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It's "All Systems Go" For This Year's Christmas Fair

Don't miss Hunton's Christmas Fair on Saturday 9th December from 3pm until 6pm. Entry is £1 per adult, under 16s free. Whether it's a last minute gift you are after, or just looking for a fun afternoon out with the children, Hunton's Christmas Fair has it all. In the church there will be a wide variety of craft and novelty goods for sale as well as a pop-up shop selling locally produced items. Fancy a set of stacking Russian dolls, some unusual jewellery, crafted wooden decorations, a bird box or two, ceramic ware, cards, toys or fancy candles? Then look no further.

If you are hungry, head for the barbeque, toasted marshmallows, roasted chestnuts, mulled wine and mince pies all in the churchyard, magically lit for the occasion. In the village hall children can look forward to biscuit decorating, a lucky dip, face painting, guessing the name of a bear and the chance to make and decorate their own Christmas tree. Santa will be there in his grotto from 4pm until 5pm for those who have booked to see him. If you need a rest there's a bar and light refreshments available. A bottle stall, Usborne books and "Colour me Beautiful" make-up advice will be there too.

The school is decorating five small Christmas trees to sit on the windowsills in the church and at 3.45pm a children's lantern parade will wend its way to the church lych-gate. See you there!



Handmade wooden decorations from the Kenward Trust – just some of the items that will be available at the Christmas Fair.



Hunton Village Hall December Play – Wind in the Willows

Having enjoyed "Sonrisa" (hopefully), our final event for 2017 is "Wind in the Willows", a puppetry-based adaptation of the famous book for families (and grown-ups) in the early evening on Friday 29th December, by the Box Tale Soup company. This looks to be an interesting diversion for all ages – a winner at Buxton Fringe of "Best Show for Families". Doors 6pm for a 6.30pm start, finishing around 7.45pm. There will be free mince pies and a hot drink before (and softies for youngsters) and after if stocks survive, plus a limited bottle bar – assuming some of you carry on at the club afterwards! Tickets are priced at £10 adults, £7.50 U18's, £30 for a family ticket for 4-5 people (e.g. 2-3 adults + 2/3 children). Available from Mike on 01622 820429 or Steve 01622 820403.

WI Gets Crafty

November's WI meeting was a Christmas craft workshop organised by Chris Summersgill. The ladies made cards with hole punched hearts and pearls in the shape of a Christmas tree. A little more challenging was a Dorset button snowflake using sparkly wool, silver thread and beads. (Originally Dorset buttons were made with a ring from the horn of a Dorset sheep). Despite some ladies feeling they were all fingers and thumbs everyone produced a unique decoration.

It is the turn of Hunton WI to host the District WI carols at Hunton Church on Thursday, 7th December at 7:30pm. Hunton ladies please do join us. December's WI meeting will be "Call my Bluff" and a supper run by the committee. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at the village club; doors open at 7pm and new ladies are very welcome.

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

Contact details for other village clubs and organisations are available at www.hunton.org.uk/contacts

Parish Council Contacts			
Parish Council Chairman – Gary Thomas 820691		Clerk to the Parish Council – Sharon Goodwin 681238	
Cllr Jonny Goddard	820096	Cllr David Heaton	820678
Cllr Tony Stanbridge	820721	Cllr Annette Trought	820448
		Cllr Roger Lee	820210
		Cllr Helen Ward	820810

Diary Dates			
Fri 1 st December	School Xmas Fair Hunton Primary School 2-4.30pm	Tues 5 th December	WI Meeting Village Club 7.15pm
Thurs 7 th December	Village Club AGM Village Club 7pm	Thurs 7 th December	District WI Carols St Mary's Church 7.30pm
Sat 9 th December	Hunton Xmas Fair St Mary's Church 3-6pm	Sun 17 th December	Carol Service St Mary's Church 6pm
Fri 29 th December	"Wind in the Willows" Village Hall Doors 6pm		

Check out www.hunton.org.uk/diary for the latest events. If you would like to add an event, email diary@hunton.org.uk

Pastoral Letter

December already! Where has the year gone? I'm sure time passes quicker as you get older. All clichés we've heard or even said at one time or another. However, in amongst all the busy-ness that comes in the run up to Christmas, the festivities and feasting, the presents and partying, it is also a time to look back; to reflect upon all that the year has held for us. As Christians, we are called to take time during the season of advent to think about all that Jesus' birth means for us, to look to the sacrifice that God made, sending his son to save us from our sins, to show us that there is another way. Reflection is something that we all like to do, Christian or not, as borne out by the number of annual retrospectives that appear on our televisions to fill the schedules in that tricky bit between Christmas and the New Year.

