



Editors: Sue & David Heaton, 3 New Cottages, Barn Hill, Hunton, ME15 0QT 01622 820678 [herald@hunton.org.uk](mailto:herald@hunton.org.uk)

## Hunton Village Hall - Solar PV Panels

Following the granting of planning permission the proposals for installing a 4kw solar panel system on the south roof slope of the Village Hall have taken a giant step forward. The Parish Council at its Extraordinary Meeting held on 3 February resolved to place an order for the system and it is anticipated that works to carry out installations will be carried out at the time of going to press.

The decision to install follows several months of research involving specialist advice. The hall roof is in an excellent position to generate electricity and in terms of renewable energy production and cheaper electricity for the hall, which relies on electricity for its heating and lighting, the benefits for the longer term for this important building in our Village are likely to be considerable. It is hoped that the scheme will also act as an educational resource. *Alan Bishop*

## Work Continues on Historic Church

Extensive repairs to the centuries-old west door at St Mary's Church, Hunton have been completed and the porch door is now being repaired.

Parochial Church Council members heard, at their latest meeting at the Rectory, that grant making bodies had contributed funding towards the cost of the door repairs. David and Anke Way were thanked for their considerable efforts in obtaining grants.

Fabric Committee Chairman, Guy Oliver, reported that dampness in the church is a major problem needing priority action and should take priority for funding. David Way suggested that the services of two water diviners should be obtained to try to establish if there are spring water sources beneath the church.

Treasurer Chris Wright, outlining the monthly income to St Mary's and expenditure, said that although there are sufficient reserves to meet costs, there is a need to think about further activities to improve income. Churchwarden Alison Ellman-Brown said that Gift Aid was a useful source of additional revenue.

The Rev. Peter Walker, reporting on a meeting of Benefice churchwardens and treasurers, said that East Farleigh had expressed concern about low congregation numbers with the church being doubtful if it could remain viable within 10 years.

With Hunton reporting a similar situation, the Rector suggested that he should focus on the two parishes in an effort to 'build them up' over a three-month period after which a review of the strategy would be made.

Christine McSweeney reported that regular churchyard working parties at St Mary's were planned through the summer to complete mowing and general tidying up of the grounds surrounding the Church.

The next PCC meeting was set for March 15th.

## Hunton Village Club

### An Excuse To get Together - St Patrick's Day Celebration - Saturday 17 March

Come along to an Irish themed evening. Guinness will be £2 pint and there will be green cocktails both alcoholic and non-alcoholic. If all you want is an Irish coffee well that will be available too! To be part of the scene be sure to wear green!

To start the event off with a difference the club will be open from 5pm when the Six Nations Rugby will be screened - England V Ireland. Come and support your team!

## Village Clean Up

### Saturday 17th March

Contact: Di Martin or

Nigel Parsons

on 01622 820115

if you would like to help with  
litter picking.

### 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 17<sup>th</sup> March **Litter Picking** Village Hall  
 Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March **Celebrating St Patrick's Day** Hunton Village Club from 5pm  
 Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March **Bragatanga - Live in concert** - Village Hall 8pm  
 Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April **Panto - Cinderella** Hunton Village Hall 6.30pm  
 Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> April **Panto - Cinderella** Hunton Village Hall 7.30pm  
 Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June **Litter Picking** Village Hall  
 Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June **Queens Jubilee Tea Party** Hunton Village Club 3pm-10pm  
 Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2012 **Hunton Village Fete** Village Hall and the playing field

### 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 April edition to the Editors as soon as possible, and by 15th March, please**

Dear Friends,

Are you a time traveller?

No I'm not expecting anyone reading this to be the next Dr. Who but maybe like me you are the kind of person who has a photograph or trinket, that once you look at it or touch it, it seems that you are whisked back in time to relive the memory that it holds. When I recall past events it is almost as if I am reliving them and somehow the past becomes the present. Now that is what I call time travelling.

Our own special object maybe associated with a particular person. On special occasions, birthdays or on an anniversary the precious object is more likely to be taken out, gazed at, touched and reflected on. Whether the special day is joyful or sad our memories will probably be quite vivid.

