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Hunton Village Club Big Jubilee Lunch

Save the Date!

Come rain or come shine Hunton Club will celebrate the Royal Jubilee where we will be hosting a "Big Jubilee Lunch" creating a street party atmosphere on Sunday 3rd June. Watch this space for further details in next month's Herald.



Hunton Village Club Quiz Night Saturday 12 May - 8pm

Make a note of this date, Phil has prepared another music themed quiz for you.

So, come early to secure your seat. The quiz will start promptly at 8pm.



Hunton Village Hall

Share your views regarding the Village Hall at Hunton Village Hall AGM on Monday 21st May at 8pm
All welcome

David and Anke Way

A stalwart resident of Hunton for the past 32 years, David Way and his wife Anke plan to leave Southover in Grove Lane in mid-May for a new home in Hertfordshire. They have worked tirelessly in the village for St Mary's Church to maintain the building and the churchyard and will be sorely missed. The church is planning an event in their honour and have arranged a farewell gathering after the morning church service on Sunday May 13th at the village hall when all friends of the Ways will be welcome. Full report in June.

Use Your Loaf for Village Fete on 23rd June - Calling all Home Bakers

Preparations for our village fete are well under way. The fete will be raising funds for community activities and resources for the Village. This year we would like to have a bread stall so we are hoping that village home bakers will be able to rustle up a loaf or two so we can have a selection of locally produced bread to sell.

Fete Volunteers are much needed

We need volunteers on the day who would be able to help with the following:

Staffing the inflatable assault course and under fives ball pit, general field marshalling and helping on stalls. It's a great opportunity to meet other villagers and help make the fete a treat we can all enjoy.

Contact Annette on 820448

Grant Could Have 'Set a Precedent'

Hunton Parish Council has reluctantly decided against reimbursing expenses of £379 incurred by residents in their successful campaign against the Plot 5, Lughorse Lane planning bid, as such a grant could set a precedent.

With council funds being used for the benefit of all parishioners, councillors felt that the request for funding, should have been made beforehand instead of retrospectively. The Council has since heard that a resident has paid the bill.

Members agreed, in principal, to support the residents' proposal to purchase plots of land at The Chances, pursuing the idea further if it proved practical. It would be necessary to ascertain who owns the individual plots, however, and whether the owners wish to sell them and the cost. Consideration would need to be given to future use of the land.

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: Jo Watts	604392
Village Club: Doug Redfarn	820495	Hunton Bell Ringers, Michael Webb	745716

*not available on Fridays **not available on Mondays

Diary Dates

Monday 11th May **Annual meeting of the Village Hall** 8pm Village Hall
 Saturday 12th May **Music Themed Quiz** Hunton Club 8pm
 Monday 14th May Hunton **Parish Annual Meeting** 8pm Village Hall
 Saturday 16th June **Litter Picking** Village Hall
 Sunday 3rd June **Queens Jubilee Lunch** Hunton Village Club Details to follow
 Sunday 17th June **Hunton Gardens Open with the NGS** from 11.30am-5pm
 Saturday 23rd June **Hunton Village Fete** Village Hall and the playing field
 Saturday 22nd September **Litter Picking** Village Hall
 Thursday 29th November **Gardening Club Meeting** - Village Club 8.30 pm

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 June edition to the Editors as soon as possible, and by 15th May, please

Dear Friends,

I am very grateful to all those who have offered their condolences on the loss of my Mother. Also for your prayers and for the many cards we have received. I was with my Mother when she died and was able before this to pray, read scripture to her and anoint her. My Mother was 92 years of age and had lived in her own bungalow right up to the day she was taken to the Royal Cornwall Hospital in Truro. She was active and her mind was still sharp. She went in on the bus to Penzance each week to do her shopping. She did much of her garden, though a man did come to cut the grass. She was a wonderful Mother to me and to my sister Julia who with her husband Stuart came over from Australia for the funeral at the newly built Crematorium in Camborne. It was a service of thanksgiving for a long life; I was able to give the talk and Diana read the lesson from Romans 8.

