



Next Editors: Stephen and Kate Banks: [huntonherald@outlook.com](mailto:huntonherald@outlook.com)  
All items for the next edition of the Herald to the Editors by 15th November

## Hunton Christmas Market – Saturday, November 23rd

The St Mary's Christmas Market is fast approaching! It will be held on Saturday, November 23rd from 3.00pm to 5.30pm. Again, this year all the events will take place either inside St Mary's or along the path from the lych gate to the church. Some 16 stalls inside the church offering gifts, food and drink as well as cakes and teas available and outside we are planning a BBQ, bar, bottle and other stalls. The children have not been forgotten with Father Christmas arriving as well as other children's activities. Help is always welcomed for cakes, bottles and teas so please contact Fay Joyce, 01622 820 644 or David Jones, 01622 741474 if you think you would like to help. Thank you.

## Remembrance Service at St Mary's Hunton

Please join us on Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> November for this special service, followed by coffee. The service starts promptly at 10.50 am. This is a reflective time when the village joins together, with the nation, to remember the service and sacrifice of all those that have defended our freedoms and protected our way of life. We will remember the Armed Forces, and their families, from Britain, the Commonwealth, and from the wider world, as well as so many others who played such a significant part in the war effort. We will pay our respects to all those lost, or harmed, through attacks around the world that sadly continue today.

*Wendy Simmons*

## A view from the Yard

In a moment of weakness at the Hunton Beer Festival – having ordered my third pint of Goacher's Gold Star, an editor of Hunton Herald knew when to strike – I enthusiastically agreed to pen a short piece setting out early impressions of Hunton from a (relatively) new resident.

My family and I moved into Wilson's Yard on George Street in January 2023, the first occupants of a new residential development replacing the previous industrial/agricultural shed. Although the depths of a wet winter didn't wholeheartedly sell a country idyll, we knew from very early on what a great decision we had made in moving from a Kentish home in West Malling across the Medway to become a family of Kent. We immediately loved the setting, the peace, the country walks and the sense of Hunton community we soon experienced.

Our first proper exposure to the Hunton fraternity was Snowdrop Sunday. On a cold February day, we received a wholly warm welcome from numerous residents keen for us to buy cakes, drink tea and join the Hunton Ladies and/or Gardening Club. We had stepped into St. Mary's Church concerned that fresh residents of a new edifice might be viewed with suspicion (imagine the Slaughtered Lamb pub scene in 'American Werewolf in London'). Nothing could be further from the truth.

Other gatherings confirmed the incalescence of our welcome: our first Beer Festival last year, the Christmas Fair, Meet the Village and countless interactions with natives in between. We are overjoyed to have joined the other 670 Huntonians (2021 Census figures) and look forward to many years here. And at £3.50 or so a pint at the Village Club, we are regularly economizing too!

A few days after saving a bundle at the 2024 Beer Festival, I had forgotten my offer to put pen to paper. The editor had not.

*Gareth Branston*

Your Local Contacts:			
School: Secretary/Head Teacher	820360	Maidstone Police	690690 or 101
Under 5's Pre-School:	820309	Village Hall Booking:	<a href="http://www.huntonvillagehall.co.uk">www.huntonvillagehall.co.uk</a>
Pond and Tree Warden: Sam Andrews	<a href="mailto:huntontreewarden@gmail.com">huntontreewarden@gmail.com</a>	Huntonwatch: <a href="mailto:huntonwatch@gmail.com">huntonwatch@gmail.com</a>	07907 019996
Rector: Revd. Lorna Faulkner*	747570	'Potholes' Hotline (KCC)	03000 418181
Hon Associate Rector: Revd. David Jones	741474	Hunton Ladies: Chris Summersgill	<a href="mailto:c.a.summersgill@btinternet.com">c.a.summersgill@btinternet.com</a>
Churchwarden: Iain Simmons	820875	PCSO - none	
	<a href="mailto:ishuntonchurchwarden@btinternet.com">ishuntonchurchwarden@btinternet.com</a>	Katie Lam MP	<a href="mailto:katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk">katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk</a>
Community Wardens Team	07811 271021	Village Club: Roger Lee: <a href="mailto:roger.c.lee@btinternet.com">roger.c.lee@btinternet.com</a>	820210
Hunton Bell Ringers: Lavinia Thompson	07885 763071	Reporting HGVs	<a href="mailto:huntontrafficroporting@gmail.com">huntontrafficroporting@gmail.com</a>
Contact details for other village clubs and organisations are available at <a href="http://www.huntonparishcouncil.org.uk">www.huntonparishcouncil.org.uk</a>			<b>*not available on Fridays</b>

