

HUNTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

22ND MAY 2023

REPORTS OF LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

Peace Cottages Charity

By Liz Oliver

(unable to attend the meeting but report provided)

There have been several changes at Peace Cottage in the past year. We now have two new residents and three new trustees.

Sadly, one of our residents died in 2022 and another moved away leaving the two vacancies. We now have Sue Nickalls who has moved from the other side of Hunton and Brenda Fancett who lived in Yalding but who for many years had done farm work in Hunton, along with her husband. Sue is a keen gardener and her request to maintain parts of the garden and grow some vegetables was readily granted!

Roger Sawtell who had served as a trustee for nearly 20 years moved from the village and sadly died a few months later. Fay Joyce resigned, having been a trustee for several years, as did Lisa Halliday, who had acted as pastoral trustee, but is now moving to Wales.

Our new trustees are Graham Dolman who has taken on the role of pastoral trustee, Lorna Faulkner, rector of Hunton and the Coxheath benefice and Richard Odling who has joined us recently.

The major work at Peace Cottages last year was the replacement of many windows and all the front doors with ones providing much greater insulation. New double-glazed windows were installed or upgraded, together with modern doors which, happily, are very close in colour to the originals.

Various internal improvements have been carried out, the largest of these being the complete redecoration of one of the cottages which had not been decorated for 10 years, plus the refurbishment of the shower room. A deep clean was carried out on both vacated cottages and carpets were either replaced or cleaned. A temporary stud wall was installed in another cottage at the request of the resident who was very keen to be able to have a separate eating area.

Last year we reported that a quinquennial inspection had been carried out. This didn't reveal any major problems, but various matters were raised, such as the need for some external painting, repairs to the guttering, the provision of a French drain and the need for an asbestos check. These jobs have now all been completed without any ensuing problems.

After a need to replace unsatisfactory radiators, the difficulty remained as to how to dispose of the old ones. Fortunately, with the help of Paul French in the village these were all sold on eBay for a satisfactory price. We are now seeking quotes for the enlargement of the car park which will hopefully be undertaken in the autumn. Residents in Peace Cottage are important members of our village community, and it was good to see some of them at the recent Coronation tea. The team of trustees all work with dedication and meet monthly on Zoom to continue the maintenance of the property and ensure the well-being of those who live there.

King George V Playing Field Committee
By Steve Jones

The playing field is managed on behalf of the Parish and Parish Council by a committee of volunteer trustees with two representatives from each of the sports clubs (bowls, cricket and football) and the Parish Council.

The committee manages the ongoing maintenance of the field and play area, including grass cutting and strimming, repairs to the car park, bin emptying, etc.

Over the past 12 months, the maintenance and uplift of the play area has included repainting the swings and multi-play along with a new platform for the slide and the committee have also purchased a ride-on tractor springer rocker for younger children, which will be installed in the summer.

The orchard fence has been extended to take in the old pavilion area and close-paneled fencing has been installed between the old changing rooms and the new pavilion, with a gate to be fitted shortly.

Any suggestions for additions / enhancements to the playing field are always welcome and the committee can be contacted via the Clerk to the Parish Council, or you are very welcome to join our AGM, which is being held in the cricket club pavilion at 8pm on July 12th.

Hunton Litter Picking Group
By James Forster

As many residents will recall, for 10 years Di Martin ran a very successful litter picking group with the valued support of Maidstone Borough Council. Sadly, this support was withdrawn in 2019. Furthermore, we were discouraged from collecting litter from the streets and verges that MBC would not clean themselves. Appeals were made to MBC and to Helen Grant but to no avail.

MBC send a road sweeper round occasionally, but this is ineffective in clearing the verges and hedges, also it appears to be infrequent. Some residents quietly did their best to keep their roads clear and this effort continues but it is never enough.

After a few years of watching litter build up, we made contact with Clock House Farm to see if they could help get rid of any rubbish collected as no-one wanted to take 50 odd sacks of refuse to the dump in private cars! Happily, they agreed to collect this rubbish from the village hall car park and add it to their commercial waste. Generously, the Parish Council then agreed to fund the purchase of litter pickers, bags and high vis jackets so the stage was set to restart what had always been a rewarding group effort.