Many of our churches are full of objects that when gazed upon or touched can lead us on a journey. Their symbolism can remind us of past events that can become real for us today.

In times of worship and prayer, that is what certain objects can do for us. If we focus on the cross, a candle, the chalice (communion cup) or some other object we may find that they can help us to focus on God, on who Jesus Christ is and what He did for us, especially during the time surrounding his passion.

The candle may remind us of the bible passages where it talks about Jesus as the light of the world. The chalice may remind us of the last supper. Of one thing I am sure and that is objects (symbols) in worship cannot be irrelevant if they aid us to unlock the doors of our minds and our hearts to God.

The same is true about the objects we associate with Good Friday. If we are able to hold a nail, gaze at the cross, or find something like a stone that represent the burdens we carry and the sins that lock us in the tomb, God will often use these as channels to touch the deeper parts of us. God invites us to go deeper into our faith and experience afresh and powerfully His saving and sacrificial death on the cross which leads us into freedom and joy. Yes, time travelling is about taking the death of Christ and His resurrection, just over 2000 years ago and bringing it into a present reality through faith.

As we move with Jesus through Lent towards the Passion, why not hold on to the helpful objects around us, and let them lead our hearts and minds to the God who wants nothing more than for us to know His power and saving love.

Will you journey with me and become a time traveller this Lent?

Eileen Doyle

## A Pantomime at Eastertime!

**Cinderella** at Hunton Village Hall on **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April at 6.30pm** and **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30 pm.**

Our very own production, directed by Chris Norris and featuring local celebrities in disguise!

Licensed bar. Tickets: Adults £8 Children (under 14) £5 available from Joy 01622 820551 or Liz 01622 820200.

Spaces limited so please book early

## School News

### The School Gets Set for the Olympics 2012

Hunton CEP School has successfully been accepted as a member of London 2012's UK-wide reward and recognition scheme, the Get Set network. Get Set ([london2012.com/getset](http://london2012.com/getset)) is the official London 2012 education programme. Through the programme, the school has been doing work linked to London 2012 and the Olympic and Paralympic values. To gain this recognition from the London 2012 Organising Committee the school had to demonstrate a commitment to the Olympic and Paralympic values which they did by having an Olympic Day in school last year, where, with the help of the School Sport Partnership, the children began with an opening ceremony, took part in a range of 'Olympic' tasks and had a closing ceremony.

This means that the school: Has the right to use the London 2012 education logo, received a plaque and certificate to show we are part of the London 2012 family; and will be in with the chance of winning visits from athletes and the London 2012 mascots!

Over the coming months, the school will be getting ready for London 2012 by linking more work to the Games and ensuring that our pupils feel that they are a part of this once-in-a-lifetime event.

One of the problems facing schools is how to encourage all children to take part in sport activities. Not everyone is interested in rounders, netball, football and rugby. How can all children be enthused? The answer is to offer a wider range of sporting activities. Look at the Olympics: swimming is not just about speed; it is also about diving and synchronization. Other alternatives include archery, cycling and dance, which also have widespread appeal to girls. We also have to accommodate the extra hours demanded by the government with an already stretched timetable.

Hunton School offers a wide range of sports including swimming, football, netball, basketball and a variety of field and track events during the summer term. They regularly buy in a range of expertise including tennis coaching and dance for KS2 children which is now continuing as an after school activity on Thursdays. In the past the school has had coaches for Tri-Golf and Mrs Sue Pinks, annually coaches the older children in hockey. Through sport the children gain skills for life: honesty, respect, cooperation, perseverance, concentration and self-motivation, thus linking into citizenship programmes and Every Child Matters.

## Applause Concert Friday 23 March at 8pm - Bragatanga

Bragatanga are a four-piece band that play a vibrant mix of world music. Their live performances are a true musical journey including East European gypsy tunes, French waltzes, Tango, Finnish Polskas, and songs from Sicily, Turkey, Africa - all delivered with passion and panache.

Anticipate great musicianship and infectious rhythms played on accordion, clarinet, violin and double bass.

