



Respected Councillor Steps Down

It was with great sadness that the Parish Council accepted the resignation of Cllr Les Leonard at its meeting on 10th November. Most people in Hunton will know Les and the contribution he has made over 10 years as a Parish Councillor. His energy, drive and above all his quick wit will mean that future parish council meetings without him will never be the same. Les has been involved in all the major developments and issues that, due to the ever-changing political and cultural scenery, your Parish Council finds itself constantly facing. His contribution towards getting the new cricket pavilion and the much-wanted footpath from the Village Hall to Bensted Close was considerable and he will be remembered for those amongst so many other achievements. He leaves us as a Parish Councillor but we know that we can continue to rely on his support and friendship in the future. We wish him well and thank him on behalf of everyone in the Parish for all that he has done for us.

Parish Council Report

The poor condition of Hunton's roads was high on the agenda at the November meeting of the Parish Council. Cllr Ron Porter reported that representatives from KCC Highways had attended a site meeting at which he showed them particular problem areas including the potholes on Hunton Hill and collapsing road surfaces on East and West Street. The Highways officer felt that the only way to prevent the road surface alongside the playing fields from continually crumbling at the edge would be to install a kerb, but the Parish Council would be responsible for funding this. KCC are to give an estimate of the cost. Cllr Tony Stanbridge raised the issue of flooding in the dip on East Street. The flooding is largely caused by blocked drains and, although KCC clear them when the problem is reported to them, the Council will press for a more pro-active approach.

Road safety was also a matter of discussion, with parking outside the school remaining a particular problem. Cllr Steve Wyles had met again with representatives from the school and with PCSO Hunter to consider possible solutions. County Cllr Paulina Stockell felt that the issue should be elevated to county level and will speak to the cabinet member for education and arrange a site meeting with Highways.

It was agreed that the positioning of the bus stop right on the junction of Hunton Hill and East Street is dangerous for both pedestrians and motorists and that the area of hard standing recently installed does little to improve this. Cllr Stockell will speak to the relevant person at KCC to see if it can be moved to the green opposite Lughorse Lane, which was felt to be a more suitable location.

Cllr Wyles was pleased to report that speedwatch seemed to be having some effect, with a reduction in the percentage of vehicles speeding through the village, but additional volunteers were needed to assist with speed checks. The Council is to press for a blanket 30mph speed limit throughout the village.

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Your Local Contacts:		Clerk to Parish Council: Sharon Goodwin	681238
Parish Council Chairman: Roger Sawtell	820731	Village Hall Booking: Kathy Reid	820092
School: Secretary/Head Teacher	820360	Maidstone Police	690690 or 101
Under 5's Pre-School:	820309	Neighbourhood Watch: huntonwatch@gmail.com	820403, 820429, 820731
Pre-School Supervisor:	07972067110	'Potholes' Hotline (KCC)	03000 418181
Pond and Tree Warden: Mike Summersgill	820429	Churchwarden: Alison Ellman-Brown	820288
Rector: Peter Callway	747570**	PCSO Alan Hunter	07772 226151
Non-Stipendiary Minister Revd David Jones	741474*	Helen Grant MP helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk	0207 219 7107
Village Club: Philip Nichols	820804	Hunton Bell Ringers, Michael Webb	745716
		*not available on Fridays; **not available on Mondays	

Diary Dates		Contact details for other village clubs and organisations are available on the website
Tuesday 2 nd Dec	Hunton WI Village Club 7.30pm	Parish Councillors Contact Details Parish Council Chairman – Roger Sawtell 820731 Clerk to the Parish Council – Sharon Goodwin 681238 Cllr Ron Porter 820220; Cllr David Heaton 820678; Cllr Tony Stanbridge 820761; Cllr Gary Thomas 820691; Cllr Steve Wyles 820403.
Thursday 4 th Dec	Autumn Lunches Village Club 12.30-2pm	
	Club AGM Village Club 8.30pm	
Saturday 6 th Dec	Quiz Night Village Club 8.15pm	
Sunday 7 th Dec	East Farleigh Farmers' Market 9am-12pm	
	Tree Planting Community Orchard 1-3pm	
Saturday 13 th Dec	Christmas Market St Mary's Church 4-7pm	
Saturday 20 th Dec	Christmas Party Village Club from 8pm	
Sunday 21 st Dec	Carol Service St Mary's Church 6pm	
Monday 22 nd Dec –	Carol Service The White House 7.30pm	

Check out 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. New events are being added all the time.