We have since met on three occasions, in June and October 2022 and in March 2023, collecting over 170 large black sacks of rubbish alongside discarded furniture, old carpets, car tyres and a range of sometimes bulky car or lorry parts. All have been collected by Clock House Farm and we are as grateful for their support as I am disappointed by MBC. Finally, the volunteers. Our litter picking group has enjoyed support from Hunton Primary School and about 30 or more from the village including some younger volunteers and we are indebted to them all. We do this at our own risk, taking responsibility for our own safety. Sadly, passing motorists continue to cast litter from their cars and so our roads are only clear of litter for a brief period, but I take comfort in knowing how much has been picked up and is therefore there no longer!

Hunton Village Hall Committee
By Annette Trought

The Village Hall Committee is committed to the ongoing improvement and "future proofing" of the hall. Grants are available to support works such as these and we have been fortunate in securing funding.

The Committee has been greatly assisted by Sue Pinks who, as a committee member, has secured funding and project managed the recent improvements including the new kitchen, new toilet facilities and upgraded heating.

The hall hosted a Village Tea in celebration of the coronation of King Charles III. It was a truly lovely event, with a great atmosphere. The hall was both a great resource and a beautiful backdrop.

Community Orchard

By Annette Trought

The orchard was created over a 6-year period starting in 2013. It was a project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Originally the site was waste ground covered in dense weeds.

The site is now very clearly an orchard with two sturdy picnic tables in situ. A very pleasant spot for rest on a dog walk or a picnic.

The grass is cut by the volunteers who take care of the church yard. The combination of apple and pear trees are heritage varieties and are maturing well.

Huntonwatch

By Sue & Steve Wyles

We think it fair to say that the enthusiasm we saw from villagers when Huntonwatch was first established, ten years ago, is waning. Membership numbers are falling as people leave the village with only a few newcomers joining. Our Herald article in March produced precisely ZERO responses.

We are aware of the following crimes in the last year – the theft of fruit trees from a property and a few instances of fly tipping. This would suggest Hunton remains a safe place to live. That said, we now have absolutely NO direct contact with the police and the PCSO liaison we used to enjoy is a thing of the past. Our only information comes from emails passed to us by the Parish Clerk.

During the year we have been able to alert our Members to:

- 1 Increasingly sophisticated scams and with advances in AI being spoken about in the national news this is only likely to increase;
- 2 Vehicles and/or individuals seen in suspicious circumstances around the village;
- 3 Anti-social behaviour;
- 4 Emails being cloned;
- 5 Thefts in neighbouring villages; and
- 6 Intimidation of lone drivers, often ladies, by one or more individuals.

We reported a noticeable increase in the amount of dog fouling on footpaths and open areas of the village to the dog warden, but as this was predominantly taking place on private land, we were advised that there was little MBC could do.

During winter flooding, we once again asked for volunteers with 4x4 vehicles to come forward should the need arise. As always, the response was very good and two Members carried out medevac runs for Hunton residents – one to Yalding, the other to Marden.

We would like to end by thanking the Parish Council for its continued support.

Hunton Herald
By James Forster

This past year the Herald has continued to be produced and delivered by a rotating team of editors and then distributed by Lisa Halliday and her loyal group of supporters. Dudley Farman continues to manage the layout of every issue. Overall, the Herald relies on about 50 volunteers - we couldn't function without them, and I thank them all for their support.

Sadly for Hunton, we are losing Lisa this coming year as she is moving away from Kent, but I am delighted to report that Sue Pinks has kindly agreed to take over her coordination role.

We continue to generate a surplus of advertising revenue over costs. Since our last report this has allowed us to donate £2,000 to the school towards a very smart wooden covered seating area and £1,000 to the village hall for new shutters. This means we have now donated over £21,000 to village causes during our 20 years.