I deal with death a lot in my work, and though I have helped others through the time of death and bereavement, when it is one's own flesh and blood it takes on a different characteristic. In the midst of this sadness we were also celebrating Easter. I was glad to be with you for the events of Holy Week and Easter, for in these events we remember that death has been conquered and that there is that assurance that in Jesus we have the victory. Faith was such a solid rock for me during those final days as I sat at my Mother's bedside day after day gently assuring her that I was with her and that God was there too. She may not have heard everything I said or prayed but occasionally there was that waking moment when with a gentle nod of the head knew what was happening.

How faith needs to be that mainstay during not just the run of the mill day to day living but especially when times are tough. The first disciples were dumbfounded when they saw Jesus on a cross – 'we had hoped for so much more' was the thrust of their thoughts. Yet when all seemed lost, there was Jesus in the garden with a simple word 'Mary' to her who in her tears was in despair. The familiar action of the bread breaking with the two disciples on the Emmaus road, and Thomas who needed proof, and proof came that second week in the upper room.

Saint Paul wrote: 'If Christ is not raised our faith is in vain'. I thank God for the faith which had its nurture at the lap of my Mother and the encouragement of my Father. It has seen me through many a good year and bad – yet through it all there has been as that hymn reminds us: 'Blessed Assurance Jesus is mine, O what a foretaste of Heaven Divine'.

May we know again that Blessed Assurance so that when the hard times come there is that foundation on which to go forward and have that Divine encouragement.

With my prayers,

Peter

A request from Mr and Mrs Furlong, of Stonewall Oasthouse, East Street

"On four occasions recently a brown and white spaniel has exploded into our garden, chasing any wildlife for all it's worth, including on one occasion jumping into our pond, before disappearing within about two minutes. We actively support wildlife and generally have pheasants, mallard, moorhen and many smaller birds around. On the first occasion it came within an ace of catching a cock pheasant and would undoubtedly have killed it. If the owner lives locally, it would be much appreciated if the dog could be kept on the lead in this area, to avoid any catastrophes!"

Regards Richard & Anne Furlong

Two Hunton Gardens Opening with the NGS Sunday 17th June at 11.30am-5pm

Hillside and 3 New Cottages on Barn Hill will be opening their Gardens. Tea and cakes will be available at 3 New Cottages. Offers for cake making please contact Sue Heaton 01622 820678.

Proceeds of the teas will go equally towards The Friends of St Mary's and St Mary's Church Hunton.

Vacancy on the Parish Council There is a vacancy on the Hunton Parish Council. If anyone is interested or would like to discuss this, please contact the Clerk, Sharon Goodwin on 01622 681238.

Hunton Parish Annual Meeting Monday 14th May commencing at 8pm, Village Hall

This meeting follows on from the Parish Council meeting (commencing at 7pm).

At the Hunton Parish Annual meeting local organisations are invited to present a short report on their activities over the past year. Everyone is welcome to come along to find out what has been going on in Hunton.

Diary Dates: Check out www.hunton.org.uk/diary for changes and see the latest up- dated version. If you would like to add an event to the village diary email huntondiary@btinternet.com- new events are being added all the time.

***Seren Rose* - Handmade and Bespoke Heirloom Bouquets & Bridal Jewellery**

Seren Rose Is a small business run from my home in Hunton, started by my daughter two years ago in her spare time. I now have the wonderful opportunity to express my creative gift in creating all by hand heirloom bouquets for the bride's special day to treasure forever. The roses are made in a variety of silks and tulle and adorned with delicate beading with pearls and Swarovski crystals. The bouquets can be customised by the supply of your own family brooches or made from your own fabric for an Heirloom Bouquet truly bespoke for your wedding day.

As well as the bouquets I design, tiaras, headpieces, birdcage veils, bridal cuffs, hair vines, hair pins and shoe clips.

For further enquiries please contact me: Kay Mason, 0792 1122820 - 01622 820488 - kay.mason61@gmail.com- www.serenrose.com

Hunton Club Book Group A

Review of *The Shipping News* by Annie Proulx

Quoyle, a thirty-six year old newspaper reporter from New York State, decides to move to Newfoundland to escape his emotionally traumatic life. His parents, who never cared for him much to begin with, have committed suicide and his cruel, two-timing wife Petal, has died in a car accident on the way to Florida with another man. Quoyle is finally convinced by his aunt to move to Newfoundland in search of a new life. The aunt has always wanted to return to the home of her ancestry, and she and Quoyle and his daughters move together.

