



Editors: Sue & David Heaton, 3 New Cottages, Barn Hill, Hunton, ME15 0QT 01622 820678 [herald@hunton.org.uk](mailto:herald@hunton.org.uk)

Dried flowers & bulbs • Festive Fare •

• Jewellery • Cheesemaker • Glassmaker • Honey • Candles & Soap • Childrens books • Wooden boxes •

## Hunton Christmas Market

8th December 2012  
4 till 7  
in Hunton Churchyard & Church

Tea, coffee and cake served in the Church where there will be Singing by Hunton School.  
Christmas Music from buskers.  
Huntones bring market to a close with Christmas Songs.

Art • Christmas cards etc • Cobsnuts •



• Sweet Sensations • Yalding Forge • Olive Oils • Spot on Produce • Dine Thyme • Venison • BBQ • Mulled Cider • Bottle Stall •

## Applause - '52 Skidoo' Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November at 8pm.

52 Skidoo are a 3 piece Harlem swing band that have turned back the clock to play a dazzling set of vintage American music. Titled 'The Joint Is Jumpin' expect classic favourites like 'Ain't Misbehavin', 'The Joint Is Jumpin' and 'Your Feet's Too Big' carefully interwoven into well known hits like 'Sing Sing Sing' and 'Sweet Georgia Brown' to create an authentic 1920's Harlem party atmosphere - [www.52-skidoo.com](http://www.52-skidoo.com).

Hunton Village Hall as a Speakeasy?! Sounds too good to be missed. Tickets £10 - under 21 £5 - available now. Licensed bar/interval food available on 820683, 820678 and [huntonvillagehall@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:huntonvillagehall@hotmail.co.uk).

## Hunton Christmas Market – Bottles and Trees

Be sure to secure a Christmas Tree in time for Christmas and not too soon. These will be available for sale by Ralphs farm shop at the Hunton Christmas market.

We will be collecting bottles from households for the bottle stall. A small team of people will be knocking on your door for contributions shortly and a slip will be dropped through your door to advise you when this is likely to be.

If anyone wants to drop any off or thinks they have missed out on a collection please ring Alison on 07860147539 or Sue on 820678

All proceeds from the bottle stall will be going equally to the Friends of St Mary's and Hunton Church.

## Fungi Foray

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at 10.00am. Discover the hidden treasures of our woodlands and orchards**

Join Mary Gray at Hunton Village Hall to survey the mycology of the proposed Hunton Community Orchard and local area. All welcome including children - free. For information please contact Pippa Palmar 01303 815170

### Your Local Contacts:

Parish Council Chairman: Roger Sawtell	820731	Clerk to Parish Council: Sharon Goodwin	681238
School: Secretary/Head Teacher	820360	Village Hall Booking: Jane Crane	820127
Under 5's Pre-School:	820309	Maidstone Police:	608186
Pre-School Supervisor:	07972067110	Neighbourhood Watch:	608173
Pond and Tree Warden: Anne Bishop	820683	'Potholes' concern (KCC): Kim Hills	0845 824 7800
Rector:	747570**	Churchwarden: Alison Ellman-Brown	820288
Non Stipendiary Minister: Revd David Jones	741474*	PCSO Jo Watts	604392
Village Club: Doug Redfarn	820495	Hunton Bell Ringers, Michael Webb	745716

\*not available on Fridays \*\*not available on Mondays

### Diary Dates

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November **Fungi Foray** Village Hall, 10am  
 Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November **The Changing Scenes of Life** St Mary's Church 7.30pm  
 Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November **Applause '52 Skidoo'** at Village Hall 8pm.  
 Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November **Gardening Club Meeting** - in the Village Club 8.30pm  
 Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December **Hunton's First Christmas Market** St Mary's Church 4 – 7pm  
 Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December **Quiz Night** Hunton Club 8pm

### Parish Councillors Contact Details

**Parish Council Chairman** – Roger Sawtell 820731  
**Clerk to the Parish Council** – Sharon Goodwin 681238  
 Cllr Les Leonard 820858 Cllr Ron Porter 820220  
 Cllr David Heaton 820678 Cllr Tony Stanbridge 820761  
 Cllr Gary Thomas 820691 Cllr Steve Wyles 820403

**Check out [www.hunton.org.uk](http://www.hunton.org.uk) for changes and see the latest up- dated version. If you would like to add an event to the village diary email [huntondiary@btinternet.com](mailto:huntondiary@btinternet.com) - new events are being added all the time.**

**All items for the December edition to the Editors as soon as possible, and by 15th November, please**

## Parish Letter November 2012

November: the month in which we have not only a fireworks party, but even more importantly the time for Remembrance Sunday. Do we remember? Not only how much was given; how much was sacrificed; how much was suffered – but also how unbelievably fortunate we were to survive what appeared to be the imminent overrunning of this country by the Nazis. We are undoubtedly indebted to a few very brave young men who fought for us in the air. Many British young men certainly, but also Poles, Czechs, French, Belgian and a great many from our Commonwealth. But do we sufficiently remember the other help we received, and for which we should be eternally grateful? The Almighty God helped us and saved us; and provided a few miracles along the way: Dunkirk, The Battle of Britain, to name but two.

