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Hunton Village Club to Close?

Did that catch your attention? Good, because help is needed. Here we are with the start of another year and in 2012 Hunton enjoyed a wonderful fete, the Jubilee celebrations and a successful Christmas Fair, to name just a few events. These events only happen because small groups of volunteers step forward to make them possible for all to enjoy. Hunton Village Club is no exception.

Over the past couple of years the club has become more and more an integral part of village life. Various village societies now use the club for their meetings such as the Parish Plan, the Fete, the Gardening, Orchard and the 2 Book Groups to name just some. The club is also used for family events. Last year saw amazing support for Halloween with children enjoying the event at the craft table whilst their parents were catching up with friends and neighbours. This is a way for the club to survive but in order to do so it needs support.

Apart from Committee members and their partners only 2 from nearly 200 members attended the AGM in December, an extremely disappointing turn-out. Can it be that people just don't care or are members so satisfied with the present Committee that they don't feel the need to come along?

On average there are 30 bar sessions each month, only 6 of which are paid for, the remaining 25 are covered by a few volunteers as bar takings are not sufficient to pay wages for more. 6 years ago there were about a dozen regular volunteers who assisted with the bar but sadly, for a variety of reasons, this has now dropped to just a few. Luckily, some non-committee members work 1 session each month for which the Committee is grateful.

Other tasks include all aspects of running a business from finances, secretarial duties, membership records, health and safety issues, buildings upkeep, stock ordering, bar rota, entertainment and a host of other jobs and this has fallen to just 3 people or so, each of whom have full time jobs and who have been generously giving their time voluntarily for those past 6 years. However, this situation cannot continue and the club desperately needs more help if it is to stay open.

Do you want the club to continue to operate? Are you willing to help? Would you be happy to see the club close after being operative for 100 years? Support can be given in a number of ways and should you feel you could help, even in a small way, please either telephone Phil on 01622 820804 or email info@huntonvillageclub.co.uk or pk.nichols@btinternet.com to find out how. Finally, support can also be given in another way - pop into the club and buy a drink, it's as simple as that!

Get Out and About in February

Get to an unusual event in Hunton on Sunday 10th February

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 will be welcoming snowdrop visitors to both its churchyards which have a wealth of snowdrops in a charming setting.

This event will follow the 11 o'clock church service, which will include the dedication of the repaired doors.

Open between midday and 4pm. Refreshments, information and displays. Entrance free

Bottles Donated

A big thank you to everyone who so generously donated bottles for the bottle stall at the Hunton Christmas Market. A special thanks to all those who were out when collection took place but had left bottles out for collection.

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:	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 31st December **New Year's Eve Chinese Supper Night** Hunton Club 8.00pm
Monday 14th January Parish Council Meeting Village Hall 8pm

Parish Councillors Contact Details

Parish Council Chairman – Roger Sawtell 820731
Clerk to the Parish Council – Sharon Goodwin 681238
Cllr Les Leonard 820858 Cllr Ron Porter 820220
Cllr David Heaton 820678 Cllr Tony Stanbridge 820761
Cllr Gary Thomas 820691 Cllr Steve Wyles 820403

Check out www.hunton.org.uk 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.

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

Dear Friends,

I could wish you a Happy New Year!

But is it? The Church had New Year on 1st December, Chinese New Year is 10th February and Jewish New Year is in September. Until 18C New Year was celebrated on 25 March (the traditional day of The Archangels visit to Mary).

Anyway the Gregorian calendar uses 1st January to make a new start. The month of Janus; a time to reflect on the past year but look forward to new beginnings. A time we often resolve to do something differently.

So, how many resolutions did you make this year? How many have you broken already? Does it matter? Well if we trust in the Lord I don't think it does matter.

I despair of those 'chain emails', which tell me that unless I send it to 20 people in the next 5 seconds then I shall have 10 years bad luck. If I do send it, then something amazing will happen within the next 24 hours. I usually reach for the delete button because nothing is going to happen just because I did/did not press a computer key. Nothing will happen that God and I can't handle together if I trust Him.

What will happen depends on how I live my life and my relationship with God. He gave us freedom to choose. He knows what we need. He will be with us during the dark patches. He will answer our prayers. When you ask something of God it does happen, but almost never in the way you expect and not always to our own timetable. We just need to learn to look out for God's answers, because they may be different to our expectations.

So the only resolution we do need this year is to 'trust in the Lord with all our heart'. If we do that we will have a happy and prosperous New Year.

I pray that for all of us.

