



Next Editors: James and Andrea Forster : huntonherald@outlook.com  
All items for the next edition of the Herald to the Editors by 15th December

## Remembrance Sunday Service at St Mary's

The Service, which was led by the Reverend David Jones, was most moving and thought provoking. It was complemented by uplifting organ music, traditional hymns and individually composed pieces of poetry written by three pupils from Hunton School. In total, sixty-three people joined 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 also prayed for peace in our troubled world now. The laying of wreaths, by members of the community, provided an additional village tribute to the fallen. Thanks to those who produced such beautiful flower arrangements; as a result, the church looked fitting in every way. The collection was given to the British Legion; in total, this amounted to £131.50.

*Wendy Simmons*

The beautiful knitted garlands which were placed on the two silhouettes outside the church were much appreciated and added to the poignancy of the occasion.

### St Mary's Churchyard, Hunton

The Kent Family History Society have just completed a full survey of the gravestones in St. Mary's Churchyard. This was carried out on a voluntary basis and as a result every gravestone and the inscription on it is now photographed and recorded. This is the first survey since Mr. Butcher of Hunton carried out his survey at the end of the last century. It is the first to photograph every grave with one of the first graves being a table top gravestone, erected in 1652, for Nicholas Snatt of Jennings.

Of course not all burials are marked by the erecting of a headstone. Records are kept of all burials and we have in St. Mary's records of all burials taken from around 1828 onwards with their location on a plan and in the Burial Books. Earlier records are incomplete and are held in the County Archive in Maidstone.

We are extremely grateful to the Kent Family History Society for carrying out the survey and ensuring that the information is now recorded and held securely in their archive as well as in St. Mary's. Further information of the Kent Family History Society is on their website at [www.kfhs.org.uk](http://www.kfhs.org.uk).

*David Jones*

### Carol Service at St Mary's Church Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December

The traditional Carol Singing Service will be held on Christmas Eve at St Mary's Church at 6.00pm. Welcome in Christmas with traditional carols and readings, mulled wine and a time to come together as a community before the family gathering. Further Christmas services will be held in the benefice at the different churches as shown on the final page of the Hunton Herald.

### Churchyard Working Party, Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December

There will be a church and churchyard working party from 9 am to 12 noon to have a final clean before Christmas. Any one who has a free gap during the morning would be very welcome and it would be appreciated if you could contact [fay.joyce@btinternet.com](mailto:fay.joyce@btinternet.com) to ensure there are enough flapjacks to go round at the tea and coffee break at 11 am.

Your Local Contacts:		Maidstone Police	690690 or 101
School: Secretary/Head Teacher	820360	Village Hall Booking:	<a href="http://www.huntonvillagehall.co.uk">www.huntonvillagehall.co.uk</a>
Under 5's Pre-School:	820309	Huntonwatch: <a href="mailto:huntonwatch@gmail.com">huntonwatch@gmail.com</a>	07907 019996
Pond and Tree Warden: Sam Andrews	<a href="mailto:huntontreewarden@gmail.com">huntontreewarden@gmail.com</a>	'Potholes' Hotline (KCC)	03000 418181
Rector: Revd. Lorna Faulkner*	747570	Hunton Ladies: Chris Summersgill	<a href="mailto:c.a.summersgill@btinternet.com">c.a.summersgill@btinternet.com</a>
Hon Associate Rector: Revd. David Jones	741474*	PCSO - none	
Churchwarden: Iain Simmons	820875	Helen Grant MP <a href="mailto:helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk">helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk</a>	0207 219 7107
	<a href="mailto:Ishuntonchurchwarden@btinternet.com">Ishuntonchurchwarden@btinternet.com</a>	Village Club: Roger Lee: <a href="mailto:roger.c.lee@btinternet.com">roger.c.lee@btinternet.com</a>	820210
Community Wardens Team	07811 271021	Reporting HGVs	<a href="mailto:huntontrafficroporting@gmail.com">huntontrafficroporting@gmail.com</a>
Hunton Bell Ringers: Lavinia Thompson	07885 763071		<b>*not available on Fridays</b>

Contact details for other village clubs and organisations are available at [www.huntonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.huntonparishcouncil.org.uk)

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>	Cllr Jean Fuller - 07738 935630, <a href="mailto:jfhuntonpc@outlook.com">jfhuntonpc@outlook.com</a>

