



## Christmas Fair Festivities

No room to park – it was so busy  
The atmosphere was really fizzy.  
It's Christmas time with mistletoe and mulled wine  
Down at the church – it all looked so fine.  
Freezing cold fingers and nippy cold toes  
Tea, coffee and cake to help warm your nose.  
The BBQ cooked all those burgers and things  
And even roast chestnuts to make your heart sing.  
The church full of craft stalls, and food stalls too  
And bottles to win – lucky old you!  
The hall all decked out in a Christmas theme,  
What a lot of hard work by the dedicated team.  
Santa in his grotto, all mystic and blue,  
Waiting to give his gifts to you.  
Painted faces, decorating mini trees  
Lucky dips to keep those busy bees  
Occupied, whilst their parents chat  
Before going home to check on the cat!

*Sue Pinks*



We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who played a part in the Christmas Fair. Without the help of a brilliant team of volunteers before, during and after the event it simply would not have happened and such wonderful support from our Hunton community, who turned out in force to enjoy the festivities, was the icing on the cake. Once the dust, snow and glitter have all settled we will go through the numbers and let everyone know in next month's Herald how well we did.

*Christmas Fair Organising Committee*

## Advertising Coordinator Needed

The Hunton Herald is in need of someone to take over as advertising coordinator from Sue Pinks. The advertising revenue is crucial as it pays for our production costs, as well as allowing us to make donations to good causes within the village. The role involves liaising with current and potential new advertisers and arranging for the printing of our annual advertising directory. We start contacting advertisers in February and the new directory needs to be ready to distribute with the May Herald, so if you can spare some time between February and April and would be willing to help with this, we would be very pleased to hear from you. Sue is happy to work with the new coordinator to produce this year's directory. Please contact Helen on 01622 820810 or email [herald@hunton.org.uk](mailto:herald@hunton.org.uk) if you would like to join the Herald team.

<b>Your Local Contacts:</b>		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 - Jasmine Pay	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, 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 <a href="http://www.hunton.org.uk/contacts">www.hunton.org.uk/contacts</a>			
<b>Parish Council Contacts</b>			
Parish Council Chairman – Gary Thomas 820691		Clerk to the Parish Council – Sharon Goodwin 681238	
Cllr Jonny Goddard	820096	Cllr David Heaton	820678
Cllr Tony Stanbridge	820721	Cllr Annette Trought	820448
		Cllr Roger Lee	820210
		Cllr Helen Ward	820810
<b>Diary Dates</b>			
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Parish Council Meeting</b> Village Hall 7.30pm	Tues 16 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>WI Meeting</b> Village Club 7.15pm
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Needles &amp; Natter</b> Village Club 8pm	Thurs 25 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Village Lunch</b> Village Club 12.30-2pm
Sat 27 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Wine Tasting and Supper</b> Village Club 7pm	Thurs 1 <sup>st</sup> February	<b>Village Lunch</b> Village Club 12.30-2pm
Check out <a href="http://www.hunton.org.uk/diary">www.hunton.org.uk/diary</a> for the latest events. If you would like to add an event, email <a href="mailto:diary@hunton.org.uk">diary@hunton.org.uk</a>			

## Pastoral Letter

Douglas Adams, in his fantastic Hitch Hikers Guide to the Galaxy and sequels wrote, "I love deadlines. I love the whooshing noise they make as they go by." It's a strange life, being a vicar. Here I am, writing this in Advent (still not Christmas) and thinking about Easter. The editors of the newsletters that this will be published in understand deadlines better than most. They can be helpful, providing that additional surge of energy when flagging, or unhelpful as they add another stress on top of the ones already being experienced. I spend a lot of time preparing things which are delivered at a later date, or come to fruition some time down the road, as it were. You will be reading this in the New Year of 2018, and you may have already made a resolution or two. You may already have broken them! Having goals and planning is part of life, whether we do that as part of our working life, or in our social context, or just for our own personal well-being. So – as I think about Easter I recall that it is on April 1<sup>st</sup> in 2018, and that therefore Lent begins on Wednesday February 14<sup>th</sup>, Ash Wednesday (as well as being St. Valentine's day). Our Lent course, which we do across the benefice, will start in the week commencing February 19<sup>th</sup> and we plan it so that as many people as possible from the five parishes can join in. Folk sign up to say which days and times they can do, and I put together a number of groups that best meet the need. This year we will be looking at what it means to be a disciple – a learner, a follower of Jesus. If you would like to be part of a group, let me know, or sign up in one of the parish churches, and we'll make it all happen.