With Best Wishes

Chris Bostock

If you do not have a text card for this year please pick one up in church or ask a member of the Ministry Team

Fungal Foray, An Orchard Event

The Fungi Foray had a look at the fungal activity in the proposed orchard area behind the bowls club and the churchyard and surrounding areas in Hunton. The results were fascinating with the discovery of over thirty types of fungi, some edible and some rare. The foray was lead by



Mary Gray, a local expert on fungi who inspired everybody with her knowledge of each specimen, looking at their formation, smell and spore colour. She also discussed recognising edible fungi but recommends always keeping a sample of what you eat so a toxicologist knows what they are treating if you fall ill! (Once again my confidence to eat self picked fungi melts



away....). The full report is at www.hunton.org.uk/docs/fungi-foray.pdf.

Orchard Background

The idea of a community orchard was first raised in response to the Village Survey for the Parish Plan. A small group is working on the idea. There was apparently no suitable existing orchard in the area which could be used so a newly planted area seemed the best idea and this is what we are investigating, hoping to get some funding from Kent Orchards for Everyone and help from the local community.

Starting with a new area means the type of trees must be chosen, the layout decided on, thinking how to make this orchard reflect its Hunton roots and possibly whether art or craft work could be part of the mix. The survey responses and attendance at the Fungi Foray have been encouraging. If you would like to get involved with this, with opinions or offers of help then either write it down and drop it into the club, marked Orchard or email your response to herald@hunton.org.uk with Orchard in the subject. We look forward to hearing from you.

Orchard Survey Bears Fruit.

A big thank you to everyone who filled in the survey about an Orchard in Hunton. If you haven't returned your survey it is not too late to drop it off at Hunton Club. So far the response has been positive with people looking forward to picking fruit, attending events, walking or just relaxing.

Cuckoo in Congo

Chris, our only remaining tagged English Cuckoo, is still in Congo, close to the Likouala aux Herbes and the Ubangi river in the swamp forests. He is just slightly further south (around 50km or 30 miles) than the same area in which he wintered last year. He is the only Cuckoo that the BTO has tracking data on for 2011 and 2012.

It has been fascinating to note that although he has migrated mostly on a very similar trajectory to last year, he has not used the same stop-over sites. It will be even more interesting to see whether he travels into the Democratic Republic of Congo again, before heading back to Congo.

Hunton Club Book Group A Review

The Bell by Iris Murdoch

The book focuses on Imber, a lay religious community and the Abbey to which it is attached. The key events anticipated by the community are the installation of a new Abbey bell and the move into the nunnery of one of their young members. The central figures are Dora a flamboyant, erring wife and Michael the leader of the community. The book promises much initially but the group felt it failed to fulfil this potential. It was also felt that in 2012 Michael's homosexual tendencies towards the young might be regarded as predatory rather than receiving the sympathetic treatment given by Murdoch. The book is very much of its time, 1958, and the issues it raises caused much debate when viewed from a current perspective.

Not a popular book overall, it scored 5/10.

Sue Gunton

Hunton Club Book Group B Review

The Help by Kathryn Stockett

This novel explores the relationship between whites and coloureds in the 1960s in Mississippi. The period is the start of changes in attitudes – Rosa Parks had already claimed her seat on a white bus and Martin Luther King was becoming prominent in the Civil Rights movement.

The protagonists are an unlikely trio – Miss Skeeter (a white wannabe writer) and 2 coloured maids – Aibileen and Minny. Miss Skeeter decides to take on the task of writing a book about the life of the coloured servants in her white community. The maids raise their employers' children, clean their houses and cook their food; but they are not allowed to use the bathrooms that they clean and have to have their own toilets provided.

The Help is written in the first person – each of the trio taking turns to tell the story of the writing of their stories. Kathryn Stockett writes each person's story in their own style. Aibileen's English takes a time to get used to but the technique contributes to each part of the story.

The Help contains tragic events but also includes a deal of humour. The white ladies are materially rich but the maids have riches in other ways – a strong sense of community and friendship which sees them through some pretty awful events.

The group liked the book and gave it a score of 8 out of 10.

Jenny Vickers

Cleaning up the River Beult

There is a meeting to discuss the cleaning up of the River Beult - the event will be held at Linton Village Hall on 24th January 7pm.

Village Diary

Want to know when the next walk with the Hunton Walking group will be? When is the fete? Want to know what activities are on at the Village Hall, Club, Church and Schools? I have listed just a few examples of Hunton activities but there are lots more in the Hunton Village Diary. Just go to www.hunton.org.uk and click on diary on the menu bar. If you would like to add an event to the village diary email huntondiary@btinternet.com.

Welcome Pack

The introduction of a Hunton Welcome Pack for new residents was part of a list of actions outlined under Community - Village Communications in the Parish Plan. The welcome pack is now on the village website (www.hunton.org.uk). The inclusion of the welcome pack on the village website will be a useful tool for would-be residents to Hunton as part of their research on the area. However, some of you may like to welcome your new neighbour to the village with a printed copy of the welcome pack, providing an ideal opportunity to introduce yourself and to make our new member to the community feel welcome. When the time arises, i.e. when someone nearby moves in, please contact me and I will print a copy of the pack for you for this purpose. If there is something that you think would be useful to new members of our village please don't hesitate to contact me, Barbara Wright, at huntondiary@btinternet.com.