As I begin to look back, I have been thinking about all the people for whom the year has not flown by, those who have lost loved ones, belongings or have suffered life changing injuries. 2017 has had its fair share of natural disasters and wars and famine around the globe and closer to home we have had high profile incidents such as the Manchester bombing and the Grenfell tower fire, as well as many others. These atrocities had those of us not directly affected glued to news reports wanting to know every detail as the situations unfolded. We could not help but be moved by the personal stories of loss or sacrifice or bravery that unfolded in front of our eyes. At the same time as feeling for my fellow man's suffering I was filled with hope at the stories of those who stepped in to help, the way social media, quite often in the news for the wrong reasons, was used as a force for good. There are also the numerous personal tragedies, those small stories that don't make the news, the things that only family or close friends know about. So many things that can make it hard to look back upon the year, circumstances that make it hard to move on with our lives or to look to the future too.

But time does move forward, however fast or slow it may seem to be going for us personally, there is no escaping the fact that Christmas is almost here! And Christmas is a time for hope, for joy, for light. The one thing I have seen repeated time and again in the aftermath of these difficult situations is pictures of people standing united in prayer. Prayer can give us hope in the darkest of times. Whether we have a faith or not, prayer seems to be something inbuilt for us to turn to when we seek comfort when we cannot comprehend the situation that is unfolding around us. If prayer is our default setting, maybe in this season of cheer and goodwill to all men we ought to look for the things we are grateful for and say a prayer of thanks for all that we have. A prayer of gratitude for our fellow men who are there for us to turn to in times of trouble. Let's not leave it to the darkest hours to remember that we stand in unity with others but let's look to the light and the hope that Christmas can bring across our broken world. My prayer for you all this December is for health and happiness and hope.

Becky Parnham, Children's and Families' Worker

Parish Council Round Up

South East Water has investigated the possibility of installing part of the new Hunton Hill water main on Clive Baxter's land to the east of the road but due to the location of badger setts and electricity cables this will not be possible. An alternative route along land to the west is also not considered viable, so the pipe will have to go under the road. South East Water is looking again at the schedule and is in discussion with the contractors to see if the work can be undertaken more quickly. The project will not now begin until 2018.

The playing field committee has been successful in obtaining two grants totalling £6,750 which will go towards the purchase of a new nest swing and replacing the safety surface under the play equipment. It is hoped that the swing and the new surface will be in place by Christmas.

A grant of £1,000 was received from County Councillor Paulina Stockell towards the replacement of the new boiler in the village hall. A festoon of lights has been installed on the front of the village hall by handyman Phil Jessop with the assistance of several local residents. Those involved were thanked for their help.

The parish council is to write to L J Betts, who farm the land adjacent to the permissive path on West Street, to ask them to try to avoid driving tractors across the path as this is damaging the surface and making the path very muddy.

Gary Thomas and David Heaton have attended the first meeting of the Wares Farm Monitoring Committee. They provided evidence that HGVs are using Redwall Lane and East Street to travel between Berry Gardens and Amsbury Farm. It was agreed that HGV monitoring would be extended to include the Redwall Lane / East Street junction. They also stressed that additional car and LGV traffic needs to be considered. The Traffic and Road Safety Working Party is to look at the traffic plan that has been produced for the construction phase and consider the need to monitor construction traffic using the village.

Helen Ward and Jonny Goddard have spoken to Fruition about providing additional signage to try to avoid the problem of lost lorries. Fruition has agreed to fund this. The ownership of the land where signs could be installed is being investigated.

Winter Readiness Community Drop In

All residents of Hunton, Yalding and Collier Street are warmly invited to this community flood information event to be held on Saturday 9th December from 9.30am-2pm at the Baptist Church and Youth Centre, Vicarage Road, Yalding. Drop in to hear how the different organisations that respond to flooding will co-ordinate their response in our villages, including community level road closures, the provision and distribution of sandbags and ongoing property level resilience work. Demonstrations on how to use sandbags effectively and safe lifting practices will take place at 10am, 11.30am and 1pm. Hear about the new refresher training for Flood Wardens, check what flood alerts and warnings you are registered to receive and see the community resources now available on the Kent Prepared website. This event has been organised by KCC, MBC and the Environment Agency as part of the Medway Flood Partnership.

Hunton School Christmas Fayre

Friday 1st December from 2pm to 4.30pm
Entrance 50p (includes entrance to prize draw)
Class Stalls, Refreshments, Santa's Grotto,
Face Painting, Enterprise Stalls
Independent Stalls, Pin the red nose on the Rudolph
Guess the weight of the Xmas Cake
Appearance by 'The Huntones' singing Xmas Carols
And much more...