Our current bank balance is approximately £5,000 so we are solvent and can look forward to supporting other village causes in the future.

Finally, I have mentioned that Lisa is stepping down from our team and I would like to record my thanks for her support over about 15 years. Her contribution to the Herald has been significant, always willingly given and sensible, and she will be greatly missed. Thank you, Lisa.

Traffic & Road Safety Working Party
By Jonny Goddard

This is a working party of the Parish Council that was put together a few years ago as a gathering of Hunton residents and three PC members. We've met three times in the last twelve months to discuss issues on the roads and relevant solutions. KCC carries out any road improvements and our proposals are assessed and taken forward from the PC to KCC planners for approval. If the proposals are feasible, we are in a position on the PC to fund certain works if KCC approves but doesn't have the budget.

We've looked at a large number of issues in the last year so to give you a flavour, the major issues have been:

- Drainage along West Street. The water severely damaged the surface and the culverts beneath were blocked for months. A lot of lobbying of KCC Highways and Drainage eventually got this cleared. We're now pushing for the Drainage team to fund resurfacing.
- We're still awaiting the installation of double height curbs outside the school - we're pushing for this to be done during the summer holidays.
- We installed mirrors opposite Benstead Close.
- KCC have approved the installation of better chevron signage at the sharp bend on West Street by Scotts Farmhouse.
- KCC have agreed to install a SLOW sign on Hunton Hill by the junction sign on the left on the way down.
- There are still ongoing drainage issues on East Street, which have been marked on the road, and we're pushing for this to be sorted soon.
- A job has been raised now to have the lining at the junction of Redwall Lane and East Street.
- We now have volunteers for Speedwatch and training is being done, so this will get back up and running soon.
- We pushed KCC for Speed Indicator Devices on West Street by the school, which unfortunately were refused for a host of reasons.
- We requested the 40mph limit to be extended up Hunton Hill to where the houses stop. This was refused mainly on the grounds of the high cost of multiple signs, but also because the average speed outside the houses is 32.5 mph.

Mike Summersgill added that the Parish Council is trying to obtain more salt bins for the village.

Hunton Tree & Pond Warden

By Mike Summersgill

Tree Warden work has been intermittent during the year. Following our 18-monthly VTA (Visual Tree Assessment) of trees within the Parish playing field ownership in April 2022, we had some minor clearance of deadwood and two storm-damaged limbs to remove, which was completed by Hoods in September. The next VTA will be in October this year, and I would like to find a new Warden by that time, to take over this role from me after 10 years.

We are aiming to carry out some sapling planting along the far edge of the field, with assistance from the Primary School children to grow saplings from seed (plus some oak saplings from an orchard on the heath) and some replacement hedging to that installed in March 2022 along the far side of the football field, which suffered from the dry Spring.

Over the past year, the Parish Council has had queries from residents about tree removal and excavations during development work for new properties, and these had to be referred to MBC Enforcement for action/decisions. No TPOs (Tree Protection Orders) have been initiated. There are two heritage trees in the parish.

Pond Warden work has focussed around determining pond ownership along Redwall Lane and undertaking surveys in the area for GCNs (Great Crested Newts). Their presence had been detected in two East Street ponds by South East Water during preparations for the water main work during 2021, so we used some CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) monies from developer funds for ecologists/specialists to undertake surveys in April in two ponds, and to do the same next April in two others. Landowner permission to access four other ponds was not forthcoming, but said they have their own ecological survey work in hand.

As a result of the newt survey work by MVCP (Medway Valley Countryside Partnership), it has been suggested that one pond on George Street might be renovated/cleared as part of a national funding programme; this will require the landowner's consent but could greatly enhance biodiversity in that area. MVCP, in conjunction with other Hunton landowners and using the same national funding source, have recently installed a new GCN-friendly pond in the new wood planting along Bishop's Lane and are actively planning two more ponds in the Parish.

Work will continue on inspecting many of the spring-fed ponds in the Parish, as and when owners permit, and potentially seek funding to improve or reinstate such historic features.

