



Next Editors: James and Andrea Forster: huntonherald@outlook.com
All items for the next edition of the Herald to the Editors by 15th December

Help Required

The eagle eyed amongst you may have noticed that this is the 240th Herald, marking our first 20 years! We have received wonderful support from villagers over this time and we hope we can look forward to another 20 years of the same! One of our core three person team, Lisa Halliday, is sadly looking to leave the village for pastures new. For many years, Lisa has coordinated the distribution of the Herald to the volunteers who then deliver the newsletter around the village. The Herald team would like to take this opportunity to thank Lisa for all her support and hard work over recent years and we wish her and her family every happiness for the future.

If anyone would be willing to join the Hunton Herald team and take on this role please contact James Forster on 820628 or email me on forsters.hunton@btinternet.com. It is a great way to get to know people in the village and we do raise significant sums for local causes so it is rewarding in a number of different ways!

A Mystery ... Mostly Solved?

When I looked for information on the names on our World War 2 Roll of Honour one person presented a challenge as I couldn't find a service record for a John Arthurs of the Royal Army Service Corps (RASC) in WW2 nor one listed on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website that appeared a possible match.

The late Ron Hickman was very helpful in that he recalled that John had actually been captured in Egypt some years after WW2 ended but had been included on the memorial at the request of his step-father, Les Wood, of Grove Lane, Hunton.

Armed with this information I found a John JA Arthur in the 1939 "census" living in Malling, with a service record with the RASC and an unspecified incident in Palestine in 1948 who subsequently died in 1950, aged 28, in a hospital in Kent. Could this be our man and if so, why was the name spelt differently and did key parts of the story differ?

Ancestry came to my rescue! I found a family tree for a John Arthurs born in 1932, living with a Les Wood in Faversham. Although living with Les and Rosa Wood he was the son of Emmanuel Arthurs and Beatrice Roch and was born in Lewisham. His birth parents were married in 1935 and he had two younger brothers, both living with their parents in Surbiton, in 1939.

Another missing link was provided by a press article sent to his birth mother Beatrice and attached to his entry on the Ancestry website. It reported that at the time of his death his most recent address was 2 Grove Cottages, Hunton, that he might have also been known as John Roch, and that he had died on 22nd January 1954 in Tel El-Kebir, Egypt.

Armed with this I have now established that he was indeed listed as John Arthurs and is buried in Moascar Cemetery although there is one further puzzle. It seems that when he died, he was a Lance Bombardier with the Royal Artillery, not the RASC!

Hunton Gardening Club Social Evening

The Gardening Club held their usual autumn social event and supper on Friday 28th October at the Village Club. About 30 people attended and were sustained by a pasta bake, salads, cheeses and a multitude of cakes. Afterwards they listened to a talk by Richard King, a Hunton resident, on Communigrow which is a local charity based near the East Malling Research Centre. They provide education and work experience in vegetable gardening and promote an interest in the natural environment. They mainly provide these services to disadvantaged adults and young people; several local schools send groups on a regular basis. They also sell organic Veg Boxes for collection. Communigrow is run predominantly by a group of volunteers like Richard and is seeking more supporters. For more information visit www.communigrow.org.uk.

Your Local Contacts:		Maidstone Police	690690 or 101
School: Secretary/Head Teacher	820360	Village Hall Booking:	www.huntonvillagehall.co.uk
Under 5's Pre-School:	820309	Huntonwatch: huntonwatch@gmail.com	07907 019996
Pond and Tree Warden: Mike Summersgill	820429	'Potholes' Hotline (KCC)	03000 418181
Rector: Rev'd Lorna Falkner	347570	Hunton Ladies: Chris Summersgill	c.a.summersgill@btinternet.com
Hon Associate Rector: Revd. David Jones	741474*	PCSO - none	
Community Wardens Team	07811 271021	Helen Grant MP helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk	0207 219 7107
Hunton Bell Ringers: Lavinia Thompson	07885 763071	Village Club: roger.c.lee@btinternet.com	820210
*not available on Fridays		Reporting HGVs	huntontrafficroporting@gmail.com

Contact details for other village clubs and organisations are available at www.huntonparishcouncil.org.uk

Parish Council Contacts	
Parish Clerk: Sharon Goodwin - 681238, huntonpc@googlemail.com	Chairman: David Heaton - 820678, dhhuntonpc@gmail.com
Cllr Jonny Goddard - 820096, jonny@cheveneyfarm.co.uk	Cllr Tony Stanbridge - 820721, tshuntonpc@gmail.com
Cllr Annette Trought - 820448, annette@trought.com	Cllr Mike Summersgill - 820429, mshuntonpc@btinternet.com
Cllr Iain Simmons - 820875, ishuntonpc@btinternet.com	Cllr Jean Fuller - 07738 935630, jfhuntonpc@outlook.com

Diary Dates
Village Club AGM, Dec 2nd; Carol Service, St Mary's Church, Sat 24th, 6:30pm; Walk and Lunch, Fri 30th Dec
Check out www.huntonparishcouncil.org.uk/events-list for the latest events. If you would like to add an event, email huntonpc@gmail.com

Pastoral Letter

Christmas is coming! People the world over will soon be celebrating this 2000 year old feast in a variety of ways – and here in the UK Christmas is traditionally celebrated as a time of joyous giving (well, yes, and eating!)

