



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

Call for Sites Consultation - Saturday, January 11th, 12.30-2.30pm

Two sites have been submitted to Maidstone Council as potentially available for housing in Hunton. The sites are Durrants Farm, where 80 homes could be built on 6.3 acres, and the land opposite Dingley Dell on Heath Road, where there could be 137 houses.

The borough council has agreed to deliver 17,600 new houses in their local plan. Fewer than 6,500 have been built so far. The Call for Sites (held between March and May 2019) was to establish land which is potentially available for building. Sites submitted by landowners or developers are an expression of interest and from these the council needs to earmark land on which to build 1,236 new homes a year from 2022.

The Parish Council is holding a drop-in consultation at Hunton Village Club.

Residents are invited to attend and to discuss their views on these with members of the parish council.

Further information about all the submitted sites can be found on the council's website:

www.maidstone.gov.uk/home/primary-services/planning-and-building/primary-areas/local-plan-review/call-for-sites

The sites within Hunton are numbers 163 and 173.

Fun for all at the Christmas Market

Stalls selling produce and presents, fun competitions, festive music and the aromas of mulled wine and the bbq attracted about 200 people to Hunton's Christmas market.

And thanks to their generous spending on everything from beef burgers to bird-boxes, £1,200 was raised towards church funds and projects, including, hopefully, the provision of toilets in 2020.

Santa arrived with his elves and welcomed children into a glitter-filled grotto where they not only received presents but could linger and enjoy painting, drawing, a wish-tree and a lucky dip.

Adults (and their children) marvelled at a model railway, guessed the weight of two Christmas cakes, chanced their luck at a raffle and bottle stall and pondered over silver jewellery, glass tree decorations, pictures of Kent and much more.

The market, apart from the barbecue, was held within the church, not entirely by design. Only hours before the opening, a fierce squall of wind sent gazebos flying and helpers scurrying for cover. But, not to be deterred, the helpers moved everything inside and both stallholders and guests praised the 'cosy' atmosphere and enjoyed the protection from the cold winds.

Thanks go to organisers, stallholders, helpers and everybody who made the market an afternoon to remember.

Bus timetable changes

Some timetables for buses running through Hunton will be VERY EXTENSIVELY REVISED from Monday, January 6th, because of traffic delays caused by road works. Buses affected are numbers 22, 23 and 26 to and from Maidstone in the early morning and when schools exit in the afternoon. In principle, the route of morning and afternoon school-time buses is mirrored so that the same bus service number/route now applies to the morning and the afternoon journeys.

Please check on the bus service website www.nu-venture.co.uk for full details of the changes.

Your Local Contacts:		Village Hall Booking:	www.huntonvillagehall.co.uk
School: Secretary/Head Teacher	820360	Huntonwatch: huntonwatch@gmail.com	820403
Under 5's Pre-School:	820309	'Potholes' Hotline (KCC)	03000 418181
Pond and Tree Warden: Mike Summersgill	820429	Community Warden: Adam McKinley	07811 271021
Rector: Revd. Peter Callway	747570*	PCSO - Martin Chivers	101
Hon Associate Rector: Revd. David Jones	741474*	Helen Grant MP helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk	0207 219 7107
Associate Rector: Revd Eileen Doyle	204241**	Hunton Bell Ringers: Jeff Young	746541
Churchwarden: Alison Ellman-Brown	820288	WI President: Ann Sawtell	820731
Village Club: Gil Robertson	820059		
Maidstone Police	690690 or 101	*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 Clerk: Sharon Goodwin - 681238, huntonpc@googlegmail.com	Chairman: David Heaton - 820678, dhhuntonpc@gmail.com
Cllr Jonny Goddard - 820096, jonny@cheveneyfarm.co.uk	Cllr Roger Lee - 820210, rlhuntonpc@btinternet.com
Cllr Tony Stanbridge - 820721, tshuntonpc@gmail.com	Cllr Annette Trought - 820448, annette@trought.com
Cllr Helen Ward - 820810, hwhuntonpc@wardy.org	Cllr Gary Thomas - 820691, gthuntonpc@gmail.com

Diary Dates	
Tues 31st Dec	Hunton Club open from 7:30pm
Sat 11th Jan	Call for Sites Consultation , Village Hall, 12:30
Mon 20th Jan	Parish Council meeting , Village Hall, 19:30

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

Dear Friends,

I sat down at my laptop to begin collecting some thoughts for this letter and started by putting the date at the top. January 2019. Ah! The annual tradition of putting the wrong year and wistfully changing it and thinking to myself 'How can it be **insert relevant date** already?!

