



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

Hunton Christmas Market

Nov 22nd At 3 pm – 5.30 pm

Yes, this is the month it eventually happens! With 15 stalls being provided by people from outside the village, but living locally, and another 8 stalls from within the village 2025 promises to be a bumper Market. We have most of last year's stalls and 4 new ones. We hope there is something for everyone to enjoy and maybe to find those special last-minute gifts. The Friends of St Mary's will be offering bacon rolls, a baker will be displaying her birthday and Christmas cakes, baked to order. For the children and some not so young now Father Christmas is once again offering hope and expectation to his visitors. It is all happening. See you all on Saturday 22nd from 3pm onwards.

Christmas Bottle Stall

By the time you read this, it will be less than 3 weeks to go before Santa Claus visits the Christmas Market in the Church. He is well known for enjoying a tippie and is a keen supporter of the Bottle Stall!

Therefore, we are appealing for your donations of bottles of any type (spirits, wine, beers, soft drinks and so on) to make this very popular stall a success again this year. We rely entirely on your generosity to run the stall, where everyone has a chance of winning!

You can bring bottles along to the church anytime on the day – we will be setting up from mid-morning, or contact Jane and Dai Langdon 01622 820705, ejanelangdon@yahoo.co.uk to arrange collection.

Remembrance Sunday at St Mary's Church

Please join us on Sunday 9th November for this special service, followed by coffee. The service starts at 10.50 am. Together, we will pay our respects to all those who died in the line of duty or have been harmed in our world today.

We are planning to display examples of copies of letters written by those serving overseas to their loved ones, all of whom have connections to Hunton, both past and current. Some of these are from WW1 and some from WW2, some reflect the dreadfulness of war while others are more thoughtful, but all are moving in the context in which they are written. If you have any letters to add to this collection please get in touch with James Forster on forsters.hunton@btinternet.com or bring them along on the day.

School Children Write Happy Poems

To celebrate National Poetry Day in October, Hunton school pupils wrote group or individual poems which they then posted through letterboxes in Hunton. The children loved writing and posting their poems for the purpose of brightening someone's day and we have received phone calls and emails from the recipients saying how happy they were to receive a poem through their door.



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	01622 820403
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	Katie Lam MP	katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk
	Ishuntonchurchwarden@btinternet.com	Assistant to MP Katie Lam	020 7219 8175
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

*not available on Fridays

Contact details for other village clubs and organisations are available at www.huntonparishcouncil.org.uk

Parish Council Contacts

Parish Clerk: Sharon Goodwin - 681238, clerk@huntonparishcouncil.gov.uk	Chairman: David Heaton - 820678, dhhuntonpc@gmail.com
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, isimmons@huntonparishcouncil.gov.uk
Cllr Simon Webb - 07878 018997, simon.webb5@btinternet.com	

Diary Dates

Remembrance Service, 9th November at 10.50am; Church Working Party, 26th November, 9 am - 12 noon; Curry Night, 28th November;
Hunton Christmas Market, 22nd November; 'Carols at the Club', 19th December; Carol Service at St Mary's, 24th December, 6.00pm.
Check out www.huntonparishcouncil.gov.uk/events-list for the latest events. If you would like to add an event, email clerk@huntonparishcouncil.gov.uk



Hunton



www.huntonparishcouncil.org.uk



@HuntonVillage

Pastoral Letter

For many of us November is the month of reflection and looking back. This is probably because of Remembrance Day on the 11th, and this year on the 9th, Remembrance Sunday. Both these days provide the opportunity for us to reflect on all those who have died in the first and second world wars – those ancestors that we may never have known – as well as remembering those who have died in the many other conflicts that have happened since.

This seems particularly poignant when, as I write, our news is full of the potential for the end to the war in Gaza. By the time you read this there may be peace.... we can only hope! And that's the point, as we look back at the names of those who've lost their lives in conflicts we can be filled with sadness but also with hope. The hope that this time maybe things will be different, this time maybe we *will* learn the lessons and not inflict pain and suffering on others again.

The names of those who've died may be engraved on a stone monument for all to see, or they may be engraved solely on your heart, but wherever those names are, as we look back, we can be grateful for the sacrifices that brought peace to the nations again.

This time of looking back, reflecting on the past, gives us the opportunity to think how we can affect the world and make it a better place on an individual scale. Not many of us can affect governments directly, but we can take responsibility for our own actions. We can choose to treat those we meet with kindness; we can choose to treat others with respect, we can choose the words we use and the way we say things and very soon, if we all begin to treat others the way we would like to be treated, we may find that the world is becoming a better place to live.

For Christians this is choosing to live our lives like Jesus, calling out injustice and unkindness whilst treating others with care and respect, putting their needs before our own. It's not an easy choice to make in a world that seems to value self above all others.

