



Next Editors: Wendy & Iain Simmons: herald@hunton.org.uk
All items for the next edition of the Herald to the Editors by 15th December



We wish you all a very Happy Christmas



Peter Pan – It’s all behind you!

Thanks and huge congratulations to all who pulled together such a fantastic show. It was a glorious, riotous celebration and showcased the very best of Hunton and its connections. From stage and scenery to music and lighting, script and performances, young to old ... it was all marvellous and clearly enjoyed as much by the audience as by the cast!

Extracted from an e mail: “Having seen performances on both Thursday and Saturday it was lovely to see some of the younger cast members gain in confidence so much that they were adlibbing with the audience like old pros! Wonderful stuff and greatly enjoyed.”

The pantomime and raffle raised an amazing £2,784 after costs. Of this, £200 will go to the hall, £200 to the club and the rest will be split between the Friends of St Mary’s and Brain Tumour Research. A further sum was raised by the bar for the FoSM.

To quote Queen Superior Fairy and Producer (Sue Pinks): “Wow, when you think of the fun we’ve had, the fun the audience had with a sell out every night and the money we have raised ... we have all had a great time with a great end result. Well done everyone!” Well done indeed.



Hunton WI also returns!

Hunton WI has returned to holding its rather unconventional monthly meetings in the club.

Being really well organised, at the October meeting we all made Christmas cards, once again designed by Chris Summersgill. This year, the cards had a transparent window filled with tiny stars that moved when the card moved – ingenious! The ladies made the most of all of us sitting around a long table to catch up with village news amongst the sticky tape, glittery stars and bits of card.

In November we held an ‘Open Meeting’ which was well supported by villagers and friends. Tony Harris gave a talk on a theory of how the Titanic sank in 1912. He created an engaging atmosphere by being dressed as a First Class passenger, complete with lifejacket! There are many theories surrounding the sinking of the passenger liner, and he put forward just one, in some detail that seemed quite plausible centred around her sister ship in the White Star Line, the Olympic. I will not give away the details of his talk in case you get the opportunity to hear him for yourselves, it would be well worth it! It was a thoroughly entertaining evening and Tony enjoyed answering the many questions that the audience put to him at the end of the presentation. Hunton WI meets at 7.30pm on the first Tuesday of the month in the village club. We always welcome new members. Please contact our President, Ann Sawtell on 820731 for details.

Jane Langdon

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: Mike Summersgill	820429	Huntonwatch: huntonwatch@gmail.com	07907 019996
Rector: vacant		‘Potholes’ Hotline (KCC)	03000 418181
Hon Associate Rector: Revd. David Jones	741474*	Community Warden: James Watson	07811 271021
Curate: Revd. lornafaulkner@gmail.com	439304*	PCSO - Paul Vasey	101
Hunton Bell Ringers: Jeff Young	746541	Helen Grant MP helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk	0207 219 7107
Village Club: Gil Robertson	820059	WI President: Ann Sawtell	820731

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	

Diary Dates

Yalding Art Exhibition - 19th December; Christmas Eve Carol Service at St Mary’s, Hunton - 24th December, 6:30pm;
Village Walk & Lunch – 30th December, Hunton Club 11am; Sarah McQuaid - 3rd February at the Club;
Hunton PTA Curry/Quiz night - 5th February, Hunton Village Hall.
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

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas ... the glorious familiarity of the Season.

The shops are laden with sparkly tat and/or classy Scandinavian style decorations a-plenty. Christmas music echoes through shopping centres and we all sing along, never seeming to tire of it.

In our house, even though my children are way past the magical childhood years, there are things we have to do, and times we have to do them, and ways in which they have to be done. The kids still open advent calendars in the morning (a shocking departure from my own childhood when we did them last thing before bed - I have never truly reconciled with this new pattern!) and then, in the evenings we still pin the felt nativity characters, one by one, day by day, on to the stable scene my sister made for us years ago.

In the churches we are preparing again for Christingles, Carol services, Children's services and Midnight Communion...

