

HUNTLEY HEADLINES

NOVEMBER 2023

KEEP SAFE

We are now in the season of dark evenings and colder weather when we tend to stay indoors with the heating on and curtains and windows closed. It is unfortunately also the time when burglars like to strike as they cannot be seen or heard so easily. Make your house as unwelcome as possible by following the police advice to “**go WIDE**”. This means, make sure you have good **W**indow locks, **I**ndoor lights on timers, **D**ouble or deadbolt locks and **E**xterior sensor lights. The combination of these measures makes a house look occupied and more difficult to enter, and, hopefully, will deter would be burglars. If you are leaving your property for a few days, tell your neighbour.

In the run up to Christmas we are overwhelmed with advertising to encourage us to spend. Be extra careful that any email is not a scam and that goods offered for sale are genuine items. Remember also that your bank will never ask for personal information such as PIN, passwords or tell you to transfer money out of your account-they can block accounts themselves if they need to!

If in doubt, check with a family member or neighbour.

Keep alert and stay safe!

SPEED CAMPAIGN

This continues to be an issue along both the A40 and A4136. The Parish Council is in the process of getting a camera installed that will register excess speeds and get letters sent to offenders by the Police. This should happen very soon.

In addition, and as a means of providing current data for our longstanding campaign to get flashing speed signs installed in the village (although it is taking a long while, we haven't given up!), it is hoped to restart the group that was active before Covid. This was successful in drawing Police attention to our problem and subsequently there has been increased Police presence in the village monitoring speeds at frequent intervals.

The Community Speedwatch group monitor over a two-week period, with two one hourly sessions per day at varying times to give us a good overview of traffic conditions. For each session three people are needed to monitor speed and record details; it is hoped that we can attract enough volunteers so that each person only has to cover 4 shifts per fortnightly session. If 20 people can offer their services, that would be great.

Full training is given, hi-vis vests are provided and the police supply the radar gun. It is hoped to purchase our own gun later so that we can run ad hoc sessions as the need arises. Please indicate your interest to the editor at jillcroxall@hotmail.com. When there are sufficient numbers, we'll make a start! The group will be independent from the parish council for the time being.

D DAY CELEBRATIONS JUNE 2024

It's still a long way ahead but there will be lots of events next June to commemorate the 80th anniversary of this important event in World War 2. Mitcheldean are planning a very ambitious day at Dene Magna School with tanks, aeroplanes, military bands, music, marching, military demonstrations – a day packed with events and things to do. It would be difficult to match this, so Huntley Parish council have agreed to Mitcheldean's request for support, both financially and practically. The organisers would appreciate any offers of help - from car parking to litter picking to attending in 1940s dress or military uniform. It takes place on Sunday June 9th.

On Saturday June 8th Huntley Village Hall will be hosting a 1940s themed lunch complete with spam sandwiches, jelly and blancmange! Everyone is welcome, more details later. Please make a note in your diary for 2024 to keep the weekend free and invite your friends!

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The Hall committee continue to be active improving the appearance and amenities of the Hall. They have been successful in obtaining a National Lottery grant to pay for new entrance doors that will be easier to open and close and look more attractive. These will be installed by next Spring.

Most people will have seen the mural that has been painted on the far wall of the Hall. This was done by local artist Jackie Cox who is the tutor for the Art Club that meets every Friday afternoon in the Hall. The mural depicts the older significant buildings in Huntley and is very good. If you haven't seen it, come to the Christmas Fayre on Friday 17th November from 6pm and view it while enjoying the stalls and refreshments on offer. There will be Alpacas, Father Christmas and the school choir will be singing. It should help to get everyone in the Christmas spirit!

GREEN CREDENTIALS

There is currently great emphasis on biodiversity and ecology and Huntley is going to play its part. The Council is planning to install nesting boxes for birds and bats as well as plant wildflowers, bulbs and some young trees in various locations through the village and is currently seeking expert advice about the best way forward. If successful, we should have a greener and more attractive village next year. As detailed plans are finalised, there will be a monthly update included in the Headlines.

If you wish to become involved, please let the Council know, volunteer help is gratefully received.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

19th November – Christmas Fair , Red Lion, 12.00-5.00pm

2nd December – Christmas afternoon tea, Village Hall from 2pm

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.