So where does all this leave us today? We no longer live in a Europe where nations are getting ready to go to war with one another; we have largely learnt the lesson that warfare and killing is not the way to move forward. The problem today is much more a case of rogue states run by egocentric dictators. Lessons have certainly been learned over the years, but very sadly there is still plenty of evil about. So where does God and the teaching of Jesus figure in all of this? If we look at History, surely we can see that God and His Holy Spirit has been leading mankind towards a truer understanding of His purpose for the world: a purpose which embraces concern and compassion, honesty and truth, justice.

Of course we still have a very long way to go before God's Kingdom on Earth arrives, but there are some interesting signs of progress are there not? The recent allegations against Jimmy Saville; the litigation by former Mau Mau soldiers against the British government. All dreadful and regrettable occurrences certainly; but it is unfortunate to judge the deeds of the past by the standards of the present. In the 1950s and 1960s people's priorities were different; values were different. What today is unacceptable, was then broadly much more acceptable. In Kenya we were fighting a war, instigated by the atrocities of the Mau Mau against white farmers; in warfare bad things do happen. But is not this an important indicator of the way in which God's world is slowly moving forward: what was once acceptable is today intolerable.

The teaching of Jesus Christ has done so much to move the world along the path, which God has always wanted; mankind has obviously played a part in both assisting in this process, but also frequently being the cause of its failure. But surely one of the most significant of the messages of Jesus to the world was not only love, but also forgiveness. We need to hold these qualities firmly in our hearts in order that God's purpose for the world may continue.

*Hugh Grainger*

## What a Load of Rubbish!

A big thank you to all of the volunteers who gave up their time on Saturday 13th for the last litter pick of this year. We collected about 20 black sacks of general rubbish, a white toilet and a settee!! It makes a difference keeping things under control and it would help the litter team if residents could keep the verges near their properties tidy over the winter. If you would like to volunteer for future clean-ups please contact Di or Nigel on 820115 and we will add you to the list. The next clean-up will be spring 2013.

*Di*

## A Community Orchard in Hunton?

We are asking you to please fill in this questionnaire so that we can understand more fully whether it is possible for Hunton to have its own community orchard and the areas in which interest you most in respect of a community orchard: whether it is to get involved in evaluating the biodiversity or heritage or even in running and managing an orchard and celebrating it as a place for leisure and pleasure and for community activities. Responding to the questionnaire will help with funding. The Kent Orchards for Everyone Project is funded by the Heritage Lottery and is a community participation and heritage project.

Please fill out the questionnaire delivered with this Herald as this will help us access funding for a community orchard in the centre of Hunton. It would help if you could please answer these questions regarding certain aspects of a community orchard (please tick where appropriate, some may not be applicable) so that we know whether Hunton is keen to have its own community orchard and what aspects would appeal to them, we also need to know that people are willing to help with this. Thank you for your help with this, the more responses the better! The results and developments will be reported in the Herald and on the website.

We will collect the questionnaire over the weekend of 3rd and 4th November if people could kindly leave them on their doorstep (or bring to the Fungi foray). Any problems ring Annette on 820448 or David and Sue on 820678.

**Cuckoo Update** The biggest news is that the first cuckoo has reached Congo! Chris' tag first started transmitting from the country in the early hours of 25<sup>th</sup> September and since then he has continued south. He is now 56km (35 miles) due south of the location that he spent most of last winter, in similarly wet, swamp forest. His arrival in Congo this year is around two weeks earlier than last year, when he arrived on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2011.

## Farleigh's Farmers Market

Visitors to the October Farmers' Market experienced both a beautiful sunny morning and the largest number of stalls in our history.

Traders reported plenty of customers, so thank you to those who supported us! If you have never ventured down to The Bull car park on the first Sunday of the month, please do give the market a try, especially as we approach Christmas when there will be lots of exciting and unusual gift items for sale. The next opportunity will be on November 4<sup>th</sup>.