It set my memory back 40 years. Coming back to school after the Christmas holidays as a 6 year-old. In my mind's eye, I can still see my little hand changing the mistakenly written 79 to an 80. I have probably made the same mistake every year since.

The turning of a New Year is a strange beast. Some of us celebrate wildly with champagne and Auld Lang Syne. Others of us choose a gentler passage, preferring a cup of tea and an early night. But, however we welcome it, the New Year descends upon us. Yesterday becomes yesteryear in the blink of an eye and, along with the simple act of writing a different number at the top of the page, we are presented with the dazzling possibilities of the year to come.

There's a lot of pressure surrounding the turning of a year. A lot of talk of resolutions and fresh starts. This is the year we'll get fit/run a marathon/decorate the bathroom/be more organised/be kinder/volunteer/learn to knit...

It feels like a prime time for making changes in our lives, but statistics tell us that, in reality, more than 80% of people have given up on their resolutions by the end of January, which probably ends up leaving 80% of people feeling frustrated and disappointed with themselves! But, you know, the New Year isn't the only time we can decide to do things differently.

One of my very favourite books of all time (and one of my very favourite book characters) is Anne of Green Gables. The effusive, romantic, impulsive and big-hearted Anne Shirley has some wisdom for us about fresh starts...

'Isn't it nice to think that tomorrow is a new day with no mistakes in it yet?'

What a wonderful thought! And Lamentations 3:22-24 reminds us that this is true. God's mercies to us are 'new every morning'.

As we embark on the journey into 2020, we have 366 fresh starts ahead of us (it's a leap year!) each one filled to the brim with chances to make changes and choices that enable us to be the people God made us to be. Every one an opportunity to cross out the mistakes and put things right. Let's embrace each one of them!

Happy New Year indeed!

Every Blessing, Lorna Faulkner

Recipe for a new kitchen

You may remember that in the summer we applied for and 'won' £1,000 from the Calor Rural Community Fund, to replace the village hall cooker. We also raised a further £500 from a crowdfunding initiative. Why hasn't it all happened?

Well. What started as a fingers-crossed application to Calor for a new cooker, has blossomed into an exciting project to update the whole kitchen.

We looked at replacing the cooker and then decided to investigate complete refurbishment of the rather dated and tired kitchen.

A call to Stewart of MBK in Coxheath has resulted in a very good initial plan at a very good price. The only thing we have to do is to find an electrician and a plumber to do a few tweaks! We have enough money from the Calor and Crowd funding initiative to cover the cost of cooker, extractor fan, microwave and a little freezer. Other community funds will cover the rest.

The initial plan was to get it all done over Christmas, but suppliers and the building trade tend to go into hibernation over this period. We are now planning on getting the work done over February half term.

The Hall has its centenary in 2026 - just 6 years away. These improvements are about ensuring that the Hall is in good shape to continue to attract use for the next 100 years!

Sue Pinks

Mary Goldsmith

Mary Goldsmith, who had been the Business Manager at Hunton School for more than four years, died suddenly in November.

Mary, 65, was kind and caring and will be dearly missed at the school. Before coming to Hunton she worked at Loose School and she was also an active member of her church community.

Her funeral was held at Holy Family Catholic Church, Maidstone, in December but there will be a memorial service for her at St Mary's Church, led by Hunton School, in January. This will be an opportunity for all who knew Mary, particularly the school-children, to reflect and remember her. As soon as the date is finalised it will be announced.

She is survived by her husband, David and daughters, Gemma and Felicity.

Memorial donations in memory of Mary may be made to <https://mary-holtgoldsmith.muchloved.com>

Happy Anniversary Walkers!

2020 is the Hunton Walking Group's 10th anniversary. Ann Sawtell, the walking group's leader, reflects that the group was born out of the village plan ten years ago at the suggestion of Sue Heaton and Barbara Wright. Ann was approached to see if she would coordinate a walking group. She writes, 'I was newly retired with new-found freedom and, having spent most of my working life organising people, I thought it was not an option I wanted. I'm so glad I changed my mind! The group has developed friendships between neighbours who were previously unknown to each other. My map reading skills are sadly lacking and credit must go to Mike Summersgill and Phil Nichols for figuring out walks of the correct distance and, most importantly, walks which end at a good pub!' Anyone interested in joining the twice monthly walks should contact Ann for more details on ann.sawtell@btinternet.com

Join the Club

More than 20 people attended Hunton Club's AGM in December and heard that, thanks to the many social functions organised there, and the efforts of many volunteers, members and visitors, the club's finances are now in good enough shape to refurbish the toilets in the New Year or the year after. The functions have included quiz nights, film shows, wine-tasting, garden club meetings, lunches and darts. The club is the only licensed premises in Hunton and new members are more than welcome to join at any time. Membership subs are now due (£20 p.a. or £15 if paid before the end of January), to be paid at the club.

