



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

Good-bye Roger



Roger Sawtell was a man who embraced village life and all it had to offer. He loved Hunton where he and Ann lived for 35 years until just before his death in January.

Roger made many friends who remember him as 'such a kind man', 'so welcoming', 'so hard working' and 'always with a smile on his face'. All those who knew him will remember his laugh. As one friend said: 'He had the fruitiest laugh. You could always tell when he was in the room.'

In early years Roger, who had a private pilot's licence, could be seen flying over the village on many a Saturday morning or taking off in the car with his clubs to play a round of golf. In latter years it was his arm chair in his sitting room or, even better, a chair in his summer house which held the greatest attractions.

He loved sitting in his summer house on a balmy evening listening to the birds in the garden and the sheep in the fields.

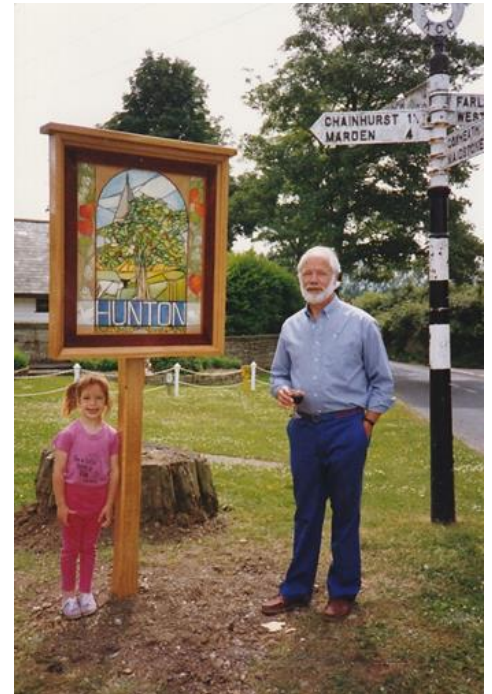
Above all, Roger liked to be involved in village life.

He served on the Parish Council for 24 years, being Chairman for 19 years. As former clerk, David Swan, remembers, 'Roger was essentially an enabler. He enjoyed living in Hunton and wanted the community to succeed.' He was treasurer on the Parochial Church Council for many years and a trustee of Peace Cottages for nearly 20 years, where he again served as treasurer. He was also involved with the village hall, the club and the school.

Roger and Ann brought up their two daughters, Amy and Lizzie in Hunton, enjoying their family life in the village.

As Roger became older and less mobile, he liked to join in the many events in the club, sitting with a pint, a whisky, or a glass of red wine and greeting everyone with a broad smile, clearly pleased to see all his friends.

In July Roger and Ann moved away from the village to live near their daughters and grandchildren, in Oxfordshire. Roger's memorial service was held at the end of February in St Mary's Church which, despite the fact that they had moved away, Ann knew was what Roger would have wanted.



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: Revd. 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		Chairman: David Heaton - 820678, dhhuntonpc@gmail.com
Parish Clerk: Sharon Goodwin - 681238, huntonpc@googlemail.com		Cllr Tony Stanbridge - 820721, tshuntonpc@gmail.com
Cllr Jonny Goddard - 820096, jonny@cheveneyfarm.co.uk		Cllr Mike Summersgill - 820429, mshuntonpc@btinternet.com
Cllr Annette Trought - 820448, annette@trought.com		Cllr Jean Fuller - 07738 935630, jfhuntonpc@outlook.com
Cllr Iain Simmons - 820875, ishuntonpc@btinternet.com		

Diary Dates			
Village Clean-up, Sat 18th March;	Film Night, Sat 1st April;	St George's Day Walk / Lunch, Sun 23rd Apr;	Coronation Event, Sun 7th May;
Plants & Produce Day, Sat 13th May;	Organ recital, Sat 8th July;	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			

Pastoral letter

As I write to you this month, we find ourselves in the season of Lent. This ancient Christian season is often characterised by the question 'What are you giving up for Lent?'

When I was about 12, I gave up sweets. I can still recall the joyful breaking of the fast with a packet of liquorice wheels.

I eschewed daytime TV for Lent when my eldest was a baby. What I recall from that time was how much more time I found I had to do both useful and meaningful things, and how much I appreciated the quiet in the house when he was napping – as opposed to filling the quiet space with the noise of the outside world!