Diary Dates		
Fri 1 Dec - Village Club AGM 7.30pm;	Sat 2 Dec - Christmas Harmony Evening, Village Club;	Sat 16 Dec - Church and Churchyard Clean 9am to 12 noon;
Mon 18 Dec - Christmas Carols, Village Club 7.30;	24 Dec - St Mary's Carol Service 6.00pm;	Sat 30 Dec - Post-Christmas Walk and/or Lunch, Village Club
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

Years ago, when we were particularly strapped for Christmas cash we received an envelope through the door 2 days before Christmas. It had £300 in it and a note suggesting we fill the kids' stockings. £100 extra for each child! There were more than a few happy tears. Then the most extraordinary thing happened. I began to feel uncomfortable and explained to my husband that seeing as we had already bought the children's presents and spent what we could afford we ought not to keep the money. We ought to give it away. It would be wrong to buy 'too much'.

We had been miraculously given the opportunity to bless our kids with unexpected abundance and I passed it up. I am ashamed to say I didn't stop to think about what it would have meant to my children to have experienced that blessing. So, all at my behest, we put some of the money back in an envelope and posted it through what I now realise was the door of the very people that gave it to us! The rest would go to another friend and then to charity. We had Christmas and the boys were delighted with the presents they had and I felt utterly dreadful.

A couple of years later I was cleaning the house on Christmas Eve and remembering the incident – still feeling the pinch of regret. As I cleaned I prayed asking God for another chance and as I prayed there was a knock on the door! I was so excited. Could it be?? I ran downstairs and opened the front door and there stood a lady I didn't know holding a... huge tray of... mushrooms!!!

Well, what could I do? I had to laugh and I accepted the mushrooms. God was winking at me I am sure. The truth is we might get ourselves all het up about what we do or don't buy; what we can or can't afford; we might even have hoped for £300 and got mushrooms instead... but nothing we could imagine could compare with the gift of the child whose birth is at the heart of this celebration. In Jesus, God has given us the most precious gift. The gift of himself. All we need to do is open the door of our hearts to receive him. *'For to us a child is born. To us a son is given...'*

Wishing you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

Lorna

## Post-Christmas Walk and / or Lunch Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> December

Bring your families, friends and well-behaved dogs for a refreshing circular walk of about 1.5 hours leaving the Club at 11am. Lunch (£10 a head for Club members and £12 for non-members) will be served from about 12.30pm. This will also be an early opportunity to renew memberships, taking advantage of the £5 discount for renewing before the end of February. Come for just the walk or just for lunch or both but please contact Lesley to reserve your places. [lesley.lee@btinternet.com](mailto:lesley.lee@btinternet.com).

## The Hunton Wombles Strike Again!

Once again, thank you to all who helped collect rubbish from our roads. It was a wet and windy week but we collected another 68 large sacks of rubbish together with multiple car parts too large to fit into a sack. This lifts our 2023 sack count to 150 up from 91 last year, but neither figure includes the rubbish that we know some villagers collect regularly and dispose of themselves and we owe you our thanks too!

We find that rubbish collected changes year to year, e.g. fewer cigarette packs/more vapes, sex toys etc. appearing in surprising places, but the award for peculiar dumping practice on this occasion goes to the person or group leaving about 20 urine filled drinks bottles in one layby in Lughorse Lane! In the most unlikely event that you, dear reader, are one of our rubbish dumpers, PLEASE don't take this as a challenge to come up with other newsworthy practices – instead try taking your trash home with you!

We also found a set of keys by the corner of Lughorse Lane and the start of West Street. If you have lost keys there then please e-mail [forsters.hunton@btinternet.com](mailto:forsters.hunton@btinternet.com).

Sadly, there are some houses which appear to treat the roads as overflow rubbish bins. Whilst it will be up to individual rubbish collectors, going forward you should not assume that your rubbish will be tidied up for you. As a group of volunteers we have enough to do clearing the roads of rubbish thrown by unknown passing motorists, so you may be left with the evidence of your carelessness and find appropriate reports submitted to the authorities instead.

## Oh yes we did, Oh no we didn't!

October half term saw us once again staging our biennial Hunton Pantomime. This year we performed "Once Upon a Time", an original pantomime, scripted, choreographed, directed and produced by our very own wonderfully talented Sharon Winters supported as ever by her backroom team of helpers. We are so blessed in Hunton to have so many talented people in the village who give up time and energy to make the panto happen. These include sound and light engineers, set designers, carpenters, costume makers, programme designers, sponsorship coordinators to name a few. Thankfully the members of the cast are simply willing to get on stage, strut their stuff and generally make fools of themselves!