Hunton Walking Group

By Jane Langdon

The Hunton Walking Group was set up in 2011 as a result of the Village Plan. It's original organiser, Ann Sawtell, has left the village for pastures new in Oxfordshire but fortunately the group has continued. So far, we have completed over 230 walks.

The fortnightly walks are planned and led by Mike Summersgill or Phil Nichols, who devise excellent, interesting routes and ensure we do not get lost too often.

We have an average of 9 people and occasional dogs on each walk although around 15 are regulars. Walks take around 2 hours and typically cover 4-5 miles, so quite a gentle pace.

In the last year, we have explored a variety of countryside, mostly quite local – Marden, Laddingford, Wateringbury, Loose and Linton to name but a few but they are still full of surprises. If you get off the roads and onto footpaths, you find all sorts of hidden gems. Two frequently heard comments are 'I never knew this was here!' and 'Where are we?' – not necessarily on an unscheduled detour!

These days, there is much talk of the benefits of Green Spaces and Mindfulness. Walking in a group is just perfect for this.

Reading through the last year's comments book, it struck me that our walks use all our senses – it's not just physical exercise and good company:

- Obviously sight, we are blessed with some beautiful views, the changing colours of the seasons and discovering new places.
- Sounds that make us stop and listen include skylarks, buzzards, and lambs calling for their mothers.
- The scent of bluebells and wild garlic, so evocative of spring, were very much in evidence on our most recent walk.
- Not quite so pleasant, but an unescapable fact of the countryside is the feel of nettles if you are brave enough to wear shorts, or the squelch of mud beneath your boots.
- As for taste, there is always the opportunity for a beer in a good pub at the end and a chance to catch up and share experiences.

If I have tempted you to join us, our next walk is tomorrow morning, meeting at 10am in Yalding Village Hall car park. Everybody is most welcome, just come along or see me and I will add you to the circulation list.

Hunton Ladies Group **By Christine Summersgill**

The Hunton Ladies Group was formed in March 2022 after the Hunton WI was closed. It is an informal group of 21 ladies who meet at Hunton Village Club on the last Wednesday of each month, although occasionally on the last Tuesday if the meeting warrants sole use of the club.

There is no committee and the members take it in turns to organise the focus for each meeting, communicating via a WhatsApp group.

Meetings in the past year have included: craft, embroidery and card making; an aromatherapist; talks about hopping in Hunton and the experiences of hosting a Ukrainian refugee family; a quiz on the topic of famous women; member's memorabilia from the previous coronation of Queen Elizabeth; and various games evenings.

New ladies are always welcome to join us.

Hunton Gardening Club **By Lesley Lee**

In case anyone here is new to the village and does not know, everyone is welcome to join Hunton Gardening Club which is an informal group of locals who enjoy gardening and related topics. There is no membership fee – I simply keep a membership list and circulate everyone with details of meetings or things which might be of interest. Contact me if you are interested in joining.

The last year has been quite a busy one including outings and social evenings. After supper in Hunton Club at our meeting last October, we learnt about local charity Communigrow, based near the East Malling Research Centre and run mainly by volunteers. They provide education and work experience in vegetable gardening to disadvantaged adults and young people. At our February evening we heard about plans for a series of ponds in the parish with linked wildlife corridors to encourage the spread of animals including the Great Crested Newt.

Each year we try to organise at least one outing and in September we enjoyed a second visit to parts of Clock House Farm. The farm is a partner in the biggest agri-tech robotics demonstration project in the UK. Amongst other things, we saw machines in action which reduce the need for pesticides and the river heat source project which warms greenhouses resulting in increased fruit production.

On the afternoon of this Wednesday 24th May a small group will visit Loddington Farm to learn about regenerative farming. There are still a couple of spaces on this tour so if you are interested contact me tonight! If you have ideas for other visits do please tell me.

In June 2022 we ran a Plant and Produce sale at Hunton Club. This was so successful that it was repeated about a week ago. Huge thanks to everyone who donated items for sale, helped at the event and supported it by attending and buying things. We hope to do a similar event next year.