Our most recent charity donations have been to Maidstone Parkinson's Society which organises exercise classes and social events for sufferers (August market) and The V-Team whose volunteers provide help with decorating and gardening tasks for the disabled and elderly (September market).

*Sue Morris*

## Hunton Village Club Events

### Indian Supper Night

Two events recently took place in the club. The first was the Indian Supper Night. The club was again transformed into a bistro and a delicious dinner was enjoyed by almost forty diners. These bistro nights are proving extremely popular so watch this space for future suppers and book early if you want to come along.

### 60s Evening

The second event was a 60s Evening. 60s LPs decorated the wall along with pictures that took us back to Miniskirts, Mods & Rockers, Watneys Red Barrel, The Man from Uncle, World Cup Fever, the Moon Landing and the days when we all seemed to choose Prawn Cocktail, Spaghetti Bolognese and Black Forest Gateaux from restaurant menus! There was even a Retro Raffle and a Dansette Record Player on display! A few of us took the plunge and tried to recapture the fashion of the 60s knowing full well that we looked a lot better 50 years ago! But it was all part of the fun and the event was a way to attract locals to use the club.

### Building Works

The building has recently been undergoing some major repairs. Damp was found which had to be treated. Quotations are now being sought to redecorate the interior. This will cost quite a large sum so club events like the suppers and the 60s evening are imperative in order to keep the club viable. So please support these fund raising events.

### Help Needed

A few volunteers continue to manage the club. These few have been doing so for the last six years. The work involves all aspects of bar management, building upkeep, financial record keeping, ordering of supplies etc. However, help is desperately needed by way of committee members and in running the bar. If you are interesting in helping, even for one night a month, please contact Doug on 820495.

Lastly: Dates for your Diary: Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December – Club AGM and Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December - another ever-popular Quiz Night.

## Serenade Success

There was a full house in Hunton Church for September Serenade, a concert of classical and modern music played by highly talented teenagers and a few adults. Music was played on strings, woodwind, a saxophone, a harp, a keyboard and a cello. Most of the performers were from Hunton and included the Dolman family, Mary Goddard and Daisy Andrews. The Huntones sang from the shows and the evening ended with the audience joining them in singing a very lively All That Jazz. The evening raised more than £250 for Hunton Church and organiser Nick Drewe is already talking of another concert sometime in the Spring.

*Liz Oliver*

## Out and Out

**On Flanders Field the poppies blow,  
Between the crosses row on row.**

The start of John McRae's war time poem poignantly reminds us of why we wear poppies at this time of year. On the field of war and around the graves of the dead soldiers poppies would spring up as if honouring the dead and signifying the bloodshed. The sight must have been moving and the reason behind this poppy explosion can help us to successfully grow our own poppies at home.

The annual poppy, *Papaver rhoeas*, sheds prodigious amounts of seed from its pepper pot seed capsule but most of these seeds will remain in the soil for decades until the conditions are right for growth. What poppies need to grow is newly disturbed ground. Think also of cornfields full of poppies. The annual ploughing of the fields for corn turns up the seed and they break into growth with the newly planted corn.

As these poppies are hardy annuals you could go out now and plant some seeds, although spring time may be more successful. Either way disturb the ground to give a good open tilth and scatter seeds broadly.

*Christine McSweeney*

## Local Businesses—Advertise in the Herald

There is advertising space in the Hunton Herald inserts for 2013. Why not think about promoting your business and supporting your local community in the process? The Hunton Herald is distributed to over 300 local households every month - that's 3,600 copies per year landing on local doormats. For more information please contact Barbara on 01622 820218.

*Barbara Wright*

## Hunton Gardening Club Meeting

In April, Ray Morris MA, MSc talked on 'Birds in Hunton in Springtime' at a Gardening Club supper night which was generously hosted by Wendy and Iain Simmons. Ray has very kindly agreed to give a brief presentation on 'The Good Garden Guide: A Bird's Eye View' at the next Hunton Gardening Club meeting on Thursday 29th November at 8.30pm in the Village Club.

Hunton Gardening Club is for people who enjoy gardening and welcomes novices and experienced gardeners and their other halves! If you would like to join please come to the meeting on 29th November or for more information contact Lesley Lee on [lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com](mailto:lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com).