All items for the January edition to the Editor as soon as possible, and by 15th December, please

Dear Friends

Once again Christmas is almost here; a time of gatherings, time for gifts, a time for remembering old friends and relatives, a special time for children. A great deal of extra work for so many, and then there is the extra expense. Oh dear! Oh dear! In fact much of what we regard as the traditional celebration of Christmas is really a comparatively recent invention. So much of our celebrations today were only augmented during the reign of Queen Victoria.

The part of Christmas that has been a fundamental feature for 2000 years is the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Where will this figure in our own festivities? The important question is, "what do we believe?" Do we think that Jesus was the Son of God? Do we think that everything written and said about Jesus is a load of Hokum Pokum?

If the birth of Jesus were merely fiction, it would still be a remarkable story. But the fact is that there were so many witnesses to this incredible event: the shepherds, the wise men; then there was the decision by an anxious Herod that this birth was so worrying that he would have to order the slaughter of all those Bethlehem babies. Then again you may say, "Well that's all very well, but it does not tell us that he was the Son of God!" To which the answer must be, "Just look at his life, no mortal man could possibly have achieved what Jesus did." So in the midst of the whirl of this Christmas, let us try and set aside some time, or times, for remembering the truly extraordinary arrival on this planet of The Son of God.

Hugh Grainger

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A complaint from a member of the public about blocked public footpaths led to the suggestion that the position of Footpaths Officer be created to check regularly that public rights of way around the village are passable. This role could possibly be combined with that of Pond and Tree Warden.

Planning permission for the new cricket pavilion has been received and preliminary groundworks have commenced. The cricket club has obtained three quotations for each of the new building and the concrete base. Contractors were selected and approved by councillors. Members of the cricket club will be carrying out some of the work on the base themselves in order to reduce costs. The pavilion is expected to be completed on schedule.

The village hall car park has been resurfaced and a new picnic table and bench are now in place next to the children's play area.

Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) Community Awards Scheme 2015

The KALC Community Award is to acknowledge and give recognition to a resident of Hunton who has made a significant contribution to this Parish over a period of years. If you know of someone who has given this sort of service and merits an award then please do nominate them. The person must live or work within the Hunton parish boundary. The winner will receive a certificate signed by the KALC Chairman and the High Sheriff of Kent, which will be presented at the Hunton Annual Parish Meeting on 18th May 2015. Only one nomination per resident, but all adult members of a family may submit a nomination. Please submit your nomination and the reason for the nomination to Mrs Sharon Goodwin, Clerk to Hunton Parish Council, 11 Barton Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 7BU or email it to Sharon at huntonpc@googlemail.com by 31st December 2014.



Hunton



CHRISTMAS

Market

St Mary's Church
Hunton

Saturday 13th December 2014
4 till 7pm

Craft Stalls, Food and Drink Stalls, Homemade Cakes,
Bottle Stall, Mulled Cider, BBQ



Yalding Yuletide Celebrations

The Yuletide Market takes place in Yalding High Street on Saturday 6th December from 4.45pm - 8pm. The Farmers' Market will be offering fresh local produce as well as a range of Christmas goodies including Christmas trees, holly wreaths, candles and decorations. There will also be quality craft and gift stalls, hot and cold food and drinks and a range of entertainment for all ages. The programme of events can be found at

www.yaldingfarmersmarket.co.uk/yuletide_market.html

Christmas Sing-Along

We are very pleased to announce the return of the community sing-along at the Hunton Christmas Market on Saturday 13th December. The market takes place at the Church from 4-7pm with The Huntones leading us in popular Christmas songs and carols from 6.30pm, so be sure to bring your best singing voices – no doubt a glass of mulled cider will help to loosen those vocal chords!

