



Next Editors: Wendy & Iain Simmons: huntonherald@outlook.com
All items for the next edition of the Herald to the Editors by 15th January

Hunton Christmas Market 2022

Thank you everyone! Hunton Christmas Market rose from the Covid-19 lock-downs of 2020 and 2021 with increased vigour and excitement. Punters being greeted by the smell and smoke of the BBQ organised by the Friends of St Mary's set the scene. Christmas music from the top of the tower set many people singing along as they paid their entrance fee, gathered a warm mulled wine and staggered past the raffle and bottle stall into the church and to an amazing range of stalls. It was just like the old days, the missing two years melted into the background as the cakes, wonderfully and generously supplied by the ladies of Hunton were bought for tea. More mulled wine and a win on the bottle stall and all left hopefully satisfied by the afternoon's events. 179 adults paid to come in and that added to those who ran the stalls and who came to help increased the number to the mid 200s. But what about the children? Free entrance meant that pocket money could be spent on cakes, gifts for mum and dad or perhaps grandparents. A model train, face painting and bran tub as well as colouring meant that the wait for Santa Claus flew by. His grotto was amazing, a real fire place and fire, parcels still to be delivered and a nativity scene were to be found and in the two years the elves had grown up into..... (next words censored for obvious reasons). As for Santa, well his beard had grown, his coat redder than in previous years and it was obvious he was going to enjoy the cakes and mulled wine as he flew away into the distance with a 'ho! ho ! ho!', see you next year on November 25th ringing in our ears.



A successful afternoon, enjoyed by all. An enormous 'thank you' to everyone, to the stall holders who came, some from afar and others from Hunton, to the cake makers, the BBQ team, the refreshment crew, and everyone I've missed out who came to support St Mary's Christmas Market again and helped raise £1,300 for church funds. See you all, plus your friends, in 2023 on Saturday 25th November. Who knows we might have some new stalls as well as our regulars who support us every year and to whom we are very grateful?

David Jones

STOP PRESS, with apologies from the Herald for the short notice:

End of Year Village Walk and / or Lunch - Friday 30th December

Everyone is welcome to join a free walk lasting about 1.5 hours leaving Hunton Club at 11am on Friday 30th December. Anyone who does not want to walk will be welcome to meet in the Club any time between 11am and 12.45pm. Contact Lesley on lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com (before Thursday 29th December when she will be shopping) to reserve places on the walk and/or for a 3-course lunch at £10 a head for adult's and £5 per child. If booking lunch, please say if you have food allergies. She will also be happy to hear from you if you are willing to help or make a cake. Do hope you will come along and that you have (had?) a very Happy Christmas.

Lesley

Your Local Contacts:		Maidstone Police	690690 or 101
School: Secretary/Head Teacher	820360	Village Hall Booking:	www.huntonvillagehall.co.uk
Under 5's Pre-School:	820309	Huntonwatch: huntonwatch@gmail.com	07907 019996
Pond and Tree Warden: Mike Summersgill	820429	'Potholes' Hotline (KCC)	03000 418181
Rector: Rev'd Lorna Falkner	347570	Hunton Ladies: Chris Summersgill	c.a.summersgill@btinternet.com
Hon Associate Rector: Revd. David Jones	741474*	PCSO - none	
Community Wardens Team	07811 271021	Helen Grant MP helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk	0207 219 7107
Hunton Bell Ringers: Lavinia Thompson	07885 763071	Village Club: Roger Lee: roger.c.lee@btinternet.com	820210
*not available on Fridays		Reporting HGVs	huntontrafficroporting@gmail.com
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
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 Jean Fuller - 07738 935630, jfhuntonpc@outlook.com

Diary Dates
Happy New Year...Volunteers in Hunton are again organising events to entertain you, your friends and relations which they hope you will support...
Village Walk/Lunch, Fri 30th Dec; Quiz at the Club, Sat 14th Jan; Film Night (no food) Sat 4th Feb;
Gardening Club Social Supper, Fri 17th Feb; St George's Day Walk / Lunch, Sun 23rd Apr; Plants & Produce Day, Sat 13th May; Beer Festival, Sat 2nd Sept
Check out www.huntonparishcouncil.org.uk/events-list for the latest events. If you would like to add an event, email huntonpc@gmail.com

Rector's Letter

Janus – the Roman god from which the first month of our calendar gets its name – is most often depicted with two faces, looking in opposite directions. Known as the god of beginnings, gates, transitions, time, duality, doorways, passages, frames, and endings: An appropriate choice by the Romans to mark the turn of the year.

