



## Hunton Village Club – The Future

Following last month's article and editorial I was pleased to be contacted by a number of villagers who expressed their concern and willingness to support the club in the best way that they could. I believe the Herald article also encouraged members and some non-members to attend the AGM and express their views regarding the future. The committee advised that the club's income had just exceeded expenditure due in part to the donations made following the lunches, income from the bar at functions (including darts matches) and a reduction in costs with closures on Fridays and Saturdays. The committee also informed the meeting of discussions that had been held with potential business investors relating to a number of possibilities including transforming the club into a 'food hub', selling local produce, with kitchen stations to provide apprenticeships for young chefs together with a 'micro pub'. There had also been discussions with consultants regarding lottery funding for specific projects. What became quite clear was the attendees' total lack of appetite for business investment but a strong desire to expand the club into a more community focussed establishment. There was a suggestion that perhaps the village hall and club should merge under one banner and committee so that they can further complement one another. Other suggestions were made including the installation of kitchen facilities and better advertising to let people know that it is possible to hire the club for functions. All of the suggestions will be considered by the committee in the coming weeks. It was a successful, thought provoking meeting, with the icing on the cake for me being Liz Ridgway volunteering to become the new Club Secretary.

*Phil Nichols, Chairman*

## Christmas Market Thanks

After a fairly unsettled period of weather we were blessed with a dry warm evening, albeit rather windy at times. Quick reactions by those on the cake stall saved the day as they caught their gazebo in mid air before it sailed across to the BBQ!

Thank you for coming along in fairly difficult conditions on the parking front and supporting us again this year. Your support helped raise approximately £1,200, which will go towards three tables for use at future markets and an urn to replace the broken one in the church. Alongside this, money will be split between the church and The Friends of St Mary's. You will have noticed at the market that work is progressing on the restoration of the inner walls which the Friends have been raising funds towards.

All this only happens with the support of generous volunteers. A big thank you is extended to the amazing team who erected gazebos, lighting etc, the bottle collection team, the cake bakers and those manning stalls.

We are always looking for stallholders, if you know of anyone who may be interested next year please contact Ann Sawtell on 820731.

Your Local Contacts:		Village Hall Booking:	www.huntonvillagehall.co.uk
School: Secretary/Head Teacher	820360	Maidstone Police	690690 or 101
Under 5's Pre-School:	820309	Neighbourhood Watch: huntonwatch@gmail.com	820403,820429, 820731
Pre-School Supervisor:	07972067110	'Potholes' Hotline (KCC)	03000 418181
Pond and Tree Warden: Mike Summersgill	820429	Churchwarden: Alison Ellman-Brown	820288
Rector: Revd. Peter Callway	747570*	PCSO - Matthew Judges	101 (or via Huntonwatch)
Hon Associate Rector: Revd. David Jones	741474*	Helen Grant MP helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk	0207 219 7107
Associate Rector: Revd Eileen Doyle	204241**	Hunton Bell Ringers, Michael Webb	745716
Village Club: Philip Nichols	820804	*not available on Fridays; **not available on Mondays or Tuesdays	
Contact details for other village clubs and organisations are available at www.hunton.org.uk/contacts			

Diary Dates		Parish Council Contacts
Wednesday 30th Dec	<b>It's a Wonderful Life</b> Village Hall Doors 6pm	Parish Council Chairman – Gary Thomas 820691
Tuesday 5th Jan	<b>Youth Club</b> Village Hall 6-8pm	Clerk to the Parish Council – Sharon Goodwin 681238
	<b>Hunton WI</b> Village Club 7.30pm	Cllr Roger Sawtell 820731
Tuesday 12th Jan	<b>Youth Club</b> Village Hall 6-8pm	Cllr Ron Porter 820220
Saturday 23rd Jan	<b>Blackheart</b> Village Hall Doors 7.30pm	Cllr David Heaton 820678
Thursday 28th Jan	<b>Light Lunches</b> Village Club 12.00pm	Cllr Tony Stanbridge 820761
Check out <a href="http://www.hunton.org.uk/diary">www.hunton.org.uk/diary</a> for the latest events.		Cllr Steve Wyles 820403
If you would like to add an event, email <a href="mailto:huntondiary@btinternet.com">huntondiary@btinternet.com</a> .		Cllr Annette Trought 820448

