



New Play Equipment

We have a wonderful new nest swing at the playing field and it's already proving a very popular addition. It can be used by a wider range of ages, and children and parents alike have given it a big thumbs up. The safety surface under the multiplay equipment has also been replaced. The majority of the cost was funded by grants from the Kent County Playing Fields Association and The National Lottery. Many thanks to members of the playing field committee for the hard work they put in to obtaining these grants. Pictured is Dave Byford (right) from the Kent County Playing Fields Association, who came along to Hunton to present a cheque to parish council chairman, Gary Thomas.



Christmas Fair Feedback

This year the format of our Christmas Fair was changed to include activities for children and expanded to take in the village hall as well as St Mary's Church and churchyard. The fair was underwritten by the Village Events Committee allowing us to invest in decorations for Santa's grotto, a snow machine and to arrange a visit from Santa himself. Feedback has been extremely positive and many stallholders have already asked about reserving a place for this year's fair, several reporting record takings. Around 300 people attended the festivities, Santa was kept busy and there was a buzz in the air. The lantern parade was well supported and the snow machine offered many a photo opportunity with the magical backdrops of the lit churchyard and new hall lights. Now that the dust has settled we are very pleased to report that, after costs, we raised some £233 for the Friends of St Mary's, £380 for St Mary's Church and have a balance of £139 which will be used to underwrite the 2018 fair.

Christmas Fair Committee

Advertising Coordinator Urgently Needed

The Hunton Herald is urgently in need of someone to take over as advertising coordinator from Sue Pinks. The advertising revenue is crucial as it pays for our production costs, as well as allowing us to make donations to good causes within the village. The role involves liaising with current and potential new advertisers and arranging for the printing of our annual advertising directory. We start contacting advertisers in February and the new directory needs to be ready to distribute with the May Herald, so if you can spare some time between February and April and would be willing to help with this, we would be very pleased to hear from you. Sue is happy to work with the new coordinator to produce this year's directory. Please contact Helen on 01622 820810 or email herald@hunton.org.uk if you would like to join the Herald team.

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	Community Warden: Adam McKinley	07811 271021
Rector: Revd. Peter Callway	747570*	PCSO - Jasmine Pay	101
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
Churchwarden: Alison Ellman-Brown	820288	*not available on Fridays; **not available on Mondays or Tuesdays	
Village Club: Gil Robertson	820059		

Contact details for other village clubs and organisations are available at www.hunton.org.uk/contacts

Parish Council Contacts

Parish Council Chairman – Gary Thomas 820691		Clerk to the Parish Council – Sharon Goodwin 681238	
Cllr Jonny Goddard	820096	Cllr David Heaton	820678
Cllr Tony Stanbridge	820721	Cllr Annette Trought	820448
		Cllr Roger Lee	820210
		Cllr Helen Ward	820810

Diary Dates

Thurs 1 st February	Village Lunch Village Club 12.30-2pm	Tues 6 th February	WI Meeting Village Club 7.15pm
Thurs 8 th February	Village Lunch Village Club 12.30-2pm	Sat 10 th February	Walk & Lunch Village Club 11am (walk) 12.30pm (lunch)
Thurs 15 th February	Village Lunch Village Club 12.30-2pm	Fri 16 th February	Needles & Natter Village Club 8pm
Thurs 22 nd February	Village Lunch Village Club 12.30-2pm	Sat 24 th February	Gardening Club Talk & Supper Village Club 7pm
Sun 25 th February	Indoor Boot Sale Village Hall 10am-12pm	Thurs 1 st March	Village Lunch Village Club 12.30-2pm

Check out www.hunton.org.uk/diary for the latest events. If you would like to add an event, email diary@hunton.org.uk

Pastoral Letter

The English language is considered to be one of the most difficult to learn, due to several factors relating to grammar, spelling and pronunciation. The main reason however, is the large number of idiomatic structures we use in everyday speech and writing. These idioms mostly stem from ancient uses of the language, and are often metaphorical. How about "letting the cat out of the bag", "burning the candle at both ends", "to pull someone's leg", "pie in the sky", for example?