For Bragatanga tickets please contact 820683 or 820678 or [huntonvillagehall@hotmail.com](mailto:huntonvillagehall@hotmail.com)  
£10/£5 under 21 incl. French bread and cheese at interval. Licensed bar.

## Friends of St. Mary's Church Annual Snowdrop Day

Friends of St. Mary's held their annual snowdrop day at the Church on the 12th February. This was the third year we had held this event and there is no doubt that this time the weather was the worst we had experienced with most of the snowdrops buried beneath snow and the ground frozen solid.

In spite of that we had a steady stream of visitors from both within the Village and beyond, many of whom were snowdrop enthusiasts. Tea, coffee and cakes all donated from within Hunton, were served throughout the day with a DVD showing what the churchyard looks like without snow! It portrayed the wonderful display of snowdrops now well established in the church yard which reflects in no small way the dedicated work by a small band of volunteers headed by David and Anke Way.

We raised £250 for the Charity, boosted considerably by a most generous donation from Mrs Gilly Devas.

Thanks to all of you who troubled to get to the Church in such cold weather and of course to the team of helpers under the guidance of Lisa Halliday. Without your attendance and the team of helpers this would not have been such a success. Thank you.

*Ron Porter*

## Hunton Club Book Club January Review

### Possession by A. S. Byatt

Possession is a romance, a detective story and a thriller in one complex, literary novel. Academic Roland Michell unexpectedly finds a letter in a book which had belonged to his research subject, the poet Randolph Henry Ash. The letter hints at the married Ash's previously unknown romantic involvement with a well-known female poet. Roland enlists the help of fellow academic Maud Bailey and the two of them start to uncover the secrets of a Victorian love story. Other academics are also on the trail of the scandal which they feel could change literary history. Possession is a deep and often challenging book. Much of the poetry of the fictitious Ash and his lover cannot be read quickly or comprehended easily but this does not detract from a compelling story.

Possession was thoroughly enjoyed as a rich literary treat by a significant number of the group; other members of the group did not feel engaged by the book and they gave it correspondingly lower scores. The scores ranged from 3 to 9; the average score was 8.

Next month's book is The Believers by Zoe Heller

Fiona Newman

## Farleigh Farmers' Market

East Farleigh Farmers' Market will be held on **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March**. There will be a wide range of products on sale including all our regular food stalls and a selection of other non food products will also be on sale. Donations to charities are made from the stall holder fees.

## Maidstone Symphony Orchestra Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2012, Mote Hall Maidstone Leisure Centre at 7.30pm

Weber – Overture, Euryanthe; Delius - On hearing the first cuckoo in spring; Mendelssohn - Violin Concerto and Schumann - Symphony No 1 "Spring"

Individual Concerts £23 £19 and £10 and Students £5 under 18 Free! **Tickets 01622 735830 [www.mso.org.uk](http://www.mso.org.uk)**

## Pre-School News

The pre-school has had a busy start to the year by covering the theme of "Fairy Tales". We also had a week where the children concentrated on the "Chinese New Year". The children made a large dragon, shakers, money envelopes, fans etc. We held processions around the hall, where the children took it in turns to wear the dragon or make lots of noise in celebration. It was a lot of fun and a great experience for them to learn about a different culture.

Term 4 is also looking exciting. We have decided to cover the theme of "Senses", so we have lots of exciting craft activities planned along with cooking and role play.

We have been very lucky by having the support of a local business "The Horseshoes at East Farleigh", who had been raising funds for us during 2011. With their donations and the generosity of parents during planned fund raising events, we have managed to place an order for a new under 3's toddler climbing frame, hopefully this will arrive at the beginning of next term.

We also have our new website up and running and again, we were very lucky as this was designed by one of our parents, a local website designer ([signature.eu.com](http://signature.eu.com)). He, with the help of pre-school volunteers gathered the information and put it together. Please take a look, we can be found at [www.hunton-linton-preschool.co.uk](http://www.hunton-linton-preschool.co.uk)

If you live in the local area and would be interested in registering your child for a place at our pre-school, then please contact Sally Clifton, pre-school Administrator on 01622 820309 or 07972 067710.

