



Next Editors: Stephen and Kate Banks: huntonherald@outlook.com
All items for the next edition of the Herald to the Editors by 15th January

Happy New Year to all our readers

Santa Seen in Hunton

Last year Rev. David Jones agreed to restart the Hunton Christmas Market and many of us were delighted – some even offered to help! How glad we should all be that he did as it has become a very welcome sign that the Christmas season is nearly with us.

Visitors to the market were greeted with Christmas carols played from the church tower, the smell of burgers and bacon cooking in the churchyard and then mulled wine as you entered the church – what a treat! There was a full complement of stalls (thank you all) and over 250 adults (and many children) joined us on a lovely, if cold, afternoon; happily, the church was warm and welcoming inside.

David was able to entice Santa to join us in the grotto that his two elves had prepared for him. Santa saw 45 children and he asked us to thank you all for your lovely cards. He hopes you will all be delighted by what he gives you this Christmas!

Whilst David and his small team of helpers made it happen, the generosity and kindness of many more made it the unqualified success it was. Many cakes were baked, bottles donated, raffle tickets sold and delicious burgers cooked to soak up the mulled wine! Our thanks to all who made the day the success it was but a special thanks goes out to Graham Dolman and to Hunton Club's Needles and Natter Group who worked so hard through the year making items from wood and from fabric, giving every penny they raised to St Mary's church and to its Friends (over £650 in total). The icing on the Christmas cake? Over £2,000 was raised for the running of our church and for the Friends of St Mary's (whose funds are totally utilised on the maintenance of the fabric of our lovely old church). As Tricia Nichols from Needles and Natter put it, "It was a lovely event and we were pleased to be part of it".



Gardening Club Social

Saturday 10th February at Hunton Village Club, doors open 5.45pm for supper from about 6.15pm. Donations requested for supper for Village Club members £10, non-members £15. Lesley will be happy to hear from you if you wish to book places to attend. Please email 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 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
Clr Jonny Goddard - 820096, jonny@cheveneyfarm.co.uk	Clr Tony Stanbridge - 820721, tshuntonpc@gmail.com
Clr Annette Trought - 820448, annette@trought.com	Clr Mike Summersgill - 820429, mshuntonpc@btinternet.com
Clr Iain Simmons - 820875, ishuntonpc@btinternet.com	Clr Jean Fuller - 07738 935630, jfhuntonpc@outlook.com

Diary Dates
Sat 30 Dec - Post Christmas Walk and/or Lunch; Sun 31 Dec - New Year's Eve Celebrations at Hunton Club - 8pm till late;
Sat 10 Feb - Gardening Club Social & Supper at Hunton Club - Doors open 5.45pm, supper about 6.15pm; Fri 23 Feb - Walk (11am) and/or Lunch (12.30pm);
Tues 27 Feb - 250th walk with the Walking Group; Tues 23 April - St. George's Day Walk (11am) and/or Lunch (12.30pm);
Sat 4 May - Plants, Produce & Refreshments at Hunton Club - 12 noon to 4pm; Sat 31 August - Beer Festival at Hunton Club
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

Well, New Year is here again - I am sure it was only a few weeks ago that I was writing the letter for January 2023! So, what thoughts can I offer you as we embark on the next 12 months?

I see a lot of people through my work here in the Benefice and, through so many conversations, I have become acutely aware of just how much so many of us are carrying through this life: difficult family relationships, grief and loss, conflicting priorities, overwhelming commitments, anxiety about the future, deep concerns for our loved ones. There is no one I have met – including myself - that is breezily trotting through this life without a hitch. As I reflected on this, a song came to mind...

*The road is long
With a many a winding turn
That leads us to who knows where
Who knows where
He ain't heavy, he's my brother...
So on we go
His welfare is my concern
No burden is he to bear
We'll get there
He ain't heavy, he's my brother...*

Humans have created communities as long as we have existed – we are made for connection, and we are at our best when we come alongside one another in life. As John Donne so famously said: *'No man is an island entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main;'*

At the turn of this New Year, I wonder... Whose load might I lighten? Whose burdens might I share? How might that look? Listening? Sitting with? Hugging? Laughing? Helping ... What opportunities might we all have in the next 12 months to walk the road of life with our fellow humans – our brothers and sisters – and help them to bear the load they carry, while allowing them to help us carry ours too. What kind of a community would that be? Let's find out! God bless you all in 2024 and beyond.

'Let us not become weary in doing good... as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people...' Galatians 6:9-10

Rev. Lorna Faulkner

A Historic Cricket Match Report

It is always a joy to stumble across some piece of long buried history connected to Hunton, especially when it is both so quintessentially Hunton in nature and reminds us of sunny summer days – there is even a Christmas reference!