Victoria Cross Hero Remembered

The unveiling of a memorial stone took place at Hunton Primary School on 7th November in honour of Hunton's Victoria Cross recipient, WWI hero Lieutenant Colonel Arthur Drummond Borton VC. The stone was provided as part of a government initiative to commemorate all the Victoria Cross recipients from the First World War on the 100th anniversary of the action for which they received the award by placing a stone at or near their place of birth. Arthur was born at the family home of Cheveney on the edge of the village and "Borton" class at Hunton School bears the family name, so it was felt that this was a fitting location. The siting of the stone and the unveiling was organised by Maidstone Borough Council in conjunction with the school and parish council. Borough Councillor Brian Mortimer welcomed some distinguished guests to the ceremony, including Major General Nick Borton DSO MBE, a distant cousin of Arthur, and Lance Sergeant Johnson Beharry VC, who received the VC for his bravery in Iraq in 2004, and was representing the Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment of which Arthur's regiment, The London Regiment, is now a part. Chairman of Hunton Parish Council, Gary Thomas, read the citation that was published in the London Gazette and Major General Borton made a short speech after which the Mayor of Maidstone Cllr Malcolm Greer unveiled the stone with the help of some of the students. Prayers were led by Rev Peter Callway, followed by a bugler playing The Last Post and the children from the school giving a well-rehearsed rendition of the National Anthem. Lieutenant Colonel Borton's grave, which is in the churchyard at St Mary's, also received a makeover from local stonemason Gordon Newton who cleaned the stones and re-engraved the headstone. Gordon felt that this was such a worthwhile project that he very generously installed the memorial stone and renovated the grave free of charge. Villagers are welcome to pop in outside of school hours to have a look at the new memorial, which is just inside the gate to the playground near the main school entrance.



Hunton Wanderers CC End of Season Report 2017

2017 always promised to be a challenging season for our three league teams, all of whom faced tough opposition in their respective divisions. Our Saturday 1st XI preserved their place in Division 1A of the Kent Regional Cricket League with key victories over Sheppey and Sherwood and a particularly satisfying seven wicket win against local rivals The Mote 3rd XI.

The Saturday 2nd XI finished in their customary position at the bottom of the KRCL structure but enjoyed their cricket, put together some good performances and enjoyed a memorable win against Headcorn as well as home and away victories against neighbours Yalding. Top wicket taker in 2017 was Dave Leppard, who has this year announced his retirement after playing at Hunton for over 25 years and having taken over 1100 wickets in his career.

The Sunday XI, promoted for the 4th year in a row in 2016, this time to Division 3 of the Kent Village Cricket League, faced their most difficult season for many years and were involved in an exciting four-way battle to avoid relegation on the last day of the season. I am pleased to report that they defeated Pluckley by three wickets and thus ensured another season in the higher division. In addition, our Sunday captain and opening batsman, Dan Taylor, won the KVCL Division 3 batting award with a total of 585 runs for the season and a remarkable average of 117, including a top score of 177 not out against Addington.

The club remains in tolerably good health, with some new recruits this year to replace the inevitable leavers and retirees. However there is a background of declining participation in recreational cricket right across the country and it remains to be seen whether we can say the same at the end of the 2018 season.

To finish on a positive note, the club seemed to appear with surprising regularity in the KM sports pages this year and our noticeboard in the pavilion is a collage of newspaper cuttings. We found out at the end of the season that on Sundays we are the only club covered by our local roving KM photographer, so we were virtually guaranteed a write up provided we put in a reasonable performance. Keep it up next year please, KM!

Simon Taylor. Chairman, HWCC

The Club Needs a Chairperson

Despite pleads in this journal, to club members and on social media there remains a vacancy to fill in the role of Hunton Village Club Chairperson. This is an essential role within the Club Management Committee to enable the village club to continue to function in its present format. In particular, to maintain its premises licence for the sale of alcohol as a members' club. There is an existing committee of nine people who have each served on the committee for more than two years and are willing and able to fully support the new chairperson. In addition the retiring chairperson is fully prepared to assist and continue to carry out many of the operating tasks to ensure a smooth transition. It is not a particularly onerous role; there are monthly committee meetings, which on average last no more than one and a half hours with very few administrative duties in between. The club has become quite a centre for the community in its present guise and it would be a great shame for that to end for want of a chairperson. Please come along to the AGM on 7th December at 7pm and help support our great little community.

Early Deadline

Please note that the deadline for submitting items for the January 2018 Herald is **10th December**. Our printers close over the Festive Season so we need to have everything printed before Christmas.

Carol Service

Come along to the carol service at St Mary's Church on Sunday 17th December at 6pm. It's always a lovely occasion that's well attended and a perfect start to the Christmas festivities. With all your favourite carols, readings by representatives of village groups and rounded off with mince pies and mulled wine!