All this, every year, because of one moment, over 2,000 years ago, one single, never-going-back-now moment; a moment to change all time and history, the moment that the God of Heaven broke the silence and entered this world.

What was invisible became visible, as a tiny baby was born.

And he is here still, among the baubles and fairy lights, in the glow of the candles and the warmth of mulled wine, the sharing of gifts and the raising of glasses.

If we take just a moment, to look a little longer; a little closer; a little deeper, we might catch a glimpse of him...

'Come and behold him! Born, the King of Angels!'

As you behold him this Christmas, may you see the invisible become visible, and may you know the heart-filling, peace-bringing presence of Jesus in your world – may God bless you all.

Lorna

Our new KCC Community Warden

There is now a Kent County Council, Community Warden for Hunton, Coxheath, East Farleigh and Headcorn with responsibility for improving residents' quality of life and allowing their communities to thrive.

James Watson wants residents to feel safe, to support the elderly and vulnerable, and work with communities to foster a sense of cohesion and wellbeing. This encompasses; conducting welfare visits, signposting residents to charities or agencies or even popping in for a regular catch up, reporting scammers, working with speedwatch and helping residents navigate local services, whether it's a foodbank or helping them with finances and general life admin.

He is happy to be contacted by residents, e-mail james.watson@kent.gov.uk or mobile 07811 271021.

Special Christmas Eve Carol Service at St Mary's, Hunton

Friday 24th December at 6:30pm

All are welcome to join the congregation at a traditional Christmas service of carols and readings, followed by mulled wine. Do bring your friends and family to start Christmas in a festive manner (though we cannot guarantee snow!). There will also be a service on Christmas morning at 10:30am.

Yalding Art Exhibition

We are putting on another Yalding Art Exhibition and hope you'll be able to join us for the preview on Friday 19th December or over the following weekend. The last one in 2018 was extremely successful with high standards of art and craft. In case you need the post code, it's ME18 6HU.

Remembrance Day Service

Once again we were blessed with a good turnout of 80 people at this important service, conducted by Rev. David Jones. The church looked lovely with its flowers and silhouettes of WW1 soldiers. Children from Hunton School laid a wreath and placed crosses, Mark Dickenson, an ex Royal Engineer, read the names of the fallen and James Forster made a short presentation assisted by Jemima Goddard and Alice Simmons reading two poems beautifully, by an author with a very distant connection to Hunton.

We heard that the body of a previously unidentified soldier found on the Arras battlefield in 2013 has just been identified as 2nd Lt Osmond Bartle Wordsworth, killed on 2nd April 1917. He was a nephew of the poet but also a 5x Great Grandson of Henry Hatley, whose bust sits above the entrance to our church!

Thank you all for making this a special service and for raising £190 for the Royal British Legion.

Neighbourhood Watch - SCAMS

We have heard of several scams and cold calls relating to the insulation of your homes. This is in the news right now and the criminals always cotton on to the latest opportunities.

We received a call from a mobile phone telling us that homes in our postcode were among the worst insulated in the country. Leaving aside for the moment the use of a mobile to place the call, the caller had no idea what our postcode was nor who we were. At the very least this was a cold call touting for business, possibly from a rogue trader.

Kent police have told us of residents getting calls from a supposedly reputable organisation (the British Board of Agreement - BBA) saying they must inspect the house to ascertain whether the loft and wall insulation is compliant with the latest regulations. This is a scam, pure and simple and if you agree for them to come you will be letting criminals into your house.

OUR ADVICE - never react to cold calls or emails unless you are 100% certain they are genuine. If the call makes you think that you might need some work done, approach companies who have been recommended to you or who are listed in directories such as Trust Pilot - and always get at least 3 separate quotations for any work you want done.

So what is happening with the Reed Court Chicken Farm?

There is still no date for the chicken farm application to go before the Planning Committee. In fact other developments mean that this is now likely to be some time away.

If you have been keeping an eye on the planning website, you may have spotted that Maidstone Planning have recently written to Fridays and their planning advisors, DHA, to ask for a significant amount of additional information.