It takes time and effort to grow plants and all donations to these events are gratefully received but a few plants are sometimes left unsold. So, you may have noticed a small flower bed to your right on the way into the Hall tonight. This was improved by the addition of a few of those plants not sold last June and recently by the addition of some super local donated compost. This time, some plants left from our event a week ago were passed onto Hunton School for them to sell at their Fair on Saturday.

As in past years, volunteers take turns to mow the grass in St Mary's Churchyard and take part in occasional Working Parties to help maintain both inside the church and the area round it. More helpers are always welcome. These efforts encourage couples to hold their weddings at the Church and use the excellent facilities across the road at this Village Hall.

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Hunton CEP School
By Iain Simmons

Achievement / Quality of Education:

Standards within the school continue to improve. There is a real buzz; which is evident to anyone who visits the school or sees the children in the playground. As an example of the calibre of staff at the school, the Reception class teacher has been developing her knowledge and skills by working with senior advisers in Kent to produce a model curriculum plan for the Early Years Foundation Stage. The school remains full. There are currently 100 pupils at the school and there is a full intake of 15 starting in September.

Fabric:

In May, there was an official launch of the Sensory Garden, including the wonderful wooden shelter. Thanks go to the groups and charities who so generously supported the project: Ladham Trust; Simon Webb of Maidstone Borough Council; the Diocese of Rochester; the Hunton Herald; the RHS; and parents and families who gave up their weekends to dig, build and sow. Through careful control and planning of the finances, many long-needed actions have taken place. Much of the school has been painted and new carpets have been put down in half the school. The rest will be installed over the summer. The prayer garden has been revamped and lots of children's games have been marked out on the playground.

Community:

Last weekend saw the joyous May Fayre; attended by many in the village. The School undertake visits to parts of the village; especially when the weather is warmer! Prior to Mothering Sunday, the school welcomed villagers into the school. With flowers provided by the Church, posies were made by every child for their mother or carer and extra bunches were made for distribution in the church.

With a successful school that is full, the one downside is that parking and movement through the village has become more problematic. The current situation is not good for parents or village residents. By the next Annual Meeting, I hope to be able to report that through collective action, the situation has got much better.

Hunton & Linton Pre-School
By Kathy Reid

The Pre-School currently has 46 children on roll; we are at full capacity for all of our sessions with a large waiting list of 20 children (so far) to start with us in September. We will be losing 20 of our children to 'Big School' this year, feeding to many local Primary Schools: with 5 going to Hunton Primary, 5 to Coxheath and the rest divided over East Farleigh, Boughton Monchelsea, Yalding, Collier Street, Mereworth and further out to Harrietsham.

Financially this year we have been lucky to have been able to keep our heads above water, although the rising cost of wages wasn't quite offset by KCC increasing the funding rate by 41p per child, per hour. With the minimum wage increase, from 1st April our wage bill rose by £155 per week and the new funding rate gives us an extra £65 per week.... It's no wonder nurseries and Pre-Schools are closing all over England!

We have 2 members of staff who have completed their Level 3 Early Years Educator qualification, meaning that 6 out of the 7 staff we have are qualified in Early Years. Our Deputy Manager has also completed her Level 3 Forest School Leadership qualification which means we can offer Forest School sessions to our children. At the moment we do this on Wednesday mornings utilising the surrounding outside areas.

We held our Easter Bazaar back in March where we raised a brilliant amount of just under £700. We will be using our fundraising money to take all of the children for a day out to Kent Life in June. And a few weeks ago, the children took part in a Sponsored Bounce which they all enjoyed. They wrote a "wish list" of what they would like to buy with the money raised and most of it is possible – although we are not sure where we buy "a forest full of people" from? Along with the gift aid that we can claim on this money, we raised an amazing £1400 which has allowed us to purchase the toys and games that the children wanted and also replace some of our broken and older toys.

