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Pavilion Takes Shape

Work is now well under way with construction of the new cricket pavilion. Conditional building regulations approvals were obtained in January and the foundation finished early in February. A huge vote of thanks must go to the cricket club members who turned up in the depths of winter to dig trenches, pour concrete, barrow bricks, shovel sand and hardcore and make bacon sandwiches and tea. Also to Hague Construction, who generously provided materials and plant at cost, meaning that the foundation came in well under budget; and to Hunton Engineering, who allowed us to keep valuable plant and equipment in their yard out of harm's way.



The project is now entering an exciting and challenging phase, with the first tranche of funding (£26,000) being received from Sport England early in March and the building wall panels coming to site on the 3rd of the month. A big thanks to David Heaton, who provided and drove the tractor and trailer which enabled us to get the very heavy components from the car park to the site.

As I write, the scaffolding has just been erected and the roof trusses go on in the next few days; by the end of March, the building should be watertight and we can turn our attention to fitting out internally. Some major obstacles remain, not least the challenge of providing a new power supply across the field to the pavilion, which I am sure will prove both expensive and demanding. We also have to repair the considerable damage to the outfield caused by diggers and dumpers.

We are grateful for the continuing support of the Parish Council and we welcome the involvement of the local community. Over the next few months there will be working parties most weekends and if anyone is willing to wield a shovel, hold a paintbrush or show us your considerable DIY skills this will be greatly appreciated. Our focus weekend is 11th/12th April 2015 – NatWest CricketForce weekend – when we will be not only working on the new pavilion, but trying to clear up the site in general.

The pavilion is unlikely to be fully ready until late summer but we are hoping that we can join in the village fete festivities by staging an official opening ceremony on that day. We are looking forward to celebrating this excellent new facility, which will be for the use of both the club and the village.

Simon Taylor, Hunton Wanderers CC

Annual Parish Meeting - Monday 18th May 7.30pm

The Parish Council will be holding its annual parish meeting at the village hall on Monday 18th May. This will be a chance for the village to hear from the following key organisations about what they have been doing over the previous twelve months; Hunton School; St Mary's Church; the Bowls Club; the Cricket Club; the Football Club; the Village Club; Huntonwatch; the Hunton Herald; the Playing Fields Committee; the Parish Plan Steering Committee; the Village Hall Committee; Peace Cottages Charity; Hunton Tree and Pond Warden; Hunton Walking Group; Hunton Gardening Club and more. There'll be no excuse for not knowing who's who and what they do. So why not come along? Refreshments will be provided from 7pm with the meeting starting at 7.30pm.

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 - Matthew Judges	101 (or via Huntonwatch)
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

Saturday 4 th Apr	Pop-Up Shop & Café Village Club 9-11am
Sunday 5 th Apr	East Farleigh Farmers' Market 10am-1pm
Tuesday 7 th Apr	Hunton WI Village Club 7.30pm
Thursday 16 th Apr	Sarah McQuaid Village Hall Doors 7.30pm
Saturday 18 th Apr	Coffee Morning Bowls Club 10am-12pm
	Hunton Music Nights Village Club 8pm
Saturday 25 th Apr	Pop-Up Shop & Café Village Club 9-11am
	Antiques & Craft Fair St Mary's Church 10am-4pm
Saturday 2 nd May	Memorial Fundraiser The White House 7.30pm
Sunday 3 rd May	Miss Caledonia Village Hall Doors 7.30pm

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 Ron Porter 820220; Cllr David Heaton 820678;
 Cllr Tony Stanbridge 820761; Cllr Gary Thomas 820691;
 Cllr Steve Wyles 820403; Cllr Annette Trought 820448.

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 May edition to the Editor as soon as possible, and by 15th April, please

Spring has sprung. The evenings are lighter, the day is longer and the weather is warmer. At least that's what should be happening at this time of year – along with the April showers, which bring refreshment and energy to the growing plants. Life begins to re-emerge and things are all a little greener. (By the way, I hold that Spring begins on the date of the equinox when the earth is in the exact place in its orbit that the day and night are equal - March 20th this year - not March 1st which the weather forecasters seem to have adopted.)

Poets have long been inspired by the coming of spring, perhaps none more so than Alfred Lord Tennyson who penned these words in his poem of 1835, Locksley Hall.