*Lesley*

## At St Mary's Church in November

### Notices

#### Coffee

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November- Simmons Family

#### Flowers

4<sup>th</sup> Di Martin  
 11<sup>th</sup> Wendy Simmons  
 18<sup>th</sup> Wendy Simmons  
 25<sup>th</sup> Liz Oliver/Sue Lawrence

### Services

#### Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> November – Trinity 22

11.00am Family Service—Rev David Jones

Readings: Preacher's choice

#### Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November –Remembrance

09.30am Holy Communion –Mr David Barnes

Readings:t.b.a

#### Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> November – Trinity 24

11.00am **Songs of Praise** and Baptism –Chris Bostock

FOSM will be attending the service

Readings: Daniel 12 v 1-3 and Mark 13 v 1-8

#### Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> November – Sunday Next – Advent Christ the King

11.00am Holy Communion – Rev David Jones

Readings: Daniel 7 v 9 – 10, 13- 14 and John 18 v 33 - 37

#### Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December- Advent

11.00am Family Service—

Readings: Preacher's choice

## Hunton Club Book Group A Review

### The Mayor of Casterbridge by Thomas Hardy

Michael Henchard is an out of work hay-trusser who gets drunk at a local fair and impulsively sells his wife Susan and baby daughter. When he realises what he has done he takes an oath that he will not touch another drink for 21 years and manages to establish himself as a prominent man in Casterbridge. Behind his success there always lurks the shameful secret of his past and a personality prone to self-destructive pride and temper clouds his relationships in love as well as his fortunes in business. Henchard attempts to make amends for his misdeed of the past when his widowed ex-wife tracks him down, but his unchanged impulsive, jealous nature fails him again.

The majority of the group enjoyed the book. Three members liked it so much that they finished the book in just a few days and want to read more of Hardy's work. It was agreed that the story was easy to follow and understand and moved at a good pace. Also that the characterisations were brilliant and enabled the reader to empathise with the characters as they experienced disappointments in love and life. It was suggested that with all the intrigue and drama in the story, that in its time, the book might have had the appeal of popular TV serials today. One member of the group has been researching her family history, which is set in the West Country and particularly enjoyed the descriptions of the countryside; another appreciated the descriptions of the buildings both inside and out. It was felt that the vivid descriptions brought settings alive without being overwhelming with unnecessary detail.

The group were surprised when a member produced a cutting of an article that had appeared in the KM recently about the selling of wives in both Cranbrook and Maidstone at about the time the book was written. This act was obviously not just invented by Hardy for his story! It appears that the name of some of the characters mentioned in the book such as Dumbledore, Hagrid and Minera were used by J. K. Rowling in her Harry Potter stories.

The average score for this book was 8 1/2. The book for next month is **Tiny Sunbirds Far Away** by Christie Watson

## Hunton Club Book Group B Review

### The Beacon by Susan Hill

This is a short novel - just 150 pages - almost a long short story. A story of 4 siblings growing up in a bleak farmhouse - May, Colin, Berenice and Frank – the novel follows their different paths in life.

The central character is May; she is a clever child who gains entrance to University in London. But she never achieves her potential; panic attacks in London manifest themselves as terrors which she cannot control and she eventually escapes back to the family home where she stays to care for her mother until her mother's death. Colin and Berenice get married but remain in the locality. Frank goes to London to seek his fortune.

The first half of the novel describes the everyday lives of May, Colin and Berenice. There is very little colour in their lives, just an acceptance of a fairly banal existence. Frank is in the background but we learn little of him at this stage. We finally learn that Frank made a successful move to London, making a career for himself as a journalist and then marrying a wealthy woman who satisfies his ambitions for a more glamorous life. He writes a book about his childhood in which he accuses his family of abusing him. His reason for doing this is never explained, but the book is a huge success. Its impact on his siblings (who are plainly identified in the book) is immense and alienates their neighbours and friends. They are all emotionally scarred. The mother's death ultimately brings them all back together but the ending was felt to be very unsatisfactory.

The book group felt that the characters lacked depth and that the story posed more questions than it answered. The group gave it a score of 5 out of 10.

*Jenny Vickers*

November	4th	11th	18th	25th	2nd December
Coxheath	11.00 HC	10.30 Remembrance	11.00 HC	11.00 FS	11.00 HC
E. Farleigh	09.30 MP	08.00 HC 10.45 Remembrance	09.30 HC	08.00 HC	09.30 MP
Linton	09.30 HC	10.00 Remembrance	08.00 HC	09.30 HC	09.30 HC
W. Farleigh	08.00 HC	10.45 Remembrance	09.30 MP (Trad))	09.30 HC	08.00 HC
HC: Holy Communion, MP: Morning Prayer, (bcp) Book of Common Prayer, FS: Family Service, SW: Service of Word					