



Road Safety Continues to Dominate Discussions

Road safety issues continued to dominate discussions at the November parish council meeting. James Dearing, Production Director at Clockhouse Farm attended, having been invited by the parish council following complaints by residents about the manner in which some of their vehicles are driven around the village. Mr Dearing said that all their vehicles are individually numbered, usually on the front and back, and he encouraged people to make a note of this number, together with the date and time and to report incidents of poor driving to the farm on 01622 743955 or email admin@clockhousefarm.co.uk.

Clive Baxter from Amsbury Farm came along to follow up on the September meeting when he had been asked to quantify HGV movements. He was still unable to provide this information, as records aren't kept of numbers of lorries, but gave details of tonnages despatched recently and estimated that there could be up to 15 HGVs per day. Asked about the articulated lorry that had shed part of its load on Hunton Hill on 6th November closing the road for several hours, Mr Baxter said that it is the responsibility of the driver to ensure his vehicle is safely loaded. Fruition has invited the parish council to visit their premises and has also extended this invitation to the school.

A local resident raised concerns about excessive speeding in West Street after two parked cars were written off on 24th October when crashed into by a car estimated by the police to be travelling well in excess of the speed limit. PCSO Megan Day said that she would investigate why the police are not taking any further action. The parish council will meet with KCC to explore means of reducing speeds in the relevant parts of West Street."

Another local resident raised concerns about the dangers caused by parking along West Street during school drop off and pick up, which seems to her to be getting worse. Cllr Trought said that she had had a very positive meeting recently with Peter Callway, the interim chair of governors, and that this is one of the issues under discussion.

Other parish council news in brief:

Helen Ward and Roger Lee were co-opted onto the parish council to fill the two vacant positions.

The playing field committee are looking into replacing the multiplay equipment and resurfacing the children's play area. Potholes at the end of Grove Lane have been reported to Kent Highways and concerns raised about the flooding on East Street. The zigzag lines outside the school are to be repainted. A letter of complaint has been sent to South East Water about the frequent water leaks on Hunton Hill and the resultant emergency road closure.

Huntonwatch Looking at Road Safety

Road safety in Hunton has long been at the top of many of our agendas and the recent road closures and resultant traffic chaos has led to a number of 'incidents' on our narrow roads. Huntonwatch is collating a database of all such incidents and we need your help please. Already a number of people have reported accidents, near misses, overweight lorries in weight restricted areas, bad parking and damage to hedges or personal property, either directly to us or via the Hunton Community Facebook group, and so far we have recorded 30 incidents since the beginning of September. The information is being passed to the parish council, along with data collected from our speedwatch sessions, to help them push for action from the appropriate authorities to make our roads safer for everyone. If you see an incident please contact us at huntonwatch@gmail.com or via the Facebook group with as much information as you can about date, time, location, vehicles involved, details of the incident etc. and we will log it for you.

Thank you, the Huntonwatch Team

Your Local Contacts:		Village Hall Booking:	www.huntonvillagehall.co.uk
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	Community Warden: Adam McKinley	07811 271021
Rector: Revd. Peter Callway	747570*	PCSO - Megan Day	101 (or via Huntonwatch)
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, Michael Webb	745716
Churchwarden: Alison Ellman-Brown	820288	*not available on Fridays; **not available on Mondays or Tuesdays	
Village Club: Philip Nichols	820804		
Contact details for other village clubs and organisations are available at www.hunton.org.uk/contacts			

Diary Dates		Parish Council Contacts	
Thurs 1 st December	Village Lunch Village Club 12.30-2pm	Parish Council Chairman – Gary Thomas	820691
Fri 2 nd December	AGM Village Club 8.15pm	Clerk to the Parish Council – Sharon Goodwin	681238
Sat 3 rd December	Quiz Night Village Club 8pm	Cllr Jonny Goddard	820096
Sat 10 th December	Christmas Market St Mary's Church 4-7pm	Cllr David Heaton	820678
Sat 17 th December	1980's Party Night Village Club 8pm	Cllr Roger Lee	820210
Sun 18 th December	Carol Service St Mary's Church 6pm	Cllr Tony Stanbridge	820261
Thurs 29 th December	6 Impossible Things Variety Show Village Hall 6pm for 6.20pm	Cllr Annette Trought	820448
Sat 31 st December	New Year's Eve Karaoke Village Club 8pm	Cllr Helen Ward	820810

Pastoral Letter

If November is the month of remembrance December is the month of anticipation. For some it may be eager anticipation – for children the expectations of school days filled with little work as rehearsals are under way for Christmas plays, of school holidays and of much desired gifts at Christmas. As Christians we eagerly look forward to celebrating the birth of God's only son, Jesus.