As a 12 year-old exploring faith, I didn't really think too deeply about my reasons for my fast – it was more a feat of self-control than an exercise in spiritual growth.

As a young 26 year-old mum, I used the time to pray more, and found it enriching and soul-feeding. But I went back to daytime TV noise after Lent. It didn't produce a lasting shift in my way of life.

I wonder if, rather than asking 'What are you giving up for Lent?' a better question might be 'WHY are you giving up for Lent?'

Often, Lent is used to kick-start some self-improvement that needs to be done, or to break a habit that has a hold on us. While these are valid reasons in many ways – and helpful and positive too - at its heart, the Lenten fast is not about improving 'us' at all. In the Church, we believe it is about focussing our lives on the life of Jesus as we mirror – albeit in a tiny way - the 40 days of fasting that Jesus undertook as he prepared to begin his world-changing ministry on Earth; a ministry that would lead him through the suffering of the cross to the magnificent glory of the resurrection.

It is part of the on-going journey that brings us to the joy of Easter – a reminder and a recognition that our pilgrimage as people here on earth will not always be easy, joyful and abundant; there are hard times to walk through, times where we experience want and frustration. But it's a reminder and an encouragement too – that trying times won't last forever – change is possible... And that hope is at the heart of the message of Jesus.

Psalm 30:5 says 'Sorrow lasts for a night, but joy comes in the morning...'

I pray for us all that we will know true hope in our hearts and lives as we journey through Lent towards the celebration of Easter.

Revd Lorna Falkner

Parish Actions on Climate Change & Sustainability

You may feel it is the responsibility of Government and 'Authority' to do something about climate change, but we are all able to act within our own 'footprint', and the Parish Council has also taken steps to consider what can be done at the 'local' level.

Back in April 2019, Maidstone Borough Council declared a 'Biodiversity & Climate Emergency', and undertook to consider what steps the Borough could take to reduce its effects.

Here in Hunton, the topic of 'pressure' on our local rural environment had become a matter of frequent discussion at Parish meetings and the requested addition of 'Climate Change & Sustainability' to the Hunton Parish Agenda was welcomed universally by Councillors, especially in the light of potential flooding and the effects of increasingly volatile weather.

After discussion at a couple of meetings, the Parish Council adopted (in July 2022) a set of Conditions that it would like MBC to consider for any new build or major extension which are:

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| Provision of renewable energy sources ; | Provision of electric vehicle charging points; |
| Native Planting in any landscape planning; | Swift & bee bricks, or bat/bird boxes; |
| Wildlife friendly boundaries (e.g. hedgehog gaps); | Higher level thermal insulation and airtightness; |
| Permeable parking and footways ; | Minimal light pollution externally. |

These had already, in part, been conditions implied in various planning consents in the Parish by MBC planners in the past couple of years, but it was decided by all to formally adopt such measures.

The second matter the Parish Council has decided is to assess the carbon footprint of its own 'estate', i.e. the playing fields and village hall (although these are run by separate committees). This will allow the Parish to suggest/implement improvements and measure their effectiveness after installation.

We have applied for KCC funding for EV charging points, but just found that we've been unsuccessful in that. We have started planting out a new hedge on one side of the playing field, and have plans to create a small copse there as well. The village hall has recently replaced its ancient electric (bar) heating system with a 50% more efficient heating system, and is now looking at insulation and double glazing. Where we use third parties and external companies, we seek to ensure they are taking the environment into account.

Away from the Parish's own land, we are so lucky to have had a local landowner plant 45,000 trees recently, as well as smaller plantations a few years earlier. We are now starting to assess our wildlife corridors and natural features, such as the many ponds on Redwall Lane (old brickworks pit remnants), with a view to restoring some of these to facilitate nature recovery, and for educational purposes. We are hoping to get our younger schoolchildren involved more deeply in their village environment, including sapling growing for the copse, and perhaps outdoor classroom teaching.

Should anyone wish to get involved or discuss things in more detail, please contact Mike Summersgill or Jean Fuller on their Parish emails.

A link to the MBC newsletter on climate change: <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKMBC/subscriber/new>

Huntonwatch

Huntonwatch is Hunton's Neighbourhood Watch group. Members receive updates and advice regarding the latest scams and notification of any criminal activity in the area.

