



Editor: Helen Ward, Old School Farm, East Street, Hunton, ME15 0RA Tel: 01622 820810 [herald@hunton.org.uk](mailto:herald@hunton.org.uk)

## Introducing Your New Parish Councillors

Two new councillors, Roger Lee and Helen Ward, were co-opted onto the parish council in November to fill the vacant positions.

Roger has lived in the parish for 30 years with his wife Lesley, having escaped from London to enjoy the rural idyll in Hunton and grow more vegetables. He spent 25 years commuting to London as a management consultant for one of the big accounting firms and retired about five years ago. He is keen to ensure that the growing community spirit in the village continues to flourish and, together with Lesley, is regularly involved in organising the village lunches, wine tasting evenings and gardening club suppers.

Helen has lived in the village with her family since 1995 and is best known as the editor of the Hunton Herald, although she also manages the Hunton Facebook page and is the KM village correspondent. Needless to say she feels that communication is key in bringing the community together. Her other main area of concern is road safety and she has been a member of the Speedwatch team for some time, taking over as coordinator last summer. You'll also find her playing with the Hunton Club darts team, pulling a few pints behind the bar or helping to run the club's karaoke evenings with her husband, Mark.

## Christmas Market Thanks

Despite the rather murky weather, visitors to the Christmas Market were not deterred. The well-attended event was a wonderful start to the festive season with just over £1,300 being raised in total, which will be distributed to the Friends of St Mary's, the church and the village hall, as well as funding the purchase of new advertising boards for future years.

Many thanks to the stallholders for making it the magical event that it is, and to those who baked cakes and pastries, donated bottles so generously, helped out before and on the day, to the Huntones for leading the community singing of carols and Christmas songs, but most importantly to everyone who came along to shop and made it such a great success. A big thank you also to Ann Sawtell, for all her hard work in organising the evening.



*The Huntones at the Christmas Market*

## Gardening Club

At their meeting in November, members of Hunton Gardening Club were treated to a very interesting presentation by Hadlow tree warden, David Carey, on ancient trees, their maintenance and the diseases they suffer from. He showed slides including examples of Hunton trees taken when he and Mike Summersgill, our own tree warden, recently carried out a local survey.

The next meeting and supper will be on Friday 17th February. New members are very welcome whether you are an amateur or a professional gardener or just like to visit gardens. For more information contact [lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com](mailto:lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com).

Your Local Contacts:		Village Hall Booking:		<a href="http://www.huntonvillagehall.co.uk">www.huntonvillagehall.co.uk</a>
School: Secretary/Head Teacher	820360	Maidstone Police		690690 or 101
Under 5's Pre-School:	820309	Neighbourhood Watch: <a href="mailto:huntonwatch@gmail.com">huntonwatch@gmail.com</a>		820403,820429, 820731
Pre-School Supervisor:	07972067110	'Potholes' Hotline (KCC)		03000 418181
Pond and Tree Warden: Mike Summersgill	820429	Community Warden: Adam McKinley		07811 271021
Rector: Revd. Peter Callway	747570*	PCSO - Megan Day		101 (or via Huntonwatch)
Hon Associate Rector: Revd. David Jones	741474*	Helen Grant MP <a href="mailto:helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk">helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk</a>		0207 219 7107
Associate Rector: Revd Eileen Doyle	204241**	Hunton Bell Ringers, Michael Webb		745716
Churchwarden: Alison Ellman-Brown	820288			<b>*not available on Fridays; **not available on Mondays or Tuesdays</b>
Village Club: Philip Nichols	820804			

Contact details for other village clubs and organisations are available at [www.hunton.org.uk/contacts](http://www.hunton.org.uk/contacts)

Diary Dates		Parish Council Contacts	
Thurs 29 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>6 Impossible Things Variety Show</b> Village Hall 6pm for 6.20pm	Parish Council Chairman – Gary Thomas	820691
Sat 31 <sup>st</sup> December	<b>New Year's Eve Karaoke</b> Village Club 8pm	Clerk to the Parish Council – Sharon Goodwin	681238
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Hunton WI</b> Village Club 7.30pm	Cllr Jonny Goddard	820096
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Parish Council Meeting</b> Village Hall 7.30pm	Cllr David Heaton	820678
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Needles &amp; Natter</b> Village Club 8pm	Cllr Roger Lee	820210
Sat 21 <sup>st</sup> January	<b>Maria Camahort Quintet</b> Village Hall Doors 7.30pm for 8pm	Cllr Tony Stanbridge	820721
Thurs 26 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Village Lunch</b> Village club 12.30-2pm	Cllr Annette Trought	820448
Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	<b>Village Lunch</b> Village Club 12.30-2pm	Cllr Helen Ward	820810
Check out <a href="http://www.hunton.org.uk/diary">www.hunton.org.uk/diary</a> for the latest events.			
If you would like to add an event, email <a href="mailto:diary@hunton.org.uk">diary@hunton.org.uk</a>			

