



Next Editors: Fay Joyce and Corinne Wells : huntonherald@outlook.com
All items for the next edition of the Herald to the Editors by 15th November

St Mary's Christmas Market

On Saturday 25th November St. Mary's will be preparing for a very important visitor and ensuring all is ready for Father Christmas when he arrives. He has requested a nice warm fire and cosy grotto so the elves will be working very hard to ensure he is happy and comfortable. However, what he really wants is lots of young visitors to chat with and has promised a present for every child who calls into the grotto. The market commences at 3.30 and runs until 6pm. The admission will be £ 1 with children free. There will be a barbecue with delicious burgers, mulled wine, plus tea, coffee and the choice of many delicious cakes. The traditional stalls will be ready for you to purchase Christmas gifts, and there will be plenty of new stalls too so please be sure to make a note in your diary and come along and join us.

Harvest Festival

We welcomed 28 people to the service on October 15th. It was the first frosty morning of autumn; however, by the start of the service, the sun shone in all of its glory, lighting the stained-glass windows to perfection. The church was filled with beautiful seasonal flower arrangements. Fitting organ music completed the atmosphere for our annual Harvest Festival.

The Revd. David Jones conducted the service, which included many traditional harvest hymns, as well as engaging memories of harvest services in the past. The service also included thoughtful prayers for those witnessing and suffering in the Gaza-Israel war. David challenged us to think of how many words we could make from the word 'harvest'. Well done to the children, as they came up with plenty of suggestions. Notably, the key word found was, 'share'.

We, in Hunton, gave thanks for the joy of harvest by sharing a brunch together. The hot sausage baps with bacon, as well as chocolate croissants went down very well with tea, coffee and much convivial chat. A few people even took the opportunity to enjoy locally harvested grapes and apples.

Later in the week, children from Hunton School will share in the harvest celebrations at their own service to mark the beginning of half term. All food donations reflected the messages of the three Bible readings concerning 'giving.' Food donations will be shared with a local charity providing food for the many that need our support and thoughts right now.

Wendy and Iain Simmons

Christmas Harmony – Saturday 2nd December

Sharon Winter Mitchell will be hosting another evening of songs at Hunton Club, following her highly successful and enjoyable 'You, Me & Musicals' night in June. She will be singing a variety of seasonal songs from classic Christmas films, plus carols and new numbers. So, book your places now and get in the festive spirit. The Club will open at 6pm and supper will be available from about 6.30pm. £10 each for Club Members and £12 for Non-Members. Contact Lesley on 01622 820210 or lesley.a.lee@btinternet.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: Sam Andrews	huntontreewarden@gmail.com	Huntonwatch: huntonwatch@gmail.com	07907 019996
Rector: Revd. Lorna Faulkner*	747570	'Potholes' Hotline (KCC)	03000 418181
Hon Associate Rector: Revd. David Jones	741474*	Hunton Ladies: Chris Summersgill	c.a.summersgill@btinternet.com
Churchwarden: Iain Simmons	820875	PCSO - none	
	Ishuntonchurchwarden@btinternet.com	Helen Grant MP helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk	0207 219 7107
Community Wardens Team	07811 271021	Village Club: Roger Lee: roger.c.lee@btinternet.com	820210
Hunton Bell Ringers: Lavinia Thompson	07885 763071	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@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	
Sat 4 Nov - St Mary's Working Party & litter pick 9 – 12 noon;	Sat 11 Nov – Gardening Club Social 6pm; Thurs 16 Nov – Walk/Lunch;
Sat 25 Nov – Christmas Market;	Sat 2 Dec – Christmas Harmony
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

While searching for inspiration for what to share in my letter this month, I came across this quote from philosopher Henry David Thoreau:

“The thinnest yellow light of November is more warming and exhilarating than any wine they tell of. The mite which November contributes becomes equal in value to the bounty of July.” – Henry David Thoreau

The sentiment really resonated with me – how the smallest shaft of sunshine in November feels like a gift - bringing a moment of relief into what often feels like near permanent darkness, and is something to be enjoyed with relish.

