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Hunton Celebrates the Jubilee

Friends and neighbours, a tasty BBQ, red, white and blue cocktails, a children's quiz, real ale, a family treasure hunt, Jubilee inspired cup cakes, a great atmosphere and champagne to toast our Queen. These are what made Hunton Village Club's big BBQ lunch a super event. For those not wanting to miss seeing the river pageant, well that was on the TV too!

Villagers supported the unique event and together we created a wonderful celebration. To those who worked so hard to plan the special day, to the BBQ chefs, to those who provided cakes and everyone who contributed - a big thank you!

Everyone present braved the rain too when the new club sign was unveiled by Allan Peckham, one time Chairman of the Club. Come along and see it for yourself and pop in for a drink and a chat.

Hunton's Olympic Connection

With Olympic excitement growing, Hunton is not being left out. The Olympic flame will be leaving Leeds Castle and making its way to the Archbishop's Palace on **Friday 20th July**. From there, at **7.05am**, it will make its way along the river to the Maidstone Invicta Rowing Club.

This is where Hunton comes in. Two of the four Invicta Club rowers (and Hunton Club members) are our very own Liz Ridgway and Richard Nichols. They will be rowing the torchbearer and flame along the Medway and will have to be up and on the river at 6am! So, set your alarms and get down to the Medway to cheer them on.

Thank You from David and Anke

This month's edition of the Herald provides us with an opportunity to say thank you; thank you to everyone who attended, and especially those who, behind the scenes, organised the splendid farewell event at the Village Hall on Sunday 12th May to mark our imminent departure to our new home in Hertfordshire. We were rather overcome by such a large-scale expression of goodwill; a crowd of friends, almost a banquet of delicious food and wine, all pinnacled by a huge specially commissioned SNOWDROP CAKE! We were delighted, as well as taken by surprise, by the unexpected cards and presents. Special mention must be made of the two original and distinctive pictures of life in Hunton. These will provide a lasting reminder of how life used to be for us.

Once again, thank you to everyone for creating our very memorable moment of departure; we wish you all continued enjoyment of a very special location in Kent while we begin to explore the surprisingly rural delights of the countryside surrounding our new home in Buntingford.

David and Anke Way

Road Closure Planned

Temporary road closure to enable carriageway patching to be carried out by KCC Highways is planned for Mill Lane, West Street, Hunton Hill, Upper Hunton Hill, from 6th August 2012 for 1 week.

Bingo

Do you enjoy Bingo or just fancy meeting new people in a fun, friendly atmosphere? Then come along to Bingo every Monday evening in Hunton Village Club. The club opens at 7:30pm, eyes down at 8pm. Cash prizes! Subsidised drink prices!



Your Local Contacts:

Parish Council Chairman: Roger Sawtell
School: Secretary/Head Teacher
Under 5's Pre-School:
Pre-School Supervisor:
Pond and Tree Warden: Anne Bishop
Rector: Revd Peter Walker
Non Stipendiary Minister: Revd David Jones
Village Club: Doug Redfarn

820731
820360
820309
07972067110
820683
747570**
741474*
820495

Clerk to Parish Council: Sharon Goodwin
Village Hall Booking: Jane Crane
Maidstone Police:
Neighbourhood Watch:
'Potholes' concern (KCC): Kim Hills
Churchwarden: Alison Ellman-Brown
PCSO Tom Mepstead/Richard Chainey
Hunton Bell Ringers, Michael Webb

681238
820127
608186
608173
0845 824 7800
820288
604392
745716

*not available on Fridays **not available on Mondays

Diary Dates

Monday 2nd July **Parish Council Meeting** Village Hall 8-9pm
Saturday 18th August **Hoedown** at the Village Club 19:30 – 23:00
Saturday 22nd September **Litter Picking** Village Hall
Monday 10th September **Parish Council Meeting** Village Hall 8-9pm
Thursday 29th November **Gardening Club Meeting** - in the Village Club 8.30 pm
Check out www.hunton.org.uk **for changes and see the latest updated 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.

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 August edition to the Editors as soon as possible, and by 15th July, please

Dear Fellow Readers

Well it's happening at last. After years of preparation and many false starts the new Maidstone United Football Club's stadium, The Gallagher Stadium, will host its first match on July 14th. I guess that won't be on the Sky, BBC or ITV main sports news in July!