## Pastoral Letter

As we enter the New Year (yet another one I hear you say) and we dust off our resolutions and gather up our resolve to do better things; lose more weight, get fitter, be kinder, more thoughtful, more holy, work harder; I would like to suggest you do all of that in a meditative, thoughtful - dare I say prayerful - way. As the year opens up before us, I want to offer an opportunity for us all, whether regular church members or not, to ponder the message of the season just past. The coming of a child into the world with a message of peace joy and hope. A child who grew to be a man with a unique position in the history of the world. Jesus desires that we have life in all its fullness (John 10.10) and wants us to be in relationship with him and with others in such a way that we change the world about us. He promised to help us by sending the Holy Spirit to prompt, to guide, to uphold, to enable and equip us to do that. However we understand that, take time to draw deep into yourself for inspiration for the coming year. Then, later in the year please join in with a wider exercise to explore what the Holy Spirit might be saying to us as a church, a village, a community, and a gathering of communities and parishes which make up our diocese of Rochester. The diocese will be providing some material under the banner "Our Conversation – Our Future" for us to study during Lent (6<sup>th</sup> March – 8<sup>th</sup> April), a time when we traditionally gather to learn together. We will be meeting in groups which will be hosted across the benefice to explore this, beginning with the question, "what is the Holy Spirit saying to us?", and my hope is that we will gain insights and understanding of how we can better serve each other and God. Opportunities to sign up will be in churches soon. If you would like to join in the process of discovery but are not a regular churchgoer, please let me know and I'll make it happen. Happy New Year – I hope and pray it is all you need it to be.

Many blessings,

*Peter Callway, Rector; peter@callways.co.uk; 01622 747570*

## Primary School Out and About

The whole of Hunton Primary School had a very enjoyable visit to the Gurdwara Sikh temple in Gravesend. As the largest temple outside of India there was plenty to see and learn. Pupils were given a tour, tasted traditional food and listened to a short presentation. Time was also given to pupils to ask questions.

Porteous Class visited an outside skating rink in Tunbridge Wells and were fortunate to have the whole rink to themselves. Pupils had plenty of room to show off their skating skills and had a fantastic time. There are some budding ice skaters amongst the class!

Devas Class went on a beautiful winter walk to watch their friends at Hunton pre- school perform their nativity concert. They were able to spot all the signs of the changing season; the colder weather, no crops in the field, frost on the grass and no leaves on the trees.

## Walking Group

The walking group continues with its twice-monthly outings on Monday mornings to various (mostly) Kentish locations. Trips in the latter part of 2016 included a ramble around Bewl Water at the end of September and a rather chilly but very worthwhile walk taking in the panoramic views from the North Downs at the end of November. Anyone who would like to join the group would be very welcome. Contact Ann Sawtell on 01622 820731.



*The Walking Group on the North Downs*

## Traditional Spanish Music at the Village Hall

The first music event at the village hall in 2017 is on **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January**, when Applause Rural Touring will be helping to present the **Maria Camahort** quintet, touring as *Iberian Colours*. This will be a chance to see and hear five Spanish musicians playing their traditional culture & song; flamenco percussion, cello, Spanish guitar, violin and soprano vocalisation. Doors 7.30pm with music 8pm. Tickets £10, or £5 for students (ploughmen included). For details see [www.mariacamahort.com](http://www.mariacamahort.com).

Please come and support this. The Village Hall Committee has noted the lower number of villagers attending events during 2016. They want to ensure that the village hall continues to commission entertainment that is well supported. It has a 15-year history of supporting Applause events in Hunton and is a fantastic local venue. Any ideas or requests would be very helpful – you can contact the committee via their Facebook page or the village hall website.

## Speeding on the Increase

The Speedwatch team was out 20 times during the year with each hour-long session being held in West Street, just along from the school entrance. We recorded details of 1,713 vehicles and the average speed over the year was 26.3mph in this 30mph limit, with an advisory 20mph limit during school hours. In 2015 the average speed was 26.7mph so no significant differences there. Speeding, however, was a different matter. A vehicle is deemed to be speeding along this stretch at 35mph and in 2016 10.9% (almost 1 in every 9 vehicles) were recorded at 35mph or above. This is much higher than the 3.8% recorded in 2015 and worryingly a small number of these were recognised as actually living in the village. Just over 2% (40 vehicles) were travelling at 40-44mph and a further 0.5% (8 vehicles) were travelling at 45mph or above, with 55mph being the highest recorded speed.