Jesus said, "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, saying, 'This person began to build and wasn't able to finish.'" (Luke 14:28-30) He was talking about what it means to be a disciple – that it is a serious business and needs commitment.

Many blessings for the year ahead – may it be all you hope for, *Peter Callway, Rector*

## New Chairman for the Club

At the AGM of Hunton Village Club Gil Robertson was elected by the members present as the new chairman. Graham Ashlin was also elected onto the committee due to vacancies resulting from the retirements of Kathy Reid and Doug Redfarn. Kathy has served on the committee for eight years and will continue to help out with bar duties when she can. Doug has served on the committee for many, many years fulfilling the roles of treasurer and secretary amongst others. He too will continue to help out with bar duties when he can. The retiring chairman, Phil Nichols, received a vote of thanks for his time and efforts. He will also continue to help out with various functions.

In his report on the club's activities Phil thanked Lesley and Roger Lee for organising all of the lunches and suppers that have been enjoyed by the community. The lunches were started by Louise Ferns and Ann Sawtell back in 2013, their work being carried on by Lesley and Roger, whose efforts together with their band of dedicated volunteers have helped to raise more than £10,000 for the church and club. It was reported that the village community was using the club on a regular basis for a variety of functions, listing 16 different types from the WI to the new Pilates classes that had started.

Lisa Halliday, the club's treasurer reported that the club had funds of £13,400 in hand following considerable expenditure on insulation, repairs and replacement of the flat roofs. New guttering had also been installed. Work had commenced on decorating and creating a kitchen within the storeroom, it being explained that this work was being done to enhance the facilities at the club and make better use of the storeroom space.

Unfortunately membership had fallen with more than 40 members not renewing in 2017. There were eight new joiners. The meeting decided not to make any changes to the annual membership fee of £20 (£15 for concessions) with a £5 discount available to existing members who renew before 28<sup>th</sup> February.

There was a plea for more volunteers to help out with bar duties for just one session per month, Wednesday being particularly critical with darts matches taking place. The club is also in need of a secretary to take minutes of the monthly meetings (held on a Tuesday evening) and to write the odd letter. The committee has agreed to pay a small honorarium for this role and if any reader of the Herald would be interested, the new chairman would be delighted to hear from them. Gil can be contacted by email: gilbert@breachfarm.com.

## Barn Dance Fundraiser

The "Friends" of Yalding Youth and Community Centre have organised their first event! They are holding a Barn Dance on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2018 from 6pm. Tickets are £8 per adult, £6 per child. Family tickets are for 2 adults and 2 children at £22, which means one child goes FREE! Tickets will be on sale at Yalding Post Office from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January.

Advertisement

### Beginners Pilates Class

Improves posture, mobility, flexibility and strength

Starts Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January at 9.30am

At Hunton Village Club

£30 for 5 weeks. Booking is essential

Contact Samantha on 07799 763536

## Club Kitchen Becoming a Reality

For the past couple of years or so volunteers have been raising funds to create a kitchen in the storeroom area, a facility that the club has never had. More funds are needed to see the project through to completion as there are some major works to be done which include plaster boarding the walls, opening a serving hatch to the bar, floor covering, new electrical circuits, plumbing as well as cupboards, shelving and some kitchen equipment. The cellar room has been cleaned and decorated to make room for temporary storage of items in the store room, which has now had a new ceiling fitted with much improved lighting. The old mains open drain has also been covered with a neat stack pipe in its place. There is no time deadline for completion of the work, which will be done when time and funds permit and it is gratifying to see what a difference has already been made.

## Traffic and Road Safety Working Party

Traffic through the village and the safety of our roads has been one of the main concerns of residents for some time. With the approval of the planning application for the new Berry Gardens depot on Redwall Lane and large new housing developments in Marden, Coxheath and Yalding, it is inevitable that we will see an increase in traffic. This subject has been a regular item on the agenda at parish council meetings, but there has often not been enough time for full discussion, so the parish council recently decided to set up a dedicated Traffic and Road Safety Working Party to look at the issues in more detail (TRSWP).

The TRSWP, chaired by Helen Ward, consists of five parish councillors and five village residents, who have been meeting about once a month since September. Currently they are:

- Identifying hazardous sections of road and considering potential measures to improve safety
- Liaising with Fruition at Amsbury Farm regarding additional signage and routeing of HGVs
- Looking at measures to stop HGVs ignoring the weight restrictions through the village
- Considering the monitoring of construction traffic to the new Berry Gardens depot
- Discussing appropriate diversion routes for road closures with Kent Highways

The Terms of Reference for the TRSWP together with agendas and minutes of their meetings can be found under the Parish Council section on the Hunton website – [www.hunton.org.uk](http://www.hunton.org.uk).

