



Next Editors: Liz Oliver and Graham Dolman: huntonherald@outlook.com
All items for the next edition of the Herald to the Editors by 15th February

Snowdrop Sunday

12th February From 2pm to 4pm

The whole village, friends and family are invited to enjoy the abundance of beautiful snowdrops in St Mary's churchyard. Delicious refreshments will be available. We hope for winter sunshine to make for a perfect afternoon! Donations of homemade cakes would be most welcome.

Snowdrops, also known as Galanthus, are a lovely reminder that Spring is not too far away. I love to have

a small vase of snowdrops in the house to brighten the dull days. However, an old superstition led people to believe that bringing them into the house would result in impending death. These delicate flowers are sometimes known as 'Death's Flower.' This is probably because, although pretty, pure and innocent looking, the bulb is poisonous and can cause death if eaten! More positively, snowdrops are used in medical research for the benefit of human health. Galantamine is extracted from the plant and used to help treat the nervous system. It is commonly used as a treatment for Alzheimer's.

Look out for the prestigious 'Hunton Giant' and the 'Hunton Herald' snowdrops, both of which have their origins in the grounds of the former Victorian rectory. They were discovered, identified and named by David Way of Southover, Hunton and have subsequently been spread around our village. David Way, remembered by many, was a renowned expert on horticulture who studied at Cambridge University and at the RHS Gardens at Wisley. Later in life, David held a senior position at the East Malling Research Station. He, together with his second wife Anke, established the first 'Snowdrop Sunday' event in the late 1990's.



Contact: Wendy Simmons 01622 820875

Calling all Panto enthusiasts! Hunton Pantomime - October 2023

Plans are afoot for the ever-popular Hunton Pantomime, to be performed in autumn 2023.

If you would like to take part on stage, please let us know asap, so that our amazing script writer can write a part to include you. It is a super way to get to know people in the village.

If the thought of treading the boards is really not for you, we would love to have your help backstage. There are many roles that need to be filled, as our long-term producer is stepping down from the role, and her boots need to be filled!

Please contact me if you would like to be involved in any capacity. Be warned - it is a lot of fun and very friendly too.

Sue Pinks 01622 820709 - suepinks@icloud.com

Your Local Contacts:

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

Film Night (no food) Sat 4th Feb; Snowdrop Sunday, Sun 12th Feb; Gardening Club Social Supper, Fri 17th Feb;
PTFA curry supper, Sat 25th Feb; St George's Day Walk / Lunch, Sun 23rd Apr; Coronation Event, Sun 7th May;
Plants & Produce Day, Sat 13th May; Beer Festival, Sat 2nd Sept

Check out www.huntonparishcouncil.org.uk/events-list for the latest events. If you would like to add an event, email huntonpc@gmail.com



Hunton



www.huntonparishcouncil.org.uk



@HuntonVillage

Pastoral Letter

Dear friends, I am beginning to write this letter on New Year's Day. It will be another month before everyone reads it! For some, the beginning of a New Year is a time for planning new things and looking forward to new adventures to be had. For others, and especially at the moment, the future is full of worries and fears. Will finances stretch to all that needs to be paid for? Will the mortgage be manageable? Will energy costs go up so much that the choice between heating the home, eating properly or perhaps cancelling a planned holiday, need to be made? By the time you read this, I will have faced the biggest fear I have, one of flying. I know that it is the safest form of travel, but fears are often not logical. As Christians, we believe that, if we turn to Scripture, we can find encouraging words.

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." *Joshua 1:9*

"Cast all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you." *1 Peter 5:7*

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid." *John 14:27*

"Do not be anxious about anything. But in everything by prayer and supplication, let your requests be made known to God." *Philippians 4:6*

Fear does not have to control us any longer. With God we can do anything – even overcome all our fears!

As the late Maya Angelou, American poet writer and civil rights activist, said "Hope and fear cannot occupy the same space at the same time. Invite one to stay."

Let us look with hope into the future and support each other through difficult times.

If you would like to talk to someone or have someone pray with/for you then do get in touch with us. I head up the Pastoral Support Team, a committed group of Christians who are very willing to come alongside folk in our village communities and offer support.

Oh, and by the way, I flew to Edinburgh and back. I faced my fear and overcame! Praise the Lord! Blessings.

Sue Elliott – Pastoral Assistant and member of the Benefice Ministry Team.