This formal "Regulation 25" letter can be found on the planning website and contains a request for more information in the following areas:

1. The first item states that the planning team's legal advice agrees with the WeLoveChainhurst ("WLC") legal opinion that a "sequential test" should have been carried out as part of the original application. In general terms, this is a test to demonstrate that, because areas less likely to flood should be developed ahead of those more likely to flood, Fridays and DHA should be able to demonstrate that they have checked there is nowhere else they should be developing ahead of Reed Court Farm. They've asked Fridays and DHA to provide information on any alternative schemes they've considered.
2. They've reminded the applicant that as part of the current policy governing applications such as theirs, they will need to demonstrate how their plans will provide a 10% net biodiversity gain.
3. They have asked them to respond to the wide variety of other feedback received by the planning team that has not yet been dealt with. A lot of that feedback comes from WLC, as well as other bodies like the Parish Councils, along with all the letters many of you wrote in response to the original application.

So what happens next? Well, they have 14 days from the publication of the Regulation 25 letter to indicate their timescale for response. WLC will be asking the planning team if that's been received once the 14 days lapses. After that it depends how much information they respond with. Whatever they supply, there will be another 30-day period to allow WLC, and anyone else who wishes to, to study any new information and respond.

So, as you can see, there is still some way to go before our Borough Councillors will get the chance to consider the application and, as always, we'll try our best to keep you informed.

For further information you can log onto WeLoveChainhurst.co.uk or the MBC planning site.

Team WLC

Hunton Music Events – Hannah Scott gig and plans for 2022

The village had been very lucky to have enjoyed Live Music for two decades at the Hall, started by Alan Bishop and carried on by Mike Summersgill, with the regular support of Applause Rural Touring (who bring events to small venues, with Arts Council support). Mike has now re-started musical events in Hunton, initially with a venue change from the Hall to the Club to suit smaller audiences. So on Friday evening 12th November, we had Hannah Scott & Stefano della Casa bringing their new CD 'Drawn to Darkness' to a select audience of 25 people.

Hannah had played the Hall twice before but the Club acoustics worked well, particularly with the very quiet and attentive audience. She sung all her own songs on guitar and keyboard, several being about her grandmothers (one lovely, one less so!) and other family members, plus her own take on past relationships. The cello backing by Stefano, who plays many other instruments on the CD and produced the album, added wonderfully to the atmosphere; while the topics were not always upbeat, the words were very heartfelt.

Thanks to Doug and Sam for doing the Bar so well, and to the Hall for lending us their PA; although the event made a small loss, it has encouraged us to continue. So two dates for the diaries for 2022: Thursday 3rd February at the Club (www.sarahmcquaid.com) for an Applause supported gig, and Friday April 1st at the Hall for another album release concert (www.hannahbenmusic.com). We also hope to have a comedic stage show in the New Year, and maybe Nick Harper (who we had booked for November, but had to cancel). Any other bands you might come to see, please contact Mike on 07779 367412.

Hunton's Grade 1 Listed Building

There are 71 listed buildings and other structures in Hunton but only one of these is Grade 1 – St Mary's Church. It is a wonderful asset for the village and greatly valued, both by those who worship there and by the many more who help to look after it and its graveyards.

The building in part dates back about 1,000 years to Saxon times, with additions made in the early Middle Ages, Elizabethan, Jacobean and Victorian eras. There is some ancient and beautiful stained glass and doors that were made in 1415, the year that the Battle of Agincourt took place. As such a veritable catalogue of our nation's history it can take a degree of looking after but can also be fascinating to learn more about!

The Friends of St Mary's have been, and continue to be, a wonderful support helping to finance work that needs to be done and we are very grateful for this. Perhaps less well known are the activities of the church Fabric Committee who seek to ensure that the building is maintained, buying in specialist help when required.

Following the very sad death of Alison Ellman-Brown (Churchwarden), the resignation of past Chairman and long time member Guy Oliver and with the planned departure from the village of Roger Sawtell, we need some fresh faces on the committee. On a personal note, I would like to thank both Roger and Guy for all that they have done over many years that they have served on this committee. Their skills, enthusiasm, commitment and energy have put us in a very strong position in seeking to maintain the building for future generations.