*"In the Spring a fuller crimson comes upon the robin's breast;
In the Spring the wanton lapwing gets himself another crest;
In the Spring a livelier iris changes on the burnish'd dove;
In the Spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love."*

Plato wrote that with a touch of lover, everyone becomes a poet. Others have written or said things about love too – some of which are intended to raise a smile. Mae West for example is reported to have said, "Love thy neighbour — and if he happens to be tall, debonair and devastating, it will be that much easier." George Burns said that, "Love is a lot like a backache, it doesn't show up on X-rays, but you know it's there."

The church's season at this time of year is Easter, and love is at the very heart of the season. We recall that Jesus said that greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. Which is exactly what he did. He gave up his life for his friends. Who are his friends? That's the whole world – including you and me. This is not love that is a fancy thought made lightly, or an amusing anecdote or quote, but love as deep as it gets. My favourite hymn is "When I survey the wondrous cross" and my favourite lines from that hymn are "see, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down. Did e'er such love and sorrow meet?" Jesus models love for us, and calls us to reflect his love in our relationships with others. The greatest commandment, he tells us, is to love God with all your heart and soul and mind and strength, and love your neighbour as yourself. Happy Easter!

Peter Callway, Rector

Gigs (and More!) at the Village Hall. Sarah McQuaid – Thursday 16th April. Miss Caledonia – Sunday 3rd May

We continue our packed spring season with **Sarah McQuaid** on **Thursday 16th April**. Born in Spain, raised in Chicago, and now living in rural England, Sarah refuses to be pigeonholed - segueing easily from one of her emotive acoustic guitar originals into a 1930s Cuban jazz number, a 16th century lute piece or an unexpected contemporary cover. Although tickets are Pay-on-the-Door (£10 including food at the break), we strongly recommend pre-booking with Mike (820429) or Steve (820403) to be sure of getting to see this interesting performer.

On **Sunday 3rd May** Applause Rural Touring is presenting the opening night of an award-winning humorous musical play from Canada, written and presented by Melody Johnson. **Miss Caledonia** is the part-biographical story of Melody's mother's actions on a farmstead in rural Canada in 1955, hoping to escape to the bright lights of the movie industry. Their company has been sponsored by the Ontario and English Arts Councils to come over to the UK for a five-week tour, so let's give them a great opening night! To complete the rural idyll, we suggest you bring a picnic. Tickets for Hunton residents are at the concessionary price of £7.50 (advance only); £10 on door.

P.S. From the Jo Harman gig – We raised £335 for the two cancer charities on the night, in memory of Alan, and were just three people short of an audience of 100.

Hunton Club Events

Live Music - Hunton Music Nights are back at the village club for a new season starting Saturday 18th April. With great music from local artists, a friendly atmosphere and free admission, this is a night out not to be missed. Doors open 8pm.

Fun Darts Competition - Twelve enthusiastic pairs, cheered on by friends and family, competed in the mixed-doubles darts tournament. With rather varied darts experience and nobody taking things too seriously, this was a really fun evening. The teams were split into two groups for a round robin, with the winning pair in each group going through to the final. This was a good natured, family showdown, as Dee and Len took on Dee's daughter, Lucy, partnered by Alan, with Dee and Len being declared the eventual champions.

Red Nose Race Night - Once again the race night held at the village club was enjoyed by more than 35 people and was a huge success. Despite now living in Cambridge, Peter Bullivant returned to Hunton to organise and host the event. Sausage rolls and Red Nose Cup Cakes were supplied by Sandra Bullivant and the whole evening proved to be enjoyable with a jovial and exciting atmosphere. £105 was raised for Comic Relief. So, thank you to all those who supported, not only the club, but this very worthwhile cause too!

Race Night for Nicole

On Saturday 2nd May the White House pub is holding a fundraising race night and jazz concert in aid of the Nicole Parnell Memorial Fund. Nicole, as you may know, passed away following a tragic accident at the end of last year. She was a long-time friend of the pub and is greatly missed by all who knew her. The aim is to raise money for a memorial plaque in Hunton Church. The races will start at 7.30pm, so get there early! These will be followed by a performance from local jazz quartet, Musaïc, who will be performing a selection of timeless tunes from the Great American Songbook.