<https://unitedbenefice.church/benefice-groups/pastoral-support-team/>

Community Award Nominations 2023

The Parish Council would like to know if you wish to acknowledge and give recognition to someone in Hunton who has made a significant contribution to our local community. This might be in the form of long and sustained service to the community or, achievements or actions of an inspiring nature. The person must live or work in Hunton.

Please send your nomination to Parish Council member Iain Simmons at ishuntonpc@btinternet.com by Friday 17 February. Please also include a brief statement to support your nomination. For anyone who wishes to submit a nomination by hand, please deliver it to Rose Cottage in Bishops Lane. The award will be presented at the Parish Council Annual Meeting in May.

Hunton's Coronation Celebration

Given that this is the first Coronation that the majority of parishioners will have witnessed, the Parish Council (PC) has decided to sponsor an event at the Village Hall/Playing Fields on Sunday May 7th. The PC plans to provide a suitable and inclusive event. Possibly, this may be an afternoon Tea Party. Our initial idea is for free non-alcoholic refreshments, with a pay bar available for alcoholic drinks. Once plans have been finalised, we will let you know in future editions of the Hunton Herald.

The PC will set up a subcommittee to organise and run the event. Parishioners and other village clubs and the school, who would like to help organise the event are encouraged to contact a Parish Councillor or the Clerk as soon as possible. Contact details are on the front page of the Hunton Herald.

David Heaton, Chairman Hunton PC

Quiz Night at the Village Club

On the 14th of January, four teams of players enjoyed the quiz hosted by Phil Nichols. Thank you, Phil, for a fun evening and much hard work in preparing the interesting questions/challenges! Rounds included such things as: around the world, food and drink, fish, animals, lucky dip, guess the advertisement logo, general knowledge and of course, sport! For those who were unable to attend here are a few questions for you to try at home. Maybe, they may entice you come and join future quiz evenings at Hunton Club:

1. How many clock faces are on Big Ben's Tower?
2. In mammals the Asian Elephant is second, but man has the longest what?
3. Which chicken dish is named after a battle of the Napoleonic Wars?
4. How many arms does a squid have?
5. Which fish has been nicknamed 'Tin Plate'?
6. What is or was a 'Tin Lizy'?

Answers on the back page

Hunton CEP School. 'Achieving Excellence Together.'

Although we are at the start of 2023, incredibly, we are halfway through the academic year! We 'live life in all its fullness' (John 10:10); making the most of opportunities in and outside of school whilst also challenging ourselves and striving outside of our comfort zone. Talking of which, we want to share with you pictures and news about our new art installation.



With a generous donation from a benefactor, every child in the school had the opportunity to create and paint with professional artists and sculptors from London, called 'Arty Party.' Arty Party were with us for a week, and we are delighted with the representation of our vision.

Following in Jesus' footsteps, pupils at Hunton are encouraged to make positive and courageous choices to open up the world. We thought about the story of Peter stepping out of the boat and walking on the water. He decided to follow Jesus, stepping out of his comfort zone and taking a risk. When he started to sink, Jesus caught him and helped him. (Matthew 14).

This vision helps us day to day, enabling each child to flourish through the provision of the best education: academically, morally, socially and spiritually; and, by living out our faith in God. Through this we 'Achieve Excellence Together.' Finally, we offer you the opportunity to join us for a Curry and Quiz night on 25th February. It should be fun! We were so appreciative of the support shown by the community.



FREE Film Night at Hunton Club; showing 'MAVERICK'!

On Saturday February 4th there will be a showing, by popular request, of the new Top Gun film MAVARICK, starring Tom Cruise. This time, there will be no supper and no charge, though we hope you will enjoy a drink from the bar. Non-members can be signed in and we hope you may join in the future. Doors open at 7.30 and the film will be shown at 8.00pm.

Gardening Club Social & Supper:

Friday 17th February

Doors at Hunton Village Club will open at 6.30pm for drinks and a pre-booked supper at £10 each for members of Hunton Village Club and £12 for non-members. Contact Lesley 01622 820210 lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com to book places – please tell her if you have special dietary requirements. Closing date for bookings is Tuesday 14th February.

Hunton Gardening Club is an informal group of people who enjoy gardening and related topics. Members include novices as well as experienced gardeners. Volunteers organise visits to local farms and gardens as well as the occasional social event. On Saturday 13th May there will be a Plants & Produce Day at Hunton Club. To join or for more information about Hunton Gardening Club contact Lesley.

Hunton PTFA Curry & Quiz Night

TICKETS NOW ON SALE!

Venue: Hunton Village Hall.