The following report refers to three families who can trace their Hunton roots back to the 1500s (Nash) and late 1700s (Whyman and Tucker) and it appeared, as written below, in the Maidstone Journal in 1850:

"EXTRAORDINARY CRICKET MATCH – a great number of extraordinary elevens have at one time or another been made up to play the national game of cricket - married men and bachelors – old and young – maids and wives - fathers and sons against a parish - blind against the lame – all these and many other odd assortments have we at one time or another recorded, but we have now a match to relate that out-herods Herod.

There formerly lived at Hunton, a worthy yeoman named [John] Nash, who had two comely daughters. One was "wooded and won" by a youth named [Michael] Whyman, and the other by a similar process changed her name to Tucker. So numerous are their descendants that, on Saturday last, a match at cricket was played at Hunton in which both the elevens, the scorer, the umpires and all engaged were furnished by them; in short, the whole party were either Whymans or Tuckers, besides twice as many of the same lineage, who acted the part of "lookers on".

A finer or more athletic race could seldom be met with, and when all were assembled with their wives, sons and daughters, a more interesting scene could scarcely be imagined; they could not have numbered, including the second and third generations, less than 100. No fewer than 40 males of the family sat down for supper. After supper, a vocal performance of no slight merit took place, the performers all belonging exclusively to the family. The game was played by the Tuckers against the Whymans, and the former were victorious in one innings."

It seems that the "comely daughters" had 16 and 9 children each (Elizabeth and Margaret) and lived to 87 and 74 respectively so they must have been formidable women. In the 1911 census a Lydia Nash was living in Clapper House, Tuckers were still living in East Street, George Street and Amsbury and there were Whymans living in West Street.

James Forster

Village Walk and/or Lunch

Join us for a refreshing walk on Friday 23rd February to help burn off some of those excess calories gained over Christmas. The free walk aims to leave Hunton Club at 11am with lunch due from about 12.30pm. Lunch £10 Hunton Club Members, £15 non-members. You are welcome to simply go on the walk or just join lunch but either way, please book with me.

Lesley Lee

Christmas Harmony at the Club!

On a cold, damp Saturday evening the Club opened its doors to welcome around 50 people to enjoy a hot supper and an evening of festive songs. The Club was truly “decked with boughs of holly” and Roger and Lesley Lee, with the help of a band of volunteers, provided us all with a delicious pasta meal followed by a scrumptious array of puddings and cheeses.

Then the entertainment began!

Sharon Winter Mitchell treated us to an impressive program of Christmas songs from Bing Crosby to Wham, Slade and the Pogues. At times she duetted with Panto veterans Sam Andrews and Matt Hamilton or was accompanied by an all singing and dancing backing group of audience members, complete with “microphone spoons”. The evening came to an end with a foot-stomping rendition (by Sam) of the Proclaimers iconic “I will walk 500 miles” ... which has now become his Hunton anthem, and did Neil Diamond really make an appearance?!

Thank you Sharon, Lesley and Roger for a great evening which got us all into the Christmas spirit and also to Georgina Winter for the Christmas Quiz.

As an aside, Sharon reminded us all what a wonderful asset the village has in the Club and how important it is to support it during these difficult financial times. So please do renew your membership or sign up to become a new member by contacting Roger Lee or by calling in at the Club. All donations from the evening will support the upkeep of the Club.



Andrea Forster

Village Club AGM

The Hunton Club Annual General Meeting was held on Friday 1st December. Members heard that the Club had run a full programme of events this year, in particular the Beer Festival, the Plant and Produce Fair and two musical evenings which meant that the Treasurer, Mike Dixon, was able to report that the Club is projected to make a small profit with a healthy bank balance. The Club will close the year with about 114 members and was fortunate to have recruited several new volunteer bar staff during the last half of the year. This has enabled the Club to open on Fridays at 6.30pm until 10.00pm in addition to the usual Wednesday and Sunday evenings.

The Chairman, Roger Lee, announced that Gil Robertson had decided to step down from the committee and was thanked for his Chairmanship during the difficult COVID period. Two of the three vacancies on the committee were filled when members voted to elect volunteers Kevin Larkin and Nicholas Rudd.

Phil Nichols, the Club Secretary, outlined potential projects including a new bar top, new beer lines in the cellar and extending the car park over the grassed areas. The Club also needs to attend to some damp patches on the walls and painting/coating the external woodwork. To help pay for this work, the meeting voted to raise the annual membership subscription to £25 with a £5 discount for existing members if paid by the end of February.

Roger Lee

Hunton Run Club

If one of your New Year's resolutions involves running; whether that be starting from scratch, picking up an old hobby or just meeting fellow runners, Hunton Run Club is the perfect opportunity to get outside and make the most of the great (and muddy!) footpaths surrounding the village. Since starting in June, and despite the recent wintry nights, there has been a committed group going out every Tuesday for 5km, with the occasional longer run over a weekend. November even saw a group complete 'The Hunton Half': 22km around Teston, Nettlestead and Laddingford!