You know with all the focus of the European Cup, Olympics and The Diamond Jubilee life still goes on at a local and personal level. It is so easy to feel that everything happens at the macro level and the micro gets left out or forgotten. The Big Society has been hailed in certain quarters as something new and the way forward for our Society as a whole yet as the recent Parish Council Annual Meetings and our own Annual Church Parochial Meetings showed every week, every day and even every hour at a local level people are offering their services in the main free and certainly giving them 'freely' Yes, we may 'knock' the absence of people to stand for election to the local councils yet in reality we should be thanking those who do stand and receive very little in reward or thanks.

It is one of those oddities of the British system that in the Queen's Birthday Honour and New Year Honours Lists it is the 'high profile' people who the media often focus upon. Yet amongst those people in the Lists there are those who are recognised simply because of what they contribute, day in and day out, to individuals in their own quiet and effective manner, seldom raising questions, writing to the press or making a public fuss. They might ask the question to the right people, write the letter that makes the difference or go with people who feel vulnerable and need to have the supporting hand to hold. They are people who really care about others.

This is surely one of the aspects of showing Christian love that is the 'gift' of God's Holy Spirit in our lives. God's Spirit can motivate us to recognise the needs of those around us and we respond in a way that leads to 'no headlines' or recognition by the media. So often it is the 'small' gesture, helping hand or voice that is the most effective and is easily crowded in the noise of those events that grab attention. The Christian faith reminds us that in God's sight we all are valued, even the hairs of our head are numbered (Luke 12 v 7). Amongst all that is going on at this time on the world stage, the individual is still being cared for by a loving God who cares for each of us personally. We are all part of God's world and he loves us and cares for us.

Wishing you 'riveting' viewing – I'm in France on July 14th!

David

United Front to Tackle Travellers Problem

Hunton Parish Council plans to form a travellers sub committee and possibly link up with neighbouring parishes to gain information and advice so that they are better prepared to oppose any future proposals for gipsy encampments in the area.

The idea was raised at the Council's May meeting by Damien Regan who led the residents' group which recently raised a successful opposition to a planning appeal to prevent travellers' caravans being sited in a field off Lughorse Lane.

"Initially we went to Maidstone Borough Council for guidance but it was not conclusive and so we had to go to a barrister in London to help us; and this is what has to happen every time a case arises with residents having to start again from scratch on the back foot.

"They face two or three highly professional agents backing the travellers who are fully briefed and knowledgeable. Whatever they say seems to be believed. To seriously oppose them it is time for the parishes to unite and build up a knowledge pool so that in future they are also fully briefed and prepared for action.

"When plans arose in the Coxheath Parish an Amesbury Road resident built up a great deal of information on how to oppose such applications and now others should be able to access his valuable brief.

"We need a much bigger picture on travellers and their plans not just for Hunton but for a much wider area of maybe 10 to 15 miles. We need someone to be trained to understand the law on travellers. This might prove expensive but this could be reduced if several parishes were contributing."

Chairman Roger Sawtell and fellow members agreed that Mr Regan's idea was a good one and the Council is to look into setting up such a sub committee.

Hunton Club Book Group A Review of The Two of Us, My Life with John Thaw by Sheila Hancock

Written by Sheila Hancock this is the telling of her and John Thaw's lives together and apart, it is a touching, honest and at times irreverent account. Our group had differing thoughts ranging from really enjoying it to thinking it an OK read. It did spark a discussion on what makes a good autobiography, one theory being that you have to be very interested in the person writing, especially when they go into great details about their first schools and childhood nicknames. This was my personal problem with this book the acting lifestyle does not particularly fascinate me. However we all thought it was an improvement on the Dawn French autobiography which we read last month. The average score was 6 points with a range from 5 to 9. Next month's book is, The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows

Christine McSweeney

Hunton Club Book Group B Review of The Suspicions of Mr Whicher by Kate Summerscale.

What a sad tale! The interesting bit was how the case showed Victorian family home life as so private and unbreachable (also hypocritical) also the evolving role of detectives. DNA certainly makes it easier to prove guilt these days. Not a book any of us would have chosen to read though. The feeling was a bit mixed in the group and it was generally felt not a particularly easy read. The group gave it 6/10. Next month's book is Alias Grace by Margaret Atwood.

Louise Ferns

Annual Meeting

Following a recent uncontested election, all of the existing Parish Councillors remain in post for another four years. There is still one casual vacancy on the Council which needs to be filled.

There have been two crimes in the past two months – the theft of the Royal Mail post box at the bottom of Hunton Hill and a theft from a property on East Street.

