



Next Editors: Liz Oliver and Graham Dolman: herald@hunton.org.uk
All items for the next edition of the Herald to the Editors by 15th January

WISHING YOU ALL A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Snowdrop Sunday

January can be quite a grey month, but the first glimmer of new life appears as the snowdrops burst forth. Hunton has a spectacular collection of snowdrops in the churchyard. So, this year, we plan to reinstate 'Snowdrop Sunday' on Sunday 6th February. This will be a time for the whole community, with friends from further away, to come along and enjoy the spectacle. Provisional plans are underway for the day. More details will follow in the February edition of the Hunton Herald.

Hunton Club Film Night & Supper: Tuesday 25th January

Following three enjoyable Film Nights in 2019, Hunton Club volunteers are delighted to announce that 'The Italian Job' will be shown on Tuesday 25th January. Doors open at 6.30pm for supper before the film. For £10, the evening includes a two-course supper, the film and as much popcorn as you want! The bar will be open for members and guests. New members are always welcome - details on <https://huntonvillageclub.co.uk/>.

Please contact lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com if you would like to attend this event. The caterers need to know numbers a week ahead, so final date for bookings is Monday 17th January. Please let us know if you have any special dietary requirements. Please note that Covid restrictions may limit numbers permitted to attend. As we go to press, we think this will be 25 people and bookings will be on a 'first come, first served' basis.

What a Wonderful Village!

On Monday 6th December the Chairman, and Members and Clerk of Hunton Parish Council, hosted a gathering of parishioners and partners at the Village Club, to thank, on behalf of the village, all those that have done so much for us, especially over the past two years of lockdowns. An Indian buffet and drinks helped to make this a very enjoyable evening for all.

The following groups were invited: Hunton School, Pre-School, St Mary's Church, Friends of St Mary's, Hunton Herald, Book Group, Walking Group, Cricket Club, Bowls Club, Football Club, King George V Recreation Ground Committee, Village Hall, W.I., Gardening Club, Panto Group, Hunton Watch (especially for organising the medicine collections), The Peace Cottages Trust, Borough and County Councillor, and not forgetting the venue itself, The Village Club. The list is a reminder of how many groups there are in our small village and how much hard work is undertaken by people to make Hunton such a great place to live.

David Heaton, Chairman

Poppy Appeal

This year has been another difficult year for the Royal British Legion, as it has for many Charitable organisations; however, between the Village Club and Hunton Primary School a very welcome £138.15 was raised. In addition, the Remembrance Service, at St Mary's, raised £189.53. A total of £327.68

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. Iornafaulkner@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
*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, 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	
5 th February - Hunton School's PTA Quiz Night;	6 th February - Snowdrop Sunday;
19 th February - Hunton Gardening Club Social & Supper	
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

I am writing this letter before Christmas at a time of chaos! Covid infections are rising in the Maidstone area and Omicron has reached the southeast. OK – let's stop right there! It is a New Year and there are new beginnings to be made.

What about resolutions? Do you make the same ones each year? Walk or exercise more; eat more healthily; lose weight; sort out the attic/garage. How long is it before you give up on your resolutions?

Here are some suggestions for resolutions that are a bit different:

- We could resolve to spend some time each day in quietness or prayer if we don't already.
- How about resolving to read something inspirational each day? There are lots of daily notes to help with Bible reading, for instance, e.g., Daily Bread or Every Day with Jesus, plus there are lots of phone apps and websites with daily inspirational readings.
- Perhaps resolve to volunteer for jobs that need doing in church or in your community.
- Choose to regularly support a charity that works for justice and peace and/or humanitarian aid.

These are just suggestions – I am sure you can think of others. Jesus said that the most important commandments are to love God and love our neighbours. Let us love, support and encourage one another in keeping our resolutions and in helping to build community in our villages in 2022 and beyond! Happy New Year!