Quiz night

A very successful quiz night at the club in December attracted about 40 people.

Teams with original names such as 'Sons of Farmers', 'East Meets West' and 'Hunton's Hopefuls' battled it out over questions on many subjects such as politics, sport and Christmas time. There was a lively competitive atmosphere with lots of laughs. Thanks to Phil Nichols for organising and hosting a fun evening.

Food and Village Lunches

Six very successful village lunches were held at Hunton Club at the end of last year raising £1,000 to be divided between the club and the church. Thanks go to all the volunteers who made these lunches possible. The beer cellar at the club has already been refurbished and the old store room converted into a kitchen. Now, in order to comply with insurance requirements an application has been made for the Club to be assessed under The Food Standards Agency Food Hygiene Rating Scheme. Some of the rules and regulations are quite onerous and will inevitably lead to changes in the way some events are run. It is hoped that the assessment will be made in early 2020 but the next series of Thursday lunches will not start until after the assessment has taken place. The dates will be publicised in the Hunton Herald, on the Club website and on the Hunton Facebook site.

New Year's Eve

For those lucky enough to get their Hunton Herald early – Hunton Club will be open on New Year's Eve from 7.30 pm. There will be games! Children are welcome but no formal meal this year. Bring your own food or buy pizza and snacks there. Bring your friends and relations and enjoy welcoming in a new decade!

Supper dance

A Friends of St Mary's supper dance held in memory of our former borough councillor, Brian Mortimer, attracted 120 people. The event was sponsored by the Friends in collaboration with Brian's band 2BC. Brian and his band had supported us in the past contributing many thousands of pounds to FOSM.

It was Brian's widow Diane and the band members themselves who wished to hold this tribute in Hunton as the village is the geographic centre of the area served by Brian as Borough Councillor.

Sincere thanks go to all those who helped and all who attended. Proceeds of £1,341 were donated to the Heart of Kent Hospice and £894 to FOSM.

Jack Chaplin (25th February 1922 – 27th July 2019) remembers

In late August 1960 the family moved from Sharpethorne in Sussex to Hunton where my dad, Jack, became the landlord of the Bull Inn. In hindsight this was not the best time of the year to take over the pub after 7 years out of the trade; it was just as the East Londoners were converging on Kent for the hop picking!

That year was the first year Court Farm had their new Bruff hop picking machine but, being unsure of its reliability, they ran it in tandem with the hand pickers; Peter Day at Clock House Farm was all hand picked. It was a baptism of fire for a new landlord but with help from a few locals Dad got through. An ex landlord of the Bull and his wife, Fred & Win Guess, who lived just down the road volunteered to help - Win behind the bar & Fred in the cellar.

During hop picking customers used to have to pay a deposit on glasses taken outside the pub (I think it was a shilling) but a lot of the Londoners used to turn up with quart jugs to be filled. Outside the pub at weekends in hop picking season there was a stall set up selling jellied eels and an assortment of seafood My pocket money job was to clear up at the front of the pub and hose it down - it stank!

At closing time at the weekends when the husbands of the families picking came down things were really busy and at closing time in the evenings the local "Bobby" Bert Cavall used to come in to make sure there was an orderly departure, normally saying "come on, you got huts to go to!". When they had all gone and he had checked the doors were locked he would take off his helmet and place it on a table and would say, "I'll have a pint Jack". Proper local copper was Bert.

In those days the Bull had a thriving darts and billiards team and Dad bought a mini bus to transport the teams to away matches. Sometimes he used to take the Hunton football team to away matches, I remember Eddie Chambers was one of the team.

Friday nights at the Bull was "Free & easy night" - this was a savings club for Christmas. People would come in to the pub and pay in what they could afford that week, then a couple of weeks before Christmas they were paid out what they had paid in plus interest that the bank had paid. (Banks and interest doesn't seem possible these days). Pay out night was a good night for the pub.

A lot of local lads that used to congregate at Burford Farm to ride their motorbikes round the orchard used to come into the Bull; they called my Dad Jack and Mum "Mrs Jack". We left the Bull in 1967 and moved to Headcorn.