As to what the role requires, it is not particularly onerous with quarterly meetings the norm, and you do not need to be a churchgoer. Any building experience or contacts might be helpful but are not required – just an interest and some common sense will suffice!

If you are interested in helping to preserve this building and can spare just a little time I would love to hear from you. We already have one volunteer but a second would be very welcome!

James Forster, Chairman of the Fabric Committee (forsters.hunton@btinternet.com and tel 01622 820628)

Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

Wednesdays 8 - 11.00pm & Sundays 8 - 10.30 pm

Hunton School

Over the last 18 months or so we have been aware of the lack of opportunities available to children to enrich their learning and excite their sense of wonder. The lockdowns and being unable to have visitors in school undermined their experience. Since the return to school in September we have actively sourced as many experiences as we can as well as providing some ourselves. We have had a visit from an author who spoke to them about how he starts to write children's books and worked with them to inspire their imaginations. We have had scientists, musicians, sports coaches and artists visit us. After school clubs have included: British Signing, Creepy Claws, football, choir, art and netball.

We are also fortunate to have such supportive parents and volunteers from the Hunton community around us. The PTA have painted, repaired and improved the outside and playground areas for our children. The popular outside reading area and prayer area are now in full use. Reading volunteers who come into school are also eagerly greeted by the children. It is such a special time for them to have these 1:1 sessions. Thank you everyone!

This month we were delighted to welcome families of 3 and 4 year olds who will be starting school next September. We hope that our values of compassion, joy, respect and perseverance were seen. Our school is a very special, nurturing place with great teachers, support staff and of course, wonderful children.

This term we approach Christmas and it always comes with great speed. As I mentioned earlier the children are starting to have an almost normal experience of school. We have so much planned to celebrate this special time of year. One of our little ones excitedly told me she had a part in the Jesus Show! We look forward to telling you more next month.

Just to finish with, our children are so creative. At playtime these girls created artwork on our table-tops from bark and leaves. Can you recognise a well-known building in Hunton and spot the sheep too!



Kicks Count

Kicks Count are no longer accepting stamps for recycling therefore the volunteers at Hunton Club ask that no donations be left at the Club. We would like to thank those who have donated over the past.

Curry/Quiz night 5th February, 2022 - Save the Date!

Banish those February blues and test your brain power at the Hunton PTA Curry/Quiz night at Hunton Village Hall on February 5th 2022! Book seats or a table for you and your friends! Tickets will go on sale in January - more details to follow. All funds raised will go to helping Hunton Primary School. All are welcome - we would love your support!

Village Walk & Lunch – Thursday 30th December

A team of volunteers hope you will join them for a post-Christmas circular walk of about 1.5 hours leaving Hunton Club at 11am on Thursday 30th December.

This will be followed by lunch including soup, bread, cheese, cakes & coffee for £6 a head for adults and £3 a head for children who will be also able to enjoy hot chocolate and cookies.

Please contact Lesley if you are willing to make a cake or would like to book places for either the walk or lunch or both. If booking for lunch, please let her know if you have any food allergies. Bookings close Monday 27th December. lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com

Christmas at St Mary's Hunton

Friday 24th December - 6.30pm – Christmas Carol Service - Rev David Jones

Saturday 25th December - 10.00am – Christmas Day Family Service (followed by Communion) - Rev David Jones

Benefice Service Rota – December 2021

	5 th	12 th	19 th	26 th
Hunton	9.30 HC; Rev David Jones		9.30 MP; Rev Lorna Faulkner	
Coxheath	11.00 HC	4.30pm Carols	11.00 HC	10.30 MP & HC(Benefice)
E. Farleigh	09.30 MP		9.30 Carols & HC	
Linton				
W. Farleigh		09.30 HC		
Coxheath	Every Thursday, 10:00 - BCP Holy Communion			
Linton	Last Wednesday of each month, 12:00 noon , BCP Holy Communion (followed by Lunch)			

HC Holy Communion, MP Morning Prayer, FS Family Service,

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