



This month's issue edited by Liz Oliver & Graham Dolman

Next month's editors: Stephen & Kate Banks Huntonherald@outlook.com Deadline for articles 15th November

Crime in Action Fund-Raising Night at the Club

Saturday 14th November — Doors open 6pm for Briefing 6.30pm

There may be a few spaces left at this event where supper will be provided to help your brains solve a crime described by Andy Cassidy and Jacquie Grace. As Andy and Jacquie both worked for The Metropolitan Police, The National Crime Squad and the Serious Crime Agency they have masses of experience to create a challenging evening. Tickets are £15 for Club members and £17.50 for guests. It is suggested you work in teams of about 6, but you are welcome to book alone or in lesser numbers then join a team on the night. Before you sort a team, please contact me to see if there are any spaces left! Lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com 01622 820210.

Wine tasting Village Club November 27th, 7pm — selling out fast!

Join us for an evening of fine wine, fine food... and even finer company — hosted by local wine expert Richard Butters. After working in, then running, Selfridges wine department... Richard went on to manage his own wine and cheese company in Notting Hill. He has explored wine regions around the world — all in the name of research — and, ultimately, so he can share his knowledge and enthusiasm with his friends in Hunton. The tasting will have a quiz like element, including 'guess the grape' and for the Antiques Roadshow fans amongst us — 'good, better, best'. Grazing platters of mostly-local deli food will be provided to aid appreciation of the wines and to keep everyone's hunger at bay. Tickets £25. Please email Jen Dixon for more information and / or to book: jennifer_stuartsmith@yahoo.co.uk



Local resident Richard Butters

Hunton Christmas Market

It is coming at last — the annual Hunton Christmas Market held in St Mary's Church on Saturday November 21st from 2.30pm to 5.30pm. More than 20 stalls selling crafts, pottery, rugs, collectibles and gifts. There will be mulled wine to warm you on entry and refreshments, including a variety of delicious cakes, tea, coffee and hot chocolate. Father Christmas has booked us in from 3.30 – 4.30 pm and will welcome his guests into his magical grotto, helped by his trusty elves. Come along to this year's market and once again, get yourselves into the festive spirit! *Fay Joyce & David Jones*

Hunton Ladies Group

In September it was suggested by a Village Club member that the Ladies activity combined three groups (the Book group, Needles and Natter and the Ladies Group) by crocheting a wiggly worm book mark. Of course, some ladies are members of all three groups. The cute bookmarks did not allow much nattering as concentration was required, but the variety of results pleased all, including club member Lorraine Redfern, who had organised and led the evening.

Hunton Ladies Group meetings are held on the last Wednesday of the month at Hunton Club commencing at 8pm. New ladies are always welcome so if you are local and would like to meet more villagers please come along. Meetings are varied, sometimes there is a speaker, a seasonal craft activity or a games evening.

Chris Summersgill

St Mary's Church Working Party: Wednesday 4th November: 9am – 12 noon

Can you spare an hour or more to help either in the churchyard or inside the church to prepare for Remembrance Sunday and the Christmas Market? If so, please let me know so I can take enough supplies for the coffee break.

Thank you, Lesley 01622 820210 lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com

Dates for your diary...

4th November Churchyard Working party 9am-12noon

8th November Remembrance Day Service, 10.50am

14th November 'Crime in Action' from 6pm

21st November Christmas Market 2.30-5.30pm

27th November Wine Tasting at the Village Club, 7pm

28th November Wreath Making, Village Hall, 6pm

Check out www.huntonparishcouncil.gov.uk/events-list for more information If you would like to add an event email clerk@huntonparishcouncil.gov.uk