Dad's memory got bad in his last year or so but one day he was remembering the Bull, and named a few customers; I did help him a bit. The ones that stuck in his mind were, Alice Till, May Snashell, Alf Heath, Ted Corderoy, Jock Archibald, Dave Taylor, Algie Day, Jack Gilbert, to name just a few. Writing this here at home in Haut Vienne in France has brought back good memories of the few years we spent at the Bull Hunton.



The Bull Inn

Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

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

'Teddy' Mordey

Edward "Teddy" Mordey, a long-time resident of Hunton, has died aged 77.

Teddy grew up in Amsbury Road, where he lived with his parents and from where he went to Hunton School and Oldborough Manor. He was an administrator in the Health Service and served both in the Territorial Army, and St.John's Ambulance Brigade. He maintained a strong interest in local affairs, keeping up to date by reading the Kent Messenger and Hunton Herald online. Teddy's ashes will be laid to rest in Hunton Churchyard, alongside his parents. Teddy was in regular correspondence with the previous editor of the Herald and was very helpful with the WW1 project last year. He was certainly a man who retained a prodigious recall of names and events in Hunton from his childhood, contributing charming memories of some of those who survived the war e.g. being taken to school every morning by Mr Hubble's chauffeur in his Rolls Royce - those were the days!

A Small Miracle

I was in the vet's waiting room with Lottie on my lap. She was causing a few heads to turn as my little companion was a lamb. Among all the cats and dogs Lottie was probably the only one that wasn't house trained. I hoped we weren't going to have to wait too long!

I had picked Lottie up from the field that morning having seen her running around the field dragging both back legs. The vet diagnosed a probable spinal injury or infection and prescribed some antibiotics with a view to review if there was no improvement in 3 days. It didn't look good and if she couldn't walk it would not be fair to keep her.

For Lottie's safety we penned her near the barn so we could be sure she could rest and get the creep feed. We didn't want her running with the others either to get trampled at feed times or getting sore knees. And probably more importantly it would save us chasing her around the field trying to catch her in order to give her treatment.

Improvement was slow but none the less we felt that any improvement was a good sign. We knew however that she needed to recover completely to be able to cope out in the field as she could not live a life permanently dragging her feet. By the third day we managed to stave off her day of execution and we felt that though she still chose to move dragging her feet she was beginning to stand - albeit with a lot of wobble and slightly on backward feet. Nearing the 10th day she was spending more time on four legs resorting to the back of her feet if she was moving more quickly. We just needed her to be confident on all fours.

As we had moved the lambs and ewes round to a field slightly nearer the barn, Lottie could hear them and became fairly vociferous herself. Eventually I could work out that she and Mum were calling to each other and boy, was Lottie noisy! Lottie by this stage was moving on four feet but would drag one leg slightly if she was in a hurry. Though we were hoping for a full recovery before we put her back with the others, it was too heart wrenching to hear her calling Mum and we took the risk of putting her back in the field with everyone.

David picked her up and carried her to the field, sitting up in his arms and bleating to Mum all the while we were walking across a couple of the fields. Mum took no time at all to rush up to her....and we knew she would be safe.

After a while her improvement was such that only we could tell she had a slight slow drag on one foot if she ran, but she grew strong on her feet which was certainly not the outcome the vet had expected!

Sue Heaton

Hunton WI

Hunton Women's Institute ended 2019 with a curry evening where members and guests enjoyed a variety of curries and a selection of puddings made by the committee. There are already several speakers booked for 2020 and a wide selection of subjects will be offered to members to choose from for further meetings. Open meetings will continue to play an important part of the W.I with the first being on the intriguing subject of 'The Titanic - the Ship That Never Sank' which will be held on Tuesday, April 21st.

There are currently nineteen members, but new members would be very welcome. Please come along to one or two meetings in the village club on the first Tuesdays in the month to see if you would like to join us.

At St Mary's Church in January

Flowers		Services			
Sunday 5th and 19th January - Sue Scott		Sunday 5th January 9.30am - Holy Communion - Rev Eileen Doyle Sunday 19th January 9:30am - Family Service - Rev David Jones			
Other services in the Benefice					
January	5th	12th	19th	26th	
Coxheath	11.00 HC	11.00 MP	11.00 HC	11.00 FS	
E. Farleigh	09.30 MP	08.00 HC	09.30 HC	08.00 HC	
Linton	09.30 FS	09.30 HC	08.00 HC	09.30 MP	
W. Farleigh	08.00 HC	09.30 MP	-----	09.30 HC	
HC Holy Communion, MP Morning Prayer, FS Family Service					

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