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Village Hall Gets a Refurb

The Village Hall will be closed throughout August for a grand refurbishment. The Hall is being completely repainted, including the entrance, kitchen and WCs. Additionally, the floor is being overhauled, which involves it being completely stripped down, prepared and then coated with a protective sealant.

"We are very lucky to have such a wonderful, characterful Hall", said Christina Harrison, Chair of the Village Hall Committee. "We are also proud to have a sprung floor of such quality, but right now it is in need of reparation. This refurb is going to drain a large portion of our resources, so please do help us by coming along and supporting our Musical Events organised by Mike Summersgill, Treasurer."

"I can't think of a better way to enjoy a pint and listen to some live music", he said. We will keep you posted - so watch this space for your Hall Event News.

Message from the Treasurer:

We would like to apologise to Hall users from September for the increased paperwork, holding deposit and access/key arrangements, but we have to institute some provisions to cover the minority who have abused our previous system. In the past months we have had damage to a fire extinguisher, the first aid boxes being emptied of material, soap dispensers removed, rubbish left outside the bin (for foxes to distribute around the grass), cigarette butts left in the childrens' patio area (a 'restricted' zone), and early in July an overflowing sewer in the playgroup's garden caused by wet-wipes being flushed down a toilet - all of which add significantly to the costs and effort of running the Hall.

We will also have new keys, due to damage to the main lock caused by the side doors being forced open from inside (when locked), and by the evident use of the Hall without booking by people who must have existing keys. We are hoping that the new booking system will alleviate these kind of problems and keep the newly renovated Hall in its optimum condition for the benefit of the whole community and our external hirers (whose income we need to balance the books). Any community group regularly needing a key, please email Kathy, info@huntonvillagehall.co.uk, as we will need your request in writing.

Housing Needs Survey Update

Those residents who wrote to ACRK (Action with Communities in Rural Kent) expressing their concerns will by now have received a reply from the Chief Executive Officer, Mr Keith Harrison. The organisation is conducting a full investigation into the handling of the survey and the Parish Council and Parish Plan Steering Committee will receive a full report on the findings. Both groups will have the opportunity to advise ACRK on improvements to their procedures based upon our specific experience.

The final report of the results of the survey will not be available until early August. However, we have been advised by ACRK that the number of returns they received were higher than expected for such a survey and the overwhelming majority (in excess of 90%) rejected the need for a development of the type proposed.

The final report and its conclusions will be used as input to our official housing needs survey for the village, which will feed into the Hunton Neighbourhood Plan.

Your Local Contacts:

Parish Council Chairman: Roger Sawtell	820731	Clerk to Parish Council: Sharon Goodwin	681238
School: Secretary/Head Teacher	820360	Village Hall Booking: Kathy Reid	820092
Under 5's Pre-School:	820309	Maidstone Police	690690 or 101
Pre-School Supervisor:	07972067110	Neighbourhood Watch: huntonwatch@gmail.com	820403, 820429, 820731
Pond and Tree Warden: Mike Summersgill	820429	'Potholes' Hotline (KCC)	03000 418181
Rector: Peter Callway	747570**	Churchwarden: Alison Ellman-Brown	820288
Non-Stipendiary Minister Revd David Jones	741474*	PCSO Alan Hunter	07772 226151
Village Club: Philip Nichols	820804	Helen Grant MP helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk	0207 219 7107
		Hunton Bell Ringers, Michael Webb	745716

*not available on Fridays; **not available on Mondays

Diary Dates

Sunday 3 rd August	East Farleigh Farmers' Market 9am-12pm
Tuesday 5 th August	Hunton WI Village Club 7.30pm
Saturday 16 th August	Neil Davis Village Club from 8pm
Saturday 23 rd August	Pop-up Shop & Café Village Club 10am-12pm
	Ploughmans' Lunches Village Club 12-2pm

Contact details for other village clubs and organisations are available on the website

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 September edition to the Editor as soon as possible, and by 15th August, please

I am writing this at the end of June. On Saturday 28th I attended a very happy service in the Cathedral to celebrate 20 years of female priestly ministry.