The darkness of November and the ensuing season of winter can lead to many of us struggling with our mental health and well-being – feelings of sluggishness and sadness can close in on us. Motivation can take a dip; days can feel endless (I have often suspected that we are in fact, part bear and ought really to hibernate until March, only getting out of bed occasionally to eat potatoes...) It can just all feel like a bit of a slog.

So how can we help ourselves?

Good nourishing food, plenty of rest, grabbing time in the daylight when we can – they all help - and seeing a GP if it really begins to feel overwhelming is a must.

And here’s another suggestion. I have recently become aware of a concept that might go a little way to help those of us who struggle with the darker months.

Just as we may encounter difficult things in our days that can cause us to struggle with negative feelings – often called ‘triggers’ - so we can also experience moments in our days that can result in us feeling positive things – and these are known as ‘glimmers’ - small moments or encounters that bring a little lightness and joy.

A smile from a stranger. The cosy flickering of a candle on a dark evening. A song on the radio. A kind word. A hug from a loved one. A beautiful sunrise. Laughing with a friend. Ten minutes of quiet listening to the ticking of a clock. A ray of sunshine in the middle of a grey week.

They’re all around us. We just need to look for them – the moments of light in our day. Maybe we can build some time in every day to be thankful for them. Perhaps write them down as a reminder for the days when glimmers are harder to find.

It’s not new when you think about it – the old proverb ‘Count your blessings’ comes to mind – and the science of gratitude is well researched and documented. It is proven that taking time to recognise what we have to be thankful for is good for us! But it’s good to be reminded to look for the things that bring us peace or joy or a sense of calm or connection. I’ll be making a point of doing so this winter. And, if this time of year is a struggle for you, maybe you’d like to join in too.

Lorna

Hunton Walkers

The Hunton Walking Group is fast approaching its 250th walk since it was set up in 2011. Many of the original gang are still with us (and a couple of new dogs) but we would very much like to welcome new members.

Our most recent outing was to somewhere we had all heard of but never been to – Oaken Wood. We met at The North Pole (not the one requiring serious thermals, but the pub just outside Watlington!) and enjoyed a walk in pleasant autumnal temperatures through woodland and open farmland. The harvest completed, there were far reaching views towards the Medway Gap. Needless to say we all indulged in well-deserved refreshments at The North Pole to finish.

Our November walks will be on 14th and 28th of the month when we will make the most of the remaining autumn colours and, as winter approaches, a bracing time of the year to get outside and explore.

If you would like an interesting, not too demanding walk, on a Tuesday morning and enjoy good company, give Hunton Walkers a try in November, Contact Jane Langdon 01622 820705, I would love to hear from you!

Jane Langdon

Gardening tips for November

This is a good time for planting trees, shrubs and hedges as it gives them a chance to get established before the onset of winter. You can also save money by buying bare rooted plants now.

Taking hardwood cuttings will enable you to increase your stock of your favourite deciduous shrubs and climbers including roses. Put the cuttings directly into the soil outside and leave for about a year for them to root.

Taking cuttings for those salvias that are not hardy enough to make it through the winter, will ensure you have more plants for next year

Lifting and storing tender plants such as Dahlias and Cannas, Begonias and Pelargoniums will increase their chance of survival through a very cold winter. If you choose to leave them in the ground in this mild part of the UK, it may be advantageous to apply thick mulch to protect them from the severest of frosts.

Lifted and stored tubers tend to flower earlier than those left in the ground over winter and provides the opportunity to propagate from them before planting them out in late spring.

Sue Heaton

Walk and / or Lunch: Thursday 16th November

Everyone is invited to join members of the Linton Walkers on a circular walk leaving Hunton Club at 11am on Thursday 16th November. Linton Walkers ask for a £1 donation per person which they pass on to local good causes. The walk takes about an hour and a half and will be followed by a pre-booked buffet lunch in the Club at £10 a head for Club members and £12 for non-members. You are welcome to just do the walk or simply come to lunch but please contact me by Monday 13th November to book places.

Lesley – 01622 820210, lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com

A Happy Meeting Ahead of Remembrance Sunday

A week or so ago I was walking past the churchyard when I noticed a lone lady looking at tombstones. Having the church keys in my pocket (for once) I was able to offer to let her inside and how glad I was that I did!

