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Village News



New Website

The new Parish Council website is now live. Please check it out at huntonpc.org

As well as information and news from the PC, you can access agendas, minutes and other documents and find links to local authority services, local businesses, community groups and copies of Village News.

The site is under constant development and review - we are now working on the Gallery section and would love to have up-to-date photographs. (You can contact the 'webmaster, clerk, or individual parish councillors, via email links on the site.)

We want the newsletter to be easily available to all residents in the Parish; we would also like to save on the cost of paper/ink, printing and delivery (180 drops, by volunteers).

To that end, we would like to hear from residents who are happy to only have online access to each newsletter, rather than a paper copy. We will, of course, continue to deliver hard copies to residents who do not have internet access/don't use internet much. Hard copies will also be left at the Countryman's.

Please go to huntonpc.org 'Keep in touch with our Village Newsletter' where you will find 'Join our mailing list'. We will then be able to send your copy by email. You can also read newsletters past and present on the website.

If you would like items included on the site, please go to huntonpc.org News (drop down menu 'Latest News') and click on 'HPC News editor' to send your request.

War Memorial

The Hunton War memorial will shortly be undergoing a facelift. Over the passage of time, the lettering has faded badly and was clearly in need of attention. It has taken some time to find a company with the right skills to carry out this work and **the PC would like to thank Steve Tock for his efforts in finding a suitable monumental mason.** The works will include a thorough clean of the monument and the refurbishing of all the lettering. It is hoped to have the works completed before the Remembrance Day Service, on Sunday 13th November.

Play Area Footbridge

As part of the ongoing maintenance and upkeep of the Play Area, the PC have started a project to replace the wooden footbridge which links the two sides of the area.

The original footbridge was constructed as a 'self help' project by villagers in the early nineties. It has lasted well but has reached the point where it requires replacement. A number of areas of concern have been highlighted in the annual play area inspection report.

The plan is to replace the bridge with a similar design, albeit a bit wider to allow easier access for parents with children and buggies. The first task is to raise sufficient finance to allow the work to go ahead as we are looking at a potential final cost of circa £11,000. A number of funding applications have been submitted and we should have a decision on the main sources of funding by the end of the month.

Once funding is secured, the bridge can be ordered and we would be looking to install in March 2023.

Because of the location of the bridge and access we are looking to purchase the bridge in kit form, which can be self assembled. Once details are finalised, we are hoping to construct the foundations and install using local contractors and also some self help work to minimise the costs. **The removal of the old bridge will hopefully be done by volunteers armed with chainsaws and the like. More to follow on this nearer the time.**

Pollution in the Beck

The Parish Council were made aware of a potential pollution incident in the beck. **We have advised both the Environment Agency and Richmondshire District Council of the incident and they are investigating the matter.** The incident is not thought to be serious and has been compounded by the very low water levels.

Village Work Day

It's that time again! **The PC will be looking to hold a village work day on Saturday 29th October. Weather permitting, we would ask volunteers to meet at the Village Hall from 10.00am.** The main tasks will be clearance of vegetation and pruning along the side of the beck between Captain's Bridge and the Ford. We will also be looking to tidy up the large conifers adjacent to the war memorial. The previous workdays have been well supported and all help to maintain the look and feel of the village. **Please come along and support armed with shears, loppers etc.**

Rights of Way (footpaths and bridleways).

The Parish Council website has a link to the NYCC map of all the Definitive Rights of Way around Hunton. **If you unsure of where you are permitted to walk or ride, go to huntonpc.org 'Community' then 'Public Rights of Way' where you will find a link to the map to check this.**

Two parish councillors have walked 3 footpaths to the east and north of the village and have identified 2 stiles which are not suitable to use and 2 stiles/way marks which are missing. This may lead to walkers straying onto private land. A map showing the stiles, or lack of them, and description is being sent to NYCC Rights of Way, with a request to check the state of these.