The legal agreements have been put in place between KCC and the two landowners for the permissive footpath between Bensted Close and the Village Hall. KCC has advised that the work will be carried out in May, to be completed in time for the Village Fete (sadly we can now report this is not the case).

Kent Highways has notified the Council that West Street and Hunton Hill will be closed from 6th August for patching and repair work on the roads.

Annual Parish Meeting

A well attended Annual Parish Meeting saw 14 separate organisations, groups and sports clubs give presentations on their activities throughout the last year.

Two pupils at Hunton School attended with co-head Catherine Wickham, giving an excellent insight into the school's activities. The school obtained a good Ofsted report at the beginning of the year. Last September the school had its largest intake ever and is oversubscribed for September 2012. The school is part of the 'reading to dogs' scheme, which encourages the children to read – Flora the dog is the lucky recipient! The children have been very busy with numerous extracurricular clubs and school trips.

Tansy Watts reported that the pre-school has been able to purchase a set of sail canopies to provide shelter outside. Parents have been very involved in the pre-school and provide a great help. The pre-school has recently been approved for providing funded care for two year olds. The plan for the pre-school in future is to hopefully have its own premises.

Alan Bishop reported that the Village Hall remains pivotal to the Village, providing for weddings, entertainment, committee meetings, elections, etc. Thanks were given to the Council for the support in providing the solar panels on the roof. Future projects include finding an air source heat solution and sorting out the outside area.

Danny Peacock reported that the Playing Field Committee would like to improve the play and sports facilities, dependent on funding. Temporary work has been done to the car park, although it is still a concern.

Alison Ellman-Brown reported that St Mary's has had some very well attended services, but also some very disappointing ones, which could lead to closure if it continues as the church must not run at a deficit. This year a gold medal was won for the wildlife garden in the churchyard and the ancient doors were restored.

David Heaton reported that the Hunton Herald continues to publicise the many events held in Hunton, but is reliant on residents and groups providing the information. Funds raised have allowed donations to be made to the Village Hall Committee and the Friends of St Mary's.

Annette Trought reported that there are four priorities for the Hunton Parish Plan – highways and transport, village infrastructure, environment and community. Many actions have already been taken to address issues raised by villagers, but it is now time for the bigger areas to be explored.

Brian Maytum reported that the Bowls Club celebrated its 75th anniversary in 2011. The ladies became the Maidstone & District Rinks Champions for 2011, while the men achieved great results in their league games.

Liz Oliver reported on the changes in the Peace Cottages during the year. A new tenant moved in last summer and another is due to move in following refurbishment of the cottage. The other cottages have had various improvements made to them, but more work is required – predominantly re-felting of the roof, chimney repointing and more redecoration.

Simon Taylor, on behalf of the Cricket Club, reported that the two teams entered in the Kent Regional Cricket League had a good season in 2011, with the first team narrowly missing promotion in Division 1B Central and the second team finishing a credible mid table in Division 2C East. Unfortunately the Club was relegated from the Kent Village League Division 5, despite some excellent cricket being played.

David Elliot reported that the Football Club had fielded two teams on Saturdays, with the Premier Division team winning the Tunbridge Wells Charity Cup. The Reserves finished above mid table and reached the semi finals of two cups.

David Heaton reported that the Friends of St Mary's has been involved in a number of fund raising events. Grant payments were made for the repair of the historic doors and a significant contribution was made to the repointing of the south wall of the tower. Two new Trustees have joined the Friends.

Liz Oliver reported that there are two Book Groups in the village, with a total of 21 members. The groups read a book each month, chosen by the librarian at Yalding Library, with a varied selection being provided and often a great difference of opinion being expressed!

Alan Blackledge-Smith reported that the Village Club has a membership of approximately 175. A number of events have been held at the Club to generate income to meet the day to day running costs as well as for maintenance work, which has seen considerable improvements in the heating system and other improvements. Internal decoration is to be carried out in 2012.

All those who provided reports thanked everyone who has helped make their organisations a success, but many asked for increased support from villagers not currently involved. Most of the organisations will be involved with the Village Fete.