Pop-Up Shop and Café – 4th & 25th April 9-11am @ our Village Club

We have two Pop-Up Shops this month. There will be all the usual Hunton goodies for your Hunton breakfast - Spot-on bacon, sausages and pork; Hunton eggs, bread and croissants; plus yummy cakes, seasonal items and cheeses, along with Taste of Kent Award winning Chegworth Valley fruit juices and more...Come along and have a chat, read the papers, get a coffee (or tea!) and enjoy handmade pastries from Jenny. On 25th April, why not follow this with a visit to the Antiques and Craft Fair at St Mary's Church?

Hunton's Who's Who

In this new, regular column, we introduce you to some of the village's volunteers who give willingly of their time and talents to support our vibrant community. Our first who's who features Parish Council Chairman, **Roger Sawtell**.

"I came to Hunton in 1984 and joined the parish council three and a half years later. My main interest at the time was to see the establishment of the proposed mains drainage system. I soon realised how beautiful the village was and that it needed to be preserved at all costs, so planning became an important issue for me. With the help of our borough councillors I became more familiar with the workings of Maidstone Borough Council and have attended a number of planning hearings on behalf of the village. I took over from John Scott as Chairman of the Parish Council over 19 years ago. Perhaps the time is right to make way for a younger person.

In addition to my parish council role I am also a member of the Church Council (PCC), the Friends of St Mary's, the King George V Playing Field Committee and am treasurer of the village almshouses.

I came to Kent originally from Kingston-upon-Thames to work at GEC Avionics in Rochester as an electronics engineer. I met my wife, Ann, there. We have two daughters, Amy and Lizzie, both embarking on their careers, one as an engineer in Hull and the other as a scientist in London. A keen golfer in my younger days, my hobbies now are bird watching, bee keeping, a bit of gardening (cutting grass) and photography.

I am delighted with how Hunton has grown into a village with strong community spirit with a variety of clubs and activities for all to meet and enjoy. Long may it continue!"



Roger Sawtell (centre) with fellow parish councillors, Ron Porter (left) and the late Les Leonard (right).

Village Lunches

The recent series of five lunches were again very well supported, with a mixture of regulars and occasional visitors enjoying a chat in a friendly atmosphere over a delicious, locally prepared meal. A huge thank you to Lesley for all her hard work in organising and running the events, (although she will very modestly deny that it was much effort on her behalf), the talented soup makers and cake bakers of the village for their wonderful creations, Rosemary for manning the bar each week, those who helped with serving, clearing up and providing lifts, and perhaps most importantly to everyone who came along to enjoy the lunches, thereby ensuring their success. Donations from the five weeks totalled just over £700, which will benefit the Village Club and St Mary's Church.

Parish Council Report

Councillors welcomed Herschel Santineer, Chair of Governors at Hunton School, to the parish council meeting in March. Mr Santineer reported that the school was outperforming other schools in Kent and nationally. A new middle school teacher will be joining after Easter. The governing body is working hard to build a better relationship with the community and is looking at initiatives to improve the parking situation and engage parents with the village. Mr Santineer invited councillors to visit the school.

The Council have asked KCC to impose a 30mph limit throughout the village; a vehicle count and speed survey will be required before this can be considered. KCC have agreed to install coloured blocks on the road surface in West Street near to the bakery and South Lodge as a traffic calming measure. Speedwatch have recruited a new member and will be carrying out checks in the area. Cllr Stockell will ask KCC to install an anti-skid surface at the bottom of Hunton Hill, following four accidents in 30 days. Councillors gave the go ahead for kerbing alongside the playing field on West Street; KCC have agreed to fund half the cost.

The footpath between the village hall and Bensted Close has been repaired (single-handedly by Cllr Heaton). A contractor is being sought to spray the weeds.

Cllr Stanbridge will look into ways to improve broadband provision in the village.

There were reports of two burglaries in the village in recent weeks. Residents are asked to be extra vigilant and to report any concerns to Huntonwatch or the police.

The village hall is very busy with regular use by the pre-school and judo club, the spring music events and bookings for 17 weddings this year and next. There are plans to replace the curtains and blinds. Work will be undertaken on 12th April to complete the levelling of the car park.

Having Your Say at the Consultation Café

Hunton held its first village consultation event for its Neighbourhood Plan at the village club on 21st March. The response was very good; over 50 completed questionnaires and the graffiti wall filled with comments. It is very important that we get as much input from as many residents as possible. If you have not had the opportunity to comment yet there is still plenty of time. You can pick up a questionnaire at the Gardening Club Supper on 31st March; Pop-Up Shops on 4th & 25th April, 23rd May; contact Cllrs Porter, Wyles or Trought who will arrange to deliver a questionnaire to you directly; or send your views to Huntonnp@gmail.com. Progress will be reported to the village via the Hunton Herald.