The detailed information recorded by the team is being passed to the parish council to help with their work on improving road safety in Hunton.

*The Speedwatch Team*

## Village Club AGM

The AGM was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December and attended by the management committee (with apologies from Ann Sawtell and Kathy Reid) and 17 members, which represented just 13% of the club membership, which was rather disappointing. The chairman reported on the activities of the past year, thanking the committee, bar volunteers and in particular Lesley and Roger Lee and their numerous assistants for all of their hard work with the lunches, gardening and walking groups. He also thanked Graham Ashlin and his company for their very generous donations in organising and providing the wines for two successful wine tasting evenings.

The chairman advised that the club needs to replace roofing estimated at £12,600 and is raising funds for a kitchen estimated at £15,000 plus. It is likely that an application to the appropriate National Lottery Fund will be made. The club is now being widely used by the community with 10 different interest groups using the club on a regular basis. The treasurer reported that with the donations and special events being held the club was in profit by an amount just exceeding £5,000, much assisted by a £3,000 refund from NatWest bank. A new oil fired boiler system had been installed increasing maintenance costs to over £5,000. It is quite clear from the figures that without the events the club would not be in profit. The membership secretary advised that the club now had 203 members with 29 people not renewing in 2016.

The election of the management committee stalled the meeting with no volunteers coming forward for the vacant positions of chairman and secretary, without which the club cannot officially operate. To temporarily resolve the matter the outgoing chairman agreed to continue in the post while a replacement is found and the committee agreed to resolve the position of secretary.

It was agreed not to change the annual subscription charges, which will remain at £20 (£15 for concessions) with a £5 renewal discount if paid by 28<sup>th</sup> February. Members raised a few questions with the committee, a couple relating to the entertainments sub-committee, which has lost a couple of members. Annette Trought advised that she would be joining the sub-committee and Mark Ward also offered to join. Liz Ridgeway confirmed she would help out with the next Beer and Cider Festival.

## Darts Champion

Hunton Village Club Darts Team captain, Mark Ward, has won the 2016 Maidstone Town Centre Darts League Singles Knockout Cup. Mark qualified for the finals at an earlier elimination event made up entirely of teams from divisions three and four of the league and had expected to face other finalists from these lower divisions in a "lower leagues final". However, arriving at the finals and presentation night Mark was shocked to discover that the competition was in fact a knockout tournament comprising of the 16 heat qualifiers from all four divisions in together. Despite the stiff opposition Mark had a great night winning 2-0 in the quarter and semi-finals then 3-0 in the best of five final, managing to take the "trophy", an engraved glass, without losing a single leg.

The team has been happy with their performance recently, having managed to remain in the third division despite not taking things too seriously; they're more focused on having a good evening out than strategically selecting their team, with everyone getting at least two games a week.

Hunton Village Club also has a doubles board team that play in a different league, on a different type of board, and from a different distance. Both teams play on a Wednesday evening.

## Happy New Year from the Herald

The Herald team would like to wish all our readers a very Happy New Year and to extend our thanks to our advertisers and contributors, without whose support throughout the year producing the Herald wouldn't be possible. Also a very special thank you to our large band of deliverers who do a great job ensuring that your copy reaches you each month.

## Village Diary

Please note that Dudley Farman has taken over the maintenance of the village diary on the Hunton website and it has a new email address. If you would like any events added to the diary please email [diary@hunton.org.uk](mailto:diary@hunton.org.uk). Many thanks to Barbara Wright, who has done a wonderful job of keeping the diary up to date over the last few years.

## Wine Tasting Evening

In November, thanks to Graham Ashlin who again kindly sourced wines, and to Rosemary, Ann, Celia, Annette and Roger who provided homemade items for a delicious buffet, sixty-five lucky villagers and guests enjoyed supper at the village club whilst sampling nine very different drinks. Graham talked about each wine and advised where to buy them. Graham's wife, Nicki, helped pour wines but also generously made a fabulous Christmas cake to accompany a dessert wine. It is hoped that a similar event will be held in May and more details will appear in the Herald as soon as they are known.

### Kent Association for the Blind Sporting Fundraiser

KAB has several bond places for the London Marathon 2017 that they can offer to interested runners for Team KAB. For further details please visit the KAB website or contact Amy on 01622 691357 [amy.vdw@kab.org.uk](mailto:amy.vdw@kab.org.uk).

### Thank You

Thank you so much to everyone for their recent support and kind offers of help and lifts. We felt surrounded by a very caring community. What a wonderful place Hunton is!

*Liz and Guy Oliver*

## Dog Waste

The red dog waste bin at the playing field has been removed as Maidstone Borough Council no longer collect this separately. A new bin has been installed near the entrance of the car park, which will take dog waste as well as general rubbish. Please continue to clear up after your dogs and pop it in this bin or take it home with you for disposal.