I remember learning an old folk song. I was very small. We performed it on the little stage in the assembly hall of my Primary school. Someone was definitely dressed up as a Christmas pudding. You may know, it goes like this:

*'Christmas is coming, the goose is getting fat
Please put a penny in the poor man's hat
If you haven't got a penny,
A ha'penny will do
If you haven't got a ha'penny then God bless you.'*

(Apparently, the Muppets once recorded a calypso version of it with John Denver. I digress, but Google is your friend!)

The message is a simple message:

If you can give a lot, give. If you can give a little, give. If you have nothing to give – then receive. (I am optimistic that the 'God Bless you' also came with the gift of a penny or a ha'penny!) Just stop for a moment and imagine a world where we lived by those simple principles... Many among us are approaching the winter this year with trepidation. Worrying about how to make ends meet. How will we feed the family? How will we stay warm? How many kettles can I afford to boil? All that brings enough worry in itself, let alone trying to celebrate Christmas too.

Perhaps this year, for those of us who are able, we might consider how we can extend our seasonal giving. As well as giving to friends and family, perhaps we might find it in our hearts to give a little (or even a lot!) to those for whom this is shaping up to be anything but a time of peace and joy.

Here are a just a few places to be found locally who are working to support those in need. I am sure they would be delighted to receive a gift from you. So, if you have a penny or a ha'penny to share, look them up?

Maidstone Churches Winter Shelter (<https://maidstoneshelter.org.uk>); Salvation Army (<https://www.salvationarmy.org>)
Samaritans (<https://www.samaritans.org/branches/maidstone/>); Make a Difference Maidstone (<https://www.madm.org.uk/>)
The Princess Project (<https://www.princessproject.co.uk/>); British Red Cross (<https://donate.redcross.org.uk/>)

(And if you are one of those who doesn't have a ha'penny, well, please reach out – let someone know you need help.)

And, whoever you are, whatever you have or may not have; This year, may you receive this most precious of gifts: the priceless presence of Jesus, Emmanuel, God who is with you, in your heart and in your home. May God bless you.

Christmas Eve Carols by Candlelight

St Mary's Church 6.30pm. Followed by Mulled Wine

Hunton Village Hall – Update on Recent Renovations

Well, it has taken a year in the planning, but finally we would like to tell you about the village hall. It started with the new kitchen in 2019. We were going to have a big 'come and see the new kitchen' day, but covid put paid to that. But that got us thinking what else do we need to do to update this lovely old hall, that is actually beginning to really feel it's age. The flooring in the entrance hall, kitchen and loo area that, in spite of regular cleaning, never looked clean, leaky loos, patched up regularly, but really not good enough, disabled loo with pull down bars that didn't work and no emergency pull cord, no heating in the loos and kitchen, really poor lighting in all of those areas and rotten window frames in all the loo areas, all needing attention and the heating in the main hall that uses so much electricity, mostly heating the area above the main hall, rather than those in the hall, needed serious thought.

We did our homework. Fast forward to the end of July and beginning of August. Small, timed heaters were put in all the loos and kitchens and modern lighting replacing the dull lighting in all the loos and kitchens. Double glazed windows in the back area of the hall and in the little kitchen. New floor throughout the entrance hall, kitchen and loos area. New loos, basins, splash backs and an up to date spec, disabled loo. The main floor in the hall was sanded and re polished. The hall was repainted by our Ukrainian couple, who loved being part of the village effort. And we cheekily changed the colour of the outside doors to a cheerful Hunton blue - look at the colour in the Hunton sign in the hall- instead of the age old utility green. And then, in October, after a huge amount of background research, visiting other halls and talking to many other halls and countless suppliers, we installed infra red heaters in the hall. It is early days, but we should see a massive reduction in the power usage to heat the hall. And we can control the temperature, for those in the know, on our phones from home! Most of the cost of this work has been funded by the hall itself, with a big contribution from Hunton Parish Council and a small grant from Simon Webb our local Borough Councillor and Kent County Council. The next tranche of improvements is to update the lighting, changing what we have for much more modern led, low wattage use system, and to replace the big five windows, and a couple of minor windows that have not yet been replaced, with double glazed units. The original windows, dating back to 1920, have run their course, but are pretty rotten. To do this latest tranche of work, we will be applying to KCC for a grant to help with the costs. Hopefully we will attract funding and the work will be able to happen next summer. So watch this space for our village hall being ready for the future, come next year.