Advent (the countdown to Christmas) is a time for us to consider what it meant for God to be here, on earth, in human form. As the words of that well-known carol, Once in Royal David's City say, *"He came down to earth from heaven, Who is God and Lord of all, and His shelter was a stable, and His cradle was a stall: with the poor and mean and lowly lived on earth our saviour holy."* Why did God do that? Why send his son to live and grow as one of us? What does that mean for us today?

But sometimes this sense of awe can be lost in amongst the secular busyness of the season. How often can we lose sight of that helpless babe as we are elbowing our way through the crowds to get that special gift for our loved ones? How often do we forget the mystery of God's rescue plan for the world as we rush around making sure all the trimmings are just right? How easy is it for us to spend time moaning and groaning about crowds and commercialism that we lose sight of Jesus?

This is also the time of year when more people are likely to visit our churches. A time when the spirit of Christianity flows through those who normally give God no thought. The welcome they receive should reflect the warmth and welcome of that small, humble stable in Bethlehem that turned no one away who wanted to see the newborn king. Christmas is a chance for Christians to show their faith and relationship with God at its best, where worship and welcome should meet and reflect a choice that others want to know more about. Whether you are attending a Christingle service, Carol service or Midnight communion it should be an opportunity for you to ask what is Christmas really about and to see the answer reflected in the faces of those around you as they worship God and celebrate the birth of His son.

My prayer for you all is that this year you will find time to look forward to the celebration of Jesus' birth with the same eagerness and anticipation that you had as a child waiting to see what Santa would bring. And that with that same, infectious, child-like quality remember how to share this with others too.

Becky Parnham, Children's and Families' Worker

Festive Entertainment at the Village Hall

Something for Christmas (suitable for families, although for children aged 8 and above), a variety show called **6 Impossible Things** on Thursday December 29th at 6pm for 6.20pm Showtime. This is a touring performance from a couple of well-respected artists, **Avanti & Artizani**, which Applause is putting on at three village halls between Christmas and New Year. At heart, it's a variety show about messing around with science experiments and features a revolving stage, projection, conjuring, acrobatics, live music, animatronics and special lighting. It's timed to finish by 8pm, so you can get home for TV or join villagers at the club. There will be drinks and mince pies at the interval, included in the ticket price, plus a limited bar. Tickets, already selling well, are £10 adults, £5 children, or £25 a family of 4/5.

The first music event planned for 2017 is on Saturday **January 21st**, when Applause Rural Touring will (again) be helping us present the **Maria Camahort** quintet, touring as *Iberian Colours*. This will be a chance to see and hear Spanish artists performing their traditional culture & music - flamenco percussion, cello, Spanish guitar, violin and soprano vocalisation. Doors 7.30pm for music 8pm. Tickets available for both events from Mike on 01622 820429 or reservations via Steve on 01622 820403.

Christmas Farmers' Markets

Saturday 3rd December – Yalding 4.45-8pm

Yalding High Street will be closed for the annual Christmas Market. Stalls offering fresh local produce, crafts and gifts, and refreshments; entertainment includes Morris dancing, Punch and Judy, live music and traditional carols performed by the Tonbridge Scouts and Guides band. Don't miss the arrival of Father Christmas at 5pm!

Sunday 4th December – East Farleigh 10am-1pm

Festive music will be provided by Kettle Bridge Concertinas. There will be a new stall selling handmade glass as well as a superb range of other items suitable for gifts. Orders can be placed in advance with Teston Bakery (07590 440574), Sutton Park (01622 845017) for Christmas meats and Steve the Fish (07990 767893) for any seafood requirements. Profits from the market will be donated to Maidstone Samaritans.

A Busy December at the Village Club

Friday 2nd 8.15pm – Club AGM

Come and hear the latest club news / plans. Phil feels the time is right for someone to take over the reins as Chairperson and Liz will be standing down as Secretary. Anyone interested in either position please let Phil know on 01622 820804.

Saturday 3rd 8pm for 8.15pm – Quiz Night

Gather your team together or join one on the night for this general knowledge quiz. Teams of 4-6 recommended. Free entry.

Saturday 17th 8pm – 1980's Party Night

Go back to the future at our 1980's themed Christmas party. See separate article for full details.

Saturday 24th – Christmas Draw

Cash prizes, the amount will depend upon the number of tickets sold before then.

Saturday 31st – New Year's Eve Karaoke

Mark and Helen will be hosting a Karaoke night to see in the New Year. Free entry, well priced drinks, entertainment by your friends and neighbours and no expensive taxis home!