Now, while I do like the promise of new beginnings, I am increasingly coming to find the passing of time quite daunting. 2023 is here - I am sure it was 1987 last time I looked - and, this year, I turn 50. A milestone birthday they say. So old! (According to the younger generation...) Still young! (According to those who are older than me...)

I find myself looking forward with trepidation – wondering if I can manage to do any of the things this coming year that I have written on my ever-hopeful to-do list for life. I also find myself looking back more than is good for me... on the things I wish I had not left undone. The things I wish I had not done at all. The things I wish I could do again...but differently this time, with hindsight and experience.

The one thing I don't do often enough, however, is to just stand still and enjoy the view from this part of my journey. Seeing how far I have come in my 50 years of life, noticing where I stand today, acknowledging what has made me 'me', setting my feet in the direction of whatever is next.

Maybe we could all learn something from this double-faced image of Janus. Maybe there's something in taking time to stand still for moment – one foot in yesterday and one foot in tomorrow - as we mark this turning year.

Stop. Look. Take in the view. Count our blessings. Acknowledge our troubles. And see them all in the context of the whole. In one single moment, we are each all we have been, and we are each all we have yet to be.

As humans we seem to be ever mindful of the past and ever wondering about the future, but the Bible reminds us that it is good sometimes to simply stop and take it all in.

'This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.'

Wishing you all a very happy and peaceful New Year, Lorna

Chainhurst Egg Factory Latest News

After several months of nothing apparently happening, some renewed activity on the Planning side is now occurring, and this scheme from 2020 may make it to MBC's Planning Committee in the near future.

Maidstone Council had commissioned two (third-party) reports on specific technical issues on the Reed Court Farm application by Fridays, where they were not convinced of the suitability of not only some of the Applicant's reports but also (possibly) the Regulators' responses. As a reminder, all the adjacent Parish Councils, your Borough Councillors and the Chainhurst residents' group We Love Chainhurst ("WLC")(www.welovechainhurst.co.uk) have sent in objections to the proposals and the latter have sought legal review of one aspect, which caused further reports and design changes by Fridays.

The two new reports, which should by now be posted publicly on the MBC page for MA/20/505751, relate specifically to the landscape setting/evaluation and the flood risk & water quality aspects. WLC will be raising some concerns about the points raised by the Landscape & Visual Impact Review, which finds some concern over the 'rating' of certain visual impacts, which should be higher than the 'moderate' significance in the original LVIA, and is concerned about the revised footpath route next to one large shed (post-dating the original LVIA) and the proximity of one shed to ancient woodland.

There are also several aspects of the Flood Risk & Water Quality Review to raise, albeit a lot of the third-party document finds concern with the DHA consultant's design methodology, its paucity of quantifiable data or an evidence basis, and its conclusions about nitrate effects on the River Beult SSSI, as well as noting (as WLC have been saying since January 2021) that the Flood Risk & Drainage Strategy document doesn't in any real sense have a drainage assessment within it.

It may be the case that the Applicant will revise their proposals for a third/fourth time when they read the reports, or it may be that MBC Planners just put these reports in to the Planning Committee as they stand, without design revisions by the Applicant. Another round of Comments and Objections to MBC seems inevitable, adding to the 750 documents already on the PlanAp page over the past two years! Meanwhile, all UK flocks are in their sheds for Winter for the 2nd time since lockdown, due to Avian Flu – is 'free range' is really just a marketing slogan on egg boxes?

20th Birthday Present

As we start our 21st year, our good news is that we have a volunteer to help keep the Herald going by organising the distribution! The disappointing news is that, rather than attracting someone new to the team and to the village, the only one to step forward was the indefatigable Sue Pinks who already does so much and has recently moved mountains in organising the upgrading of the Village Hall. Sue you have our heartfelt thanks for both!

Double Glazing at the Hunton Almshouses

With all the talk about an energy crisis and escalating costs, we are delighted to confirm that the Peace Cottages Almshouses have been the subject of a "Double Glazing Project".

A number of years ago, the windows and doors at the back of the cottages were double glazed. In the last few weeks, all of the original double glazed window panels have been removed and replaced with double glazed window panels, conforming to the latest government building regulations, which aim to significantly improve insulation and comfort.

The other windows, which only had less efficient secondary glazing, mainly those facing West Street, have been removed and replaced with new double glazed window frames and window panels.