Quoyle's friend Partridge finds Quoyle a newspaper job in Killick-Claw, a town in Newfoundland. Quoyle and the aunt find their old family house, at Quoyle Point, in desperate need of repair. An energetic, capable woman, the aunt finds someone right away to help them repair it. The newspaper in Killick-Claw is run by four crusty characters, most of them old fishermen. The paper is known for its sexual abuse stories, sensationalized car wreck photos, plagiarism and horrific typographical errors.

The story evolves by detailing the ups and down of Quoyle's life and how hard life was in Newfoundland.

Comments from our reading group ranged from "hated the clipped sentences", "ridiculous names", "unbelievable, just couldn't get into it", to "once I got used to the writing style thoroughly enjoyed", "amusing, disturbing, and different".

One of our members assured us that the "ridiculous names are typical of the area". The pictorial use of different knots at the beginning of each chapter was also appreciated as they "tied in" with the chapter.

The majority of our group did enjoy this book and the overall score was 7.

Jackie Crooks

Hunton Club Book Group B

Review of *Miss Smilla's Feeling for Snow* by Peter Hoeg

The Group generally liked this novel but with a few reservations. SmillaJaspersen is the daughter of an Inuit mother from Greenland and an eminent Danish doctor. The relationship between the Danes and the Greenlanders is a recurring element of the novel. She is a scientist specializing in snow and ice; her knowledge in this area has arisen from her early days living in Greenland and is almost spiritual. She becomes concerned with the death of a young boy who fell from a building and investigates what she feels is a suspicious death. The rather tortuous story takes her from Copenhagen on to a ship bound for Greenland, and brings her into contact with many rather dubious characters.

The Danish and Greenlandic names and words were a little difficult to keep track of and a recurring comment from the group was that they got confused about some of the characters in the book. There is a lot of action but some felt that some of the situations were slightly unbelievable – Smilla was presented as a petite person with a feisty character but her survival of some of the situations (jumping from a burning boat and swimming ashore in freezing water was just one of many) were sometimes a little difficult to believe. The story ended on a glacier on a remote Greenlandic island (Smilla in her element here) but the story was unresolved at the end, which is always a bit disconcerting. The group gave the novel a rating of 7 out of 10.

Jenny Vickers

Gardening Club

Nearly thirty residents attended the Hunton Gardening Club meeting at the end of March when a local beekeeper, Matthew Barnes gave a fascinating presentation including details on the lives of bees, types of beehive, honey, pollination and plants we can grow to help the bees.

On Saturday 23rd June at the Village Fete, the Gardening Club will have a stand selling all types of plants, produce, second hand tools, seed trays, and plant pots etc. Please contact Andrea at forsters.hunton@btinternet.com 820628 or Fay at fay.joyce@btinternet.com 820644 if you think you will have anything you will be able to contribute.

Next Gardening Club meeting is: **Thursday 29th November - 8.30 pm in the Village Club. Contact Lesley Lee for details 820210 or lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com**

Hunton Gardening Club

Visit to Downterry Lavender Nursery, Hadlow, Saturday 21 July 2012. Simon Charlesworth, the co-owner, will give an illustrated talk. £5 per adult to include coffee/tea and biscuits. It may be possible to provide lifts for anyone without transport. Arrive at 10.30am for coffee. The talk and tour lasts about 1 hour and will start at 11am.

To book a place contact Wendy Simmons, 01622 820875. Wendysimmons01@btinternet.com.

School News

Ten children from Bannerman class were selected to compete against other schools at St Augustine Academy in Maidstone at the Maidstone & Mid Kent Agility Festival. The children thoroughly enjoyed the range of activities and meeting children from other schools.

In the autumn term Borton Class visited The War Museum as they were studying WWII and recently Bannerman class enjoyed a trip to Herstmonceux where they looked at the history of how time has been read and enjoyed lots of hands-on science activities.