Early Deadline

Our printers are closed between Christmas and New Year so we will need items for the January Herald a little earlier than usual. All submissions to the editor by **Sunday 11th December** please.

Road Closure

Redwall Lane will be closed at the junction with George Street from Monday 12th December for up to five days for the installation of a water meter.

Devastation for Pukka Ponies

Local equine rescue charity, Pukka Ponies, who provided pony rides at our village fete this year, has been left devastated by two suspected arson attacks in the space of a week at their premises in Dean Street, which destroyed a storage building and a stable block. Fortunately the animals were unhurt but the charity is looking to relocate and is seeking a 15-acre or larger paddock with stabling in the Maidstone area. They also need to find temporary foster homes for their ponies until they find new premises. If anyone is able to help please contact them via their Facebook page.

Development at Wares Farm, Redwall Lane

Plans are being developed for a major expansion of the Wares Farm industrial site in Redwall Lane. The main occupant of the site, Berry Gardens Ltd, is a rapidly expanding company and has outgrown its existing premises. It is proposed to build a new, larger building on Wares Farm, on the southern side of Redwall Lane. The existing buildings will be retained for other uses. An exhibition providing more details of the proposals and an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback will be held in Linton Village Hall on Monday 28th November from 3.30-8pm. Representatives from DHA Planning, Alan Firmin Ltd and Berry Gardens Ltd will attend. Further details of the proposed development are available at www.lintonpc.kentparishes.gov.uk/planning/development-at-wares-farm-redwall-lane-linton

Hunton Wanderers CC End of Season Report 2016

The season got off to a flying, if chilly, start, with HWCC lifting the winners trophy at the Stonehouse invitation T20 tournament, played in wintry conditions on 2nd May. People bowled wearing hoodies, fielded wearing thermals and umpired wearing waterproofs. The rain stopped and the sun came out just as the last ball was bowled!

Sunday 22nd May was our grand pavilion opening and charity day in support of the British Lung Foundation, which was reported in the July Herald. This was well supported by club members and local residents and raised £700 for the British Lung Foundation.

Our application for a £3,500 ECB grant towards new wicket covers was successful at the second time of asking and we took delivery of these on 31st May – no more last minute cancellations because of an unforeseen rain shower! Thanks to County Councillor Paulina Stockell and to our club sponsors for help in making up the shortfall in funding.

As for our teams, the Saturday 1st XI, having been promoted in 2015, achieved their ambition of staying up in the Kent Regional Cricket League, division 1A Central, despite some difficult opposition; our Saturday 2nd XI did what they do best, magnificently propping up the bottom of the Kent Cricket League structure; and our Sunday XI achieved a 4th straight promotion in a row from Division 4 to 3 in the Kent Village Cricket League, as well as scooping the league individual bowling and batting awards.

Next year promises to be tough, with both our senior sides up against the best quality opposition we have faced for years. Against, sadly, a background of declining participation in the sport, let's hope we can keep the momentum going.

Simon Taylor, Chairman

A Very Happy 100th Birthday

Former Hunton resident, Brenda Day, celebrated her 100th birthday on 14th November. Brenda and her husband Roland lived at Elphicks Farm in the village from 1946, farming there for 50 years before retiring to West Farleigh, where Brenda has lived alone since Roland died in 2011. On her birthday Brenda held an "open house" celebration and was visited throughout the day by 70 friends and family members, including many friends from Hunton. Highlights of the day included, of course, receiving a birthday card from Her Majesty The Queen but also a very special birthday cake that was decorated with a wonderful hand painted picture of Elphicks Farmhouse, made for her by the current owner, James Redman. On behalf of Hunton, the Herald team would like to wish Brenda a very happy (belated) birthday.



Huntonwatch Update

The charity rave held on the village playing fields in October was spoilt by a number of incidents, which resulted in six calls to the police, some of which are still under investigation so we are unable at this time to provide any further information. Also in October there was an oil theft in the West Street area. It is a sad fact that criminals will know that this is the time of year when everyone stocks up on oil for the winter and see this as an opportunity to cash in so we urge you all to be extra vigilant and report anything suspicious to us (huntonwatch@gmail.com) or directly to the police on 101 (or 999 if you see a crime in progress).

The Huntonwatch Team

Hunton Christmas Market

A highlight on the village calendar, don't miss the Christmas Market which takes place on Saturday 10th December 4-7pm in and around St Mary's Church. Featuring a variety of gift stalls including pottery, silverware, Christmas decorations and wood products, as well as artisan food stalls, cakes, the WI's very popular savouries and the Friends' legendary BBQ. The Huntones will be rounding off the evening leading a Christmas sing-a-long to help you get in the festive spirit. Entrance £1 donation.