WI on the Scent

At the March meeting Virginie Daniau gave a very interesting and amusing talk on the history of perfume, from the ancient Egyptians through to the present day. Our next meeting is on Tuesday 7th April at 7.30pm and the speaker is Cyril Baldwin, an auctioneer from the Medway Towns, giving a talk entitled "Going, Going, Gone!" As always, new members are welcome, no need to be a Hunton resident.

At St Mary's Church in April

Flowers

5 th	Easter - All	12 th	All
19 th	Susie St John	26 th	Susie St John

Services

Sunday 5th April – Easter Sunday

11.00am Holy Communion – Rev Peter Callway

Sunday 12th April – Easter 2

9.30am Holy Communion – Rev David Jones

Sunday 19th April – Easter 3

11.00am Morning Prayer & Baptism – Rev Peter Callway

Sunday 26th April – Easter 4

11.00am Holy Communion – Rev David Jones

Bowls Club Coffee Morning

Hunton Bowls Club will be holding their annual pre-season coffee morning on Saturday 18th April from 10am - 12 noon. Please come along and support us. Any contributions of cakes, tombola prizes, plants or any items you may have for the bring and buy stall would be most appreciated. For anyone new to the village we are situated behind the Village Hall. Any new members would be most welcome to our friendly club.

Friends of St Mary's

We are very pleased to confirm that two additional Trustees have joined us. They are Mary Goddard and Lucy Dickinson, both of Grove Lane; many of you will know them already.

We have carried a vacancy on the Board of Trustees for some time, so strengthening the team now is good timing mindful of the immediate fundraising target we have, in order that the internal decoration of the Church can be completed. The Charity Commission will be advised of their details plus we are having to make a minor amendment to our Deed of Constitution to accommodate both of them.

On a separate but related topic, you will have received through your door an invitation to become a member of our charity to support the work that we are funding to preserve our beautiful church. By increasing the number of members it is easier for us to budget for major projects like the current one with assured regular incoming annual subscriptions. We can reclaim the tax back on all those subscriptions if you are a UK taxpayer, which is another great help.

It is only £25 (min) per year, we are a local charity registered here in Hunton and it is to preserve the church building and surroundings for generations to come. We hope that we will shortly be able to welcome you as members and to be able to thank you for your kind support.

Ron Porter, Chair of Trustees

ANTIQUES & CRAFT FAIR



St Mary's Church, Hunton
Saturday 25th April
10am – 4pm

Homemade refreshments served all day

Village Hall Chairperson Needed

The Village Hall Committee AGM will be held on May 12th and with this in mind we should like to ask if anyone in the village is interested in taking on the role of Chair as Christina is stepping down. She originally took the position to fill the gap when we very sadly lost Alan Bishop, who had been chair of the hall for many years.

We feel that it would be helpful if the nominee lives in the village, has a knowledge of village life and could be available to assist the treasurer and the secretary with the day to day running of the hall. We will look forward to hearing from you. If you would like more information or wish to speak to Christina please feel free to call her on 07824 601945 or email crh@harri.org.uk.

Saving our Hedgerows

27 drops and 23,000 litres of oil were delivered during February on the Hunton Oil Syndicate. A worst-case scenario of no syndicate could have resulted in 27 different tankers from different companies delivering to the different addresses. Instead we had the oil delivered in approximately four tanker loads. The impact on our hedgerow has always been my reason and the possibility of getting a better price has been secondary; obviously the more we order the better the price as I have slightly more bargaining power. If you would like to join the syndicate or think you may have 'fallen off' the distribution list as you have a new email address, then please email me and I will add your details. Thank you to everyone who is currently a member and I hope you find the system works; I am always willing to receive ideas and suggestions to improve what was just a little seed of an idea four years ago. The next order is in April and I need all your orders by **9th April**, again via email with OIL in subject heading and your contact details and quantity required. mlferns@yahoo.co.uk

Louise Ferns

April	5 th	12 th	19 th	26 th
Coxheath	11.00 HC	11.00 MP	11.00 HC	11.00 FS
E. Farleigh	09.30 HC	08.00 HC; 11.00 FS	09.30 HC	08.00 HC
Linton	09.30 HC	09.30 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, FS Family Service				