Parish Council Contacts	
Parish Clerk: Sharon Goodwin - 681238, <a href="mailto:huntonpc@googlegmail.com">huntonpc@googlegmail.com</a>	Chairman: David Heaton - 820678, <a href="mailto:dhhuntonpc@gmail.com">dhhuntonpc@gmail.com</a>
Cllr Jonny Goddard – 820096, <a href="mailto:jonny@cheveneyfarm.co.uk">jonny@cheveneyfarm.co.uk</a>	Cllr Tony Stanbridge - 820721, <a href="mailto:tshuntonpc@gmail.com">tshuntonpc@gmail.com</a>
Cllr Annette Trought - 820448, <a href="mailto:annette@trought.com">annette@trought.com</a>	Cllr Mike Summersgill - 820429, <a href="mailto:mshuntonpc@btinternet.com">mshuntonpc@btinternet.com</a>
Cllr Iain Simmons - 820875, <a href="mailto:ishuntonpc@btinternet.com">ishuntonpc@btinternet.com</a>	

Diary Dates	
Gardening Club Social, Sat 2nd Nov;	Church Working Party, Sat 9th Nov; Walk / Lunch, Thurs 14th Nov; Wine Tasting, Sat 16th Nov;
Christmas Market, Sat 23rd Nov;	Wreath Making, Sat 30th Nov; Post Christmas Walk / Lunch, Sat 28th Dec.
Check out <a href="http://www.huntonparishcouncil.org.uk/events-list">www.huntonparishcouncil.org.uk/events-list</a> for the latest events. If you would like to add an event, email <a href="mailto:huntonpc@gmail.com">huntonpc@gmail.com</a>	

## Pastoral Letter

On Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> November this year, it is World Kindness Day. What is kindness?

Maybe it's about words: Thinking about what we want to say and the way we are going to say it. Are my words going to build someone up, encourage the best in them and for them? Do they communicate in a way that reflects the innate value of the person to whom I am speaking – or did they come with an 'edge' that made that person wince uncomfortably, feeling criticised or shamed in some way? Was I impatient or irritable? Manipulative or spiteful? Could I have said it better? Could I have been kinder?

Maybe it's about attitude: choosing to see the best in a person or situation. Do I carry suspicion and negative expectations into my interactions with others or do I approach them with grace – assuming well-meaning before malice? If I am upset by something someone says, or does, am I able to hold that position of grace; make allowances for the irritations that might affect someone else's day and not just consider my own?

Maybe it's an action: physically doing for others what we can; noticing their needs; keeping our eyes open for the opportunities we have to help someone; to do something that makes someone else's day lighter and helps them feel that they are seen and cared about. I think it's all three.

Kindness in our words, attitudes, and actions, can change the course of someone's day. Maybe even their life I suppose. And it changes our day too. Being kind on purpose feels good! We are made for it: The Bible speaks time and time again of God's loving-kindness and also tells us humanity was created in God's image. Kindness is part of our spiritual DNA.

You wouldn't know it, looking around the world right now. As we read and watch the news unfold on a daily basis – the pain and devastation of war. The political division; the fear of the future; the rising violence among our young people...

It can feel pretty hopeless. But let's not let it stop us from trying; from sowing the seeds of kindness in our communities.

One of my favourite Bible passages is Ephesians, chapter 4. It ends with the exhortation to 'be kind and compassionate to one another...' Couldn't we all do with a bit more of that? And maybe we could manage it for more than just one day!

*Love and blessings to you all, Lorna*

## Hunton Club AGM

The club AGM is on Friday, 29th November - doors open at 6.30 pm. The Committee really would like a good turnout at this event as they would like to know what changes members would like to see, what is good/ not so good etc. Of course there will also be the election of the committee members and we are always looking for volunteers.

## Volunteer Street Cleaners

As many of you know, MBC refuse to pick litter from our streets as they regard the roads as too dangerous – they have a point. An MBC road-sweeper truck visits us occasionally but can only collect litter when it happens to still be on the road rather than in the hedgerows or on the verges. Without our volunteers, rubbish would just accumulate until MBC close our roads to all traffic so they can clear them safely. We have no desire to see yet more road closures in our area!

