



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

Dear Hunton

We moved here three years ago and, when I had my second child, I realised that to survive the day with a newborn, a toddler and a puppy, we all needed to get out of the house. The kids weren't a huge fan of the car so, armed with wellies, raincoats, a robust trike, a huge bag of snacks and emergency toys we ventured out to the fields. Almost everyday. The kiddos loved it (well, most of the time). They went tractor-spotting, bug-hunting and puddle-jumping. We took out bird books, tree books and wildlife checklists. We have seen sheep, alpacas, ponies,



Photo by Donna Hollingworth

horses, chickens, cockerels, foxes and a honey buzzard — who we named Johnny Bravo. That's when I realised how wonderful this place is. How wonderful all of you are.

So, I write this to say thank you.

To the two next door who never complain; for the chats, the veggies and stories of your farmer days. To the neighbour who stopped by whilst I was on leave; for playing with the kids and giving me time to breathe! To the couple who care for and love our puppy. You make so much effort with us all — we feel so very lucky. To the random visits from the littles across the way; our kids adore you, you always make their day. To those who let us meet 'Charlie Krisp' (their one-day-old foal) and let our kiddo sit on Jack, the horse, during one of our strolls. To the neighbours who own Lottie and Tilly, your ponies get the kiddos walking even when it's chilly! To Hunton Engineering for the trucks, the welders and the cranes, the kiddos love watching them, even in the rain. To those who let us feed your fish and see your honey bees, for all the chats and for disentangling me from trees. Thank you to the farmers — we've sat in tractor cabs and been given crops; I hope the kids' tractor excitement never stops. To our neighbours with the sloes, fossil bones and fairy wands. Thank you for the walks and saving Nana's dog from your pond! To those who stop to chat, show us woodchips or talk of snakes. You don't realise how much of an impression you all make. We've been in the right time, right place — it's been luck. Like when we met our friendly neighbourhood ducks.

So dear Hunton, thank you, for being unique. You lifted our days when the weather was bleak.

The kids love Hunton, in fact one recently said, "I want to live here forever" just before bed.

So, if you live in this village and are yet to explore, get your wellies, grab some snacks and get out the door!

Happy New Year to you all.

With Love, Your grateful neighbour.

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	Katie Lam MP	katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk
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			<i>*not available on Fridays</i>

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 Simon Webb - 07878 018997, simon.webb5@btinternet.com

Diary Dates

Gardening Club Social: Saturday 22nd February; 'Mexican Night' at Hunton Village Club: Friday 7th March; Plants & Produce: Saturday 10th May.
Check out www.huntonparishcouncil.org.uk/events-list for the latest events. If you would like to add an event, email huntonpc@gmail.com

Dear Readers

Happy New Year to you all! The new year offers us the opportunity to make a fresh start, to put behind us the past and to look to the future and also to perhaps mark the present. Fresh starts have perhaps been the mark of life's journey from the very start of our lives. Going to 'big school', moving on to a different class each July, our first job, all the 'firsts' in life. Who didn't like that fresh first page of a new exercise book. No crossings out, no comments by our teacher to haunt us from the past. Life has been so hard at times and yet looking back there have been the good times, the times that we wish to remain with and hoped would not end.

Even as we get older there are those moments of 'fresh starts' and the new year offers us hope. Maybe you don't look at it that way and are not filled with hope, dreading the coming days, weeks and months yet the odd thing is that sometimes when we look back we realise that things didn't always turn out as we expected. Life did change, something or someone joined us on the way and we were distracted from our expected journey.

Hope is in many ways a strange word. We hope for so much and can be so disappointed when things don't turn out as expected. Most of my Christmas cards over the years have expressed the sentiment of hope for the coming year. What does it mean? I looked up 'hope' on Google and found the following. **Hope** - a feeling of expectation and desire for a particular thing to happen. Yet we know what we hope for doesn't always materialise. Yet the sentiment of hope prevails as life throws at us things we least expected, some good things others we are sad about, yet life goes on and hope is what drives us. So start another year with hope, don't hang on too much with the past but be eager to seek out those things which in your life you value.

I had hoped that someone else was writing the January letter but their circumstances changed. So, this letter goes to you at the very last moment with all my hope for you this year.

David

Finishing the school term with joy

December was the perfect time for us to demonstrate our school value of 'joy'. This one has been extremely joyful. We had the school Christmas fayre, the little ones' nativity, our Christingle service and a 'strict' school trip to Leeds Castle for Years 5 & 6 for Victorian Day.