Donations of bottles will be very welcome again this year for the ever-popular bottle stall, which we will be out collecting in the first week of December. Please give generously as all proceeds from the market will be shared between St Mary's Church, the Friends of St Mary's and the Village Hall.

Sell-out Success

The Village Hall was filled with the sounds of the 60s & 70s at the sell-out Friends of St Mary's Music & Supper Evening on Friday 14th November. Ninety people enjoyed a hot two-course supper and dancing to the music of local band 2bc, lead by Brian Mortimer, who generously donated their excellent services free of charge. The evening was such a success that a number of people asked if this could be made an annual event! Over £1,500 was raised on the night, which together with a most generous donation from one of our members, brought the total to over £2,000, almost half way to our target of £24,000 to complete the interior redecoration of the church.

Ron Porter



Village Club AGM and Events

Another year is almost complete and we have been pleased to see some new ideas, which have helped to keep the Club ticking over. We have had the Pop-Up Shop & Café, Macmillan coffee morning and welcomed the newly formed Hunton WI. It is nice to see the Village Club being used regularly by the wider community and, whilst membership is strong, it would be nice to see more members using the Club from time to time.

AGM - Thursday 4th December 8.30pm

The committee would like to hear the views of the members and community as to how they would like things to progress in the future so we hope many villagers will turn up, even if they are not members - all are welcome. We have the need for a Club Secretary and there is one vacancy on the committee. Please let any committee member know if you are aware of someone who would like to fill either of these roles.

Music Quiz - Saturday 6th December 8.15pm

Our quiz night with a musical twist returns. There is no fee to pay, just come along with your ready-made team or join one at the club. Teams are usually 4-6 people. These quizzes are extremely popular and always a fun evening so come early, the quiz will start promptly at 8.15pm. On the night we are also holding a raffle in support of Helen Redfarn, who is raising funds for charity (International Citizen Service) in support of her forthcoming trip to the West Bank, Palestine.

Hunton Music Nights Christmas Party - Saturday 20th December from 8pm

Come and get in the Christmas spirit with an old fashioned Christmas party. As well as seasonal music, there will be party games and competitions, songs and stories, mince pies and mulled wine.

Phil Nichols

Amsbury Farm Visit...The Sequel

Following on from their tour in July of the orchards and soft fruit growing fields at Amsbury Farm, members of Hunton Gardening Club returned in November for a visit to the fruit storage and packing operation. An introductory talk from farm owner, Clive Baxter, was followed by a very informative and interesting tour conducted by Wayne Bowden, Operations Manager. The group was surprised by the detailed and varying demands from individual supermarkets as to, not only how their particular fruit is packed, but also to the exact size, colour, shape, firmness and taste of the many varieties and to the wastage that this creates. The farm also receives exceptionally short notice from the supermarkets before an order is to be collected, although they are trying to minimise the number of lorries travelling the small roads around Hunton. Following the tour Clive and Wayne answered questions and talked about the size of the operation and the huge financial investments needed to perpetually upgrade both buildings and machinery. Clive offered to host further group visits in due course.

Responsible Dog Ownership

Many of us in the village have dogs and one of the great pleasures of living where we do is being able to walk them in such beautiful surroundings. However, it is important that we ensure they do not become a nuisance to others. I have been asked to print the following reminder:

“As a long term resident of Hunton, I would like to remind dog owners that it is their responsibility to keep control of their dogs at all times. All dogs should be kept under control in public areas and the only way to ensure that is by keeping them on a short leash. If you have been attacked or threatened by a dog in Hunton you should report it to Kent Police by calling 101. Please also bag up and bin your dog waste, as it does not just vanish when you walk away from it. For information about your responsibilities, please see <https://www.gov.uk/control-dog-public> “

Thank You

Les and Marion and their son Marcus would like to thank everyone in the community who gave the Leonard family a special 'Hunton Hug' in supporting them in making preparations for the Memorial Service and Thanksgiving for the life of their beloved daughter Catherine Leonard, who died in Amsterdam in late October. They would also like to thank all those who sent letters and cards of condolence.