But just as the butterfly effect says that small actions can have consequences miles away, maybe, just maybe, we can create a cascade of kindness spreading out across the world that everyone can join in with.... it's got to be worth a try, hasn't it?

Written with hope, Becky

What's On at Hunton Village Club – Nov & Dec

Well done to all involved to make the 'Pingo' night fun with lots of laughs, friendly competition, and some questionable bingo calling (you know who you are!). Pingo was part of the 'Last Friday of the Month' series which are starting to fill up nicely thanks to all who continue to enjoy the club.

Coming Up....

Friday 28th November – 'Curry Night' -Warm up with a delicious curry evening. Doors open 7pm - Food served around 8pm. £10 Members - £12.50 Non. Kids (Under 16's) £5.

Friday 19th December – 'Carols at the Club'. Get your festive jumpers on and sing along to your favourite Christmas Carols - Always a fun evening. Who knows....there might be some Mulled Wine & Mince Pies on offer too! No booking required - just rock up!

Friday 26th December - The club will be open for a couple of hours around Midday, so if you are looking to escape the Christmas Mayhem, you've now got the perfect excuse.

Keep an eye on the Hunton FB page for more info and if you are a club member, you'll see the event line up in your monthly update. If you're not a member, then why not join and support your club. And remember....What Happens at the Club, Stays at the Club! (Well Almost.....)

Goodbye Gilly

The sun shone when the family and friends of Gilly Devas gathered in Hunton Church for a Service of Thanksgiving for her life. It was a token of the love and regard in which Gilly was held that there was not a spare seat to be had in the church. Gilly's sons and daughter, Kim, Laura and Jordi and step-daughter Annabel her grand-children and her many friends gathered together to listen to eulogies and readings that captured her life and character perfectly and to say our goodbyes. The service was taken by the Rev David Jones and Marian Greensill played the organ. The church was full of beautiful flowers gifted by the Bank's family from Grace's wedding with more arranged by Sarah Jones and her team of flower arrangers. Wendy Simmons read one of the lessons. Afterwards the congregation was invited back to Gilly's house and garden when happy memories of times together with her were shared.

Wayside Train Day

Riding behind a small steam engine for 20 minutes as it weaves its way through 5 acres of woodland with bridges, tunnels and even a station, delights children and octogenarians alike – as well as those in between!

A huge thank you to Lawrence and Sue Martin who, supported by family and fellow train enthusiasts, opened their garden, sold raffle tickets and arranged for tea and tempting cakes, hosting another fantastic train day while raising £500 each for their chosen charities, including St Mary's Church and Riding for the Disabled. Thank you all!

Road Closed Ahead

The highways department can't win, can they? The other month we were informed Road Closed Ahead at Linton corner going in the direction of Hastings. I was going to Staplehurst and asked myself where was the road closed ahead. Off I went, passing sign after sign warning me that the road ahead was closed. I got to All Saints church and still no road closed. Where was it closed? No, not Cranbrook nor Hawkhurst but Knoxbridge. It was helpful to know but the concern as I passed so many signs that I might have to follow a diversion sign before I got to where I wanted to go did divert my attention for a while. Then the other day, at the junction of Heath Road and Hunton Hill the sign appeared again – Road Closed ahead. Where? I was only going to St Mary's. Three more signs until I got to the church and still no road closed! I found out later it was closed at the school in Hunton. I'm glad I live in the area because if I didn't, I would have to follow the diversion signs and might have met another 'Road Closed Ahead' and had to follow another diversion.

The question for us all is 'how far ahead do we need to know a road is closed?' Are Highways mind readers and know that at the top of Hunton Hill we are all going to Yalding in which case the road is closed but if I was going to Marden or Linton it wasn't closed. Going from Staplehurst to Charing the other day I came across two 'Road Ahead Closed' signs. I ignored both and found the closure was on side roads so got through to where I was going without difficulty. Rant over, they do their best and perhaps if I had a satnav I wouldn't need to worry.

Signed - Coxheath resident trying to get out of the village!

Garden tips for November

Collect up the leaves to make leaf mould. It can take a couple of years to mature but makes excellent compost for mulching when it is ready. Either, using chicken wire, make a cage and leave it open to the elements but watering it if it gets too dry, or alternatively fill black plastic sacks with the leaves and water before sealing and leaving it for a year or two.

Cover garden ponds to prevent leaves falling into the water but ensure that the wild animals and birds can still have access to drinking water

Have your water butts and receptacles cleaned and ready to capture rainwater.

Protect plants in pots by bringing the tender ones indoors or into a greenhouse. Wrap up plants with fleece or bubble wrap if they are tender but too large to move indoors.

Prevent plants in pots outside from getting waterlogged during heavy bouts of rain. Raise the pots off the ground with bricks or special feet and remove any trays and dishes from underneath them so that water can drain freely.