Visiting St Mary's from Australia for the second time after a first visit 40 years ago, she was delighted to be able to get access to the church. She was a relative of both the Whyman and Tucker families, two old Hunton names, so I was able to show her a board in the tower with 5 Whymans and 4 Tuckers listed as bellringers in 1829 and 1845, as well as the outside of Church Cottage where her 4x great grandmother had once lived.

Later, I was able to send her a link to the recorded voice of Albert Tucker from 1916, held in the British Sound Library; she was amazed to hear that he pronounced "Mudder and Faader" exactly the same way that her grandfather did!

In exchange, she sent me a wonderful photo of 8 Whyman siblings, all of whom served in WW1 (3 brothers were regulars and 2 joined up in 1915) and all survived! What a happy counterpoint to the Gurr's whose three sons were tragically all killed. What made this discovery particularly special for me was that I had none of them in my record of 96 Hunton names serving in WW1. Even better, it included three sisters who served (as cooks) in the Women's Royal Flying Corps.



Back Row: Ivo(Royal Artillery) b.1882, Elsie b.1898, George(Royal Navy) b.1876, Grace b.1894, Frank(East Kents-The Buffs) b.1895. Front Row: Charlie(Royal Engineers) b.1886, Rose b.1899, Roger (King's Own Royal Lancaster and Military Mounted Police)b.1891

In 2018 I searched Ancestry for army records of men in Hunton in the 1911 census aged 18 – 35 during the war. This missed some regular servicemen as well as those who signed up outside my age range. By searching WW1 army records for *any* connection to Hunton I have added a further 4 who died (now 31) and 29 who survived making a total of 127 connected. Whilst some of these were born in Hunton to nomadic farm workers, others had closer links. Some revealed records of injuries (e.g. gunshots to the leg, shoulder and elbow resulting in 40% disability) and a number recorded periods of hospitalisation with influenza (all surviving). Given how many soldiers do not have surviving records it is reasonable to assume that perhaps another 30 Hunton connections still remain to be found.

Perhaps the most colourful character was Michael Meany, born to Irish parents working at Hunton Court in 1865. He joined the Royal Scots Lothian Regiment in 1884, lost (or sold) his kit and deserted in 1885, he then joined the East Surrey Regiment under the name of Michael Murphy, was caught and imprisoned for 84 days. His subsequent service with the RSL is summarised in over 10 multiple-entry charge sheet pages up to 1897, including two further court martials, the second during the first Boer War for desertion in Zululand, again after losing his kit and earning him 6 months hard labour.

He then served throughout the 2nd Boer War and in WW1 from September 1914 to October 1917 all with the RSL. Aged 52 Michael then transferred to the Labour Corps before finally leaving the army in February 1919, aged 54. It was no surprise to see him promoted 3 times during WW1, before ending up as a Private again!

Whilst he may have caused his superiors a headache or two, his record of 33 year of service in two Boer wars and for the whole of WW1 reflected a charmed life ... and was great fun to read!

James Forster

Local Art Exhibition and Sale – in aid of SchoolGambia

It'll soon be our 8th Art Exhibition and Sale in Yalding Church - a mesmerizing art exhibition that promises to ignite your senses and transport you into a realm of artistic wonder as 30 professional artists exhibit their creations in the beautiful setting of St Peter's and St Paul's.

From 17 – 19 November the church will come alive with an array of stunning paintings, textiles, ceramics, metal work, jewellery, fused glass and much more as a group of very talented professionals take over the Church to help raise funds for SchoolGambia by donating 25% of all sales to the charity.

We'd love everyone, parents, grandparents, children, and friends to come along and support us. You never know you might fall for a piece of artwork made with love by someone local. The exhibition is a great opportunity to support local artists and raise much needed funds for providing an education for children at Yalding School in Farato.