In addition, all of the front doors have been replaced with modern composite doors, which provide far better insulation and security. All of the above has been achieved with tremendous co-operation from the installing company and the residents.

So hopefully the residents will stay warm and comfortable throughout the forthcoming winter months.

Peace Cottages Trustees

Hunton Village Club AGM

The Club's AGM was held on Friday 2nd December where just 24 members, including the committee, attended. The turnout was a little disappointing given that the current membership stands at 98. Following the minutes of the previous meeting the chairman gave his "State Of The Club Address" reporting on the various events that have been held during the year which included the Queen's Jubilee celebration, the Beer and Gin Festival, various walks and lunches, film nights and quiz evenings. A new fence had been erected and the hedges removed to be replaced with a terrace or stepped retaining sleepers to car park level. The purpose being to have a low maintenance frontage. A new large screen TV had also been purchased. The Chairman thanked the volunteers who serve behind the bar and the many others that gave of their time and support the club in other ways enabling it to remain in profit. He also thanked the committee, in particular Lisa Haliday who was stepping down as Club Treasurer after many years in the position. Lorraine Redfarn, the membership secretary advised that based upon 2019 figures the Club had a net loss of 20 members. For 2023 she is intending to start a new membership numbering system so members will most likely have different membership numbers than at present. It was agreed not to amend the annual subscription of £20. The existing Committee were re-elected with Mike Dixon becoming the new Treasurer. The meeting discussed future projects, which include extending the car park over the grassed areas, new cellar beer lines and a new bar surface. After a general discussion the meeting formally closed at 8:45 p.m. allowing the bar to reopen. If any readers would like to know more about the Club or would like to join, please feel free to contact either Roger Lee at roger.c.lee@btinternet.com or Phil Nichols at pk.nichols@btinternet.com

Other Club News

It will not have gone unnoticed that a few weeks ago the hedges and remains of the previously felled holly trees were removed from the front of the Club. It is probably an over statement to describe them as hedges as they mainly comprised ivy, brambles, hawthorn, nettles and other wild plant life. They were not particularly attractive and grew at a great pace. Over the years they became larger and much more difficult to maintain. So, with a view to low maintenance and improving the external appearance of the Club the growth was removed and the remaining holly tree stumps either side of the car park entrance were ground down. The opportunity was also taken to grind down two other tree stumps in the grassed area. A black membrane has been secured over the soil as a temporary measure to prevent weed growth and soil slippage onto the pavement. The plan is to have oak sleepers adjacent to the pavement stepped up to further sleepers to the grass at the car park level. The area between the rows of sleepers will be covered with a weed proof membrane and pea shingle. It is hoped that work on this will commence in the near future.

Phase two will likely see the removal of the grassed areas to enable more parking space to be made available but this is unlikely to occur for some time as there are other projects in the pipeline which will take precedence.

Favourable comments have already been received regarding the "opening up" of the front of the Club with one person commenting that they did not realise the Club was there until the hedges were gone!

Phil Nichols

Gin & Beer Festival – New Save the Date

Due to an unfortunate clash of events, we must change the date of the Beer Festival for 2023. We had announced that it would take place on Saturday 9th September but now it will have to be Saturday 2nd September 2023.

Garden tips for Winter

Make sure the winter protection around your more tender plants is secure. Use bubble wrap or fleece, and place a mulch of straw or deep leaf litter for dahlia tubers and cannas if you are leaving them in situ.

Care for and cover any garden furniture you want to leave outside.

It's your last chance to get the tulip bulbs in - bury chicken wire over the top to deter the badgers from digging them up?

Make sure your stored fruit and your supply of seeds are safe from voles and mice that may find their way into your shed.

Still plenty of time to plant bare rooted shrubs and trees.

Start pruning fruit trees if they have completely defoliated.

It is time to take hard wood cuttings from a range of shrubs and climbers. Choose a healthy shoot that has grown this year and remove the soft tip. Cut into sections 15 – 30cm long. Making a sloping cut above a bud at the top and a straight cut below, just under a pair of buds. Place in a sheltered spot in the garden soil outside or in a pot and place into a cold frame then leave until next Autumn.

Hunton PTFA Curry & Quiz Night

TICKETS NOW ON SALE!

Hunton Village Hall, Saturday 25th February

7pm - 11.30pm. Tickets: £22

Contact: pta@hunton.kent.sch.uk

Hosted by Quiz Master Extraordinaire Phil Nichols

There will be a sumptuous desserts auction and a chance to win a magnificent hamper of goodies.