Date: Saturday 25th February 2023

Time: 7pm - 11.30pm. Tickets: £22

Contact: pta@hunton.kent.sch.uk

Hosted by 'Quiz Master Extraordinaire,' Phil Nichols.

There will be a sumptuous desserts auction and a chance to win a magnificent hamper of goodies.

You're welcome to bring your own drink or wine/beer/prosecco, which will be on sale on the night.

This event was held in February 2022 when the tickets sold out quickly. So, be quick if you would like to come along, as spaces are limited.

February Village Walk and Lunch

Everyone is welcome to join a village walk and lunch at the club on Thursday 23rd February 2023. Please let Lesley Lee know if you would like to attend.- lesley@btinternet.com . - preferably by Monday 20th so we can get the catering correct and do let her know if you have any food allergies. Donations of cakes would be welcome. The cost is £10 per head and £5 per child. You do not need to attend the walk and are welcome to come to the club any time between 11am and 12.45 pm. The walk will set off at 11am - please be prompt.

Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

Wednesdays 8 - 11.00pm & Sundays 8 - 10.30 pm

Barn Owls in the Barn

We have been fortunate to see evidence of barn owls again in the barn this winter. Pleasingly, we have caught some fantastic footage, on camera, of a pair on our barn owl box.

Owl pellets and the whitewash excrement have been seen in various places around the barn. Amazingly, more recent footage shows that they have adopted the box. The pigeons and squirrels were interested in the box but have not been seen for some time-thank goodness!

Sue Heaton



Christmas Eve Carols

For the second year running, a service of carols and lessons was held on Christmas Eve. As the congregation arrived, a twinkling array of candles set the scene for a special service. The church was festooned with holly, ivy and beautiful winter flower arrangements. An illuminated nativity scene gave a focus to the service as each part of the Christmas story unfolded.

Previously, in 2021, with covid still gripping the community, over one hundred people joined together for the candlelit service, Hunton being the only church open in the Benefice at that time. In 2022, the organisers expected a congregation of maybe 60 to 70. To our amazement and delight, so many people arrived that the start of the service had to be delayed until they were all seated! With a congregation of 150, there was much sharing of carol sheets. The music was led by the organist, Marian Greensill, and choir; it was fittingly joyful.

At the end of the service, many stayed behind to chat with friends and neighbours over a mulled wine and mince pie. A perfect way to celebrate the birth of Jesus on Christmas day. In addition, at the end of the service, we celebrated Reverend David Jones' special birthday with yet more candles and a cake.

A great thank you to all who attended and to those who worked so hard in making the event special.

Church Activities Across the Benefice for Children and Young People

Monthly Bible Babble - youth group. 1st Sunday of the month. 7:30 – 9pm, Holy Trinity, Coxheath

Messy Church – All age alternative worship 3rd Saturday even months 3 – 5pm St Nicholas

Muddy Church – outdoor exploration 3rd Saturday of odd months 3 – 4pm St Nicholas, Linton

Tiny Tots Toybox – Weekly. under 5's stay and play Thursday 1:30 – 3pm Holy Trinity, Coxheath

Seekers - KS2 after school club Thursday 3:30 – 5pm Holy Trinity, Coxheath

Little Angels– under 5's stay and play Friday 1 – 2:30 pm All Saints, West Farleigh

For more information: www.unitedbenefice.church or Facebook: United Benefice Kids

Answers to the quiz questions.

1. Big Ben's Tower has four clock faces.
2. Man has the longest life span; the Asian elephant has the second longest.
3. Chicken Marengo is the chicken dish named after a battle of the Napoleonic Wars.
4. A squid has 10 arms.
5. The 'Silver Bream' is nicknamed the 'Tin Plate.'
6. The 'Tin Lizy' is/was a Model T Ford.

Benefice Service Rota – February 2023

CHURCH	5th	12th	19th	26th
Coxheath	Communion (1+2+3) <i>DJ</i>	Morning Worship <i>LF</i>	Communion (1+2+3) <i>LF</i>	Morning Worship (Preacher's choice) <i>BP</i>
East Farleigh	Morning Worship <i>LF</i>		Communion <i>DJ</i>	
West Farleigh		Communion <i>LF</i>		Morning Worship <i>SE</i>
Hunton	Communion <i>DJ</i>		Morning Worship <i>LF</i>	
Linton		Morning Worship <i>DJ</i>		Communion <i>LF</i>
Coxheath	Every Thursday; Holy Communion; 10:00 am.			

DJ – David Jones, BP - Becky Parnham, LF – Lorna Faulkner

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