Farleigh Farmers Market

East Farleigh Christmas market was enjoyed by all, with hot drinks and carol singers to cheer us on a sunny but cold morning.

There will be NO MARKET IN JANUARY OR FEBRUARY 2013 due to the possibility of snow, as the village is a tricky place in such conditions!

The first market of 2013 will be held on Sunday 3rd March from 9am-12pm in The Bull car park. Stock up your cupboards, fridges and freezers after the New Year with all your favourite local produce.

During 2012 we have raised a brilliant total of £880 for local charities: Dandelion Time, Loose Valley Conservation Society, Kent Association for the Blind, The Blackthorn Trust, Help a Maidstone Child, Maidstone Parkinson's group, The V-Team, Maidstone Day Centre, the British Wireless for the Blind Fund, and the Kenward Trust. All the charities have written to thank us for our support, which we must pass on to both customers and stallholders as we couldn't have achieved this without you!

Sue Morris

At St Mary's Church in January

Notices	Services
Flower Rota	Sunday 6th January – Epiphany 11.00am Family Service—Rev Eileen Doyle Readings: Preacher's choice
6th January - Sue Scott	Sunday 13th January - Baptism of Christ 09.30am Holy Communion –Canon Dr Brian Stevenson Readings: Isaiah 43 v 1-7 and Luke 3 v 15 – 17, 21- 22
13th January - Sue Scott	Sunday 20th January – 3rd Sunday of Epiphany 11.00am Morning Prayer —Rev Chris Bostock Readings: Isaiah 62 v 1-5 and John 2 v 1- 11
20th January—Alison Ellman-Brown	Sunday 27th January – 4th Sunday of Epiphany 11.00am Holy Communion – Rev Noel McConachie Readings: Nehemiah 8 v 1-3,5-6 8 – 10 and Luke 4 v 14 - 21
27th January - Alison Ellman-Brown	

Maidstone Symphony Orchestra

Conductor Brian Wright

Saturday 2nd February 2013, 7.30pm at Mote Hall, Maidstone Leisure Centre, Mote Park, Maidstone.

Sibelius : Karelia Suite

Rachmaninov : Piano Concerto No.2.

Nielsen : Symphony No. 4. "Inextinguishable".

A great success two seasons ago, we welcome the return of the young Taiwanese-American pianist Ching-yun Hu to play Rachmaninov's best-known concerto. Written during the 1st World War, Nielsen's 4th Symphony commemorates the elemental forces of human survival.

Concert tickets £10, £20 and £25, full time students with a student card £5, available from Membership Secretaries on 01622 735830, with cheque payment, collected on the concert evening at Mote Hall or from Maidstone Leisure Centre Mote Hall Box office on 0845 1552277 when payment can be made by credit card, a booking fee applies.

Bookings can be taken on www.mso.org.uk using the booking form.

Tickets for all children up to and including 18 years of age are FREE.

Aquarius Soft Furnishings

Aquarius Soft Furnishings have relocated their shop into the show room on Clock House Farm, 300 yards off Heath Road.

Telephone 01622 744265 or 01622 743223.

Unit 2, The Oast, Clockhouse Farm, Coxheath ME17 4PB.

Email aquarius.1@btconnect.com, www.aquariussoftfurnishings.com

Pre-School News

This term the children have been enjoying a number of fun activities, firstly Maidstone Fire Brigade came down to visit the children, but unfortunately were called out to an emergency and had to blue light it away from the Village Hall, which the children loved. We had a week learning about the festival of Diwali and we are now frantically preparing for Christmas.

On Sunday 9th December, we held our Christmas Bazaar and singing performance, and we raised over £400 towards a new laptop for the children.

Hunton & Linton Pre-school have some very exciting news, as from January 2013 we are extending our opening hours, we will be open from 9.15am to 2.45pm on Mondays and Thursdays, and Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9.15am to 12.15pm.

If you are considering a placement for your child, then please give Sally Clifton our Pre-school Administrator a call on 01622 820309 or 07972 067110, or alternatively contact us through our website at www.hunton-linton-preschool.co.uk

January	6th	13th	20th	27th	3rd February
Coxheath	11.00 HC	11.00 MP	11.00 HC	11.00 FS HC	11.00 HC
E. Farleigh	09.30 MP	08.00 HC 11.00 FS	09.30 HC	08.00 HC	09.30 MP
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	08.00 HC
HC: Holy Communion, MP: Morning Prayer, (bcp) Book of Common Prayer, FS: Family Service, SW: Service of Word					