Many of the idioms we use have their roots in the Bible (with Shakespeare coming a close second!) "The writing is on the wall", "to see eye to eye", "thorn in the flesh", "two-edged sword", "as old as the hills", "give up the ghost", "the blind leading the blind" – just a few examples from several hundred in the Bible. It might be assumed that they originate from the King James translation, but in fact the majority are drawn from the several English versions of the Bible that were circulating in the previous 130 years or so.

Even though we might not find the exact words in the Bible translations we have now, what has survived is the use of the language and the message the words convey, albeit in an idiomatic way. Language is a powerful tool, and often not used to best effect – whether an inane tweet, an unkind comment on a Facebook post, a terse e-mail, or even an over-complicated sermon!

"Think before you speak" is always good advice. When speaking to someone whose first language isn't English, the use of idioms is particularly confusing. In our everyday language we may use idioms to try and make what we're saying more palatable in some way, such as "she's passed on", "he's away with the fairies", when in fact it can be kinder to be more precise with our words.

The Bible reminds us that words have incredible power. For example, it warns against having a "sharp tongue": "Evildoers sharpen their tongues like swords and aim cruel words like deadly arrows" (Psalm 64 verse 3). Instead we should consider what we say: "The one who has knowledge uses words with restraint" (Proverbs 27), and follow the advice of St Paul (Ephesians 4 verse 29): "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."

Alison Callway

Winter Warmer Village Lunches

From 2nd February, Thursday lunches at Hunton Village Club will continue each week and finish on Thursday 1st March. Doors open at 12pm with lunch from about 12.30pm when a choice of two warming soups, bread, cheeses, ham etc. followed by tea or coffee with cake or biscuits will be available for a donation of £6. Please support these very enjoyable community events which raise money for both St Mary's Church and the club. Although there is no need to book ahead, if you cannot eat a particular food please let Lesley know in advance on 01622 820210 or email lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com

Village Walk and Lunch – Saturday 10th February

Roger and Phil have again agreed to lead anyone interested in joining them on a circular walk from the village club starting at 11am for about 1.5 hours. A buffet lunch will be available from about 12.30pm for a donation of £6 with funds raised going towards the club kitchen facilities. Come to walk or just for lunch or both but please let Lesley know in advance so walkers don't wait for you to arrive and there is enough food for everyone. lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com or 01622 820210.

Hunton and Linton Pre-School

Indoor Boot Sale at Hunton Village Hall

Sunday 25th February 10am-12pm

Entrance for buyers £1 (children free)

Refreshments available - tea, coffee and bacon rolls

Come along and grab a bargain or de-clutter and have a stall

Tables £15 large, £10 small (tables provided)

Contact Sally at huntonpreschool@hotmail.com to book

Huntones Dates

The Huntones singing group will be meeting from 7.30-8.30pm on the following Thursdays:

February 8th and 22nd, March 8th and 22nd, April 5th (tbc).

It's a very informal group and there's no need to be able to read music, just a desire to sing and have fun. If you would like to join them please contact Sue Pinks on 01622 820709.

Ruth Porter

I have just received a letter from the Hospice in the Weald, where Ruth spent her last few days, confirming that the funds raised as a result of her death and passed to the hospice currently exceed £3,200. That is an incredible sum of money and more funds are expected as others, mostly abroad, learn of her passing. Thank you all who contributed. I know that the hospice will be writing to the individual donors thanking them as their generosity and support is very much appreciated by them.

Ron Porter



February Fair Maids

The Snowdrop, also known as Fair Maids of February: *Galanthus nivalis* and *Galanthus elwesii*, symbolises hope and new beginnings and is the flower of birthdays for January and February. Regarded by many as a wildflower, snowdrops were not recorded as growing wild in the UK until the 1770s. Most colonies are probably garden escapees though it is still thought some may be native, particularly in the southwest of England.

David and Anke Way (residents in the village until 2012) discovered a vigorous form of *Galanthus elwesii* naturalized in Hunton in 2003. This has become known as the "Hunton Giant" and is believed to have been introduced to the Hunton Rectory between 1866 and 1892. The first imports of the species began as wild gathered bulbs from Turkey and it is possible that the "Hunton Giant" is a survivor from that era. It has broad strap like leaves and stems that hold the average sized flowers above the foliage and can be seen in Hunton churchyard around the mounting block to the right of the main entrance to the church.