We hope to see you there. Friday 7 – 9.30 pm (entrance £5, Saturday, 10 am – 5 pm (free), Sunday 11 am – 3 pm (free)

From all of us on the SchoolGambia Art Exhibition Committee

Gardening Club Social and Supper

Tickets are now available for the Gardening Club Supper on Saturday November 11th at Hunton Club. Start time is 6pm for supper from 6.30pm. £10 each for Hunton Club Members, £12 for non-members. Kiri and Martin, members of family-owned 'Wise Owl Cider' will then talk about their award winning ciders, how they make them and the advantages of being based in Hunton. Apart from being a friendly, relaxed evening this event aims to raise funds for Hunton Club. Tickets from Lesley on 01622 820210 or lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com

Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

Wednesdays & Fridays 8 - 11.00pm & Sundays 8 - 10.30 pm

Reminder - Clean-up Day

Hopefully your Hunton Herald has arrived in time to remind you of the clean-up day on Saturday, November 4th. A litter pick starts from the village hall at 10 am and there is a working party at St Mary's Church between 9 am and 12 pm on the same day. All volunteers would be welcome. Pickers and hi-vis jackets will be available for the litter pick.

Kestrels in the Cowl!

Strange Place to Nest?

Now that autumn is approaching, it's difficult to remember the sounds and feel of spring, but my photos are helping to revive those memories. Sitting in my garden back in May, I recall hearing a bird calling, one that I recognised vaguely but couldn't quite bring to mind. Then I saw it – a kestrel flying overhead nearby. Eventually, I realised there were a pair of kestrels nesting in the cowls of the oast, near me. A rather strange place to nest, I thought, given the obvious problem, that they could not always access the nest from the same entrance point! Did they realise this when they chose this site?! However, it is not uncommon for kestrels to use buildings for nests, as they do not build their own, otherwise using hollows in trees. Rather sadly, the kestrel parents produced only one chick and I did not manage to see it at its 'fluffy stage' but at least they did successfully raise their one chick. The chick would cry out when it needed feeding and when its parents approached. Kestrels usually lay 4-5 eggs, so it may be that there were other eggs that did not hatch; I only ever saw the one chick. Interestingly, both parents rear their chicks, the male even takes turns in incubating the eggs.



A Vole for Lunch, Anyone?!

I managed to observe and take some photographs of one of the parents carrying a vole to feed to the chick and even got a shot of the chick with the vole! Apparently, field voles are their most usual food, although they are not particularly fussy - they eat other small mammals, even occasionally lizards, and sometimes will eat larger mammals, such as rabbits and moles.

Garish, Garrulous Goldfinches!

I expect many of you get visits to your feeders from the colourful, garrulous goldfinches! I usually get about 6 –10 of these visiting regularly and I love their chattering and 'electric' squabbling noises. Another favourite of mine is the Long Tailed Tits, the 'Lollipop' birds! I've been getting on/off visits to my suet block (seems to be their favourite food) from a flock of about 9. Google tells me the collective noun for them is a "zephyr" or "volery"! I love the little "tsurp" sound they make! I also had a visit in spring from a lovely juvenile green woodpecker.

Possible Rare Bird of Prey Sighting!

The spring before last, I was alerted by a friend/neighbour to the strange, plaintive and persistent cries of a bird of prey, and it returned this year. They did not seem to be the usual distinctive cries of a common buzzard. I only managed a few distant sightings of this raptor, which I think is a juvenile fledgling, crying to be fed by its parents. It sounds like it could be a Honey Buzzard, which would be really exciting! However, we do get lots of common buzzards here and they can vary greatly in their markings, therefore identification is difficult, especially when they are soaring so high above! If only it would perch on a nearby branch! It needs an expert to identify, but meanwhile if you can keep your eyes peeled and your ears alert...!

Jacqui Francis

Benefice Service Rota – November 2023

CHURCH	5th	12th Remembrance	19th	26th
Coxheath 11:00 am	Communion LF	LF	Communion CD	All-age worship LF and BP
East Farleigh 9:30 am	Morning Worship BP	BP	Communion LF	
West Farleigh 9:30 am		SE		Morning Worship LF
Hunton 9:30 am	Communion LF	DJ	Family service DJ	
Linton 9:30 am		CD		Communion DJ
Midweek Services				
Coxheath - Every Thursday; Holy Communion, 10:00 am.				
Linton - Holy Communion last Wednesday of each month, 12.00, followed by lunch				
DJ – David Jones, BP - Becky Parnham, LF – Lorna Faulkner; CD – Clinton Davis; SE – Sue Elliott; BW – Bertie Woodward				

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