## Pastoral Letter

Another year comes round again and with it the thoughts from previous years. One hundred years ago my grandparents got married, seventy-five years ago my parents did the same and fifty years ago, on 1st January 1966, I got married. (25 years ago nothing happened!). Strange how figures, numbers and events can form patterns when we least expect them. When I taught mathematics there were always two series that occurred in natural life that led to the lesson on 'the birds and the bees'. One sequence was the human one; each of us required 2 parents, 4 grandparents, 8 great grandparents and so on. The other was a sequence, which was named after a 13<sup>th</sup> century mathematician, Fibonacci. The sequence begins 1,1,2,3,5,8,13,21... each new number is the sum of the previous two. Looks good but in natural life it occurs in many places not least in the life of bees! A bee is sexed by the type of parents it has. So a male bee only has a mother and no father whilst a female bee has both mother and father! If we therefore trace back the family of a male bee, he has a mother, who had a mother and father, who in turn only had 3 grandparents and then 5 great grandparents and so on. There, it's wonderful what we find out at times!

But what has this to do with a new year? In one sense absolutely nothing. But on the other hand, if you're the sort of person who can be amazed at the wonders of this world, a world that God created, you can be amazed at what at first can look ordinary and unconnected becoming part of some amazing pattern and we are opened up to the true wonders of life with all its beauty, wonder and amazing pattern. All we have to do is to look, be open to ideas, to see the world through eyes that are like a child who when they see something for themselves for the first time can be so excited. So as we begin a new year look for the patterns, the wonder and the joy that we can find around us, keep looking, listening and being amazed and excited about what 2016 may offer you and accept the opportunities that we are given.

David

## Huntonwatch Update

2015 has been a good year for Huntonwatch with a steady trickle of new members joining us. Although there has been some crime in the village (criminal damage and minor thefts) the number of incidents is far lower than in many surrounding villages. We have reported a few 'suspicious' vehicles to the police, one incident resulting in increased police patrols in that area and a second (where we were able to provide the vehicle registration number thanks to a keen-eyed member) resulting in the identification of the owner of the vehicle concerned. We have also been able to alert members to the increasing number of scams taking place. The feedback from our PCSO is that Huntonwatch is working well and continuing to provide useful information to the police. So, please, if you see or hear anything that is 'not right' contact us and we will pass the details on.

The weather so far has been kind to us but we must expect heavy rain and/or snow at some stage, so we will again be asking members with 4 wheel drive vehicles to volunteer to help people in need should we get hit with really bad weather. If you would be happy to help out please contact us (see below).

Finally, all that remains is to thank our local coordinators and all our members for their support during the year and to wish you all a safe and happy 2016.

*The Huntonwatch team.*

If you are not yet a member and would like to join Huntonwatch please call us on 820403 or e-mail us on [huntonwatch@gmail.com](mailto:huntonwatch@gmail.com)

## Theatre & Music Events at The Hall

**It's a Wonderful Life – Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> December** (doors 6pm, performance 6.30pm). An Applause theatre event suitable for all the family (ages 8+), with The Farnham Players presenting this classic Frank Capra movie about Christmas in small town America! We've already sold almost 50 tickets for this play, at the concessionary rate for early bookers last month, so please contact Mike on 820429, Steve on 820403 or email to [senseass@btinternet.com](mailto:senseass@btinternet.com). There's a 'family' ticket at £30 for 5 (adults & children); adults are £10 and under-18s £5. Check near the date if you can still pay on the door.

**Blackheart – Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> January** An acoustic-electronic duo from 'oop North, whose music spans several genres of pop, folk & rock; check out their music on [www.blackheartmusic.co.uk](http://www.blackheartmusic.co.uk). You won't have heard their kind of vocalisation before, unless you recall a Moben kitchen commercial some time back on TV, which Blackheart provided. Tickets £10 with interval food included and a licensed bar, pay on the door.

**The Runaways – Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April** Back by popular request with their Shadows-style guitar pop from the 1950/60's.

We have some ideas for musical events later in 2016, but given low audience numbers from the village itself (in single figures for the Californian bluegrass duo, out of an audience of 40+), the Village Hall Committee will be discussing the future of these gigs early in the New Year. Over the past two years, these volunteer-led events (14 of them) have been attended by 800 people and produced a surplus for hall funds of £2,000, helping to fund maintenance and new equipment, but it is evident that enthusiasm is waning and we need to take soundings within the local community as to why that is.