"*Galanthus*" is Greek and means "milk-white flower" and the Latin *nivalis* means "resembling snow". The snowdrops, in producing their own heat actually melt the snow around them. The hundreds of cultivated varieties include giant, double and rare yellow kinds, some of which change hands for significant sums. Most colonies in the UK reproduce by division of the bulbs and not by seed.

Did you know...rumour has it, that when Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden of Eden, Eve was about to give up hoping that winter would ever end. An angel then appeared and transformed some of the snowflakes into snowdrop flowers, showing her that cold winter eventually gives way to spring season, thus snowdrops became a symbol of hope.

...In Grimm brothers' original version of Snow White, the main character's name was actually Snow Drop.

...Snowdrops was also British slang for the American military police in the second world war, because of the white helmets they wore.

Don't miss the wonderful display of snowdrops in the churchyard right now. Large swathes of diminutive pure white flowers are carpeted around the churchyard in drifts and it is well worth a walk along the path around the Church to see their clean white single flowers nodding on their strong stems.



Sue Heaton

Village Hall Gig News

Well, what good fun the several families had at **Wind in the Willows** after Xmas – we almost sold out the 90 seats (although we still had some mulled wine left, and lots of mince pies!), and it was great to see young faces lit up by the Box Tale Soup company's puppets and especially Mr Toad. Like the Sonrisa latin-esque music in November, which was also well attended, these events wouldn't be possible without Applause Rural Touring subsidising them.

As there aren't any musical events planned this winter at the Hall, it might be useful to have a bit of background about Applause (of which Mike is a Trustee, representing promoters on the charity board), because they have been helping Hunton put rural performances on for over a decade now. Applause is a small (3/4-person) arts organisation based in Southborough that provides a roster of musical and artistic events across Kent, Sussex & Surrey, and is funded by local and county council and also national Arts Council grants; it also provides outdoor performers in the summer, which our village fete regularly use (for a rather small fee). It also tends to get national and international musicians, who it can guarantee to provide a run of three weekend (or even a full week's) gigs; many years ago, we had some substantial overseas stars booked by Alan Bishop - like Seckou Keita from Senegal and Carmen Souza from Cape Verde. Applause have just been awarded a substantial grant, in association with Creative Arts East (Essex/Anglia), to take spoken word performances into rural pubs and clubs for the next three years – Inn Crowd. You can see further details, and scheduled events on www.applause.org.uk and www.inncrowd.org.uk. Like many of the people who come from Farleigh, Loose and Boughton to see Applause events in Hunton, anyone can book to see these events at other village halls; Mike's been to Robertsbridge, Frittenden, Lower Halstow and Catsfield to see bands.

Financially, Applause pay the performer's full fee, and we have to guarantee a minimum amount (normally about half the fee) and then share any door takings above that minimum; the councils' funding (your rates and taxes!) covers the 'gap'. Generally, we need to sell about 40 tickets to reach that minimum, which we tend to do most times, and which Alan used to manage easily. Applause cannot fund every event, and have to divvy out their bookings to other halls, generally favouring those where they get borough or district funding (which Maidstone do, but some don't) – we tend to get two a year, plus the fete. This year, we were lucky to get three events, with the Spanish quartet back in January. They don't make a big profit for hall funds, circa. £100-200 per event (half of that being bar profits), which covers the hall hire essentially, but the hall trustees feel they're worthwhile. As ever, if anyone has other performers they think would go down well, or wants to assist in these events at the Hall, phone Mike on 01622 820429 or email to info@huntonvillagehall.co.uk

As mentioned earlier, there's nothing booked while the panto season gets underway, so our kitchen and bar volunteers can get a well-earned rest (as can the stage and PA erectors), but we have a couple of gigs pencilled in for May 21st and October 27th, with previous Applause-funded performers returning at their special request...**Hannah Scott** (new CD) and **Will Pound** (with Inlay). For those who remember **Trackdogs**, the Madrid-based Irish American trumpet-led quartet, they are returning to Cobham Church (a lovely venue) on April 5th and Maidstone's Pizza Express (less atmospheric!) on May 25th.