Over the past year our Year 5 and 6 pupils have been undertaking a sustained project with Common Works at Bore Place. They have visited three times and will have one further visit in the summer term. The aim is for pupils to reconnect with where their food comes from and to learn how to enjoy local, healthy, sustainable and affordable food.

At St Mary's Church in May

Notices	Services
Coffee Rota Sunday 6 th May - The McSweeney family Sunday 3 rd June - Nicky Granger Flowers Sunday 6 th May – Andrea Forster Sunday 13 th May - Susie St. John Sunday 20 th May - Susie St. John Sunday Club 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 rd Sunday of each month from 5.15pm until 6.45pm. Please contact David Jones for detail 01622 741474	Sunday 6th May – Easter 5 11.00am Family Service- Rev Peter Walker Readings: Preacher's choice Sunday 13th May – Easter 6 09.30am Holy Communion -Rev Peter Walker Readings: Isaiah 55:1-11 and John 15: 9-17 Thursday 17th May - Ascension Day 7.30pm at East Farleigh – Rev David Jones Readings: Daniel 7: 9-14, Acts 1: 1-11 and Luke 22: 44-end Sunday 20th May – Sunday after Ascension 11.00am Morning Prayer –Christine Bostock Readings: Acts 1: 15-17; 21-26 and John 17: 6-19 Sunday 27th May - Pentecost 11.00am Holy Communion – Rev Peter Walker Readings: Acts 2: 1-21 and John 15: 26-27 & 16: 4(b) - 15

Friends of St. Mary's Church

I am very pleased to announce that we have now increased our number of Trustees to the maximum permitted by our Constitution. Jenny Vickers (Grove Lane) and Ian Pinks (Barn Hill) have joined us and attended their first meeting yesterday when we spent quite a bit of time planning future fund raising events as well as our impending involvement with the Pantomime and the Fete.

We are also planning to hold a concert in the Church itself in November. The concert will feature a Group called the Marsh Warblers. Some of you may have seen them already and we feel quite lucky to have secured them.

For those who are not familiar with their music, they are a costumed quire who perform to the West Gallery period (c1740 to 1820) which was sung widely in Village Churches. The music is sung with great enthusiasm and is not in any way pompous and whilst it is not difficult from a modern church choir perspective it was too difficult for some congregations, which is one reason, why the Victorians phased it out replacing the old Quires with organs and more ordered hymns. Much of the music you will hear was sung equally in churches as well as pubs so it will be an exciting and entertaining mix. Details of the evening will follow in later editions of the Herald.

Finally we will be holding our third annual general meeting on the 8th of May. Will you please indicate if you intend to attend so that we can arrange the venue accordingly.

Ron Porter

Farleigh's Farmer's Market

The next East Farleigh Farmers' Market will be held on Sunday 6th May from 9am-12 noon in The Bull car park. Now is the time to brighten up your garden with bedding plants, shrubs and herbs from Low Wood and Crofter's Nursery and Farleigh Herbs! Rustic wooden boxes made by Creative Crates will add a touch of class to your patio, kitchen or conservatory. All your other favourite stalls will be there supplying meats, cheese, eggs, fruit juice, bread, cakes, jams, chutneys, oils, nuts and fudge. This month Sparkle and Stones jewellery returns to brighten your summer wardrobe and we welcome a new stall from Witherden Farm offering home cooked British puddings and other treats in addition to hand crafted breads. Please support this local enterprise!

Maidstone Symphony Orchestra

Saturday 19th May 2012, Mote Hall Maidstone, 7.30pm
 Beethoven's 3rd Piano Concerto. Debussy's Trois Nocturnes.
 Elgar's 1st Symphony
 Individual Concerts £23 £19 and £10 and Students £5 under 18 Free!
Tickets 01622 735830

Ladies Prayer Group

Are having a service: "A Spiritual Journey towards a Rule of Life", on the 19th May, 10-11am in Holy Trinity Church.

May	6th	13th	20th	27th	June 3rd
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 HC	09.30 HC	08.00 HC 10.00 Matins	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 (Trad)	09.30 HC (Mod)	08.00 HC
HC: Holy Communion, MP: Morning Prayer, (bcp) Book of Common Prayer, FS: Family Service, SW: Service of Word					