## Youth Club – Tuesdays 6-8pm

The new Hunton Youth Club will continue in the New Year from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January at the village hall. It is not just for those in the village but is open to all 11+ year olds, so bring your friends along! It is free of charge and provides a range of activities from sports to art and cooking. They also plan day trips out, such as go karting and theme parks. It is run by Stepahead Support and funded by KCC, who are trying to provide activities for young people in rural areas. Please come along and support this great initiative. Further information is available by phoning Emily 07795 495079, Holly 07813 359819 or from their Facebook page [Facebook.com/stepaheadsupport](https://www.facebook.com/stepaheadsupport) or website [www.stepaheadsupport.org.uk](http://www.stepaheadsupport.org.uk).

### Huntones

Do you enjoy singing? The Huntones meet every fortnight to sing some lighthearted music. If you would like to join in please contact Sue Pinks 820709.

### Yoga at The Club

Erika Hanna, an Iyengar yoga teacher of some 25 years, has recently moved into the village. Erika teaches at the Maidstone Yoga Centre but has agreed to put on classes for us in the village club on Tuesday mornings at 10am. Because of space limitations the maximum in each class will be 10 so if you are interested in coming along could you contact Lisa first on 01622 820508. If there is more interest Erika has said that she will put on another class. Each class costs £8 and lasts for an hour.

## Fun and Games at the WI Christmas meeting

Neil Davis organised ladies of the WI for an evening of seasonally themed team games that included “Fan the bauble”, “Christmas in the balance”, “Snowball fight”, ‘Human Christmas tree” and “Jingle in the trunk” which resulted in hilarity and required some team work. Each member provided a plate of delicious party fare for a buffet supper. It was an enjoyable and entertaining evening, which was shared with guest members of other WIs in the district. The next Hunton WI meeting takes place on Tuesday 5th January at Hunton Club when Heather Smith will speak on hypnotherapy.

## History of Peace Cottages

Peace Cottages, the village alms-houses in West Street, were founded in 1899 by Mr Thomas Duncombe Eden who belonged to a wealthy, old North Country family but had been long acquainted with Hunton, being a cousin and son-in-law of Rev Robert Moore, who was rector of this parish for 63 years until his death in 1865. The intention of the founder was to “provide a home for aged and infirm persons members of the Church of England and inhabitants past and present of the Parish of Hunton who would otherwise be probably compelled to end their days in the Union Workhouse.” (The Maidstone Union Workhouse was in Coxheath and would no doubt have been a frightening reality for the poorest members of the community.) Peace Cottages were described in his obituary as his “latest gift to Hunton” and although “his generous-hearted and open handed benevolence was experienced by many and known by few” it is mentioned that he also provided assistance to the Cheveney Institute, the Boys’ Brigade and to beautify St Mary’s Church. Mr Eden died at Cheveney in June 1899 at the age of 88 and was buried at Hunton church, his coffin being “borne to the graveside by the gardeners and others employed at Cheveney at their own request”. As the cottages had just been completed it was considered touchingly appropriate that they should be formally opened on the day of his funeral by the Bishop of Wakefield, Dr George Rodney Eden, another cousin.

Thomas Eden was also a cousin of Mrs Emmeline Bethea Alexander, mother-in-law of Lt Colonel Arthur Close Borton, who owned Cheveney, and grandmother of Air Vice Marshall Amyas (Biffy) Eden Borton (after whom Borton class at the village school is named) and Lt Colonel Arthur (Bosky) Drummond Borton (who was awarded the VC for bravery in the first world war). In December 1899 Mrs Alexander conveyed the cottages to the Canterbury Diocesan Trustees and became the first administrative trustee of the charity. She also gave an endowment of £6,000, which was invested in stock with the dividends being used for the maintenance, upkeep and insurance of the cottages. Any excess was used for the benefit of the “inmates”, who each received a weekly allowance and an additional allowance at Christmas (although the allowance ceased in 1954 following the introduction of the state pension). In addition a nurse to attend the poor of the parish and the inmates of Peace Cottages was employed and housed in one of the cottages.