Santa made a very special visit to our fayre — with students dressing up as Santa's helpers. (One of the elves may have been me, wink wink!) It was a lovely set-up outside school and the queues were massive! Inside the hall there were stalls of all kinds from crocheted goodies to chocolate raffles where the prizes were as long as your arm. We had our own 'Elfridges' for parents' gifts.

It was the little ones' first nativity which made it very special. They had rehearsed lots, dressed up brilliantly and had excellent acting skills. For the older children it was special for a different reason. Year 6 got a brand new play about a modern-day family rushing around to prepare for Christmas. However, they had some uninvited guests: a family of mice! Confused by the weird decorations the humans were hanging on a tree and around the house, Grandpa mouse explained the true meaning of Christmas through the traditional nativity story.

In December, Years 5 & 6 got to travel back to 1875 to be Victorians. Dressed in period costumes we experienced life under strict rules. We finished our time at Leeds Castle by scurrying through the maze, singing carols and regaling Christmas stories. It turned out the harsh teachers could smile! The day was a lot of fun, even if our shoulders were aching from the no-slouch rules. December really was joyful and we will endeavour to live our other school values in the new year.

Wren Smith

Hunton Village Club AGM

The Hunton Village Club AGM was held on Friday 29th November. The event was supported by the usual number of members, although slightly down on the previous year. The Chairman, Roger Lee, reported that the Club had run a number of fundraising events during the year, including two new ones — the "Green Hop" weekend and a wine-tasting evening. Expenditure during the year included new beer lines and pumps, a replacement glass washer and the installation of new front and back bar tops. Membership is strong — around 130 — and the decision was taken not to increase the annual subscription of £25 as the finances are in good shape, thanks mainly to fundraising events. The committee and officers were re-elected, with the addition of Zoe Webb who was voted onto the committee. Kerry Larkin distributed some feedback forms as the committee is keen to know what members like / dislike. It was agreed to leave opening times the same for now but concern was expressed at the falling number of attendees on Friday evenings. Potential projects were discussed, including painting table legs, re-upholstering and or replacing chairs, redecorating the back of the bar and extending the car park over the grassed areas. All Club Volunteers were thanked for their time and effort. Finally, members were reminded to renew their membership before the end of February 2025, to take advantage of the £5 discount.

Roger Lee



A Hunton Riddle

I'm neither alive nor built by hand,
Yet I've shaped this village where I stand.
Older than words, quiet I remain,
A hidden force in this domain.
What am I?

Answer: See back Page

Stepping happily into the New Year

It's easy, when making new year's resolutions, to set the bar a little too high then find by mid January that many have fallen by the wayside. So, if I was going to recommend just one new year's resolution – with many benefits – it would be to make a commitment to explore the local footpaths. I've lived in Hunton for nearly 15 years and yet there are still footpaths, tracks and views that take me by surprise.

Having a dog gets me out walking every day but, dog or no dog, it's still worth making the effort. Walking, especially in gorgeous countryside such as the orchards, fields and riverbanks around here is proven to be great for your physical and mental health. Then there's the fact that you meet people – not always (sometimes it's nice just to have peace and quiet and your own thoughts) – which helps you feel a part of the community. Feeling connected is another thing that's great for your health and wellbeing.

In the spring, my husband Jon and I joined Hunton Run Club. For me, it wasn't entirely intentional – I was just going to go the once, for moral support. This has introduced me to even more routes, in daylight and after dark, that I didn't know existed. Add to this the bridlepaths and TROT routes you can enjoy on horseback... and we're really spoilt for choice in Hunton.

Ordnance Survey offer a personalised map service, where you can make your home the centre of the map. We have just such a map on our boot-room wall, which is great for inspiration or to check routes on your return. So, if you've got a few pounds left after Christmas, why not treat yourself and get exploring? It'll be the best new year's resolution you could make...

Jen Dixon

Hunton Run Club (plus some other running related news)

Continuing the theme of exploring all that Hunton has to offer...if you want to get a little fitter whilst exploring, then why not come along and see what Hunton Run Club is all about? We're a friendly bunch, who run at a relaxed pace and always make sure no one is left behind. Our runs are more 'sociable jogs' than serious runs (see below for news on some 'proper' runners!). We meet every Tuesday at 18:30pm outside Hunton Village Club for a 5km (3mile) loop. For more information, email Adam Moore at: mail@adammoore.net or text / call on: 07766 566449

In other running related news, a special mention to Guy Bowers, who was selected to represent Kent, after four successful races in the Kent Cross Country League. Additionally, Dan Odling, is currently running for Loughborough University Athletics Club and has recently posted a very impressive time of 35:19 for a 9.3km cross-country race. Congratulations to both!