At St Mary's Church in February

Flowers

4th Di Martin 11th Di Martin
No flowers in Lent

Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

Wed-Fri 8-11pm
Sun 12-2.30pm & 8-10.30pm

Services

Sunday 4th February – 2 before Lent

11.00am Family Service – Rev Peter Callway

Sunday 11th February – Sunday before Lent

9.30am Holy Communion 1662 – Rev David Jones

Sunday 18th February – Lent 1

11.00am Morning Prayer – Rev Peter Callway

Sunday 25th February – Lent 2

11.00am Holy Communion – Rev Eileen Doyle

Calling all Church Members

You may be aware that there are proposals to make some changes in the Benefice, including to the schedule of services. In order to further describe and understand these, we are having a special Annual Church Meeting on Sunday 4th March at 11am in St Mary's Church. All will be very welcome. Copies of the proposals are at the back of the church and will also be available at the village lunches.

Farmers' Market

The first East Farleigh Farmers' market of 2018 will take place on Sunday 4th February from 10am to 1pm. Visitor numbers were improving at the end of last year and the organisers would ask for your support in sustaining growth, to ensure the market can continue to flourish. The market is held at the Old School Hall on Lower Road, East Farleigh, next to the church.

Village Club Subscriptions – Renew Now and Save!

Membership cards for 2018 are now available at the village club. Please call in to the club and renew your annual subscription. The annual subscription fee, which is per person, remains at the same level as 2017: £20 or £15 for seniors aged over 65. If you renew your membership before 28th February 2018 you will receive a discount of £5. This represents excellent value for money, allowing members to benefit from the varied events that are planned throughout the year and to use the Hunton Village Club bar at very favourable prices. New members are welcome. If you wish to join, please email the Membership Secretary, Celia Kennedy-Sloane at celiavks@gmail.com, or call into the club. Opening hours are 8pm–11pm Monday to Friday, 12pm-2.30pm and 8pm-10.30pm Sunday.

Road Closure

West Street will be closed from 12th February for up to five nights from 8pm to 6am. The road will be closed between Lughorse Lane and Bensted Close. This is to enable BT to carry out works on an underground structure.

Are You Missing a Cat?

We are sorry to report that a dead cat has been found in a garden in East Street. It is ginger with thick fur and white paws and is quite stocky. If you think this may be your cat and would like to speak to the people who found it, please phone Anne or Richard Furlong on 01622 820863.

Dust Down Your Dancing Shoes

The Friends of Yalding Youth and Community Centre are holding a barn dance on Saturday 24th February from 6pm. Tickets £8 adults, £6 children. Family tickets for 2 adults and 2 children £22 – one child goes FREE! On sale in Yalding Post Office. Bring your own food and non-alcoholic drinks and every child (big or small!) who comes in western dress will be given a lollipop on entry.

Abandoned Ponies

We've had a distressing report from our Community Warden, Adam McKinley, that three dead ponies were found in the woods off of Hunton Hill on 8th January. This has been reported to Maidstone Borough Council who are liaising with the police. If anyone has any information about this please contact Adam on 07811 271021.

Gardening Club Talk & Supper

Everyone is welcome to attend the next meeting of Hunton Gardening Club on Saturday 24th February in the village club which will start at 7pm with a buffet supper for a donation of £7.50.

Following supper, agricultural consultant and local resident, Andy Sharp, will be talking about "Supermarkets, Packaging, Fresh Produce and how he discovered Tender Stem Broccoli". During Andy's 30-year career he has worked on farms in the UK and USA, been employed by supermarkets sourcing fruit and vegetables and been Chairman of the Produce Marketing Association in the USA. Andy welcomes debating with anyone who wishes to challenge how supermarkets work, the concepts of imported produce and seasonality and issues around organic farming and food trends. If you have any subjects you would like him to expand on during his talk, or questions you would like him to research to answer at the meeting, please email Andy at sharpytech@gmail.com. If you hope to attend please let Lesley know on 01622 820210 or lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com so that she can organise enough food.

February	4 th	11 th	18 th	25 th
Coxheath	11.00 HC	11.00 MP	11.00 HC	11.00 FS
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 February, please