At St Mary's Church in July

Notices	Services
Coffee Rota Sunday 1 st July- McSweeney Family Flowers 1 st Ruth Porter 8 th Sue Pinks 16 th Sue Pinks 22 nd TBA 29 th Benefice 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 1st July – Trinity 4 11.00am Family Service- Rev Peter Walker Readings: Preacher's choice Sunday 8th July –Trinity 5 09.30am Holy Communion -Rev Peter Walker Readings:2 Samuel 5:1-5 & 9-10 and Mark 6:1-13 Sunday 15th July–Trinity 6 11.00am Morning Prayer–Mr David Barnes Readings: 2 Samuel 6:1-5 & 12(b) – 19 and Mark 6:14-29 Sunday 22nd July – Trinity 7 11.00am Holy Communion – Rev Peter Walker Readings: Ephesians 2:11-22 and Mark 6:30-34 & 53 - 56 Sunday 29th July – Trinity 8 10.30 Benefice Service at Coxheath Readings: 2 Samuel 11:1-15, Ephesians 3:14-21 and John 6:1-21

Cuckoo Update

Chris has left the UK! He is the first Cuckoo to leave and is currently in Belgium, close to the border with The Netherlands. Having been recorded back in the UK on 1st May 2012 in Essex he quickly moved back to Thetford Forest, the area where he was originally tagged. He remained in this area until 9th June, when we had a series of poor quality fixes. When he transmitted again he was near the town of Hoogstraten in Belgium. How long is summer? Well for Chris it was less than 6 weeks (42 days)!

It's interesting to note that Chris was the first bird to leave the area in which he was tagged last year, sometime between 3rd-5th June, moving down to Sussex for a few days. He then turned up in The Netherlands approximately 20km (12 miles) NNE of Maastricht on 17th June 2011. His current movement has taken him on the correct bearing to reach the same staging area as last year but he stopped approximately 85km short of the first place he stopped then.

We would like to introduce you to 'CHAUCER GOURMET' event management company based in Hunton. As a family-run business, we pride ourselves to be a modern and innovative caterer with attention to detail and ability to work in partnership with clients, rather than just as a supplier. We believe in using highest quality, fresh, seasonal produce in all of our menus whenever possible and in the provision of the finest service to all of our clients whatever the occasion is, all individually tailored to your requirements. Whether for an informal staff 'get together' or a formal ten course meal we can provide any menu you wish at very competitive prices. Weddings and private parties, Company lunches or conferences, BBQ's, hog & spit roasts and stir-fry's, birthdays, christenings and anniversaries or funeral buffets, Sport meetings and celebrations. Please view our website www.chaucergourmet.co.uk, where you can access some of our menus, references and current testimonials. Should you wish, we will be happy to visit you, with no obligation, to discuss all aspects of our services and any individual requirements you may have. CHAUCER GOURMET CATERING, Church Barn, Hunton Court Farm, Hunton, Maidstone, ME15 0RR info@chaucergourmet.co.uk, 01622 820329, 07777660741 we are always happy to try beat and better our competitors

Farleigh Farmer's Market

The June market took place on another damp and grey day, but was still attended by a good number of customers. Our newest stall, Spot on Produce from Hunton, attracted considerable interest in their bacon and ham products, especially with the scent of frying bacon to tempt purchasers!

Next month we hope to welcome another new stall selling fish – further information to follow. We already have Jack Rabbit Bakery, which produces delicious cup cakes and loaf cakes, but the market is now looking for a second stall, which can offer homemade biscuits.

The July East Farleigh Farmers' Market will be held on Sunday 1st July from 9-12 noon and this month we are hoping for a sunny morning! Our wide range of stalls will once again include Spot on Produce from Hunton selling their delicious bacon and gammon. We will also be welcoming back Orchita with olives, handmade Turkish delight and other specialities. This month, for the very first time, Brian and Mandy James will be launching their new venture offering fresh seafood. Please come and support these and all the regular stalls – you can't buy fresher or tastier produce anywhere. East Farleigh is now an official member of the Kent Farmers' Market Association and you can find us on www.kfma.org.uk/. We are setting up a mini version of the Farmers' Market at East Farleigh Village Fete on Saturday 7th July, when those of you who have not already visited us will be able to discover exactly what you are missing!

July	1st	8th	15th	22nd	29th
Coxheath	11.00 HC	11.00 MP	11.00 HC	11.00 FS	10.30 Benefice
E. Farleigh	09.30 Matins	08.00 HC 11.00 HC	09.30 HC	08.00 HC 10.00 MP	
Linton	09.30 HC	9.30 FS	08.00 HC	09.30 HC	
W. Farleigh	08.00 HC	11.00 MP (Mod)	09.30 MP (Trad))	09.30 HC (Mod)	
HC: Holy Communion, MP: Morning Prayer, (bcp) Book of Common Prayer, FS: Family Service, SW: Service of Word					