There was a list of rules that the inmates were required to follow, which were displayed on the wall in each cottage and included:

- Each of the Inmates unless prevented by sickness is expected to attend Divine Worship every Sunday.
- No Inmate shall at any time make use of blasphemous, bitter or uncharitable words; nor shall any of them use personal violence to another.
- The inmates shall daily (except on Sundays) before 10 o’clock in the morning, sweep and clean the space before their respective dwellings, and the staircases and passages of the same.
- No Inmate shall remain out of his or her house during the night without previous leave being obtained from the Trustee.

Although the rules have no doubt changed over the years, and the “inmates” have become residents, the cottages are still held in trust by the Diocesan Trustees and managed by administrative trustees within the village.

## At St Mary's Church in January

### Flowers

3rd Sue Scott    10th Sue Scott  
 17th Sue Scott    24th Sue Scott  
 31st Benefice at West Farleigh

### Services

#### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January – Epiphany

11.00am Family Service – Rev David Jones

#### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January – Baptism of Christ

9.30am Holy Communion 1662 – Rev Peter Callway

#### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> January – Epiphany 2

11.00am Morning Prayer – Rev David Jones

#### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> January – Epiphany 3

11.00am Holy Communion – Rev Peter Callway

#### Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> January – The Presentation

10.30am Benefice Service at West Farleigh – Rev Peter Callway

### Hunton Village Club

Open New Year's Eve

8pm – 1am

## Village Lunches & Gardening Club Supper

A massive thank you to everyone who kindly made and donated soups and cakes or gave up their time to help run the recent village lunches and Gardening Club supper and to all those who came along to eat and drink. They are a great opportunity for members of our community to get together with old friends and neighbours and to meet new ones, so it is wonderful to see an increase in the numbers attending. They also provide a very useful boost to the funds of our village club and church – a total of £1,100 was shared between them.

A new series of lunches begins on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January, runs each Thursday throughout February with a final lunch on 3<sup>rd</sup> March. As before there will be soup, bread, cheese, tea or coffee and cake all for a donation of £5. Hunton Club opens at 12 noon for drinks with lunch served from around 12.30. No bookings are necessary but food is available on a first come, first served basis. The next Gardening Club Supper will be on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February.

Lesley would be really pleased to hear from anyone who can volunteer to do anything from making soups or cakes to helping run or publicise these events. Please email her at [lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com](mailto:lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com) if you are able to help.

### Polite Reminders

I have been asked by local residents to print the following polite reminders:

#### Hedges

Anybody who owns land/a garden with a hedge is responsible for cutting their own hedge. There are parts of the village where the width of the road has been lessened by two or three feet due to poorly maintained hedges. Not only is this dangerous on narrow roads, it's also frustrating to have cars scratched by hedges that nobody has been looking after.

#### Dog Mess

Please ensure that you clear up after your dog when out and about in the village. There is a bin for dog mess at the playing fields if you are in that area, otherwise please take it home with you.

### Aladdin

The first rehearsal of the Hunton pantomime will be on Sunday 10th January 5-7pm in the village hall.

## Speedwatch

The Hunton speedwatch team was out for three sessions during the last week of November as part of a countywide speedwatch action week. The team braved the rain, the high winds and the gesticulations from a mindless few as they tried to educate drivers to be more speed aware. Results were encouraging in one sense (we saw less of the 'high end' speeding we had seen earlier in the month) but not so in another (almost 6% of motorists still believe it is OK to drive past the school at around 40mph when the advisory speed limit is half that figure). The fastest speed recorded was 46mph and the driver made no attempt to slow down - indeed the sound of the car suggested that they sped up after they had passed us! This driver has since received a letter from the police for high-end speeding. Another driver that we recorded has received a letter from the police for speeding for a second time within a 12-month period. These letters are 'educational' in that they do not carry any driver penalties but persistent offenders can expect a visit from the police and sometimes the speedwatch team may be accompanied by police with speed guns, which will allow them to prosecute drivers. Speeding traffic was high on the list of things that Hunton residents do not like and we will be out again as often as we can in the New Year.

January	3 <sup>rd</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup>	31 <sup>st</sup>
Coxheath	11.00 HC	11.00 MP	11.00 HC	11.00 FS	10.30 Benefice Service at West Farleigh
E. Farleigh	09.30 MP	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 1662	11.00 MP Mod	09.30 MP Trad	09.30 HC Mod	
HC Holy Communion, MP Morning Prayer, FS Family Service					

**All items for the next edition of the Herald to the Editor by 15th January, please**