Hunton



www.huntonparishcouncil.gov.uk



@HuntonVillage

Pastoral letter

November has arrived, the month when I start to look forward to Christmas and look back over the past year. Since Christmas 1966 I have written the family annual Christmas letter sent each year to family and friends. For the first 42 years the content was obtained by a list of events and 'happenings' produced by my wife who, having made the list insisted that the letter should only be one side of A4, the reverse being blank so that it could be used by the recipient for shopping lists!!!! I seldom managed it and incurred the censorship of any remarks I may have added myself which always resulted in several redrafts until satisfaction was expressed. But seriously, as I look back on the year it amazes me how much has been done and accomplished, how events haven't always been records of deaths, illnesses and disappointments but new life, joy and opportunities which have opened up to intermingle with the normality of life. Then as I look, I am encouraged by the way things do turn out and plans start to form so that once Christmas is over a new chapter can begin, I am also reminded of the way events play a part in our lives. What appeared to be a low point for weeks turned out not to be so long, things that occupied us for days have been forgotten and the good times reappear. The Christian journey is a bit like that, times when we find ourselves managing and our faith forgotten and then times when we are low and our faith seems to offer us hope. Yet through all of the low and high periods of our journey in this world I believe we are reminded of God's presence and his faithfulness and, as we look back, can speak of that certainty even if at the time that was not the reality of our experience.

Have a rewarding November in your reflecting and may you be encouraged as you look forward.

David Jones

Remembrance Service, Sunday 8th November

Please come and join the annual Service of Remembrance at St Mary's Church. Together, we will remember all who fought and fell, with such courage, in the service of their country and beyond. During the service wreaths will be laid on behalf of different village organisations, reflecting the village history of service. A collection will be made for the continuing work of 'The Royal British Legion'. We will wear our poppies with pride and respect! This is always a well-attended and moving service incorporating beautiful music.

Please be seated by 10.50am at the latest, to allow for the silence and period of reflection at 11am. Following the service, refreshments will be available. If you have never been to Hunton Church before, we can assure you of a warm welcome within a beautiful setting. This is truly a service for all, so do come along

A thank you for 25 years of Ministry

A special communion service was held at St Mary's Hunton on Sunday 4th October, marking the 25th Anniversary of David Jones's Ordination as a Priest. Family, friends and congregation gathered for this joyful service which was presided over by David and marked by a special order of service. His friend and fellow member of the clergy, Clinton Davis, gave a thoughtful sermon before the two of them conducted the Communion.

After the service, presentations were made before the assembled throng tucked into special cakes brought by the family and the church community. As David said, 'we can all gather when he is 108 to celebrate 50 years of ordained ministry!'

River Pilgrimage: A Good Walk...

While away, on holiday in Cornwall, my ears pricked up when BBC Radio 4 featured Yalding and the River Medway in an episode of 'Open Country' titled 'River Pilgrimage'. In the programme, presenter Martha Kearney joined a group of modern-day pilgrims who dipped in and out of a ten day walk along the entire route of the River Medway, from its source in the High Weald in Sussex to the point where it joins the Thames estuary in Rochester.

In all, the journey was seventy miles. It seemed to me that those who joined the walk got a great deal out of the experience, socially, emotionally and culturally. I was fascinated how they highlighted the current plight of the river by monitoring pollution levels, clearing away litter and learning about its importance in the landscape. Martha Kearney met the Director of the Friends of the River Medway who explained much about the significance of the river. For me, it was a great 30-minute escape into nature, as well as providing an insight into why people are being drawn to pilgrimages in the 21st century, learning that they are not necessarily religious. You may also enjoy listening to this programme on BBC Sounds, it was broadcast on August 29th.

Wendy Simmons

What we believe...

You are warmly invited to a new Hunton Church initiative, a discussion group entitled 'What we believe about....' The group will be held at the Village Club on the first Thursday of each month at 5.30 – 7 pm. There will be a publicised topic for the month and all views and perspectives will be welcome. We will start with a 'bang' on the 5th November (!) with an introductory session focused around what we believe as Anglicans. The group is intended for all ages and stages so please do feel you can attend to explore with us.

Tony Jones

Farewell to Councillors — and call for others to step forward

Do you want to be a Parish Councillor? Now is your chance to make your mark on the village! Vacancies have arisen as The Parish Council has said goodbye to two councillors.

Annette Trought had been on the council for several years and had also been the chair of the Hall Committee for some time. She had been one of the prime movers in the creation of the community orchard 15 years ago liaising with the 'Orchards for All' group to obtain funding for trees and fencing. We have been aware that she would be leaving the village for some time.

