



Next Editors: Stephen & Kate Banks: herald@hunton.org.uk
All items for the next edition of the Herald to the Editors by 15th November

Sunday November 13th Remembrance Sunday

The annual Service of Remembrance will be held on the 13th November starting at 10.50am with the two minutes silence at 11.00 when we shall remember the dead of the two World Wars and the many conflicts over the years.

Clock House Robotic and Innovation Walk

On 21st September 36 people enjoyed a tour of two Clock House sites, Hatchgate on Mill Lane and Gooselands on Kenward Road, both of which are central to their use of innovation and technology in the production of soft fruit. The first site at Hatchgate demonstrated the use of robotics specifically in the control of disease by using UV light delivered by robots to keep powdery mildew at bay in the production of strawberries. This industry leading technology has been developed with a Norwegian partner and has resulted in the significant reduction in the use of chemicals. The Gooselands site is largely new polyhouses covering an area of 6.5 hectares with a further 3.2 hectares to follow in the next 2 years. These heated polyhouses can produce two crops of raspberries and blackberries a year by utilising heat generated from the River Medway. The innovative heating



process involves extraction of river water (heated by the sun) which is passed through a heat exchanger and is then discharged straight back into the river having removed a couple of degrees of heat from the water. A second loop then transfers this heat to the plant room's six heat pumps to achieve a temperature of 45 degrees after which it is then circulated out to the greenhouses. Clock House currently produce 300 tonnes of blackberries and 150 tonnes of raspberries a year. The polyhouses are a Dutch design and were constructed largely by the Clock House team. The use of technology to extract heat from the river is truly leading edge and British by design. Currently 80% of energy going into the polyhouses is renewable and it is planned to be 100% renewable in three years time.

It was a really interesting tour by the Clock House team who were as always hugely informative and very generous with their time.

After the tour a light supper was enjoyed by many at the Hunton Club. Thanks to Lesley Lee for organising the tour and the supper afterwards.

| 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: vacant | | Hunton Ladies: Chris Summersgill | c.a.summersgill@btinternet.com |
| Hon Associate Rector: Revd. David Jones | 741474* | PCSO - none | |
| Curate: Revd. lornafaulkner@gmail.com | 439304* | Helen Grant MP helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk | 0207 219 7107 |
| Hunton Bell Ringers: Lavinia Kingsley | 07885 763071 | Village Club: Roger Lee: roger.c.lee@btinternet.com | 820210 |
| Community Wardens Team | 07811 271021 | *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 | Clr Jean Fuller - 07738 935630, jfhuntonpc@outlook.com |

Diary Dates
Church Working Party, Sat 12th Nov; Remembrance Sunday Service, Sun 13th Nov; Walk and Lunch, Thurs 17th Nov;
Hunton Christmas Market Sat 26th Nov; Village Club AGM, Dec 2nd; Carol Service, Sat 24th; Walk and Lunch, Fri 30th Dec
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

Dear fellow readers - The period round the end of October and early November for me has always been the month of Remembering beginning with All Saints, All Souls, Remembrance Day and Remembrance Sunday and of course Guy Fawkes – ‘remember, remember the 5th of November....’. Not all famous for the right reason. As an aside I met my future wife for the first time on November 6th.

I went to a secondary school in Greenwich founded in 1677 by a man named John Roan. Each year we went to the local church where his name is inscribed on the list of benefactors to the Borough to honour our founder in the annual Founders Day Service. He gave the funds to educate 15 boys in the Borough which today educates 1,115 students. There we sang the school song in memory of the great man and also read the reading from Ecclesiasticus, a book in the Jerusalem Bible, a copy of which was given to me by the Bishop at my Ordination. It reads ‘Let us praise illustrious men, our ancestors in their successive generations.’ Going on to say ‘While others left no memory and disappeared as though they had not existed.’ It always struck me as I listened to the reading who were these people who ‘disappeared’? Who were these people who left ‘no memory’? Over the years since I have come to realise that these are the people we meet every day - our parents, our family, our children, our friends, those in our neighbourhood in our community who by the way they live encourage and inspire us Their names are not emblazed in lights. These are people known to us personally and not in the public gaze.

When someone dies it is customary to say good things about their lives and rightly so but in doing so those people must have had an effect on many on their journey in this world. What will they say about us. I often wonder what will they say about me? Remembrance ought to encourage us to look at our own lives and how we live and interact with others. What do we learn from those ‘silent people’ we knew and loved? Remembrance is not simply looking back and having fond or inspired memories. It should be looking forward to take from those memories things that will improve our own lives and the lives of those around us. My school song ends with the question about the future. ‘What can we give her (England) for our Founder’s sake?’ The answer given in the next line – ‘Ourselves we give to England till John Roan shall wake.’

So this year as we remember let us reflect on those we have loved, shared our lives with and encouraged us, and say ‘thank you’ and to move on to fill our lives with the things and thoughts that motivated them and pray that we will bring to our world what they gave us.