At St Mary's Church in December

Flowers

3rd Alison Ellman-Brown 10th Sue Scott
 17th Carol Service – All 24th Christmas – All
 31st Benefice – All

Services

Sunday 3rd December – 1st Sunday in Advent
 11.00am Family Service – Rev David Jones
Sunday 10th December – 2nd Sunday in Advent
 9.30am Holy Communion 1662 – Rev David Jones
Sunday 17th December – 3rd Sunday in Advent
 6.00pm Carol Service – Rev David Jones
Sunday 24th December – Christmas Eve
 9.30pm Holy Communion – Rev Peter Callway
Monday 25th December – Christmas Day
 9.30am Family Service & Holy Communion – Rev David Jones
Sunday 31st December – Christmas 1
 10.30am Benefice Service at Coxheath

Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

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

A Chile January Wine Tasting and Supper

On Saturday 27th January Hunton Village Club will again be hosting a Wine Tasting and Supper, which promises to be as enjoyable as previous events. The evening will start at 7pm with a welcome glass of sparkling wine followed by a selection of white and red wines to accompany a three-course meal. As before, our local wine guru, Graham Ashlin, will be on hand to guide us through the tasting. Seats, for a donation of £17.50 each, must be reserved and paid for in advance. Funds raised will go towards the provision of kitchen facilities at the club. If you would like to attend this event please reserve your places as soon as possible. Contact Tricia on 01622 820804 email tricia.nichols@btinternet.com or Lesley on 01622 820210 email lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com.

Local Christmas Markets

Yalding Yuletide Celebrations – Saturday 2nd December 4.45pm-8pm – Yalding High Street
 Entertainment including Punch and Judy, Samba band and Christmas Carols, craft and gift stalls, farmers' market, locally sourced hot and cold food.

East Farleigh Christmas Farmers' Market – Sunday 3rd December 10am-1pm – Old School Hall, Lower Road

Festive music by Kettlebridge Concertinas, food and craft stalls, hot drinks and homemade cakes from the kitchen or enjoy a fried brunch for just £4.50.

St Mary's Church Thanks

Enormous thanks to all volunteers who gave up time this year to mow the churchyard or to help at working parties both inside and outside St Mary's Church.

Brian Fails to Dampen Walkers' Spirits

In October, Hurricane Brian did not stop 21 brave walkers making a 1.5 hour walk around the Parish despite a couple of downpours en route. They were able to dry off in the village club and, along with another 19 people, enjoy a soup and cheese lunch. Many thanks to everyone who supported this event, donated cakes and puddings as well as helped to serve or clear up. The four Village Walks and Lunches this year have raised just over £700 towards the club refurbishment projects including the start of a kitchen facility. The first walk of 2018 will be on Saturday 10th February.

Better Safe Than Sorry

It is a sad fact that fraudsters, thieves and burglars see Christmas as a season of opportunity. Many of us will be out and about shopping, fighting our way through crowded streets; others will be looking for bargains on-line. Shopping done, our homes will have presents waiting to be wrapped, or stacked under the tree ready for the big day. Once that day has come, gifts unwrapped, we will discard the packaging and because invariably boxes won't fit in the dustbins, we leave them by the side of the road.

Now imagine you are up to no good. An open bag with a purse visible or a wallet in a back pocket are wonderful opportunities for the light fingered and we have already had reports of such thefts in Maidstone. A pile of presents easily visible through a window might tempt a burglar, so too the packaging for an expensive TV left by the bin overnight – and as for those of us buying online, scammers and fraudsters may well look to trick you out of your money.

It's not all bad though and just a little careful thought can massively reduce the chances of your Christmas being ruined. Keep your purses and wallets out of sight, don't leave expensive gifts in plain view in the home or car, don't advertise your new possessions by leaving empty boxes etc. in sight for long periods and of course make sure doors and windows are locked when you go out. You may also consider buying some plug-in timers for your lights (set up to give the appearance of people turning lights on and off in various rooms if you are out late at night). Never give your financial details to phone callers or e-mailers. We all know where we live better than anybody, so if you see or hear anything suspicious please report it to Huntonwatch and/or the police via 101 (or 999 if a crime is in progress).

Finally, we would like to thank all Huntonwatch members for their support over the past year and wish everyone a Merry Christmas and all the best for 2018.

The Huntonwatch Team

December	3 rd	10 th	17 th	24 th	25 th	31 st
Coxheath	11.00 HC 17.00 Light the Tree	11.00 MP	16.30 Carol Service	17.00 Children's Service 23:15 HC	10.45 FS & HC	10.30 Benefice Service at Coxheath
E. Farleigh	09.30 MP	08.00 HC; 11.00 FS	18.00 Carol Service	16.00 Christingle 23.30 HC	No Service	
Linton	09.30 HC	09.30 FS	16.00 Nine Lessons & Carols	23.30 HC	09.30 FS & HC	
W. Farleigh	08.00 HC 1662	18.00 Carol Service	11.00 MP Trad	21.30 HC	09.30 FS	
HC Holy Communion, MP Morning Prayer, FS Family Service						

All items for the next edition of the Herald to the Editor by 10th December, please