Road Closure A684

The A684 will be closed between the Patrick Brompton and Harmby junctions for 5 working days starting on 24th Oct. for drainage work and tree maintenance. The road will not be open to traffic out of hours. **The full NYCC letter/map are on huntonpc.org Home page.**

Wildlife/wildflower update

(Jan Wylie and Wendy Knight)

In 2020 we sought permission from the Parish Council to create a wilder area in a corner by Captain's Bridge. **Having been given the go ahead, we started this project early in 2020 with 'Phase 1', by Captain's Bridge, scalping the grass off and sowing with cornfield annuals.** That year, we made a circular area bordered with recycled plastic 'kerb stones' around six small apple trees near the main play area, which have a mix of cottage garden plants and grass paths.

A second area was started in 2021 around a small oak tree behind the village hall. In the first year the cleared spaces were sown with annuals, with some native perennials.

This autumn, in Phase 1, we are digging out large areas of perennials (which are being transplanted in a landowner's hedge line and along the beck), and are busy creating areas of disturbed soil, which will be re-sown with poppies, cornflowers, corn marigold and corn camomile seeds.

There are also primroses along the bank, plus bluebells and cyclamen under trees and by the bench in Phase 1.

In Phase 2 there are cowslips under the small oak tree and English bluebells under the large sycamore. **As part of our aim to encourage wildlife into the centre of the village, there are ten bird boxes in the trees along the beck. Some were occupied this year.** Many other species frequent the area - we've seen short tailed voles, toads, seed eating birds, thrushes and blackbirds finding food in the drought. We have been able to buy seeds and bulbs, kerb 'stones' and a bench through fundraising events over the three years.

Leyburn PROBUS Club

At a loose end on a Tuesday Morning? Then why not come along and join us at Leyburn PROBUS club. **The club meets fortnightly on a Tuesday between 10.30 and 12.00 at the Leyburn Arts Centre.** PROBUS is open to all and was originally set up as a meeting point

for retired and semi-retired individuals. As well as a social gathering, the main part of the meeting is a guest speaker and during the course of the year they cover a wide variety of topics. A number of residents in Hunton attend the meetings and if you would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact either Robert Wyatt or Ronnie Smith.

Bench on Hauxwell Road

Pete Latham has been keeping the area round the bench mown, and the hedge trimmed to give a beautiful view across the fields looking north. It's a lovely spot to take a rest, or a moment to chill. **Thanks to Pete.**

Hunton in Bloom

(Claire Seaborne)

A meeting was held in July, 2022 to gauge interest in the village becoming involved in 'Britain in Bloom' in 2023. There was a lot of support and a steering group formed, which has met monthly since then. **Initially the plan is to enter a category called "It's your neighbourhood" which is aimed at small groups who are just starting.** The first area we will focus on is the centre of the village around the village hall and the green areas nearby. We would like to involve as many people and local groups as possible. **More information is available on the Parish Council website, huntonpc.org or you can email us at: huntoninbloom@gmail.com with questions, or to pass on ideas and comments.**

Woodland Open Afternoon

(Claire and Gareth Seaborne)

Autumn is upon us and we thought that we would take the opportunity to **invite you to have a look at the progress of Curlew Bank Wood, at Crossways.** Some trees have grown like mad, even since the Open Day in May. The Aspen and Silver Birch have done particularly well. **If you'd like to come and have a look round we will be hosting an informal Open Afternoon (no charge) on Sunday 23rd October from 2 till 5 pm.**

Countryman's Community Pub Society

(Committee)

On the 9th of September we finally bought our amazing pub! After 18 months of hard work we got there. But there's still plenty more hard work to come. Over the last month since we purchased the pub, plans for the renovation work have gained more traction. **We've been getting quotes in for essential work including structural work on the 2nd floor, a full kitchen refurbishment, new windows and doors. In addition we've been filling skips, painting windows and having additional survey work done.**

We hope by the end of the month to instruct various contractors to do the priority work and plans are being made for having volunteer days to get even more work done, so **thank you to those who have already offered their assistance and anyone who wants to help please contact us.**

Your Parish Councillors are: Robert Wyatt (Chair), Ronnie Smith, Ray Worsdale, Jan Wylie, Wendy Knight.

If you would like to include items of interest in the next Village News, please go to huntonpc.org for clerk and councillors' email links., or speak to any councillor.