Would you like to be a Volunteer Flood Warden for Hunton?

Not that I'm feeling lonely being the only Flood Warden for the village, but I was away when we had the latest pluvial flood event in October, so I couldn't be on hand to immediately help with any issues and problems. It would be good if we could have another one or two Wardens, albeit we do have people who put the 'Road Closed' signs out. It isn't onerous, and you get a nice Hi-Viz jacket!!

The Kent Flood Resilience people are holding two FREE on-line training sessions on the evenings of Wednesday 14th December and Tuesday 17th January, from 18.45-21.00; you only need to attend one of them. I found my training last year usefully informative, and not very difficult to follow. You can register on <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing?eid=34754&>, or search for Kent Flood Warden Training on the 'trybooking-uk' site. Please let me know, on the tree warden or councillor email, if you have booked up (and then if you become a Warden).

In the meantime, and after the October rainstorm event, please be assured that the Parish Council have been pushing for the culverts and gulleys along West Street to be cleansed and operating satisfactorily by KCC Highways, but there are also private culverts and drainage channels that need to be kept open. This includes (as on George Street) clearing up hedge flail debris and not leaving it to accumulate in the open ditch and form little vegetation dams which cause flow restrictions.

Parliamentary Constituency Boundary Changes

The Boundary Commission has recently published proposals for parliamentary constituency boundary changes. The proposal for our area is quite significant. Hunton will be situated in the north west corner of a new constituency to be called Weald of Kent. It will become, in area, one of the two largest constituencies in south east England. The southern boundary will be Romney Marsh in the south and with a dog leg to Chilham near Canterbury to the east!

It will be predominately rural with the largest settlements being Cranbrook, Tenterden, Headcorn, Marden, Staplehurst and probably Coxheath. Maidstone will become part of a constituency called Maidstone and Malling, which will mean that borough council boundaries will be very different from parliamentary ones. More details can be found on the Boundary Commission Website.

David Heaton, Chairman Hunton PC

Hunton CEP School - Values and Vision Day

At Hunton all are valued equally and included. Everyone is respected, nurtured, encouraged and enabled to strive for 'Life in all its fullness'. John 10:10.

What an exciting, challenging and special day the school had on Friday 14th October. Significantly as a church school we have Christian values which were finally selected by the children last year and are known but most importantly shown by the children every day: Compassion, Joy, Perseverance and Respect. We do not consider them to be just a list of words and phrases; they are the 'heartbeat' and embody the Christian ethos of our school, feeding into every part of school life.

Our vision has been chosen again by the children more recently and we wanted a day to celebrate this together with our values. It made me think about our children at Hunton, how different and unique they all are, how one size does not fit all, how some struggle academically but thrive in other areas. At Hunton we know each child so well and we work hard so all children achieve something that prepares our children for their future.

Following in Jesus' footsteps, pupils at Hunton are encouraged to make positive and courageous choices to open up the world, challenging themselves by stepping outside their comfort zone in order to 'live life in all its fullness'. We relate to the story of Peter stepping out of the boat and walking on the water. He decided to follow Jesus, and was stepping out of his comfort zone, taking a risk. When he started to sink, Jesus caught him and helped him. (Matthew 14)

We are aiming to show how our pupils can experience 'life in all its fullness' day by day by developing a thirst for knowledge and a desire to challenge themselves.

Our Vision and Values Day was packed with activities. The children experienced the day in a group of mixed aged children. It was very special to see how nurturing and encouraging the older pupils were to our youngest.

Vision and Values day recount by William and Evey:

Vision and values day was an excellent and fun learning experience. Many built their confidence and learnt to work better as a team, we also learnt that everyone should be included no matter their talents and opinions. The school was split up in four groups of mixed ages. Whilst two of the groups were outside doing the educational challenges, the other two groups took part in fun activities that represented Hunton's Values - Compassion, Joy, Perseverance and Respect-these activities were: making friendship bracelets for others (Compassion); listing things that bring ourselves joy then making a 'paper chain of joy' from the strips of paper with our joy on them; for respect we used apples and sunflower seeds to make a bird feeder - this was showing our value of respect to the wildlife and finally, we made a bridge out of cups, spaghetti, lollipop sticks and other materials to promote perseverance. We thank the teachers and the company 'Wise-up' for providing the challenges and learning activities throughout the day.

Hockey Champions!

On Thursday 6th October, Hunton Primary School once again brought glory to the school by winning the Kent Teach Games hockey tournaments based at the Maidstone Hockey Club, Armstrong Road. After competing in a league of four, Hunton qualified as group winners and reached the quarter finals beating Greenfields, before advancing to the semi-finals to beat Marden and eventually triumphing against Allington in a 2-1 final win. Well done Hunton!