Adam Moore

Stonewall

As you passed Stonewall in years gone by, do you remember seeing a lady in a hat up on a ladder working on the house? That was Mrs Manley. She and her husband Mr Manley spent over 50 years working to restore Stonewall. Having carried out an enormous amount of beautifully detailed work, unfortunately they never got to see it finished. We are continuing their journey, bringing Stonewall into the 21st century.

With no intention of moving or carry out a renovation project but an addiction to Rightmove, we stumbled across Stonewall. It jumped off the pages at my wife, who eventually convinced me we should look at it. The house sang to us the moment we crossed the threshold and we knew we needed to be the ones to complete the work. Having never undertaken a renovation project before, we needed the right help and this we have found in the talented historic building specialists, AT Palmer and Stephen Langer Architects. Using traditional building techniques and materials we are very near completing the works, making it a comfortable home, whilst maintaining its history, integrity and personality.

We have started to do some digging to piece together the history of the house. Stonewall formed part of a farming estate, which was divided and sold in the mid 1960s. Researching the history of the house, we now know the oldest part of the house was likely built as a Wealden Hall House in the 14th century. The house has been extended over the years with John and James Allen, clothiers who funded the bell at Hunton Church, adding the whole west wing in 1634. We also know that Robert Goulding, an apiarist, lived here in the 1830s and built a thatched bee house for his bees. Ethel Manwaring, whose parents, Frederick and Adelaide Manwaring, bought Stonewall from Goulding before 1871, lived here until her death in the 1960s. We hope to do the Manleys proud and to enjoy Stonewall for as long as they did.

Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

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

Hunton Christmas Market 2024

'Twas the night before Hunton's Christmas market, when all through the Church, the stalls were set and mulled wine prepared. The cakes were laid out and barbecue was lit, in hopes that St Nicholas soon would be there...

At best, the weather could have been described as inclement on November 23rd but it takes more than a little bad weather to deter the residents of Hunton! Over 200 visitors were welcomed, many new faces as well as the regulars, including Father Christmas and his elves. We are happy to report another successful Christmas Market, with a marvellous total of more than £1,200 being raised, which will be invaluable in supporting the work needed at the church.

We already have half the stall-holders asking for the date of the 2025 Hunton Christmas Market but, as ever, we'll have to wait a few weeks for Father Christmas and his elves to open their diaries and start taking bookings. Thank you all those who contributed to making it such a very special afternoon; it would not be possible without you!

Fay Joyce & David Jones

Gardening Top Tips for January

There is nothing in the garden that can't wait a month or two — so you can relax, read the seed and plant catalogues, plan for the year ahead and get outside when the weather allows. The days are short so you need to pick and choose your jobs depending on what the season throws at you...

- Retreat to the greenhouse, if you have one, and check out the dahlias and cannas you are storing there. Examine other plants you are over-wintering for signs of aphids and treat accordingly;
- Clean pots and containers in preparation for the coming year and clean the greenhouse — removing any shading not required over the winter months;
- Start sowing hardy annuals in the greenhouse;
- Outside, fruit trees can be pruned along with gooseberries and other fruit bushes;
- Climbing roses can be cut back and tied onto their supports and wisteria and vines cut back to 2-3 buds;
- Make sure brassicas are protected from the pigeons. Rhubarb can be covered for forcing an earlier and more tender crop;
- Clean bird feeders, bird baths and bird boxes and keep feeding the birds;
- When the ground is not frozen, it is an ideal time to plant out bare-rooted plants such as trees, roses and hedging plants.

Sue Heaton

A few dates for your diary

I am sure there will be further dates to pencil in shortly but here are a few to start off your 2025 calendars:

- Gardening Club Social: Saturday 22nd February
- 'Mexican Night' at Hunton Village Club: Friday 7th March
- Plants & Produce: Saturday 10th May
- Beer Festival: Saturday 30th August
- Green Hop Beer Weekend: Friday 24th – Sunday 26th October

Riddle Answer:

The Greensand Ridge

Benefice Service Rota – January 2025				
Church	5th	12th	19th	26th
Coxheath 11.00am	Communion CD	Morning Prayer LF	Communion LF	All -Age Worship BP
East Farleigh 9.30am	Morning Prayer BP		Communion CD	
West Farleigh 9.30am		Communion DJ		Morning Worship SE
Hunton 9.30am	Communion DJ		Family Service DJ	
Linton 9.30am		Morning Worship LF		Communion DJ
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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