Tony Stanbridge had been on the Parish Council, indeed after me, the longest. He has been a very diligent and knowledgeable councillor regarding public utilities. If it had not been for his efforts the replacement of some water infrastructure would not have been carried out as promptly. More recently he has spent a lot of time exploring the alternatives to the poor and ongoing problems with broadband in the village. His knowledge on this is his 'swan song' as this issue will contain his pamphlet on broadband in Hunton. His departure was not expected, and it follows the offer of a position in Miami, Florida which has happened at very short notice. Our loss is their gain! I am sure we all wish him well.

Parishioners wishing to put their names forward should contact the clerk Sharon Goodwin on clerk@huntonparishcouncil.gov.uk by Friday 13th November.

David Heaton, Chairman

Gardening: looking forward to 2027

This year's unprecedented weather has been disconcerting; with heatwave on heatwave and no rain to speak of. Not the English summers we know and recognise — and this has impacted on our efforts in the garden. From what I understand next year might well be a repeat of this, if so, can we do anything differently?

Plants that coped better included roses, probably because they are well established and deeply rooted. Now is a good time to plant bare-rooted roses as it gives the plants a chance to get their roots down while it is mild and hopefully wet.

Make sure you have the right plants in the right places. Our garden has become drier where trees and hedges have matured and plants that once tolerated a bit of dry, now no longer cope. Phlox, astrantia and monarda are constant failures in our garden; plants that have tolerated conditions this year are the grasses and salvias

Mulch as much as you can, in autumn and spring, allowing the worms to take it down to help the drainage in the soil and enable plants to take up what rain comes through the soil. It also acts as a layer to prevent the soil baking into an impenetrable shell

The choice of plants is key. Plants need to be able to survive drought conditions and to conserve moisture.

i) Plants with fleshy leaves can hold water, like sedums — now called *Hylotelephium*

ii) Deep-rooted plants — especially those with deep tap roots like *Acanthus Mollis*

iii) Silvery or light-coloured foliage — reflects the heat and hairy leaved plants allow them to absorb more moisture such as stachys, senecio, artemesia, cardoon, lavenders and eryngium are a few

iv) Bulbs and rhizomes — Iris and alliums and late summer flowering nerines for example. These have a ready mechanism for storing water in their underground tubers

Now is a good time to reassess what you might want to plan for 2027. Don't be despondent and don't give up: we just need to start looking to the plants that thrive further south.

Sue Heaton

Gruesome Finds

Every now and again the bodies of WW1 soldiers are uncovered and a few are traced back to family alive today. On rare occasions these even have connections to us in Hunton.

In 2013 the remains of a WW1 soldier were discovered in a garden near Arras in France. After some astonishing detective work by volunteers the body was identified as being Lt Osmond Bartle Wordsworth who died in 1917. He was the grandson of Bishop Christopher Wordsworth whose great uncle was the poet William Wordsworth and it was this connection that received the greatest publicity. But he was also the 5x great grandson of Henry Hatley — whose bust stands above the south door into our church.

Osmond had been a teacher in Canada when war broke out but he returned to the UK in 1915 to volunteer. His ship, the Lusitania, was sunk by a German torpedo but he survived, despite giving up his life jacket to a lady who didn't have one. A man worthy of our remembrance but not the only one to be found and identified about a hundred years after their death.

The daughter and son in law of Ann Furlong, a long-time resident and ex Head Mistress of Hunton School, are attending the reburial of his relative who died in the Somme offensive in 1916. Found when a wind turbine was being constructed, he is to be interred with full military honours towards the end of October. I hope to learn more, perhaps in a future Herald.

At this time of year, we are invited to remember the sacrifice made by so many on our behalf, and we do, but we should also be grateful for the volunteers who try to give names to those who emerge from the fields and gardens where they fell or where graves were lost as the battle passed over them.

James Forster

Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

Wednesdays 8 — 11pm; Fridays 6.30 — 10.30pm (2nd and last Fridays only); Sundays 8 — 10.30pm

Emergency Briefing on the Climate and Nature Crisis

For those that don't know, the Peoples Emergency Briefing is a 50-minute film on the Climate and Nature Crisis with leading UK scientists and experts answering questions on extreme weather, food security, health, cost of living and national security. It has recently been screened at Blooming Green, Loddington Farm in Linton and also in Marden, at the Village Club where, at both screenings, its impact was clear. If you haven't already seen it, you are by no means too late, and more screenings are being listed each week. Screenings coming up nearby include:

Lamberhurst War Memorial Hall 1st Nov 6.30 for 7pm showing and **Goudhurst Village Hall** Friday 13th Nov 6.30 for 7pm

Check out at: twancoalition.org.uk and book a place or visit <https://www.nebriefing.org/peb> for general information

Litter picking: Another fine mess...