But we offer more than that. We have a network of drivers with 4x4 vehicles willing to help in times of flood or snow. During lockdown we offered a meds collection service for patients of Yalding, Marden and Coxheath surgeries.

Huntonwatch is free to join and there are no charges for being a member.

If you would like to join the 100+ Hunton residents who are already signed up, please contact us at huntonwatch@gmail.com

You can Smell Spring in the Air

Have you smelt that earthy scent?

I find it evocative of spring and of days becoming longer and brighter, maybe it is because I notice it more when the air is clear and there is the promise of the sun on your back. The birds are noisier, pairing up and nest building. Do you think they can smell it too? There is a Greek term for it: "Petrichor" meaning 'essence of rock' and it is caused by a bacteria in the soil (Streptomyces) and this is the source of the chemical compound Geosmin.

Geosmin is what you smell as it is released from the soil often after gentle rain or soil disturbance, but we notice it more in the spring because it has been absent for the last few months.

Apparently humans are super sensitive to the smell of geosmin and can detect it better than sharks can blood.

Sue Heaton

Chicken Farm Update

After some two months of delay, Maidstone Borough Council have put their two third-party reports up on their Planning page under MA/20/505751; the response from WeLoveChainhurst has also been posted there, along with Marden Parish's continued objection. There are no new documents/comments from the Applicant. The latest news is that the earliest this may go to Planning Committee is the April meeting (I think that's 2023, but who knows..!)

Mike Summersgill

Can you help clean up our village?

You cannot fail to have noticed that the roads, verges and hedgerows of Hunton have again become an unsightly rubbish dump. If you are able to join us in trying to clean up our village then we would be very glad to have your help.

We will be meeting on Saturday March 18th at 9.30am in the Village Hall car park - the more helpers we have the more litter we can clear. Last year we collected about 100 sacks of rubbish over two mornings in July and November!

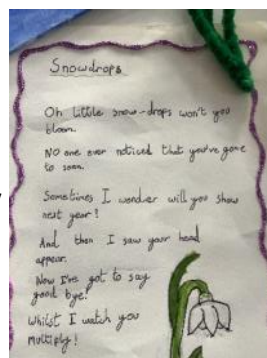
Litter pickers, rubbish sacks and Hi-Vis waistcoats have been provided by Hunton Parish Council but if you want to use gloves, please do bring your own. We must also remind you that MBC are unwilling to collect this rubbish, and have even withdrawn past support for our own litter picking, as they consider the roads to be too dangerous, so all volunteers will need to be responsible for their own safety.

If you are willing to help but cannot make the date and time proposed please let us know and we will arrange to get you some kit and agree what you should do with the rubbish collected.

If you plan to join us please let Andrea and James Forster know by e mail on forsters.hunton@btinternet.com and do say if you have a preference for the area you want to cover so we can consider how to get the best coverage of the roads in the village.

Hunton school-children enjoy competitions

As we are writing our piece for this forthcoming month we are being both teased and encouraged by the bright sunshine and the emerging signs that spring is on its way. Although we do not have any snowdrops growing in our school grounds, we have certainly been relishing the display and blanket of snowdrops at St Mary's Church, including trying to spot the 'Hunton Giant'! The children fervently entered a 'Snowdrop Competition' with our older pupils composing poems and our youngest ones creating artwork – see the report on Snowdrop Sunday. And note the invitation there to come and make posies for Mothering Sunday.



Cross Country



On Thursday 2nd February, Hunton CEP School participated in a cross-country event at Greenfields, competing against many other schools. We were fortunate to invite 53 different children to take part from Years 1-6.

Evie and Albie (Year 6) described the event as a great opportunity and a memorable time, however it was extremely difficult as the oldest children had to run over 2km without a break! The competition was split into boys, girls and year groups. It was very physical and rough at the start as people jostled for position. It was also tough at the end as people's stamina was running out.

We are delighted to report Hunton picked up two 4th place finishes and even won a bronze medal for coming third in the Year 1 race. Other schools also reported on the amazing sportsmanship of our school- we are very proud. Well done everybody who took part!