David

Church Working Party

The next Church Working Party will be on Saturday 12th November, 9am to 12 noon. Could you please let Lesley know if you will be coming along to ensure there will be enough tea, coffee and biscuits. Lesley Lee 01622 820210 lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com.

Walks and Lunches

The Linton Walkers invite you to join them on Thursday 17th November, for a donation of £1, on a circular walk from Hunton Village Club leaving at 11am. The Club will be open for drinks from 12 noon and from about 12.45 pm lunch will be available for £12 for non-members, £10 for members and £5 for children.

Also on Friday 30th December there will be a Village Club walk and lunch which we hope will give you the chance to stretch your legs and walk off some of the excesses of Christmas meals and then enjoy lunch catching up with local friends.

If you would like to have lunch on either of these days or are willing to make a cake please contact Lesley on 01622 820210 or lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com.

Hunton Christmas Market

The Hunton Christmas Market will take place on Saturday November 26th from 3.30pm to 6.00pm. Everything is coming together and the event promises to be a great start to the Christmas season in Hunton. All are welcome. There will be an entrance fee of £1.00 for adults and children are free.

Village Club Annual General Meeting

On the 2nd December at 8pm the Village Club is holding its Annual General Meeting. We will be discussing progress since Covid; plans for the future and electing committee members. There will be at least one committee vacancy and if you are interested in serving please contact Phil Nichols or myself. Before and after the meeting the bar will be open. We hope as many members as possible will attend to provide feedback on the future of our club. Roger Lee, Chairman 01622 820210.

Multiple Challenges at Club Quiz Night

While teams of between 4 and 7 contestants were challenged by some of the questions, Mike, serving behind the bar, was challenged with trying to pull the perfect pint of “Easy Street” through the Club’s somewhat dodgy beer lines! At the half way point the teams made short shrift of the Marathon Round easily recognizing the many faces of the extended royal family. The contest was one of the closest yet with only 14 points separating the teams. At the end of the evening team DNR were declared the winners with Mike being applauded for his efforts to pull pints with the odds stacked so heavily against him.

Another quiz night will be held in December no doubt with some seasonal content.

Nitty Nora and the Tally Man

Hunton Ladies who meet on the last Wednesday of the month at the Village Club enjoyed a lively conversational evening on hopping. Many facts were given and discussed along with memories and knowledge. Everyone joined in with questions, answers and wonderful stories of the days now gone of hopping memories.

In 1520 the first hop garden in England was planted near Canterbury and by 1655 hops were grown in 14 counties but Kent grew a third of the entire crop where in 1878 77,000 acres of land had been put down to hops. However by 1909 the acreage was 32,000 and by 2003 only 3,000 acres remained. Tastes had changed from the strong English hops especially the more bitter Kentish hop to the European lagers but there is a resurgence of artisan breweries bringing the Kentish hop back into popularity.

Although an accurate date could not be found as to when the hoppers started coming down from London for hopping there were certainly large numbers travelling in the Hopper Specials to the various Hopper Stations from the late 1800s. It was noted by one Paddock Wood resident that their population of 2,000 swelled to 12,000. Many families made hopping down in Kent their annual holiday in the country and even whole streets would descend on the hop gardens. Curiously families from such streets would live in the lines of hopper huts in the same order as that of their houses and shared the communal life with families on their own. Hoppers were met at the various railway stations by the farmers and transported to the numerous gardens. Hoppers tended to stay loyal to their particular farmer. There was a tradition of hopper wives when men on their own would pair up with women on their own. Very often nine months after hopping a hopping baby arrived who, by all accounts, was brought up within the woman's family as a matter of course.

In the late 19th century the Temperance movement became aware of the moral and physical conditions under which the hoppers lived during the season. They held regular meetings which were eagerly attended by the families but it is not sure whether it was the preaching they were interested in or the free tea and biscuits. The children were locally called 'bug crushers' and the district nurses started to visit the farms where they deloused, wormed and de nitted the children – hence 'Nitty Nora' a favourite nick name for the district nurse. What with the fresh milk, eggs and vegetables and 'cleaning up' the children went back to London in a far better condition than when they arrived presumably to wait until the following year for the procedure to be repeated with the nit comb and carbolic soap. Travelling shops together with the sweetie man and the cake man would visit the hoppers, together with a travelling dispensary -a box on the back of the nurse's bike. For the more serious cases there were hopper hospitals and one still survives at Five Oak Green. Many of their visitors would have been men as after a 'good drink' many a brawl would erupt ending with some quite vicious attacks.

Families would share a hop bin and many became so quick at clearing the bines they could earn several pounds in a week. The hops were measured in scoops and the tally man would notch up the tally sticks accordingly. These were an infallible means of keeping a 'tally' of the amount picked and hence the amount earned per bin. One piece of wood would be cut in two, half being retained by the tally man and one for the bin. When they were notched the two pieces were held together so the notch was identical on the two sticks and could not be tampered with. Farmers seldom paid by the day as often the money disappeared over the window sill of the local pub. Many publicans closed their doors to the rowdy hoppers only serving them through the window, giving them their beer in jam jars to cut down on the expense of buying more glasses. At the end of the season the hoppers left on their hopper specials and the locals sighed in relief, took the chicken wire off the shop displays, tidied up the mess and settled back to the quiet life.