Sue Elliott – Pastoral Assistant

Flood Risk and Property Resilience

Up to now, Hunton has not had a specific Flood Warden in place (there are several volunteer wardens in Yalding, Collier Street & Marden), but I've now added that role to my Tree & Pond Warden duties. Although I've still to get my yellow bib, I have the Flood Warden Handbook after my Environment Agency & Kent Resilience Forum on-line training in November. The role is to be the local contact between emergency responders and the community (in a flood event) and also help residents in preparation, or 'resilience', for future events. My phone number is on the front of the Herald or on Hunton's webpage, but those properties more 'at risk' will also get my mobile number.

As a bit of background, I have been a water/soil engineer for 49 years. I have been Chairman of our local water engineers' branch and Past President of a national professional body/Institution, CIWEM. This gives me a bit of useful technical knowledge to apply to the natural environment, and also to understand a bit about what is going to get worse because of climate change. We have already seen some intense rainstorms recently, causing flooding twice into a property in Lughorse Lane that is nowhere near a main river. Yalding just escaped another Medway inundation last Xmas, one year after the previous 'alarm' that was itself coming close to the river levels of Xmas 2013.

I'm hoping NOT to be called upon to assist Hunton householders this Winter, but I need to familiarise myself with whom to contact for sandbags and to get liaison going with the local Wardens in adjacent villages. What is different for Hunton is that our flood risk is often related to intense rainstorms and surface run-off and not, apart from a dozen properties close to the Beult, to rising river levels. We know flooding is affected by the culverted sections of ditches that need to be clear of debris and have adequate capacity; climate change is not going to help with that.

After the 2013 floods on the Medway & Beult, the EA and KCC together funded (after some analysis and political decisions) property flood resilience measures on certain affected locations in Lower Yalding. They also contacted several householders at risk in Hunton; the Parish Council members are aware of who was contacted, but do not have records of any Hunton properties that had resilience measures installed (not all were deemed eligible). I'm intending to attempt to find out more.

During my training, I asked, what I thought was a simple question, about flood risk changes and any contact with those households, I was surprised to hear that there seemed to have been no re-assessment of properties at risk after the EA produced its new flood maps in December 2019 (they update them on a 6-year cycle, and the 2019 mapping used more accurate survey/LIDAR data than in 2013). You can check the maps on <https://check-long-term-flood-risk.service.gov.uk/postcode>. By my initial assessment, there are a couple more properties in Hunton that now appeared to be on the risk mapping that were not in 2013. Additionally, the surface water risk mapping is more detailed and informative. I will be double-checking the data/maps during early 2022 and may contact some householders to check whether the computer mapping reflects 'reality' or their past personal experience. Also, several properties may have new owners, with no memories of the flooding in 2000 & 2013.

Mike Summersgill, email: mshuntonpc@btinternet.com.

Hunton School's PTA Curry & Quiz Night. All welcome.

TICKETS NOW ON SALE!

Venue: Hunton Village Hall. Date: Saturday 5th February

Time: 7 - 11.30pm. Quiz starts at 7:30pm, hosted by Quiz Master Extraordinaire Phil Nichols

Tickets: £20. Contact: pta@hunton.kent.sch.uk

Curry will be provided by the fabulous Kashmiri Kitchen. There will be a sumptuous desserts auction and a chance to win a magnificent hamper of goodies!

Bring your own drink. A limited amount will also be on sale on the night.

If the event has to be cancelled, due to covid, all tickets will be refunded.

Do you fancy an enjoyable read for a worthy cause?

Rosemary Jenner, coxheathbooks.co.uk, started a charitable book scheme at the start of Covid. She sells all of the donated books, very cheaply, for the benefit of small local charities. Well-done and thank you Rosemary for collecting close to £1,000! Check out the website for a serious list of available books and indulge in an enjoyable read!

Edna Dennison

The Great Village Bake Off

November 27th was a cold and miserable day; nonetheless, laughter and cheer filled the Village Club. Once again, the Benefice and wider community came together to produce a selection of magnificent 'Stay at Home Tea Party Boxes.' Cakes and savouries were baked, donated and delivered to the elderly and vulnerable of five villages: Hunton, Linton, Coxheath, East and West Farleigh. A huge 'Thank You,' to all those involved in creating 150, beautifully decorated, boxes. Thanks especially to Coxheath Brownies, who came in a minibus to help with the deliveries and to Hunton School, and West Farleigh Montessori School, for making cards with cheering messages. What a wonderful community! Thank you, Hunton Village Club, for providing the sorting and packing venue.