You can keep up to date with what happens at Hunton CE Primary on Twitter [@HuntonCEPrimary](https://twitter.com/HuntonCEPrimary)

Film Night with Supper Saturday April 1st

Club doors will open at 6.30pm for a pre-booked supper at £10 each for Club members (£12 for non-members). The film 'Made in Dagenham' will be shown on the new giant screen television. Bring your own cushions! Contact Lesley – 01622 820210 lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com to reserve your places.

Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

Wednesdays 8 - 11.00pm & Sundays 8 - 10.30 pm

Church and schoolchildren say it with flowers

Snowdrop-themed poems, drawings and models inside Hunton Church echoed a spectacular display of many varieties of the flowers outside on Snowdrop Sunday. Children from Hunton School had created a display which formed an impressive backdrop of artwork for visitors to enjoy. A competition of the artwork had been held at the school and congratulations go to winners Jack, Phoebe, Jacob and Maddie who won prizes of nature books from St Mary's Church. More than 60 people went to Snowdrop Sunday and enjoyed tea and cakes, raising £315 for church funds. The next event involving the church and the school is Mothering Sunday at 9.30 am on March 19th. Children from the school will be making posies to be handed out at the service and they would welcome anyone from the community who would like to help. Posy-making is on Friday March 17th at 2 pm with refreshments served afterwards.



World Day of Prayer –Friday March 3rd

The churches in the benefice will join with the Linton Road Free Church for this annual service which, this year, will be at 10 am (please note the time change). The service will be held at Holy Trinity, Coxheath and is entitled ‘I have heard about your faith’. It has been prepared by Christian women of Taiwan. All are very welcome and there will be refreshments afterwards.

Large Screen TV Proving A Hit at the Club

Having followed the exploits of the England soccer team at the World Cup last year the Club is now screening England’s Rugby Union efforts in the 6 Nations Championship. In March France takes up the challenge on 11th and one week later England play Ireland. These games will be screened at the Club, which will open 30 minutes before the scheduled kick off times.

The TV is not just being used for sporting occasions. The first film night of the year was held a couple of hours after the rugby in February with the film “Top Gun Maverick” being screened. There was no entrance fee charged, as the Club’s film licence does not allow charges to be levied. The new sound system complimented the large TV and with the lights turned off a more cinematic experience was enjoyed by those attending.

The Gardening Group’s “Social and Supper” will have taken place by the time of this publication and a walk and lunch was also planned for February. There is another walk and lunch on St. George’s Day, 23rd April. If you would like to attend please get in touch with Lesley, lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com.

Summer organ recital

Hot off the press! International concert organist D’Arcy Trinkwon has agreed to give another evening concert at Hunton Church on July 8th. Details in future Hunton Heralds but, Save the Date!

Hunton Ladies hear about life with a Ukrainian Family

Hunton Ladies had a very interesting talk in January given by Sandra Hobbs. Sandra has had a Ukrainian lady and her 7 year old son staying with her and her husband since early last year. She told us all about the support she has had from neighbours and Loose school which the son attends. He arrived unable to speak English or read but is now making great progress with his English lessons and remote Ukrainian lessons. We all had lots of questions to ask Sandra and great admiration for her taking on this family. Hunton Ladies usually meet at 8pm on the last Wednesday of the month at Hunton Club. But on March 28th (unusually, a Tuesday) there will be a talk about Iyengar Yoga and doors open at 7:30 for an 8pm start. New ladies are very welcome. Please contact Chris at c.a.summersgill@btinternet for further details.

Benefice Service Rota – March 2023

CHURCH	5th	12th	19th	26th
Coxheath, 11:00	Communion (1+2+3) <i>DJ</i>	Morning Worship (1+2) <i>SE</i>	Communion (1+2+3) <i>LF</i>	All-age Worship (Leader’s choice) <i>LF/BP</i>
East Farleigh, 09:30	Morning Worship <i>LF/BW</i>		Communion (with WF) <i>DJ</i>	
West Farleigh, 09:30		Communion <i>LF</i>		Morning Worship <i>DJ</i>
Hunton, 09:30	Communion <i>DJ</i>		Morning Worship <i>LF</i>	
Linton, 09:30		Morning Worship <i>BP</i>		Communion <i>LF</i>
Coxheath	Every Thursday; Holy Communion; 10:00 am.			

DJ – David Jones, BP - Becky Parnham, LF – Lorna Faulkner, BW - Bertie Woodward, SE - Sue Elliott

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