A Cleaner Village

Once again, our heartfelt thanks to all who helped collect 47 bags of rubbish from Hunton's roads, together with car parts, carpet, wooden fencing and composite panels. It was particularly good to have Oscar with us, lowering the average age considerably and we hope contributing to his DoE award! Thanks also to Clockhouse Farm for collecting and disposing of all our rubbish for us.

It is a bitter-sweet thought that over a short three-month period our small group of volunteers have collected over 91 sacks of rubbish which drivers have been too lazy to dispose of themselves. If the hedges and verges had been cut back and the leaf fall had provided less camouflage, we dare say we would have broken the 100-sack mark!

In addition to a significant increase in vaping waste, West Street and Hunton Hill (from South Lodge to Amsbury Road) contained the empty packets of painkillers (61 so equivalent to 488 tablets taken by drivers passing through the village). Finally, I would like to thank those drivers who slowed down and gave us space when we were out on the roads. I am aware that we can be slow and delay traffic but when drivers show us care and consideration it makes a rather unpleasant task much more tolerable!

Carol Service 2022

Advanced notice - The annual Christmas Carol Service will be held in St Mary's on Christmas Eve, commencing at 6.30pm. Traditional carols, candle lit church, mulled wine and mince pies. Home in time to relax before the great day with that warm feeling inside you!

Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

Wednesdays 8 - 11.00pm & Sundays 8 - 10.30 pm

Flood Warden Update

Little water in the Beult showed low rainfall but being wary of flash flooding the Parish Council are pleased KCC cleared East Street culvert and gullies and continues to urge progress on West Street culverts and gullies especially at the Grove Lane junction.

Positive feedback was received on the letters posted in July to 35 residents/properties possibly affected by river flooding given the updated mapping by the Environment Agency (and changes in design allowances for climate change when planning new developments). Most Hunton responses noted they were registered with EAs flood alert service. I would encourage those who did not reply to ensure they are enrolled too (<https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings>). Simply enter your postcode and connect but you must be deemed to be in a fluvial risk area. This information exercise led me to obtain more precise EA mapping of the 1960, 2000 and 2013 flood events in Water/Bishops Lane and West Street including memories/pictures of them! Yalding Post Office Facebook page also shows intriguing 1960 photos.

Pluvial (rainstorm) flooding happens much quicker than rising river levels potentially affecting other properties in the village including some a distance from the Beult flood plain. There is relatively new EA mapping for these events too. I will send a copy of the plan to those houses appearing within a potential pluvial flood zone asking for past information. I discussed with some property owners on West Street and Lughorse Lane their observations/records for last year but I would like to capture further information for the Parish Council to be briefed on potential property damage enabling planning future mitigation

A developed framework by Medway Flood Partnership in 2018 resulting from the 2013 fluvial flood plans was used to co-ordinate Hunton, Yalding and Collier Street regarding sandbag deliveries, road closures and community support. The Chair of Collier Street Parish Council and myself discussed this and also visited the flood resilience measures made at Haviker Street and Green Lane properties post 2013. I propose similar discussions with Yalding Parish Council who have a well-rehearsed plan and several experienced wardens with marked 4WD vehicles! We have plenty of road signs but not many wardens or 4WDs.

Mike Summersgill, Flood Warden

Hunton Wanderers Cricket Club End-of-Season Report

As the cricket season draws to an end it is timely to look back on the summer of '22 which was one of the warmest and driest on record. This presented challenges for the ground manager and his team cutting grass in temperatures of 30 degrees. The square frequently resembled a dust bowl until heavy September rain kicked off a late growth spurt.

The club had a mixed start to the season with the 1st and 2nd XI struggling to win. However things improved for the 1st XI with a good run towards the end of the season consolidating their place in the division when they were promoted last year. The club was pleased to offer its facilities to the Mote whose under 13's in particular played a number of games. We hope to host them again next year.

As ever we are looking for new players to join our friendly, sociable, inclusive cricket club and our details can be found in the contacts directory on the Parish Council website.

Steve Jones

Benefice Service Rota – November 2022

| CHURCH | 6th | 13th Remembrance | 20th | 27th |
|-----------------------|---|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Coxheath 11:00 am | Communion DJ/BW | LF | Communion LF | Morning Worship LF |
| East Farleigh 9:30 am | Morning Worship DJ | GM | Communion LF | |
| West Farleigh 9:30 am | | SE | | Morning Worship DJ |
| Hunton 9:30 am | Communion LF | DJ | Morning Worship DJ | |
| Linton 9:30 am | | TBC | | Communion LF |
| | | | | |
| Coxheath | Every Thursday; Holy Communion; 10:00 am | | | |
| Linton | Last Wednesday of each month; Holy Communion; 12:00 pm (followed by soup) | | | |

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

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