Happy New Year to the Hunton Herald readers from all of us at Hunton CE Primary School!



At the time of writing our monthly contribution we were in fact eagerly preparing for Christmas. We anticipated a Christmas which would be like normal and looked forward to inviting parents, governors, volunteers to join in with the festivities. I am glad to say that we did not have to cancel all the events, we just had to alter arrangements and the magic of Christmas did not change. How could we not see the Nativity practised and performed so exquisitely by our younger pupils? Similarly, the special message conveyed by our KS2 children in their Christingle Services held in their classrooms. Technology certainly helped to send these special moments to the children's homes. The children were as accommodating and respectful of all Covid systems in place and were blissfully unaware of most things. Mostly they just loved school, the run up to Christmas and life in general - exactly what we would want for them!

Our village school sits right in the middle of Hunton, and we are very much aware of how we play our part in the life of the village. Borton and Bannerman classes tasked themselves with visiting King George V playing field to clear it of litter. Donned with their reflective jackets and litter picks the children filled five bags as well as finding a precious bunch of keys! Respect is one of our 4 Christian values; this was one which the children truly showed to their local environment.



Enrichment opportunities continue for all the children. For the first time we sent a school hockey team to the Kent Teach Hockey Tournament. We were so proud of the joy and perseverance the team showed. They played seven matches magnificently against schools much bigger than ours and came away with the bronze medal. Fantastic, well-done team!



As we return to school we will be learning about Janus, the Roman God of new beginnings. Janus had two faces; one which looked backwards, into the past, and one which looked forwards into the future. On New Year's Eve, Janus showed people how to look backwards and say goodbye to the old year that had passed. He also showed people how to look forward and welcome the new year. We are looking forward to using our new library to support our developing knowledge of many new things. It is a very exciting time for Hunton School.

Linton Walkers Visit Hunton

Thanks to the Linton Walkers who again chose to base their final Thursday walk of the year at Hunton Club. They invited locals to join their walk and pleasant weather helped over thirty people catch up with old friends and meet new ones. When they returned to the Club, a further twenty people joined them for a soup lunch during which Bernard Cresswell, Chair of Linton Parish Council, successfully embarrassed Jerry and Sue Whitmarsh when he presented a Kent Association Community Award to them for services to the community.

Jerry was a member of the Parish Council for many years including a stint as Chairman. He was also involved in the village hall and took on other community-based posts and projects including the Linton Litter Pickers. In 2000, Jerry began to organise the Linton Walkers researching interesting walks of various lengths on Tuesday evenings. These walks were so popular he started Thursday morning walks and a monthly longer walk. By asking for a £1 donation from each walker he has raised substantial amounts of money for local worthy causes. Sue and Jerry have also organised cream tea events in Linton Church which raised huge sums for the church and village hall. Another large annual event Jerry & Sue have been involved in was the Yuletiders, where all folk over a certain age were provided with a Christmas lunch and wine courtesy of the charitable nature of others.

If you think you might like to join the Linton Walkers on one of their walks do contact David Hill - davidhill1945@gmail.com. Finally, many thanks to those who made cakes and helped at the event.

Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

Wednesdays 8 - 11.00pm & Sundays 8 - 10.30 pm

Hunton Gardening Club Social & Supper

Advance notice for your diaries that there will be a Gardening Club social evening on Saturday 19th February at 6.30pm. The evening will start with a pre-booked supper for £10 each and we hope there will be a surprise 'speaker'. Everyone will be welcome, and you do not have to be a member of the Gardening Club to attend.