As in previous years, our main reason for performing is to raise money for our chosen charities. This year we were thrilled to achieve the fabulous total of £3448.60. So an enormous thank you is due to all the lovely people out there who bought tickets and also to the many businesses who sponsored us. We hope you all enjoyed watching the panto as much as we enjoyed performing it!

This year the profits will be equally divided between two charities - The Friends of St Mary's and a cause very close to the hearts of two of our cast members - Retts UK.

And finally, after directing the last five pantomimes, Sharon has said enough is enough and is finally hanging up her panto hat. A huge thank you to her and all the panto team. The panto has given us so many happy memories and created new friendships along the way. It would be so sad if this were to be the final one.

Of course we all remember what Sharon said after the last panto so my advice is to "Save the Date" for 2025! 😊

## Hunton Primary School

Eventually our Visions and Values Day took place after having to be postponed because of the weather. On the morning of this special day an exciting and eager buzz went around the school; it was all the students of Hunton School could talk about. We were put into three groups of mixed ages so it was wonderful to work and play with children across all the different classes. After the inspiring assembly from Mrs Makey the joy that went around the school was a special moment for everybody.



Furthermore when the day arrived there was plenty for everybody to make it memorable. There were so many activities and challenges related to our vision which encourages us to do things we have never done before. Hazel (from Buckmore Park Forest School) and Jess kindly organised adventures in Hunton Woods. There was a large amount of games and skill building for everybody to strive out of their comfort zone and 'live life in all its fullness' which included whittling sticks, den building and toasting bread on a fire. We also had workshops demonstrating the different school values of joy, compassion, perseverance and respect. We are positive everyone enjoyed our Vision and Values Day.



## Activities in the Benefice for Children

There will be Messy Christingle on the 16<sup>th</sup> December at St. Nicholas, Linton between 3 and 5 pm. Christmas Crafternoon on the 21<sup>st</sup> December between 2 and 4pm. at Holy Trinity, Coxheath. For booking and further details please contact Becky Parnham, email [becky.thecat@btopenworld.com](mailto:becky.thecat@btopenworld.com).

## Tree Warden for Hunton - Sam Andrews

After a decade as the Parish Tree Warden, Mike Summersgill is handing over the role to a well-known villager from Barn Hill (and the Panto!). Sam Andrews will take over at the end of the year and Mike will continue to advise as Sam trains up with the Kent Tree & Pond Partnership (Mike remains Pond and a Flood Warden); the new email address is a slight change to [huntontreewarden@gmail.com](mailto:huntontreewarden@gmail.com).

Last month we had our regular 18-month virtual tree assessment (VTA) where a qualified expert looks at the condition of the trees in parish ownership around the hall and playing fields recommending any necessary work. Mike and Sam accompanied the VTA man, we now have his report and will be recommending to the PC the work required. A couple of poplars on the northern boundary need to be felled and the turkey oak near the pavilion requires a separate expert inspection (last done in 2020 after which some weight was taken off and the tree re-shaped) to see if it is still in relatively good health. Some dead wood in the crowns of the two limes outside the hall had already been noted (during a Speed Watch idle moment!) and the VTA recommended some more work to these two and the lime by the side door within the next three months but not urgently.

The Parish Playing Fields Committee had also requested that the oaks bordering the cricket pitch be 'crown lifted' to take out the branches hanging down onto the grass and this was done in the summer. A bit more work on the end oak and the smaller trees around the play equipment remains to be sorted out. Something for Sam for 2024!

## Carols at the Club Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December

There will be carol singing at the Village Club on Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> December starting at 7.30. Doors open at 7pm. All will be welcome to join in the singing or to just sit and appreciate the renditions whilst partaking of the various beers etc available.

## Walk and Lunch at the Village Club

On a rainy, chilly Thursday morning stalwart walkers arrived from Linton and Hunton for a walk arriving back at the club for lunch. Those who did not wish to walk came to the lunch and the club was buzzing with conversation from 40 people in a friendly atmosphere.

## Gardening Club Social

The Gardening Club Social evening was well attended by just over 30 people who, following a delicious supper, enjoyed a presentation from Martin and Kiri Moss about their Hunton based company Wise Owl Cider ([www.wiseowlcider.com](http://www.wiseowlcider.com)). This was followed by a very successful tasting session.

## Hunton Ladies

At the October meeting origami skills were utilised to make Christmas boxes. The results were very festive as well as useful. The Ladies Group meet on the last Wednesday of each month (with exception of December). The meetings are held at Hunton Village Club commencing at 8pm with bar available. This is a social group but there is a focus to the meeting, usually a speaker, craft activity or game. New members are always very welcome. Please contact Chris Summersgill, [c.a.summersgill@btinternet.com](mailto:c.a.summersgill@btinternet.com) for further information.

## Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

Wednesdays & Fridays 8 - 11pm otherwise notified & Sundays 8 - 10.30 pm

### Hunton Club Opening Times in December

We plan to be open each Wednesday and Sunday Evening from 8pm to 11pm and each Friday from 6:30pm to 10pm. Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year and while we plan to open it is subject to having a willing volunteer to man the bar. We will also be open on New Year's Eve, Sunday 31st December from 8 pm.

### Hunton Traffic & Road Safety Working Group - update.

For newcomers to the village and occasional readers there is a group that meets a few times a year to discuss current road safety and traffic aspects affecting the village and sometimes slightly wider afield. It was set up to advise the Parish Council several years ago and is an informal group without any specific authority but is able to take comments and advise if something needs changing or funding. It consists of three Parish Councillors (Iain Simmons, Jonny Goddard and myself) and five residents (whose homes cover West & East Streets, Barn Hill & Redwall Lane), and its only 'governance' requirement is that two Councillors need to be present if a topic is to be recommended to the PC for action.

The TRSWG met in November having met previously in June and March 2023 and discussed several topics including the updated Highways Improvement Plan (HIP) that the Parish submits to KCC to ask for highway work priorities; airing problems with drainage ditch flows after the recent rainstorms and reviewing how the culvert work on West Street functioned; aspects of traffic calming and junction visibility including data from recent Speed Watch work about where and when the traffic is most problematic; and highway maintenance issues like verge erosion and new potholes reported to KCC already in many instances.

Arising from the recent meeting is a plan to evaluate/specify speed limit changes and an extension of safety measures on several roads. Should the Parish Council agree this it will be open to a wider villagers' consultation early in the New Year at a suggested drop-in event. This will hopefully then inform/confirm our HIP priorities for discussion/confirmation with KCC and any potential funding requests for the next year(s). More will appear on this in a future Herald after Parish Council discussion and hopefully a decision to proceed. In the meantime I reiterate that the email 'huntontrafficroporting@gmail.com' can be used for reporting any road safety issues as well as 'rogue' HGV spotting! Mike Summersgill, TRSWG Chair.

### Ditch Clearance

The Parish Council has recently been made aware that some ditches are becoming full of vegetation. Kent County Council Highways are not responsible for clearing ditches that are adjacent to the highway unless they are in KCC ownership (very few). Under 'riparian law' it is the duty/role of the adjacent landowner to keep the ditches clear. So if your property abuts onto a highway and there is an open ditch between you and the road, possibly between your 'boundary' hedge and the highway, you must keep the ditch clear. If a blockage is reported to KCC and they visit the location they will then send the adjacent owner a letter to do the clearance work. If the clearance is not done then KCC will attend to it and charge you. So be aware that what you thought was KCC's responsibility may be yours and please keep the ditches clear. Hunton Parish Council.

#### Benefice Service Rota – December 2023

##### Coxheath:

- 3 Dec - Carols round the tree with Parish Council 4.30pm LF.
- 7 Dec - BCP Communion service 10am
- 14 Dec - BCP Communion service 10am
- 17 Dec - Carol Service 4.00pm LF
- 21 Dec - BCP Communion service 10am
- 21 Dec - Lights of Love 6-7.30pm LF.
- 24 Dec - Children's Service 4.30pm DJ; Midnight Communion 11.15pm LF.
- 25 Dec - Benefice Family Service and Holy Communion 10.30am LF + Team.
- 31 Dec - Benefice Holy Communion 10.30am DJ.

##### East Farleigh:

- 9 Dec - Carols round the tree with Parish Council 4.00pm LF.
- 17 Dec - Holy Communion 10.30am CD + DJ (preach).
- 24 Dec - Christingle 4.00pm BP.

##### West Farleigh:

- 10 Dec - Carol Service 5.00pm SE.
- 24 Dec - Holy Communion 10.30am LF; Communion 9.30pm CD.

##### Hunton:

- 3 Dec - Holy Communion 10.30am DJ + CD (preach).
- 24 Dec - Carol Service 6.00pm DJ

##### Linton:

- 10 Dec - Holy Communion 10.30am LF + BP (preach).
- 16 Dec - Messy Christingle 3.00pm BP + LF; Carols with Christingle 4.15pm BP + LF.
- 21 Dec - 12.00 Communion.

LF – Lorna Faulkner, DJ – David Jones, CD – Clinton Davis, BP – Becky Parnham, SE – Sue Elliott

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