Last July some of our children visited the Bowls Club and enjoyed learning the rules of the game, as well as having a go of playing. We are also hoping to visit the Bowls Club again this year, before we break up for the summer.

We are looking to change our charity status to a CIO as each year we struggle to find committee members and without a committee we are unable to open. Changing to a CIO will enable us to use staff as trustees which allows us to control our future rather than relying on parents of the pre-school children to manage the Pre-School as it is quite a responsibility.

St Mary's Church
By Reverend Lorna Faulkner

I was licenced to the post of Rector on October 17th last year and the first 6 months have been packed.

St Mary's finally felt that life was returning to a more normal state post-pandemic. The Christmas Fair returned in November, and it was a joy to see the church and community coming together and the building filled with people.

The Christmas Eve carol service, led by the Rev'd David Jones was another packed occasion. The Hunton community always turn out to support these special events.

Once again, the church team worked together with the school on Snowdrop Sunday – the church was full of artwork and poetry, and we had a good number of visitors enjoying the snowdrops and the hospitality.

The events group at the church continue to work on organising other local events – the successful Organ Recital from D'Arcy Trinkwon last summer is being repeated on July 8th this year – look out for tickets.

The building is looking good. James Forster and his team have overseen repairs to the roof and the replacement of the weathervane – among other things.

The Friends of St Mary's continue to support the care of the building – and I thank those involved in raising and donating funds to help in this way.

I am immensely grateful to the wonderful team from the church and village who care for our beautiful building inside and out. Lesley Lee organises regular working parties and so many people comment on what a well-kept churchyard we have and how beautiful the building is. I am so grateful for all that you all do to make it such a lovely place to worship in.

The way the community and the church work together in Hunton is a real inspiration. The life of the village is woven into the life of the church in so many ways – which has been evident this past year with all the national events from the Platinum Jubilee, through the death of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and most recently the Coronation celebrations (a wonderful, warm and welcoming Afternoon Tea – thank you for inviting me!). It is a joy to see.

Our church congregation may be small on a week-to-week basis, but our church community encompasses the whole village.

Long may it continue.

Friends of St Mary's
By David Heaton

It has been a quiet year for the Friends. Although we had plans for a Firework display in November, we were for various reasons unable to go ahead with this. We provide the BBQ at the Christmas Fair and will be running the bar at the Pantomime later this year.

Sadly, one of our founding members, Roger Sawtell, died at the beginning of this year. Lisa Halliday, who for many years acted as secretary will be moving from Hunton later this week so we wish her well for the future.

Two new Trustees have joined us, Astrid Cunningham and Andy Sharp.

The PCC will I am sure have need of some of our funds soon if we are to keep our church in a good state of repair.

Hunton Bowls Club
By Les Hill

I'm Les Hill, chairman of Hunton Bowls Club.

The 2022 season started on a high for us with the club in full swing and members raring to go. Financially, we were in a good position having already purchased our new lawn mower at a cost of just under £6,000. Our fundraising events got back on track and with 30 members paying their subscriptions our treasurer was smiling again!

The soaring costs of electricity became a bit of a headache. However, between us and the cricket club this has now been resolved to an acceptable level of payment with EDF. Thank you, Sharon and Simon, for your input.

Another problem last season was our green and how it had been hit hard by the long dry summer months, not to mention the moles who had demolished and destroyed the edges of the rinks along with disease caused by worms.

During the winter months our men worked tirelessly on the green re-building the edges, scarifying and re-dressing the ground. This included weekly visits in all weathers to brush off the worm casts to allow new growth. The hard work by all has paid off and the green has been restored to its former glory.

At the end of last season, we had another setback when our pump packed up and at the start of this season, we have had to purchase a new one. The cost of this was £1,702. However, thanks to the grant from Southeast Water and the Parish Council sharing a dividend with us, which we were very grateful for, the cost of this pump has been met. Our next project is a new sprinkler system for the green.

As of this year, we have 35 members and are looking forward to the new season. We have a full fixture list with friendly, Weald and Maidstone & District league games.