Protect the roses from their roots rocking in severe winds by doing a basic prune to reduce the height of the plant prior to the final prune in the Spring. Climbing roses can be pruned and tied in now.

Sue Heaton

Hunton Ladies are Bewitched

Councillor Claire Kehily entranced the Hunton Ladies at their September meeting with a talk about the Maidstone Witch hangings. She recounted the history of "witches" who were, hundreds of years ago, the "wise" women who local people consulted for herbal remedies to cure their health problems. Over the centuries these women with their healing powers gradually became feared and against a backdrop of religious fervour were thought to be malicious and in league with the devil. They were persecuted and brought to trial. In 1632 six "witches" were hanged on a part of Penenden Heath called Gallows Hill. Claire has undertaken much research into the local history of these maligned women, and although not extensively touched on here, her delivery left all the ladies intrigued. She has a petition going to have a memorial erected in Maidstone to remember these women who were so unjustly persecuted and hanged.

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

Anna Banks run for Diabetes UK - Royal Parks Half Marathon

On Sunday the 12th October I took part in the Royal Parks Half Marathon and apart from a few aching muscles, I was pleased to complete the run in 2 hours 15 minutes, my personal best for this length run.

Following the recent quiz night at The Club I really want to thank the generosity of Hunton friends and residents who enabled me to raise £1,642 for this worthwhile charity, with donations still coming in.

Thank you again, Anna Banks



Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

Wednesdays 8 – 11pm; Fridays 6.30 – 10.30pm (2nd and last Fridays only); Sundays 8 – 10.30pm

Supper's success

A great evening was enjoyed by those who came to the Hunton Harvest Supper on the 4th October. The hall was beautifully decorated for the season and those attending enjoyed home cooked lasagne, with chocolate brownies for dessert. There were games to play including a guess the weight of the pumpkin (7.6kg) and guess the number of acorns (248) in the jar in line with the Autumnal theme!

Many thanks to the friends of St Mary's for organising this event which raised in the region of £1300 towards the cost of roof repairs for the church tower. About £200 of the total was given in donations by people from the village who were unable to go to the supper but still wanted to contribute.



Down Another History Rabbit Hole!



In the church there is a photograph of a knight's helm (early word for helmet), that was made in the second half of the 16th century and which belonged to Sir Thomas Fane of Burston (now Buston) Manor. Having been stolen from the church and then recovered in 1969, it is now kept in the Guildhall Museum, Rochester. I asked if I could view the item and take some new photographs so that we have more up to date records of what is held there and they were happy to oblige.

Before going, I thought I ought to know something of the man whose helm it was, finding that Sir Thomas was born in about 1540. He was educated at Maidstone Grammar School, knighted for services to Parliament and died in 1606. Otherwise, he was less interesting than his older brother, who was also called Sir Thomas! This older Thomas was born 1538

and, aged 16, took part in the Thomas Wyatt rebellion against Queen Mary in 1554. He was caught, incarcerated in the Tower of London for four months and was then fortunate to be pardoned on account of his youth.

There are Fane memorials in the church carrying their coat of arms, which include three striking golden gauntlets. The right to include these on their coat of arms was apparently granted after a Welsh soldier, called John Fane, was one of three men who captured and held for ransom the French King, John II during the Battle of Poitiers in 1356. The ransom took France eight years to raise, and John was awarded a share, securing the Fane family fortune for generations to come.

Hunton had other connections with the Wyatt Rebellion, in that Sir Thomas Wyatt owned Hunton Court. He was only 32 when he was beheaded at the Tower and then quartered in April 1554!

Christmas Services

Advent Sunday, the first Sunday of the Church's New Year is on Sunday, November 30th this year. Being a fifth Sunday in the month the Benefice Service this year will be held at 10.30am on November 30th at 10.30am and will be led by the Archdeacon of Tonbridge, The Venerable Nick Cornell.

For those planning their Christmas, the Carol Service at St Mary's Hunton will be at 6.00pm on Christmas Eve – Wednesday, December 24th.

Benefice Service Rota – November 2025					
Church	2 nd	9 th	16 th	23 rd	30 th
Coxheath 11:00 am	Communion LF	10:45 LF	Communion LF + NC	All-age worship All-age team	
East Farleigh 9:30 am	Morning Worship NC + BP	10:45 Parish Council	Communion DJ		
West Farleigh 9:30 am		10:45 SE		Morning Worship DJ	
Hunton 9:30 am	Communion CD	10:50 DJ	Family Service LF		Benefice Service Archdeacon Nick Cornell
Linton 9:30 am		10:15 CD		Communion LF	
LF -Lorna Faulkner, DJ – David Jones, BP- Becky Parnham, CD -Clinton Davis, SE – Sue Elliott					
Midweek Services					
Coxheath - Every Thursday; Holy Communion, 10:00 am; Linton - Holy Communion last Wednesday of each month, 12.00 followed by lunch					

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