## At St Mary's Church in March

Notices	Services
<b>Coffee Rota</b> Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> March - Mrs Anke Way	<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March - Lent 2</b> 11.00 am Family Service - Rev David Jones Readings: Preacher's choice
<b>Flowers</b> Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> March - Lent no Flowers Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> March - Lent no Flowers Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> March – Mothering Sunday Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> March– Palm Sunday	<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> March - Lent 3</b> 09.30 am Holy Communion - Rev Peter Walker Readings: Exodus 20: 1-17 and John 2:13-22
<b>Sunday Club</b> Hunton Sunday Club, a Christian Club organised by St Mary's church, for primary school aged children either living in the village or attending Hunton School meets on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month from 5.15pm until 6.45pm. Please contact David Jones for detail 01622 741474	<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March - Mothering Sunday</b> 11.00 am Morning Prayer - Rev Peter Walker Readings: Numbers 21: 4-9 and John 3: 14-21
	<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March - Lent 5</b> 11.00am Holy Communion – Rev David Jones Readings: 2 Corinthians 1: 3-7 and John 19: 25(b) - 27
	<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April – Palm Sunday</b> 11.00am Holy Communion – Rev David Jones Readings: Preacher's choice

### Volunteer Children's Workers Retreat

Rebecca Parnham went away on a volunteer children's workers retreat and has written an article to let others know how worthwhile she found it.

The weekend of 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> January saw a small group of volunteer children's workers from both Canterbury and Rochester diocese gather at The Oasts in Northiam and I was privileged enough to be one of the group. For those of you who aren't aware The Oasts is a Christian retreat and conference centre situated in rolling countryside just outside of Northiam town. It's an incredibly peaceful and relaxing setting.

Food features heavily throughout the weekend, it's all freshly cooked on the premises and shared in the communal dining area. Definitely not a weekend to worry about your waistline!

However, the main focus of the weekend was to meet with others who work with children and young people within their churches, to worship together, to share good practice and to re-energise yourself for the coming year. We started at 6pm on Friday with introductions and a time of worship and prayer in the lounge area - lots of comfy sofas, a roaring fire.. ah, it didn't take long for the relaxing to start! Dinner at 7pm then more worship and time to discuss how and what we do in our churches.

Breakfast at 8am on Saturday, then the morning was all about storytelling with children delivered by Martin from Barnabas in Schools. He's a very engaging speaker who had us in fits of laughter but still delivered an incredibly powerful message of how important it is to engage with children if the Church is to have any future. Lunch was followed by a couple of hours free time, several of us decided to go for a 4 mile walk around the surrounding countryside while others chose to use the pool and sauna or just relax in the grounds of The Oasts. After tea and cake Martin led a final session for us where he showed a very powerful way of 'unpacking' The Lord's Prayer – it led us adults to an awed silence so I have great hopes of using his ideas with the children! After dinner we were free to relax and spent time playing board games, and generally chatting together in the lounge.

Sunday, breakfast at 9am then discussion time, focussing on any questions the weekend had thrown up for us, what training we'd like to see the diocese offer and how much we had all enjoyed the weekend. After a quick tea break we worshipped and prayed and Graham Nunn showed us the story of Noah and the flood using a storybag and some magic tricks requiring audience participation, just what we needed as we were all a little downhearted at the thought of leaving later that afternoon. Roast lamb for lunch, then time to load the cars. Before leaving we all gathered one last time in the lounge for a time of prayer and thanksgiving followed by lots of hugs of goodbye.

It was an amazing time of fellowship and fun, a spirit filled weekend that I hope runs again next year. I would heartily recommend the experience to anyone who works with children within the church.

Becky (Seekers leader)

### Tear Fund: Steve Collins, Tearfund representative for Nepal

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2012 at 7.45pm in Loose Baptist Church. Refreshments at close of meeting.

Followed by prayer for Tearfund projects & the needs of the World. **Which Project to support? The decision making process.** For more information please ring Karen Mackley at 01732 870625

March	4th	11th	18th	25th	April 1st
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 10.30 FS	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					