In Sarajevo they were commemorating a hundred years since the death of Archduke Ferdinand, the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne. "So what?", you may say. Well, you will be reading this in August and on 4th August it will be 100 years since the outbreak of The First World War; Sarajevo was the catalyst which precipitated this catastrophe. The Tsar, the Kaiser and the King were all first cousins, so you could say that this was a huge family row – and what a row! If Grandma Victoria had still been alive I am sure she would have locked them in the nursery to sort out their differences!

On a smaller scale, family and neighbourly disputes can be just as devastating to those involved. Often today, if people want something they think it is their right to have it, regardless of the impact their actions may have on others. These events may not be the extreme of Cain killing his brother but sometimes it is just as painful to the family.

Throughout the Bible there are examples of greed, selfishness and obsession, which took the person away from God because they had forgotten the greatest commandment of both Old and New Testaments, 'you will love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and all your mind.' Some repented and found God again; others lived and died with the consequences of their actions. Jesus reminds us that He is with us always to show us 'the way, the truth and the life.'

There is a song which says 'Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.'

May God bless us in our efforts.

Chris Bostock

Friends of St Mary's Internal Restoration Project

We at Friends are very pleased to confirm that following a meaningful dialogue with the Parochial Church Council, we have adopted a project to complete the internal decoration of the Church as our fund raising target over the immediate future. Those of you who visit the Church will have witnessed a steady but noticeable deterioration of the interior, particularly the north wall, which has been aggravated by constant damp - very sad to see.

We cannot do very much about the source of the damp but with modern techniques the damp can be accommodated and we hope to restore the interior to a level worthy of this wonderful building.

This will take some time and the work under the management of the Parochial Church Council will be completed in stages. The cost will be in the region of £40,000 so we will tackle that target by fund raising events, increasing our membership, which is only a minimum of £25 per annum, and donations. We will be putting all our resources behind this and intend to talk to as many of you as possible to help us. Full details of the enrolment process will follow but if in the meantime you would like to know more about the terms of membership please contact the trustee responsible, Ian Pinks, on 01622 820709. Friends are the funding source for all of this, but the Parochial Church Council, who will manage the work, will also investigate other sources such as grants, so perhaps together we can achieve what we see as vital work.

Ron Porter

Hunton Gardening Club Farm Visit

In July, owner Clive Baxter, kindly took members of Hunton Gardening Club on an extensive tour of Amsbury Farm. He led the group through apple, pear, cherry and apricot orchards, as well as raspberry and other fruit crop areas and specialist trial plots. Clive summarised the history and development of the farm then talked about the various methods of fruit growing and answered questions about the cultivation of fruit. This was a very enjoyable visit and it is hoped that a tour of the packing operation may be possible in the autumn.

How would you like to own a piece of St Mary's Church?

St Mary's has two old pine pews that are in need of a new home or homes. The pews are 93 inches (2.36m) long and are complete with both their arms intact. They were removed from their original location in the church many years ago and have since been in temporary positions at the back of the church and in the vestry. The space they occupy is now needed for other purposes. Ideally, we would love the pews to remain in the parish and we are therefore offering them to residents first. We are happy to sell the pews singly or as a pair. As a guide, we are hoping for bids in excess of £100 each, on the basis of what similar items are on offer for on sites like EBay, but any reasonable bid will be considered by the PCC.

To ensure fairness, we will be conducting an auction and are looking to receive sealed bids by Saturday 13th September 2014, which is the date of the Antiques and Craft Fair at St Mary's. Bids, which should be in sealed envelopes marked "Hunton Pews", can be left at the Fair itself or delivered beforehand to the Rector, Rev Peter Callway, The Rectory, 144 Heath Road, Coxheath, ME17 4PL. The purchaser(s) will need to arrange collection of the pew(s) from the church. Should there be no interest from the parish, we will be offering them for sale next to the wider Benefice and then, if they are still not sold, on the open market, but we do hope this will not be necessary.

If any potential buyer would like to view the pews this can be done at the church at the end of any Sunday service and of course during the Antiques and Craft Fair. The Rector is also happy to answer any questions potential purchasers might have. He can be contacted on 01622 747570.

St Mary's PCC

Parish Council Round-up

Hunton parish council, as trustees to the village hall, is to contribute a sum (potentially £2500-3000) towards the cost of redecorations and refurbishments, likely to be £7000-8000 in total.