Contact Lesley to reserve places now and let her know if you have special dietary requirements lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com

A Pilgrim's Progress

Last year, my friend Jan introduced me to trail walking. Having completed the 83 miles from Horsham to Rye, over a period of several weeks, we decided to walk the original 'Pilgrims' Trail'. This would take us from the shrine of St Swithin in Winchester to the shrine of Thomas Becket in Canterbury and is supposed to be 153 miles, but we add a few extra miles along the way!

We set out very early for the first walk to Winchester, the rebuilt Wessex Capital. The body of King Alfred is thought to be buried in the cathedral's churchyard. After our arrival in Winchester, and a celebratory cup of tea and cake, we made our way to the gift shop to buy our Pilgrims' Passport. To our delight, we received our first stamp in the cathedral. The excitement was unexpected; we almost danced a jig as we were taken to the shrine to be blessed by the curate. To our surprise, we were informed that we should walk with dried peas in our shoes! We would not be considered true pilgrims, as we had not taken any dried peas with us. The curate cheerfully assured us we would not be penalised for our failure.

Like all good tourists, we familiarized ourselves with the shrine of St Swithin. Sadly, there are few remains of poor St Swithin in Winchester Cathedral, as most were shared with other religious houses around the world. St Swithin was an outdoors man; he had asked to be buried outside the cathedral. Alas, the church ordered otherwise. It is believed that this activated a curse. Indeed, many will know this, 'If it rains on the 15th of July, the Saint's Day, it will then rain for the next forty days and nights'.

We waved goodbye to King Alfred and St Swithin as we headed for the Great Hall. Here, a circular table-top, purported to be King Arthur's, is displayed. Continuing on, we followed the route to Hyde Abbey. It was there that the head of St Valentine had been given by Canute's Queen, Emma (mother of Edward the Confessor).

We managed to walk in sections to 'Four Marks' before the fuel shortage and dark evenings required us to postpone walking. We are now walking the sections of the trail from Guildford to Chilham. There are so many mentions of where Becket stayed along the route; we feel he has kept company with us, together with another historical figure, Jane Austen. She had so many relatives living at the various churches, she seems to have spent much of her time visiting them, which questions how she found the time to write! While having another cup of tea, at Cassandra's Cup Tea Room in Chawton we learnt that it is named after Jane Austin's sister, and it is to her that we owe the mention of 'afternoon tea.'

Arriving at Eastwell Manor, we found the church to be in ruins, but in the churchyard is the grave of Richard of Eastwell, the last Plantagenet. Richard managed to escape the same fate as his father at Bosworth to work the estate as a gardener until his death.

Travelling north, there is a palace at Wrotham, opposite the church, where Beckett stayed on his way to Canterbury. A place to reflect, as he was murdered a fortnight later. We delighted in the 10th century church at Wrotham, learning that this is the oldest church in England named after our patron saint, St George.

We have several more miles to cover. As I reflect, we have covered so many topics in conversation that it makes the Encyclopaedia Britannica seem a short story! Having walked, climbed and slithered up to the highest part of the Downs, and slipped down again. I had hoped the worst climbs were over but have been informed that our next walk has many ups and downs, so I will pull on my boots, pick up my stick and take a deep breath. I must admit the views from the top of the Downs are spectacular, so I am hoping I will not be disappointed. We will leave the walk into Canterbury, for our blessing at Thomas Becket's shrine, until last; which will be followed by a celebratory lunch!

Fay Joyce

Benefice Service Rota – January 2022

	2 nd	9 th	16 th	23 rd	30 th
Hunton 9.30am	Communion <i>DJ</i>		Morning Worship <i>BP/BW</i>		
Coxheath 11am	Communion <i>LF</i>	Morning Worship <i>BP</i>	Communion <i>DJ</i>	Morning Worship <i>LF</i>	
East Farleigh 9.30am	Morning Worship <i>BW/LF</i>		Communion <i>DJ</i>		
West Farleigh 9.30am		Communion <i>DJ</i>		Morning Worship <i>SE</i>	Benefice Communion <i>Rev Canon Sue Brewer</i>
Linton 9.30am		Morning Worship <i>SE</i>		Communion <i>LF</i>	
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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