Written by Thomas and Riley.

Last week we welcomed 32 families to our open day tours and loved having the opportunity to show off our special school to the community. If there are any parents or carers who still wish to visit please contact the office and we will be very happy to arrange a tour.

Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

Wednesdays 8 - 11.00pm & Sundays 8 - 10.30 pm

Our New Rector, Revd Lorna Falkner

As Assistant Curate for the Benefice for three years, Lorna was already a part of the church family and wider community when she was welcomed as the new Rector of the Benefice, at a service at St Nicholas Linton on Monday 17th October. We welcome Lorna as she begins her new ministry. Over one hundred people, from each of our Benefice villages, gathered together with Lorna's family and friends to share in her 'Licencing' service. The service was led by the Bishop of Tonbridge, the Rt Rev Simon Burton-Jones, and The Archdeacon of Tonbridge, The Ven Sharon Copestake. The formal and joyful service was also attended by Mr Bill Cockcroft, a Deputy Lieutenant of Kent; he read the 'Deed of Presentation' on behalf of the Lord Chancellor. The 'Deed' had been signed by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II only a few days before she sadly passed away. Lorna then swore allegiance to His Majesty King Charles III and obedience to the Bishop of Rochester. Prior to ordination, Lorna was a teacher before training at St Augustine's Theological College. Now, Lorna wants to engage with our community, as well as developing deeper relationships with the church members. It is her vision that all can experience a deepening relationship with God. Lorna is married to Rich, and she has three older children, 2 adults and a teenager.

Christmas Services & Carols				
Coxheath	18th Dec. Carol service 4.30pm	Christmas Eve Children's Service 5.00pm	Christmas Eve Communion 11.15 pm	Christmas Day Family Service + Communion 10.00 am
East Farleigh	10th Dec. Carols around the tree at 5.00 pm		24th Dec. Christmas Eve Christingle at 4.00 pm	
West Farleigh	11th Dec Carol Service 5.30 pm		24th Dec. Christmas Eve Communion 9.30 pm	
Hunton 9.30 am	24th Dec Carol Service 6.30 pm		1st Jan. Benefice Communion 10.30 am	
Linton 9.30 am	17th Dec. Messy Christingle 3.00 pm Carol Service 4.00 pm		21st Dec. Carols at The Bull 7.00 pm	25th Dec. Christmas Day Communion 10.00 am

Remembrance Service, November 2022

The Revd David Jones, at St Mary's Church, led a well-attended and moving 'Service of Remembrance.' Together, we remembered all who fought and fell, with such courage, in the service of their Country, during the last 100 years. During the service, wreaths were laid on behalf of: The Parish Council of Hunton; St Mary's Church Hunton; The Friends of St Mary's Hunton and Hunton Village Club. In addition, various clubs and societies were also represented. Lastly, we thank Jenna Reid for representing Hunton School so well, aided by her brother James. We also thank Marian Greensill, organist, for the fitting and beautiful music. The collection will be given to the Royal British Legion.

!!!Wanted!!!

Do you play a musical instrument - wind, string or bass - and would like to join a small group of enthusiastic amateur players of differing abilities, who play for fun and the occasional performance?

We have a fantastic conductor and now we just need some more musicians to join in. We meet twice a month on Sunday from 5pm to 7pm in Laddingford

If you would like further information, contact Heather Haddelsey, 01622 849284, hhaddelsey@yahoo.co.uk

'A Year in Hunton'

A beautiful collection of photographs produced by Donna Hollingworth, who lives in our village. Donna kindly intends to donate all profits to St Mary's Hunton. Please order as soon as possible.

It makes an excellent gift for friends and family and is a suitable size for posting.

Cost £12.

To order: contact Wendy Simmons on 01622 820875 or email wendysimmons01@btinternet.com

Alms House vacancy

There is a vacancy for a non-smoking single resident in Peace Cottages Alms houses in West Street, Hunton. Those interested, over the age of 60, preferably with a connection to Hunton should contact Liz Oliver on 01622 820200 or liz.oliver@waitrose.com for an application form. Further criteria will apply.

Benefice Service Rota – December 2022

CHURCH	4th	11th	18th	1st Jan
Coxheath 11:00 am	Communion DJ	Morning Worship LF	No Morning Service *Carol Service pm*	
East Farleigh 9:30 am	Morning Worship DJ		Carols & Communion LF	
West Farleigh 9:30 am		No Morning Service *Carol Service pm*		
Hunton 9:30 am	Communion LF		Communion DJ	10.30 am Benefice Communion LF
Linton 9:30 am		Morning Worship LF		
Coxheath	Every Thursday; Holy Communion; 10:00 am. 29th December No Service			
Linton	28th December No Service			

DJ – David Jones, BP - Becky Parnham, SE - Sue Elliott, LF – Lorna Faulkner, BW – Bertie Woodward

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