The council is also covering the £2,120 cost of resurfacing the hall car park to be carried out in mid-September, while Danny Peacock of the King George V playing field committee said that the football club pavilion roof which is leaking, is to be repaired at a cost of £485.

Steve Wyles reported that the Hunton Neighbourhood Watch scheme now has 120 members. Information on the group and the advantages of membership were highlighted at the village fete in June.

The Speedwatch team checking vehicles travelling through the village has been more active with four checks in June and four in July. From these a pattern is arising but it is encouraging to note that cars are slowing down when passing the village school. Repeat speeding offenders were sent letters by the police.

PCSO Alan Hunter reported a burglary in East Street where custom jewellery was stolen; an assault in George Street with two people accusing each other; a domestic incident and one of harassment.

Community Orchard Update

The Community Orchard for Hunton, which was launched at the summer fete this year, is a facility that all members of the community can enjoy. A small area of the orchard has been planted with wild flowers to attract bees and insects, by pupils at the school, the pre-school, and a few of our 'more mature' residents. A register containing the names of everyone who took part in the planting is being kept for posterity. Carole at Hunton Engineering is kindly keeping an eye on the plants for us and watering them when necessary to ensure they get a good start. The orchard group is tidying the space on a regular basis and is working on plans for the layout. Next step - the trees! More information to follow.

Village Club News & Events

Live Music

Back by popular demand - Neil Davis and friends will be playing at the Club again on 16th August. This will be a regular feature every third Saturday of the month until 20th December. Come along and enjoy a great evening's entertainment.

Pizza Night

On Saturday 12th July Hunton Bakery's Lisa Halliday took orders, baked fresh pizzas and delivered them to the club. They arrived piping hot and tasted delicious. Thank you Lisa, the evening was a huge success and we're sure to repeat this event in the not too distant future.

Pop-Up Shop & Café

The Club has been delighted to host the monthly Pop-Up Shop & Café, which has proved very popular, offering a range of seasonal, locally produced goods. Relax with a coffee and croissant whilst you shop. The next Pop-Up shop will be on 23rd August from 10am-12pm.

Ploughmans' Lunches

The club has been very busy with people keen to sample Ann's delicious ploughmans' lunches and homemade quiches. They take place once a month, from 12-2pm, straight after the Pop-Up Shop.

Fishing Trip

The Club's Sea Fishing Group enjoyed a trip to Dungeness, experiencing a mixed bag of weather with no sign of a fish until high tide, when numerous whiting were caught.

Get Connected at The Club

The Committee is pleased to advise that Wi-Fi is now available at the Club to all members – and it's FREE!

This extra facility will enable members to enjoy a drink whilst logging on and carrying out work or surfing the net for leisure purposes. It will also assist those attending meetings, who will be able to access the web to check dates, venues or information of any kind. So, make the most of your unique village amenity, your Club. Why not hold your meetings there? If you are not a member why not consider joining so you too can enjoy all that the Club has to offer and help keep it going for another 100 years? If you'd like more information on joining ring Phil on 820804 for an informal chat.

ANTIQUES & CRAFT FAIR



St Mary's Church, Hunton

Saturday 13th September, 10am – 4pm

Including valuer to assess your items brought from home. £5 per item.
Call Ann on 01622 820731 to book slot.