## East Street Weight Restriction

This is one of the first matters being looked at by the TRSWP. You may have noticed that the sign on East Street that marks the beginning of the 7.5 tonne weight restriction has been moved from its previous position at the junction with Hunton Hill to just past the turning for Amsbury Farm. This was requested by the parish council as one of a number of measures attempting to stop large lorries from using the very narrow sections of East Street and Redwall Lane. By removing the entrance to Amsbury Farm from the weight restriction area, vehicles over 7.5 tonnes accessing the farm **must** now approach from Hunton Hill. The only HGVs that should now be using East Street between Amsbury Farm and the bridge over the Beult where it becomes Hunton Road, and also Redwall Lane between the East Street and George Street junctions, as well as the entire length of George Street, are those collecting or delivering within the weight restriction or those that are exempt, such as emergency services vehicles, agricultural vehicles and buses.

### So how do we stop HGVs from using these roads?

In theory it is the responsibility of the police to ensure that vehicles do not breach the weight restrictions, but in reality they do not have the resources to do this, so it is up to us as a community to do what we can to try and prevent the illegal use of our village roads. The TRSWP has so far:

- Asked Fruition to notify their hauliers that Hunton Hill is the only access route to Amsbury Farm
- Contacted a number of haulage companies directly to ensure that they are aware of the change to the weight restriction area
- Requested that KCC update their online freight route planner
- Asked KCC to add “unsuitable for HGV” signage to the weight restriction signs

It is likely that further steps will need to be taken, but in the meantime we need to monitor the effectiveness of these measures and for that we will need the help of local residents.

### How you can help

















Report any HGVs seen exceeding the 7.5 tonne weight restriction to the TRSWP with as much information as possible. Ideally we need to know:

- Date and time seen
- Name of company
- Registration number of vehicle
- Approx size of vehicle (see Guide to Lorry Types and Weights)
- Where you saw it and direction of travel

If it is a foreign registered lorry the registration numbers on the cab and the trailer will probably be different – in this instance the number from the cab is more important. Photos can be helpful - but please don't try to take them if you are driving! Obviously it's not always possible to get all this information, but anything you can tell us will help and if there is sufficient information we may be able to report it to the police and KCC through Lorry Watch. There are also 7.5 tonne weight restrictions on West Street and Lughorse Lane, so if you spot any HGVs on those roads please tell us about them too!

Details can be reported to Helen Ward, email: [helen@helenward.org](mailto:helen@helenward.org) phone: 01622 820810, or to Jonny Goddard, email: [jonny@cheveneyfarm.co.uk](mailto:jonny@cheveneyfarm.co.uk) phone: 01622 820096.

## A Simplified Guide to Lorry Types and Weights

Recommended Description		Identifier	UK Maximum Gross Weight (tonnes)	Shape
<b>LIGHT GOODS VEHICLES</b>		2 axles	3.5	no rear side windows 
<b>LORRIES</b>	<b>HEAVY GOODS VEHICLES</b> (Vehicles over 7.5 tonnes gross require a Heavy Goods Vehicle Driver's Licence)	SMALLER 2-AXLE LORRIES	2 axles	Over 3.5 7.5 
		BIGGER 2-AXLE LORRIES	2 axles	Over 7.5 18 
		MULTI-AXLE	3 axles rigid	25 26* 
			3 axles artic.	26 
			4 axles rigid	30 32* 
			4 axles artic.	36 38* 
		AXLE	Vehicle and draw-bar trailer 4 axles	30 36** 
			5 axles or more artic. See note (a)	40 
			Vehicle and draw-bar trailer 5 axles See note (a)	40** 
		LORRIES	6 axles artic. See note (b)	41* 
			6 axles draw-bar See note (b)	41* and ** 
			5 or 6 axles artic. See notes (b) and (c)	44* and *** 
			6 axles draw-bar	44*, ** and *** 
			6 axles artic. See note (b) and (d)	44* 
			6 axles draw-bar See note (b) and (d)	44* and ** 