Collier Street School Christmas Fair

St Margaret's School, Collier Street are holding their Christmas Fair on Saturday 13th December from 2-4pm featuring Christmas shopping stalls, fun for the kids, raffle, Santa's grotto, tea and homemade cakes. Admission: adults 50p, children free.

At St Mary's Church in December

Flower Rota				Services	
7 th	Joy McLoughlin	14 th	Joy McLoughlin	Sunday 7th Dec –	2nd Sunday in Advent 11.00am Family Service – Rev. Peter Callway
21 st	Carol Service – All	28 th	All	Sunday 14th Dec –	3rd Sunday in Advent 9.30am Holy Communion 1662 – Rev. Eileen Doyle
				Sunday 21st Dec –	4th Sunday in Advent 6.00pm Carol Service – Rev. David Jones
				Wednesday 24th Dec –	Christmas Eve 9.30pm Holy Communion – Rev. David Jones
				Thursday 25th Dec –	Christmas Day 9.30am Family Service & Holy Communion – Rev. David Jones
				Sunday 28th December –	1st Sunday of Christmas 10.30am Benefice Service at Coxheath – Rev. David Jones

Churchyard Clear Up

Ten volunteers mowed grass, weeded paths and gravestones, cut hedges and raked up leaves in the churchyard on Saturday 1st November. Another quick tidy up was planned for the end of the month so that the churchyard will look immaculate in good time for the Christmas Market.

A Lasting Tradition

One of the most delightful occasions in the Christmas calendar has to be the school nativity play. Old curtains, tablecloths and tea towels are all in evidence in this photo from Hunton School's performance of 1948. I wonder if things have changed much? Many thanks to former Hunton Resident, Ted Mordey, for sharing this photo and for recalling the names of so many of the children.

From left to right – back row: Unknown, Michael Terry, Betty Bellingham (Angel Gabriel), Michael Back, Ronald Acott, Freddie Foster. Front row: Unknown, Alison Greening (Mary), Edward Mordey (Joseph), Joyce Brown, Barbara Rayner, George Rayner.



WI Festive Entertainment

Our members were in for a treat at the November meeting of the WI when Sue Hollins gave a demonstration of Italian cookery. She showed us how to make fresh pasta before filling it and forming it into various shapes, as well as demonstrating a salad dish. We were then invited to taste all the various creations, ending with a delicious tiramisu. Our usual fare of homemade cakes was on offer with complimentary tea and coffee and a lot of chat from our happy members.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 2nd December in the Village Club with our committee providing the entertainment, including Graham Clarke's Alternative Nativity. Hunton WI is open for membership to residents in Hunton and the wider community. We are a friendly group, come and join us!

Keep in touch

There have been a couple of incidents recently where residents have felt 'uncomfortable' but which were not reported to us at Huntonwatch. Perhaps they felt it would be a waste of our time to report it? Perhaps they felt they were being silly? Quite the contrary - please, if you see or hear anything that is out of the ordinary, doesn't seem right or just makes you feel uncomfortable report it to us (see front page of the Herald). We can pass the information to the police without mentioning your name and they will add the report to their database - it might just be the missing link they are looking for and will enable them to take some sort of action. We can also make all Huntonwatch members aware as necessary.

Thank you, *The Huntonwatch team*

School Remembers Local Hero

Children from Barton Class were honoured to commemorate Remembrance Day by attending the restoration of the grave in St Mary's churchyard of their class' namesake, local First World War hero, Arthur Drummond Barton VC. Lt Col Barton, who was born at Cheveney, was awarded the Victoria Cross for "most conspicuous bravery and leadership" whilst commanding his battalion at Tel el Sheria on 7th November 1917.

The children were met at the graveside by direct descendants of Lt Colonel Borton where they viewed and were even lucky enough to take part in the restoration, which was carried out by the Victoria Cross Trust. Once the restoration was complete the assembled group took part in the two-minute silence to mark the end of the First World War.

A brief account of Lt Col Borton's life can be found on his regiment's website www.queensroyalsurreys.org.uk/vc/vc12.html. There is also an account of his actions for which he was awarded the VC in the memoirs of Private William G Johnson at www.firstworldwar.com/diaries/tellelsheria.html

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