Chat-A-While Coffee Mornings

Yalding Baptist Church
Vicarage Road
10.30am to 12pm

Thursday August 7th & 21st

All Welcome
Held fortnightly from March to November

At St Mary's Church in August

Flowers – August

3 rd	Fay Joyce	10 th	Fay Joyce
17 th	Sue Scott (Wedding)	24 th	Sue Scott

Services

Sunday 3rd August – Trinity 7

11.00am Family Service – Miss Chris Bostock

Readings: Preacher's choice

Sunday 10th August – Trinity 8

09.30am Holy Communion 1662 – Rev. David Jones

Readings: 1 Kings 19.9-18 and Matthew 14.22-33

Sunday 17th August – Trinity 9

11.00am Morning Prayer – Rev. David Jones

Readings: Isaiah 56.1,6-8 and Matthew 15.21-28

Sunday 24th August – Trinity 10

11.00am Holy Communion – Rev. Peter Callway

Readings: Isaiah 51.1-6 and Matthew 16.13-20

Sunday 31st August – Trinity 11

10.30am Benefice Service at Linton

Rev. Peter Callway & Mr. Michael Cooper

East Farleigh Farmers' Market

The next East Farleigh Farmers' Market will be held on Sunday 3rd August from 9am to 12 noon. All our regular stallholders will be there, although Eric of the French Delicatessen will be on his annual holiday in France. Gary and Mandy of The Old School Hall will be back this month serving their delicious cakes, teas and coffee from the kitchen to both hungry stallholders and customers. You can also make the most of the freshly picked seasonal fruit from The Old Rose Garden, Finesse and PJ's Farmshop. We look forward to welcoming you to our friendly market!

Sue

Book Group Review - The Shadow Girls by Henning Mankell

A story of three refugees escaping from persecution, prostitution and parental control. Their story is related by a hapless, feeble author who is also searching for some direction in his life. This book is a strange mix of the refugees' dark and sometimes harrowing stories injected with humour from Humlin, the author, and his associates. We all enjoyed his mother, an eighty-seven year old who offers phone 'entertainment' to equally old gentlemen.

We mostly liked the concept of the story but found the execution and the ending a little weak. An average score of 6 with a range of 5 to 7, shows we were pretty much all in agreement about this book.

Next month's book is The Hare with Amber Eyes by Edmund de Waal.

Road Closure B2163 Coxheath

There will be a series of road closures on the B2163 Heath Road between Woodlands and Vanity Lane during August. Night time closures between 8pm and 5am will be in place on 3rd, 17th & 31st August. These will be followed by a closure for a period of 5 days from 18th August and a further 5 day closure from 26th August. This is to enable resurfacing and lining works and the installation of humped zebra crossings. A diversion via Maidstone will be in place.

Hunton CEP School Summer Fair - Saturday 19th July 2014

With the weather being kind to us, the fair was in full swing by noon. Outdoor activities included archery, beat the goalie, bouncy castle, soak the teacher and a petting zoo. Visitors were able to browse a variety of stalls, including our own pupil stalls ran by Evie and Mille and Borton class, whilst enjoying a fabulous showpiece of dancing by the Amelia Appleby Dance School and live music from Jamie English, Connor Noble and Andre Betha. With the BBQ heating up to provide delicious burgers and sausages and the drinks overflowing, everyone was fed and watered well. Traditional whippy ice creams were available and tasty hot donuts and candy floss were appreciated by the children.

Thanks to all those that participated in making the day a success; to the parents that helped, the fabulous PTA management team and of course the headteacher, Mrs Gibbs-Naguar, and her wonderful team for their support and encouragement. Special thanks must be given to the Desmerais family for allowing us to use their field for parking - your continued support of our school is gratefully appreciated, the Hunton community for coming and enjoying the day with us and to our kind sponsors who donated prizes to the raffle.

A final figure of monies raised is yet to be announced however, irrespective of that, the feeling of community spirit and school fever is immeasurable.

Mrs Raz Dowdall – PTA Chair

Litter Pick – 5th July

We had a successful litter pick, collecting a total of 15 sacks of general rubbish (mainly drink cans and coffee cups), a car bumper and valance, together with a bucket car seat and two parcel shelves. No tyres or toilets this time! Many thanks to the kind gentleman in the Landrover who stopped to help with the car bumper. If you would be interested in joining our team of volunteers, please ring Di Martin or Nigel Parsons on 01622 820115 or email di.martin1@btinternet.com.

The next clean up will be in October.

August	3 rd	10 th	17 th	24 th	31 st
Coxheath	11.00 HC	11.00 MP	11.00 HC	11.00 FS	10.30am
E. Farleigh	09.30 MP	08.00 HC; 11.00 FS	09.30 HC	08.00 HC	Benefice Service at Linton
Linton	09.30 HC	09.30 FS	08.00 HC	09.30 HC	
W. Farleigh	08.00 HC 1662	11.00 MP Mod	09.30 MP Trad	09.30 HC	
HC: Holy Communion, MP: Morning Prayer, (bcp) Book of Common Prayer, FS: Family Service, SW: Service of Word					