You're welcome to bring your own drink or wine/beer/prosecco which will be on sale on the night.

We held this event in February 2022 and the tickets sold out early on, so be quick if you would like to come along as spaces are

limited.

Almshouse vacancy

There will be a vacancy for a non-smoking single resident in Peace Cottages Almshouses in West Street, Hunton. Those interested, over the age of 60, preferably with a connection to Hunton, should contact Liz Oliver on 01622 820200 or liz.oliver@waitrose.com for an application form. Further criteria will apply.

Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

Wednesdays 8 - 11.00pm & Sundays 8 - 10.30 pm

Greensand Ringers

After discussion with ringers, incumbents and their PCCs, it has been decided that instead of having two practices a week, on Wednesday at Boughton Monchelsea and on Friday at either Hunton or Linton, there will just be one practice each week, open to all ringers from Boughton Monchelsea, East Farleigh, Hunton, Linton, Loose and any visitors. The practice will be held on the same night and at the same time but will rotate around all of the towers except Loose. Ringing for services on Sunday would remain as it currently stands in each tower, for Hunton that is on the first Sunday of each month for the 9.30am service.

The practices will be held on a Wednesday evening from 7pm to 9pm with the majority of the ringing at 7pm to concentrate on bell handling, rounds and call changes, then progressing to practising methods after 7.30pm.

Starting from December, ringing will be held at St Mary's Hunton on the first Wednesday of the month, at Linton on the second, at East Farleigh on the third and at Boughton Monchelsea on the fourth. The group of ringers will be known as 'The Greensand Ringers' and we are in the process of setting up a website so that visitors can check details of practice nights. In the meantime, please direct any enquiries to Susan Clements, by email (psclcm@talktalk.net) or phone (01622 745422).

Walking Group Lunch

Hunton Walking Group enjoyed their annual Christmas get-together at the Pepperbox Inn on 13th December, when 15 walkers (with partners) had a lovely meal in the main fireplace room with a nice snowy outlook from the window for some. A glass was raised to Ann Sawtell, our previous leader now living in Oxfordshire, and another glass to Jane Langdon for taking on the job of booking and organising the meal. A pre-lunch short walk in Kings Wood was enjoyed by some of the lunchers (well, just two couples!?), where the local fridge graveyard was found... The Group continue to walk fortnightly, generally the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, and new walkers are especially welcome; walks are for a couple of hours from 10am, sometimes ending at a nearby Pub.



Mike Summersgill

2023 Hunton Calendars

Donna Hollingworth first thought about producing a calendar to mark 20 years next March since her marriage to her husband Ian at St Mary's and they wanted to raise funds to support our church.

Donna took photos of Hunton throughout the year and organised them into a series of 12 wonderful photos, one for each month.

Unsure what appetite there would be, Donna advertised the calendars on the local Hunton Facebook page to see how many people might be interested. The first 20 calendars printed soon ran out and further print runs followed! Finally, Donna came along to the Christmas Market to see if people would order a few more – they did!

In total Donna sold 63 calendars making a £378 profit, which she donated to the church. Thank you, Donna - we look forward to tracking the passing of the seasons next year and comparing 2023 weather to the year just gone!

From Hunton School's Headboy

Here at Hunton we have been enjoying many fun activities to celebrate this special time of year. Classes Borton, Porteous, Bannerman and Devas have all been working incredibly hard on their Christingle and Nativity. I can assure you that they were fantastic! Not only this, but a pantomime/Christmas show was kindly and expertly performed by The Family Trust. This made many laughs with both the children and teachers joining in. Also, to enjoy this festive season, multiple nativity scenes have been placed all over the school, teaching the pupils about the story involving the birth of Christ.

We wish you all a Happy New Year from Hunton CEP School! By William – Year 6

Benefice Service Rota – January 2023					
CHURCH	1st	8th	15th	22nd	29th
Coxheath		11:00 MP, BP	11:00 HC, LF	11:00 MP, LF	
East Farleigh			09:30 HC, DJ		
West Farleigh		09:30 HC, DJ		09:30 MP, LF	10:30 HC Benefice, (Tbc)
Hunton	10:30 HC Benefice, LF		09:30 MP, LF		
Linton		09:30 MP, BP		09:30 HC, DJ	
Coxheath	Every Thursday; Holy Communion; 10:00 am.				
DJ – David Jones, BP - Becky Parnham, LF – Lorna Faulkner					

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