and other French delicacies, meaty local sausages, powerful English cheeses, pies and cold meats, yummy cakes, plus fruit juices, eggs, chutneys, pickles, jams, marmalades, Italian bread, herbs and olives from our other stallholders. A selection of other non food products will also be on sale, though these are more dependent on the prevailing weather conditions!

Please continue to visit us each month, as the market will only survive with your support and enthusiasm for artisan produce and our charities will benefit from the donations we are able to make from stallholder fees. We look forward to welcoming you next month.

Sue Morris

Diary Dates - What's Going On?

Check out www.hunton.org.uk for changes and see the latest up-to-date version. Look out for copies on the local notice boards. If you would like to add an event to the village diary email huntondiary@btinternet.com - new events are being added all the time.

Evening Lent Course

Starts Thursday 1st March for 6 weeks.

For details contact:

Mary Johns 01622 749496 or

Alison Ellman-Brown 01622 820288

At St Mary's Church in February

Notices	Services
Coffee Rota Sunday 5 th February Forster Family	Sunday 5th February – 3 before Lent 11.00 am Family Service - Rev David Jones Readings: Preacher's choice
Flowers Sunday 5 th February - Mrs N Williams Sunday 12 th February - Mrs N Williams Sunday 19 th February – Mrs S Scott Sunday 26 th February – Lent no Flowers	Sunday 12th February – 2 before Lent 09.30 am Holy Communion - Rev David Jones Readings: Proverbs 8:1, 22-31 and John 1: 1-14
Sunday Club Sunday Club is meeting in February, for details contact David Jones 01622 74147	Sunday 19th February – Next before Lent 11.00 am Morning Prayer - Rev Peter Walker Readings: 2 kings 2:1-12 and Mark 9: 2-9
	Wednesday 22nd February – Ash Wednesday 7.30pm at Hunton Rev David Jones
	Sunday 26th February – Lent 1 11.00am Holy Communion – Rev Peter Walker Readings: 2 Corinthians 4: 3-6 and Mark 9: 9-15
	Sunday 4th March – Lent 2 11.00 am Family Service Readings: Preacher's choice

Maidstone Symphony Orchestra

Saturday 4th February 2012

Ben Hancox plays **Nielsen's** delightful neo-classical violin concerto. **Sibelius's** tense and broodingly 1st Symphony nevertheless owes much to the Russian Heritage, particularly to the symphonies of **Tchaikovsky**. We start with one of the best known shorter pieces by Vaughan Williams, his splendidly descriptive overture, "The Wasps".

Individual Concerts £23, £19 and £10 and Students £5 under 18 Free!

Tickets 01622 735830

Are you a Patient at the Stockett Lane Surgery?

A newly formed Patient Participation Group (PPG) for Stockett Lane Surgery is currently carrying out an anonymous patient survey. Now is the time to have your say. If you are a patient there please help the Group to be your voice by completing the survey either by picking up a form from the surgery or click on: www.stockettlane.co.uk/patient_group.htm and completing the form online.

Reporting Fly Tipping

Our local contact is Alison Sollis 01622 602281.

Fly-tippers are spoiling our beautiful countryside in Kent. It costs local authorities £44 million to clean up every year and the Government has issued new powers to help prevent it.

Several divan bed bases, mattresses and headboards were dumped on Barn Hill last month.

If you see someone flytipping, do not confront them, but note the description and registration of any vehicle involved, what the person looks like and the time and place and pass this information on. Our local contact is Alison Sollis (Environmental Services) and her telephone number is 01622 602281. She isn't always in the office but someone will always take a message.

Once reported the clear up takes approximately 2 days. If you don't want to ring there is the option to report fly tipping on-line.

If the rubbish appears to be hazardous (chemical drums, for example) or there is a vast quantity of it (more than a lorry load) contact the Environment Agency's 24-hour hotline on 0800 807060.

<i>February</i>	<i>5th</i>	<i>12th</i>	<i>19th</i>	<i>26th</i>	<i>March 4th</i>
Coxheath	11.00 HC	11.00 MP	11.00 HC	11.00 FS	11.00 HC
E. Farleigh	09.30 Matins	08.00 HC 11.00 FS	09.30 HC	08.00 HC 10.00 MP	09.30 Matins
Linton	09.30 HC	9.30 FS	08.00 HC	09.30 HC	09.30 HC
W. Farleigh	08.00 HC	11.00 MP	09.30 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					