A heartfelt thank you therefore to all who volunteer to help keep the roads in Hunton as litter free as possible, whenever you do it. Also, thank you to those who drive past us with consideration, and particularly to the lovely lady and her daughter who presented us with a lovely bunch of flowers and a packet of chocolate biscuits as a personal thank you - it was an even bigger boost than finding a £20 note on West Street! We would also like to thank the two young lads, who a little later, on seeing James stop his car in the road to pick up newly-thrown litter, stopped their car to ask if he was OK. The consideration shown was appreciated.

Further good news is that this time we collected less rubbish than in October 2023 (50 sacks of rubbish and extraneous car parts, mostly hub caps, down from 68). As a full-year total, we have picked up "only" 95 sacks compared to 150 in 2023. Hopefully this trend will continue next year. A final thank-you to Clockhouse Farm who take the rubbish we collect away for us – we couldn't do it without you.

*James and Andrea Forster*

## Wine Tasting Evening

A wine tasting evening is being held at Hunton Club on Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. Doors open at 7 pm. There will be a selection of wines to try accompanied by cheese and biscuits. This is an all ticket event and places are likely to be limited. To make a reservation please contact Helen at [hdennison@gmail.com](mailto:hdennison@gmail.com) or phone 07961203716. Tickets will be £20 with a £5 discount for members.



## Bowls Club News

Another bowling season has ended and time to reflect on our goals and achievements. We have played in our usual Weald and Maidstone & District League Matches with the Ladies gaining 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the M&D Ladies League and Runner's Up in the M&D Ladies Triples Competition. Our own competitions have been well supported with some of our new members reaching the finals. We have also enjoyed taking part in numerous tournaments around Kent & Sussex.

Our own fund-raising tournament was another huge success with a maximum of 48 players taking part from clubs travelling from as far away as Cornwall and Oxfordshire. Over 70 Lunches were served to players and guests in the Village Hall - it was by far one of the best Tournaments we have held making a profit of well over £1,250. Another highlight of the season was a fun-filled morning organised for the children of Hunton & Linton Pre-School on the green, with a number of ball and skittle games on the agenda. The green has weathered well during the summer and as always is the envy of all our visitors. Our thanks to all our members and volunteers who have made this another successful season!

*Angela Baptie*

## Hunton School news



At the time of writing we have been excitedly planning a trip to Howletts for all the children at Hunton CE Primary.

Since our successful SIAMS inspection we have been eager to celebrate and thought it appropriate that this year our annual Vision and Values Day was held away from school. As you know, school trips using coaches are very expensive yet with the high cost of living for families we really wanted this special excursion to go ahead for every child in the school, without it being a financial burden on our families.

Consequently, the School Council with the Head Boy and Head Girl planned numerous fund-raising events. What a start it was with a Cake Sale raising over £280!! This, together with a Y3 child so kindly donating some of his

pocket money, it was a positive start towards the £2,200 needed.

You may have seen us walking back from St Mary's Church in October. This was because the Rev Lorna, Becky and the PCC had the good idea that Y3 children, instead of our Y6 leavers, receive bibles from now on. This means that children can use their bible in RE lessons. So our Y4, 5 and 6 did not miss out, all of KS2 were kindly donated a Good News Bible. It was a wonderful service and we are grateful to the church and Mrs Simmons who presented each child by name with their bible.

Finally, we have welcomed Mrs Tatnell to our teaching team. She is an experienced KS2 teacher who will be teaching in Borton on Mondays and Porteous Class on Fridays.

Hunton School has Open Day Tours on November 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Please contact the school for more information.



## Chicken Farm update

The long-running Chainhurst Chicken Farm saga seems to be coming to life again. First proposed in late 2020, and subject to several Applicant re-designs and two legal responses by the residents' group WeLoveChainhurst (WLC) over three years, there was an abortive move to approve it at a Planning Committee in February, which was withdrawn for further technical submissions after Natural England finally objected to chemical effects on the protected/SSSI River Beult.

The Applicant was then given a 'public' end-July deadline to submit details, but MBC then allowed that to be extended another month and have not yet made public the fourth (?) version of new design details by mid-October, but they have confirmed to WLC that documents were received (which are not as yet available to be subject to scrutiny by WLC and their technical advisers). But MBC and the Applicant's Consultant have now agreed a deadline of 31st January 2025 to make a decision, which will go once more to Planning Committee (as it was called in by the three Parishes affected, back in 2021!), if it is recommended for approval.