## At St Mary's Church in January

### Flowers

7th Sue Scott      14th Sue Scott  
21st Sue Scott      28th Sue Scott

### Services

#### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January – Epiphany

11.00am Family Service – Rev Eileen Doyle

#### Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January – Epiphany 2

9.30am Holy Communion 1662 – Rev Peter Callway

#### Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January – Epiphany 3

11.00am Morning Prayer – Miss Chris Bostock

#### Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January – The Presentation

11.00am Holy Communion – Rev David Jones

### Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

Wed-Fri 8-11pm

Sun 12-2.30pm & 8-10.30pm

## Winter Warmer Village Lunches

Another series of six Thursday lunches will take place at Hunton Village Club starting on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January. They will run throughout February and finish on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March. Doors open at 12 noon with lunch from about 12.30pm when a choice of two warming soups, bread, cheeses etc. followed by tea or coffee with cake or biscuits will be available for a donation of £6. After five years of no increases the donation requested for food is rising but where else can you find such a tasty good value lunch and catch up with old friends as well as meet new ones? These sociable community events have now been running for five years whilst raising considerable amounts for both St Mary's Church and the club. Please support them if you can. Although there is no need to book ahead, if you cannot eat a particular food please let Lesley know in advance on 01622 820210 or email [lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com](mailto:lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com)

## Gardening Club Meetings

Hunton Gardening Club met on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November for their usual supper and talk. Marden based organic farmer and naturalist, Peter Hall, told about 30 members of his farm developments and a flood mitigation scheme. Since the club visited his farm over a year ago, he has had to stop growing organic hops because the use of copper fungicide (except for grapes) is being banned by the EU. Instead he has given the area over to his brother who grows grapes for English sparkling wine under the Herbert Hall label. With the RSPB and Kent County Council, he is creating a flood mitigation scheme in the Teise/Beult catchment area. This involves digging a large lake into which the river water can be channelled during flood conditions and then released slowly afterwards. If successful, they are hoping to encourage other landowners in the area to create similar schemes, which should reduce flooding downstream in places such as Hunton and Yalding. Along with other efforts such as growing sunflowers, he has also been able to create improved habitats for wildlife such as Yellowhammers.

The next gardening club supper and talk will be on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2018 in the village club. If anyone is interested in joining please contact Lesley Lee on 01622 820210 or [Lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com](mailto:Lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com).

## Christmas at Hunton Primary School

Hunton C of E Primary School have been getting in the Christmas spirit in the last couple of weeks with Christingle and Nativity performances well under way.

On Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December, Hunton Primary School hosted their own Christmas Fayre. This was a huge success and we would like to thank everybody who contributed and those who attended the fayre. Each class had their own stall at the Christmas Fayre and the money raised from this will go to classroom resources. Students were involved in the making of the products and the older pupils also practised their selling techniques! "The Huntones" also attended the fayre to sing Christmas Carols, which the children also sang. We would like to give a special thank you to "The Huntones" for coming and to Sue Pinks for taking the time and effort to come and rehearse with the pupils during lunchtimes.

*Stanley and Jacob - Year 6*

*(Many thanks to the boys for taking time out of their busy pre-Christmas schedule to write this report for The Herald – Ed.)*

## WI Christmas Activities

The last WI meeting of 2017 was a Christmas Party. The ladies learned some new words as they guessed the correct definition in a game of "Call my Bluff" organised by Ann Sawtell. Everyone then enjoyed a hot supper of chicken and chorizo one pot, with jacket potatoes and salad prepared by the committee, rounded off with tea/coffee with mince pies and stollen.

On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December, Hunton WI hosted the WI District Carols at St Mary's Church, Hunton. It was attended by about 60 WI members from all around the Medway Valley District. The church was decorated for Christmas and the Huntones led the singing beautifully. It made a lovely start to the Christmas festivities. Many thanks to David Jones for conducting the service.

The next WI meeting will be on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January, not the usual first Tuesday of the Month. We will be discussing this year's WI resolutions and voting on which one Hunton WI will support. Meetings are held at the village club where doors open at 7 pm. New members very welcome.

January	7 <sup>th</sup>	14 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>	28 <sup>th</sup>
Coxheath	11.00 HC	11.00 MP	11.00 HC	11.00 FS
E. Farleigh	09.30 MP	08.00 HC; 11.00 FS	09.30 HC	08.00 HC
Linton	09.30 HC	09.30 FS	08.00 HC	09.30 HC
W. Farleigh	08.00 HC 1662	11.00 MP Mod	09.30 MP Trad	09.30 HC Mod
HC Holy Communion, MP Morning Prayer, FS Family Service				

**All items for the next edition of the Herald to the Editor by 15th January, please**