Club Runs are every Tuesday: 5km loop, meeting at 18:30 pm outside the Village Club. These are a relaxed pace, with no one being left behind. Perfect for anyone just getting into running or re-starting. For anyone interested in going further, longer runs (15km+) happen most Friday afternoons, as well as every few months on a Sunday. Everything gets organised via the Hunton Run Club WhatsApp Group.

For more information, email me at: mail@adammoore.net or text / call on: 07766 566 449 – it would be great to see some new faces.

Adam Moore

Hunton Ladies

At their November meeting the ladies in Hunton used their crochet skills to produce decorations for the Christmas tree under the guidance of local crocheter, Lorraine Redfarn. The beginners attempted a wreath while those with more experience crocheted a snowflake and also helped the beginners. All were pleased with the results and our thanks go to Lorraine and the lovely ladies who helped her, for their inspiration, guidance and organisation of the evening.

There is no December meeting but a group of the Ladies met for a Christmas Meal at Frederics organised by Claire Moakes.

Hunton Ladies Group meetings are held on the last Wednesday of the month at Hunton Club commencing at 8pm. New ladies are always welcome to join us.

Chris Summersgill

Almshouse Vacancy

There is a vacancy for a non-smoking single resident in Peace Cottages Almshouses in West Street, Hunton. Those interested, over the age of 60, preferably with a connection to Hunton or nearby villages should contact Liz Oliver on 01622 820200 or liz.oliver25@outlook.com for an application form. Further criteria will apply.

Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

Wednesdays & Fridays 8 - 11pm. Sundays 8 - 10.30 pm

Chicken Farm Update

Some three years after the free-range egg farm/factory was put forward for the riverside land in Chainhurst, and after a long wait for any response from the Planners, new documents have appeared on the MBC website under PlanAp MA/20/505751. These are now showing TWO large sheds, with the third/northern one nearest to Hunton having been removed from the Plan; much of the rest of the layout remains the same, with the vehicle entrance in the low section of road where there is a portacabin - this change is stated by the Applicant to be because Maidstone Council were about to reject the Application as it stood, although no explanation is given for why that is stated.

There appear to be no changes to the Documents (which Hunton, Marden and Linton Parishes all commented were short of detail, somewhat inaccurate and lacked credibility), and especially there are no new Environmental reports dealing with the Biodiversity on the site (professionally, such sites are required to be re-surveyed after 2-3 years, as Nature moves along!), nor any new studies completed at the appropriate time of year for them (unlike many in 2020). One of the footpaths will no longer be diverted from its current route (but will somehow pass through a biosecure zone), but the riverside one is still to be moved closer to the river (and floodwaters). The views of the Site from the Hunton side may be improved with the shed omission, but of course the third shed could re-appear in a subsequent PlanAp as agricultural practices/needs adapt to Brexit (as has been stated as a reason in two recent agricultural applications).

The residents' group, WeLoveChainhurst (www.welovechainhurst.co.uk) will have more detail on evaluation of the new documents, and Marden Parish will be looking at the details too in the New Year. Comments have to be made by 10th January, and if you made a comment to MBC before in 2021, it would be best to reiterate that view now that considerable time has passed and/or make a different point if you want to.

Hunton Walking Group - 250th Walk - Keep the Date!

All being well, our 250th walk is scheduled to be on Tuesday 27th February. We are intending to have a special walk, possibly in London, and probably with a meal - but nothing is certain yet. All previous walkers are invited to put the date in their diary and await further information in the next Herald. We are hoping that Ann Sawtell, who started the Group up in 2011, can also attend. Please let Jane know on ejanelangdon@yahoo.co.uk if you are interested. Newbies are welcome too!

School Biscuits

We understand that some children from Hunton School have been preparing and then distributing Christmas biscuits to the residents of Peace Cottages. What a wonderful gesture and well done to all those involved.

Church Clean Up

A group of 15 volunteers met to decorate and to tidy up the church and churchyard on Saturday 16th December, ahead of the Christmas Carol Service on Christmas Eve. Outside, leaves were cleared, table top tombs and gravestones were tidied up, drainage gullies at ground level had blockages removed and a compost heap was thinned out revealing a lost trowel and a large animal bone! Inside the church is now beautifully decorated and, briefly, free of spiders webs – come and see! There are no paid cleaners or gardeners so it is thanks to our volunteers that our church and its two graveyards are so well kept and we thank them all, but especially those who organise these events and those who provide the sustaining coffee, tea, biscuits and cakes!

Benefice Service Rota – January 2024

Church	7 th	14 th	21 st	28 th
Hunton	9.30 HC DJ		09.30 FS DJ	
Coxheath	11.00am HC CD	11.00am MP LF	11.00am HC DJ	11.00am FS Family Trust
E. Farleigh	09.30 MP LF/BP		9.30 HC LF	
Linton		9.30 MP CD		9.30 HC LF
W. Farleigh		09.30 HC LF		9.30 MP DJ

Midweek Services

Coxheath - Every Thursday; Holy Communion, 10:00 am.

Linton - Holy Communion last Wednesday of each month, 12.00, followed by soup

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

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