Keep an eye out for more information from WLC in November, and/or check MA/20/505751 on the Planning Portal, where there are close to 1,000 entries of submissions of detail and objections to the scheme for 125,000 very clever chickens that are roaming outdoors 'free-range' for all daylight hours, but apparently 'poo-ing' 90% of their time within two large roosting sheds and just 10% on the pastures by the river! We've seen on the news for some time how that has been going with the abject pollution of the Rivers Wye and Severn on the Welsh border...and the steps that our Environment regulators have taken to control the situations there.

In further news, the unoccupied (since 2021) caravan behind the old hopper huts just over the bridge from Hunton has had a retrospective PlanAp for approval for temporary use opposed by Marden Parish and 'called in' by one of the Marden Ward Councillors, due primarily to it being on the functional flood plain. The timing of this retrospective application, three years after the caravan was reported to MBC Enforcement and the Owner was given six months to move it in 2021, is all rather odd according to WLC.

## Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

Wednesdays 8 – 11pm; Fridays 6.30 – 10.30pm; Sundays 8 – 10.30pm

### Garden tips for November

Plant tulip bulbs before the ground gets too wet or the weather inclement, or you'll find with the best of intentions they are still in their packet come the New Year!

Pot up seedlings you have around the garden that you want to keep and fill gaps in the borders for next year.

Bring tender plants into the greenhouse or protect the plants that are to remain outside with extra mulch and, if necessary, fleece or bubble wrap

Lift dahlia tubers after the first frost. Clean them off so they are dry and place them into dry compost to over winter in a frost-free place. Sow sweet peas and thunbergia now for next year's flowers.

In the vegetable garden, plant garlic bulbs and sow broad beans.

Cover ponds with netting to catch falling leaves and avoid build up in the pond but also making sure wildlife can still get access to the water

Make sure that containers are able to drain excess water by removing saucers under the pots to avoid waterlogging and if necessary, move to a sheltered spot.

*Sue Heaton*

### The Hunton Calendar is back

The 2025 Hunton calendar is now ready to order. Email [donna.hollingworth@live.co.uk](mailto:donna.hollingworth@live.co.uk) or call 01622 820868 (Act fast as the editors are aware this sold out pretty quickly when it was last available)

### Walk and Lunch

A village walk from Hunton club starting at 11 am on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> November will be followed by lunch. The walk will take about an hour and a half and lunch is from about 12.30 pm. The cost for club members is £10 or £15 for non-members. Please let Lesley know in advance if you hope to do either the walk or lunch or both on [lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com](mailto:lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com)

### Needles and Natter

This is a group which meets at Hunton Club on the Third Wednesday of each month at 8 pm. New members are very welcome. You don't have to bring anything, you can just chat or learn how to knit, crochet etc from another member of the group. Of course if you have an item you are working on or a finished item we would love to see it.

### Panto reunion

A panto reunion is being held at Hunton Club on Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. A chance to watch the DVD of the last performance, (once upon a time) singalong and drink beer (or tipple of choice!). All are welcome.

More singing on Monday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> at Carols at the Club at 7 pm. Again, all are welcome.

*Sam and Astrid*

### From Sextant to Sat Nav

The Hunton Ladies held an open meeting at which the speaker was ex-airline pilot Peter Griffiths. He was one of the first British pilots trained by a commercial airline who had not previously been with the RAF. He told us how planes were once navigated using a book, periscope and an instrument similar to a slide rule, which fixed the plane's location in the days before computers. He also entertained us with tales of near misses when engines had caught fire. A short video of planes landing at the old Hong Kong Airport brought back my own memories of flying past people's windows very close to buildings. We hope to welcome Peter back to continue the story about the second half of his career.

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

*Chris Summersgill*

**Benefice Service Rota – November 2024**

Church	3rd	10th	17th	24th
Coxheath 11:00 am	Communion CD	Remembrance Sunday - 10:45 LF	Communion LF	All-age worship LF and BP
East Farleigh 9:30 am	Morning Worship LF	Remembrance Sunday - 10:45 BP	Communion DJ	
West Farleigh 9:30 am		Remembrance Sunday - 10:45 SE		Morning Worship SE
Hunton 9:30 am	Communion DJ	Remembrance Sunday - 10:50 DJ	Family Service LF	
Linton 9:30 am		Remembrance Sunday - 10:15 CD		Communion CD

LF, Lorna Faulkner. DJ, David Jones. CD, Clinton Davis. BP, Becky Parham. SE, Sue Elliot.

#### Midweek Services

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

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

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