A litter pick is now overdue. We propose one more litter pick for Thursday 19th November. This will complete our 5th year of arranging such days. Little has changed for the better over that time, nor indeed over the past 15 years, when we have been helping to clear litter from our village. Whilst the support of Clockhouse Farm, a few volunteers and the local Parish Council has been gratefully received, we find ourselves wondering why we bother? For a long time MBC refused to clean the more minor roads and verges, hedgerows etc — or even support our local litter-picking group — because they felt it was too dangerous. The only alternative mooted so far is to close roads while MBC operatives clear the litter safely — an option we now regard as desirable, if only to create chaos and underline the impact that littering causes.

Is anyone else willing to organise the litter-picking group going forward? We have all the details you would need and the kit for volunteers to use... If not, we will engage with the Parish Council and MBC to seek an alternative solution.

James & Andrea Forster

Speed watch

We have not been able to hold 'Speed Watches' for the past months, due to the weather and a lack of volunteers. We just need a couple of people to register and participate. Please find out more details on <https://www.kent.police.uk/speedwatch> or contact Mike on huntontrafficreporting@gmail.com

Your local contacts

Village Hall booking www.huntonvillagehall.co.uk **Village Club** Roger Lee 820210 roger.c.lee@btinternet.com

School Secretary/Head Teacher 820360 **Under 5's Pre-School** 820309

Hunton Ladies Chris Summersgill c.a.summergill@btinternet.com

Pond and Tree Warden Sam Andrews huntontreewarden@gmail.com

Rector Revd. Lorna Faulkner (not available on Fridays): 747570 **Hon Associate Rector** Revd. David Jones 741474

Churchwarden Iain Simmons 820875 Ishuntonchurchwarden@btinternet.com **Community Wardens Team** 07811 271021

Hunton Bell Ringers Susan Clements 07864 041234

Maidstone Police 690690 or 101 **Huntonwatch** huntonwatch@huntonparishcouncil.gov.uk or 07517706376

Reporting HGVs huntontrafficreporting@gmail.com **Potholes Hotline (KCC)** 03000418181

Katie Lam MP katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk **Assistant to Katie Lam MP** 020 7219 8175

Parish Council Contacts

Parish Clerk Sharon Goodwin 681238, clerk@huntonparishcouncil.gov.uk **Chairman** David Heaton 820678, dhhuntonpc@gmail.com

Cllr Mike Summersgill 820429, msummersgill@huntonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Simon Webb 07878 018997, simon.webb5@btinternet.com **Cllr Iain Simmons** 820875, isimmons@huntonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Stephen Banks 07850 545481 sbanks@huntonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Benefice Service Rota— November 2026

Church	1/11 (All Saints)	8/11 (Remembrance Day)	15/11	22/11 (Christ the King)	29/11 (Advent) 10.30
Coxheath 11:00 am	Communion LF	Morning Worship 10.45 LF	Communion LF	All-age worship All-age Team	Benefice Communion LF/JT
East Farleigh 9:30 am	Morning Worship BP	Act of Remembrance 10.45 BP with Parish Council	Communion DJ		
West Farleigh 9:30 am		10.45 SE		Morning Worship LF	
Hunton 9:30 am	Communion DJ	10.50 DJ	Family Service LF		
Linton 9:30 am		Act of Remembrance 10.45 CD with Parish Council		Communion CD	
LF - Lorna Faulkner, DJ - David Jones, BP - Becky Parnham, CD - Clinton Davis, SE - Sue Elliott					
Midweek Services					
Coxheath - Every Thursday; 10:00 am BCP Holy Communion Linton: 2 nd Wednesday of the month, 12 noon HC					

All items for the next edition of the Herald to the Editors by 15th November please