## At St Mary's Church in January

### Flowers

1st	Sue Scott	8th	Sue Scott
15th	Sue Scott	22nd	Sue Scott
29th	Benefice Service at Linton		

### Services

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January – Christmas 2**  
11.00am Family Service – Rev David Jones

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January – Epiphany**  
9.30am Holy Communion 1662 – Rev Eileen Doyle

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January – Epiphany 2**  
11.00am Morning Prayer – Rev David Jones

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January – Epiphany 3**  
11.00am Holy Communion – Rev Peter Callway

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January – Epiphany 4**  
10.30am Benefice Service at Linton

### Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

Wed-Fri 8-11pm  
Sun 12-2.30pm & 8-10.30pm

**Date for your diary** - Hunton Village Fete June 17th 2017

## Winter Village Lunches

The well-attended autumn lunches were again not only very sociable community events, but also raised over £1,000, which was donated to support the church and the club. Thanks for the success of these events is due to all those generous locals who donate tasty homemade soups and cakes or give up their time to help, and to everyone who goes along to the club to enjoy an excellent value meal.

Another series of six Thursday lunches start on Thursday 26th January. The club is open from 12pm and from about 12.30pm there will usually be a choice of two homemade soups with bread and cheeses followed by homemade cakes with tea or coffee for a suggested donation of just £5. You are welcome to come alone or bring friends and family, but if you have a particular dietary requirement please let Lesley know in advance Lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com

## East Farleigh Farmers' Market

The day of the Christmas Farmers' Market dawned frosty yet sunny. Kettle Bridge Concertinas braved the chill in their Christmas hats to entertain us all with seasonal tunes. Our stallholders dressed their stalls attractively and welcomed a regular flow of customers looking for food and crafts. Apologies were received from Steve the Fish, who has been advised to take a break from markets due to his neck injury, and Whitegates Farm, whose van broke down in Chatham on the way to East Farleigh!

This year the market has raised a total of £955 for local charities – the highest figure since we started, which is very pleasing. We donated to Involve Macmillan, Demelza, East Farleigh Brownies, The Heart of Kent Hospice, Involve Older People, COGS, Hi-Kent, Loose Valley Conservation, Porchlight, Making a Difference to Maidstone and the Maidstone Samaritans. Thank you to all stallholders and customers who helped us achieve this. We are also very grateful to Mandy and Gary of the Old School Hall whose support and hard work each month helps us keep going.

There will be no market in January, the first of 2017 will be on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February, so make a note in your diary NOW!

*Sue Morris*

## News from the WI

The WI was pleased to welcome both members and non-members to their open meeting in November with a fascinating talk from David Tadd, retired Head of Forensics at the Metropolitan Police. Much of David's work at the Met concerned the identification of the dead from mass fatality events around the world, caused by accident, criminality or weather. His first talk was about the identification of victims of the Boxing Day tsunami that hit SE Asia in 2004, particularly those in Thailand. Robust methods were needed, as of the 21 bodies returned from Thailand initially two were wrongly identified.

After a break David spoke about the IRA's attempt to kill Margaret Thatcher and her Cabinet and how the rubble from the Grand Hotel following the attack was forensically examined for traces of explosives and fragments of the device used which led to the conviction of Patrick Magee. Everyone agreed that David Tadd gave a fascinating insight into the work of the Forensic Department of the Police and an appreciation of the meticulous attention to detail that is involved.

The WI Christmas party was a short murder mystery play, "The Root of All Evil", written by Jean Larking and performed by the committee. The culprit was not revealed, giving everyone the chance to put their sleuthing skills to the test over supper. The characters from the play circulated around the club, trying their best to answer questions, although even they did not know the identity of the murderer. After a chilli supper, the murderer was revealed. The majority of our amateur Sherlocks were proved wrong and the chairperson, Ann Sawtell's character was the guilty one!

The next meeting is on Tuesday 4th January at Hunton Village Club, doors open 7.15pm. New ladies welcome.

January	1 <sup>st</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>	29 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Coxheath</b>	11.00 HC	11.00 MP	11.00 HC	11.00 FS	10.30 Benefice Service at Linton
<b>E. Farleigh</b>	09.30 MP	08.00 HC; 11.00 FS	09.30 HC	08.00 HC	
<b>Linton</b>	09.30 HC	09.30 FS	08.00 HC	09.30 HC	
<b>W. Farleigh</b>	08.00 HC 1662	11.00 MP Mod	09.30 MP Trad	09.30 HC Mod	
HC Holy Communion, MP Morning Prayer, FS Family Service					

**All items for the next edition of the Herald to the Editor by 15th January, please**