Volunteers will be collecting bottles for the bottle stall during the first weekend in December, please give generously.



Hunton Christmas Market



St Mary's Church
Hunton

Saturday 10th December 2016
4 till 7pm

Craft Stalls, Food and Drink Stalls,
Homemade Cakes, Antiques,
Collectables - Great Christmas Presents!



Bottle Stall, Mulled Wine, BBQ,
Community Carol Singing

At St Mary's Church in December

Flowers

4 th	Alison Ellman-Brown	11 th	Alison Ellman-Brown
18 th	Carol Service - All	25 th	Christmas - All

Services

Sunday 4th December – 2nd Sunday in Advent
11.00am Family Service – Rev Peter Callway

Sunday 11th December – 3rd Sunday in Advent
9.30am Holy Communion 1662 – Rev Peter Callway

Sunday 18th December – 4th Sunday in Advent
6.00pm Carol Service – Rev David Jones & Rev Peter Callway

Saturday 24th December – Christmas Eve
9.30pm Holy Communion – Rev David Jones

Sunday 25th December – Christmas Day
9.30am Family Service & Holy Communion – Rev Eileen Doyle

Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

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

Memories of Peter Winter 1950-2016

Peter was born on 12th September in Charlton Lane, West Farleigh, the second son to Frank and Ruby and brother to Paul. He started his schooling at the old school in East Street, Hunton and was a member of St Mary's Church choir and also a bell ringer. His parents built their own family home in Amsbury Road, Coxheath in the early 60's so Peter continued his schooling at Cornwallis, where he loved sport and 'clowning around'. Despite all this he did well and still holds the javelin distance record and became a prefect. He started to work for Crownways in the 'Good Old Days' and together with his brother formed a band called 'The Enterprise'. They made a demo record and were given a recording contract! Three keyboard players pulled out at the last minute so their musical dreams were never pursued. Peter was well known around the village wearing a bowler hat, frayed jeans and big boots. He met Jackie in 1970 and they were married in August 1972. Their son Brett came along in September 1973 followed by daughter Sharon on Christmas Eve 1975. The family moved to Hunton in 1981 where they purchased their little patch of Heaven known as North Lodge. They spent many hours turning the property into a place they called home. Eventually Brett and Sharon gave them four beautiful grandchildren.

In 2008 Peter started to feel unwell and was diagnosed with cancer and was told he was unlikely to see the year out. Through strength and bloody-mindedness he endured treatments, trials and ops. and a life-saving operation in 2014. Peter's love for his family and friends, music and motorbikes kept him going. His final project was to convert his bike to a trike – when surgeons said he would never ride or play the drums again – his two great passions. But he saw them to the devil and managed to play the drums and ride his trike. His last wish was to pass away in their little patch of Heaven where he slipped away in his wife's arms on 29th October.

Supper Dance Thanks

Just under 100 people enjoyed another successful Friends of St Mary's Autumn Supper Dance in the village hall on 12th November. Grateful thanks to all those who worked so hard to create this success and to everyone who attended to support our charity. At the time of writing it has generated over £1,000 towards our funds.

Ron Porter

Orchard Clear Up

The Community Orchard group had a clear up and winter picnic on Sunday 6th November. Tasks included clearing up dead leaves and pruning back the fruit trees. David Heaton instructed the group on traditional methods of cutting back the trees to achieve a balanced shape and structure as well as to facilitate good cropping. Steve Wyles did a grand job of keeping the bonfire going as pruning the trees proved to be chilly work. All of us were rewarded by our winter picnic of hearty soup, tea, cake and mince pies enjoyed sitting round our bonfire. For anyone who may have noticed, we will be making adjustments to the orchard gate so that it will no longer need to be held together with twine! Further work will involve replacing two trees that have died and planting a small number of cherry and nut trees. If you would like to join our group then please just come along to our next clear up which will be advertised in the Herald or contact Annette on 01622 820448.



Go back to the future at our 1980's themed Christmas party. Party games based on 80's TV game shows, vintage video games, 80's disco, retro snacks and more! Come along and get into the Christmas groove.

Hunton Village Club
Saturday 17th December 8pm
Tickets £5 including buffet
available in the bar, online at www.huntonevents.com
or call Neil on 07941 880845

December	4 th	11 th	18 th	24 th	25 th
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
E. Farleigh	09.30 MP	08:00 HC; 11:00 FS	18:00 Carol Service	16:00 Christingle; 23:30 HC	09:30 FS
Linton	09.30 HC	16.00 Nine Lessons & Carols	08.00 HC	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 11th December, please