

HUNTLEY HEADLINES

DECEMBER 2023

The final edition for 2023 comes to you with sincere wishes for a happy and restful Christmas and a peaceful and healthy 2024.

POPPY INITIATIVE

Many of you are aware of the weekly sewing group that meets in The Red Lion every Friday from 2.00-4.00pm. As a result of their coffee and cake fuelled chats, they have decided that they would like to decorate the village with poppies next Remembrance Day and are looking for all keen knitters, crocheters, in fact anyone with crafting ability for assistance, ideas and wool. The aim is to cover railings, post boxes, pillars, lamp posts (in fact anything) with a poppy display. This is an ambitious project and will take some months to complete. The task of coordinating it is also huge. If you can help in any way-even by just donating a few balls of wool-please get in contact with Hilary Ablett (07749 830028) to tell her what you would like to contribute or to ask what is needed. The more people involved, the less onerous the task on each individual and it will be a real community project. Next year is the 80th anniversary of D Day and the following year-2025- is the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, both important dates to commemorate.

FIXMYSTREET

No, we haven't forgotten our word breaks! This is a very easy way to report potholes and other road damage to the County Council via their website. It takes literally seconds and the report goes straight to the repairing teams. The County Council has been allocated an additional £5.6million over the next two years to fix potholes with a further allocation after that. Just take a photo of the offending hole, upload it and report its location - it really is as simple as that. If you're not able to supply a picture that is not a big problem, but a picture does help. Let's get smooth road surfaces!

GREEN CREDENTIALS

We mentioned this subject last month and promised updates. The Council is going ahead with an order for bat and bird boxes from a kind parishioner who has offered to make them at no cost to the Council; Laura Ashton-Phillips, garden designer and horticulturalist grower, is being asked to identify the best plots to establish wild meadow gardens and which plants to sow and the work will begin as soon as possible in the Spring. Volunteers are needed to complete this project which aims to satisfy the ecology requirements for local councils and make Huntley an attractive village. Please get in touch with the Parish Clerk or newsletter editor if you wish to be involved. All offers of help are welcomed.

NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN (NDP)

As you know the NDP for Huntley was approved by a public vote in September and it is now being used when considering planning applications that come before the Council. Early experience shows that our comments are being taken into account and influencing the decisions made at District Council level. This is a testament of the power that an NDP can have.

The Parish Council also has to show that its actions are in harmony with the stated aims of the NDP's community actions, aims, objectives and policies. A quarterly report will be sent to the Forest of Dean District Council FoDDC), and the first is due on 1st January 2024.

There will be a draft Local Plan from FoDDC in March 2024 and our NDP will need to be updated in the light of this. This will involve Huntley parishioners next year and there will be a further referendum on the revised NDP after the Local Plan is voted on in Spring 2025.

BUS SERVICES

Philip Robinson, our County councillor, advised the Parish Council meeting on 5th December that additional funds have been made available for increased bus services in the Forest, especially in the evenings and at weekends. This is certainly a welcome move. We don't have the details of these services yet but will keep you informed as soon as we do.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Huntley Village Hall

Date to be confirmed

70s Disco

Saturday 9th March, 7.30pm

AIR in G event
(Arts in Rural Gloucestershire)

The Red Lion

Christmas Eve

Curry night

Christmas Day

Christmas lunch 12.00-2.30pm
(Must be prebooked-£70pp)

Boxing Day

All day buffet

New Year's Eve

Huntley Church

17th December

Holy Communion 10.30am

Christmas Eve

Midnight Mass 11.30pm

Enquiries/feedback to jillcroxall@hotmail.com.

Hard copies of this newsletter will be available at the Texaco garage, Morrisons store, woods butchers, Margaret's hairdressers, The Red Lion, the Village Hall and the bus stop on the A4136 by Hinders Lane. It will also be online at the Parish council website.