Angela is at present organising various events which include our 'open day' where many other clubs join us for a fun day, a quiz night and a 'race night' which is very popular with our members.

Finally, on behalf of Hunton Bowls Club, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Parish Council and the Field Committee for their continued support in every aspect.

Hunton Wanderers Cricket Club
By Steve Jones

The club had a good season last year, with our first eleven consolidating their place in the division after being promoted the previous year. Our second eleven continue to enjoy their cricket, with players of between 13-77 years old, showing that it is truly a game for all ages.

We were also pleased to be able to host a number of U13 Mote Colts games last year and this has continued this season, with some of their coaches and players joining our club to play open-age league cricket as a result.

The club would again like to thank the Parish Council for its support and allowing us to play cricket in such a wonderful setting, and if you're visiting the playing field on a Saturday and there's a match on, please pop across and say hello.

We are always looking for new players and you can find our details in the contacts directory on the Hunton Parish Council website.

Hunton Football Club
By Scott Elliott

Founded in 1898, Hunton Football Club is now officially 125 years old.

The challenge of maintaining a grass roots football team is one we are managing to stay on top of. Most local villages no longer have a team, but Hunton can proudly say it does. That is no fluke, it is due to the hard work of the committee and management team, but we are grateful for the ongoing support from the Parish Council, the Field Committee and our fellow sports clubs.

With some financial assistance from the Parish Council, we had a face lift of the changing rooms, and the pitch is in good condition.

The first team also had sponsorship from Sean Trow and Hunton Civil Engineering who we want to formally thank.

This season saw our men's team finish 8th in the Rochester and District league. We had a particularly strong second half of the season and the manager Mark Birch has done an excellent job since taking over in November.

This season we also launched a Hunton veterans team made up of over 40-year-olds that have represented the club in the past.

It's been a while since we have held a charitable fund raiser, but we have been approached about an incredibly sad but a very worthy cause. On June 10th we have two former Hunton teams and an old boys Star team playing a mini

tournament as a memorial game for Myla Grace Vine. Myla sadly passed away after 15 days of life and all money raised will go to Great Ormond Street, who gave her great care and support to the family. Hopefully we will have a very busy day on the 10th June. We genuinely have no idea how popular the day will be, but we plan to do our best to manage traffic and parking, so no issues occur.

Hunton Village Club

By Roger Lee

This report covers the period of the last 12 months during which time the Club has held a number of events including:

- Diamond Jubilee lunch
- Plant and Produce sale
- Beer festival
- Walks and lunches
- Quiz nights
- Several private hires
- Coronation day TV
- Football and rugby internationals
- Packing tea boxes for the local community
- Monthly Gents' evenings
- Ladies' nights
- Film nights
- Gardening Club meetings and suppers
- Yoga mornings
- Hunton Book Group
- New Year's Eve party

The Club is open to members on Wednesday and Sunday evenings when regular dart playing also takes place. We currently have just under 100 members but are striving to increase this number.

During the year the old straggly hedge in front of the Club was replaced with a new sleeper and gravel frontage. The large TV was replaced by one twice the size which has proved a great success for film nights and sports and other events. We now have a new website at <https://huntonvillageclub.com/> where future events are listed. Credit cards are now accepted for the bar. We are also keen to hear from anyone who would like to volunteer for helping at events and running the bar.

Our treasurer, Lisa Halliday, has sadly decided to move out of the village and I would like to thank her for the work she did to control the Club finances and all the other help she gave to us. She will be sorely missed. We were fortunate that a new member of the committee is a qualified accountant and so Mike Dixon has agreed to take over as treasurer.

Hunton Book Group

By Christine Summersgill

Hunton Book Group has 7 members and meets on the second Wednesday of the month at Hunton Club where we discuss the book that we have read that month. Yalding Library arranges to have the books available. New members are always welcome.

Books that the group have enjoyed this year include:

Escape from the Ghetto – John Carr
Driving Over Lemons – Chris Stewart
The Last Runaway – Tracy Chevelier
This is Going to Hurt – Adam Kay