



Next Editors: Jennifer Stuart-Smith & Angela Baptie: huntonherald@outlook.com
All items for the next edition of the Herald to the Editors by 15th April

Political Life Returns to St Mary's Hunton?

Not only is a memorial to the Liberal Prime Minister, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman of Hunton Court in St Mary's marking Hunton's connection to the political life of the country but in recent days so has much of modern political life in Hunton been marked by a 'strike' in the tower and movement to the 'left and right' in the graveyard.

After a decade of silence, the strike has returned to the clock to ring out the hour during daylight hours over Hunton. In the Hunton Church History and Guide nothing is mentioned of the clock which is a sturdy piece of machinery built probably 250 years ago and still giving good time keeping with little attention required. Some years ago, the winding mechanism for the clock and the bell were replaced by electronic winding gears thus saving the daily climb to hand wind both weights. We are very grateful to one of the bell ringers in Maidstone who, hearing of the lack of strike, came down and managed to not only diagnose the fault but also solve it.

In the churchyard work has begun to straighten the headstones which have over the years decided to lean forward or back and some to the left or the right. These are very large stones and have to be treated with great respect and care, but many more now stand as erected in memory of the past of Hunton. Not only is this a safety measure but will also allow easier cutting of the grass in the old churchyard which is carried out on a regular basis by a team of grass cutters from the village. We owe a huge 'thank you' to this team and also the six or so working parties over the year who come to keep everything tidy, both within the church but also in the churchyard.

The new churchyard, so called because it was only consecrated in 1874 with the first burial dating from the late 19th century, is not included in any regular maintenance programme. This allows the spring and summer flowers to bloom before a cut in the summer and autumn and is now undergoing some tidying work and remedial attention to damaged headstones. This graveyard is still in use although spaces are getting fewer but, with cremations being much more the preferred method of funerals, the demand is reducing.

Rev'd David Jones

Wildlife Rescue

We recently discovered a pipistrelle bat, alive but disorientated, lying on our cold, wet lawn. After making several phone calls we were eventually directed to Folly Wildlife Rescue in Tunbridge Wells. The staff were helpful and agreed to take in our little casualty.

Having survived the night in a box in our greenhouse we delivered the bat to the wildlife hospital, where upon examination, it was found to have an ear infection! We have since checked on its progress and so far, so good. Folly Wildlife Rescue, a charity, is supported by local, knowledgeable volunteers and takes in all manner of wildlife casualties both large and small, including badgers and foxes. Their phone number is 01892 543213, post code TN3 9LU should you need advice or assistance.

Steve and Sue Wyles (Huntonwatch)

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| Your Local Contacts: | | Maidstone Police | 690690 or 101 |
| School: Secretary/Head Teacher | 820360 | Village Hall Booking: | www.huntonvillagehall.co.uk |
| Under 5's Pre-School: | 820309 | Huntonwatch: huntonwatch@gmail.com | 07907 019996 |
| Pond and Tree Warden: Mike Summersgill | 820429 | 'Potholes' Hotline (KCC) | 03000 418181 |
| Rector: Revd. Lorna Falkner | 347570 | Hunton Ladies: Chris Summersgill | c.a.summersgill@btinternet.com |
| Hon Associate Rector: Revd. David Jones | 741474* | PCSO - none | |
| Community Wardens Team | 07811 271021 | Helen Grant MP helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk | 0207 219 7107 |
| Hunton Bell Ringers: Lavinia Thompson | 07885 763071 | Village Club: Roger Lee: roger.c.lee@btinternet.com | 820210 |
| <i>*not available on Fridays</i> | | Reporting HGVs | huntontrafficroporting@gmail.com |
| Contact details for other village clubs and organisations are available at www.huntonparishcouncil.org.uk | | | |

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| Parish Council Contacts | | Chairman: David Heaton - 820678, dhhuntonpc@gmail.com |
| Parish Clerk: Sharon Goodwin - 681238, huntonpc@googlemail.com | | Cllr Tony Stanbridge - 820721, tshuntonpc@gmail.com |
| Cllr Jonny Goddard - 820096, jonny@cheveneyfarm.co.uk | | Cllr Mike Summersgill - 820429, mshuntonpc@btinternet.com |
| Cllr Annette Trought - 820448, annette@trought.com | | Cllr Jean Fuller - 07738 935630, jfhuntonpc@outlook.com |
| Cllr Iain Simmons - 820875, ishuntonpc@btinternet.com | | |

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| Diary Dates | | St George's Day Walk / Lunch, Sun 23rd Apr; | Coronation Event, Sun 7th May; |
| Film Night, Sat 1st April; | Churchyard working party, Wed 5th April; | Beer Festival, Sat 2nd Sept | |
| Plants & Produce Day, Sat 13th May; | Organ recital, Sat 8th July; | | |
| Check out www.huntonparishcouncil.org.uk/events-list for the latest events. If you would like to add an event, email huntonpc@gmail.com | | | |

Pastoral Letter

April is the month that seems to confirm that spring is here and new life is well established. Of course, we may still get cold, wet or dry spells but normally these are short lived and the blossom opens out in all its glory. For that reason, I have always loved April and remember when growing up in the suburbs of London, the joy of seeing primroses and daffodils in the fields when visiting relatives in the country during the Easter holidays. April is indeed a month for looking forward with renewed hope after the long winter months.

This year Easter comes in the first week of the month. The story begins again with the enthusiasm of Palm Sunday and the crowds welcoming Jesus into Jerusalem. The events that led up to Good Friday, the last supper with his disciples, his arrest, mock trial and then his crucifixion on good Friday, the darkness returns for a few days, until on Easter Sunday the wonderful news that Jesus had risen! Alleluia! Sin had been overcome, death defeated, and new life established in all its glory. We are no longer controlled by the things of darkness but now the new life expressed in the marvellous light of the risen Jesus.

Yet we know that whilst all this is true, we fall over and over again to grasp this promise and go on doubting the new life promised to us in the events of Easter. It's like not believing that summer is coming. Today it's fashionable to blame governments for the darkness we live in yet, so much of what happens in our lives is down to us. Our relationships with nature, the environment and with people is also something that needs a spring like approach. The baroness of so many things in our lives needs a fresh start and what better way than, as we see spring developing and new life appearing, so in our lives the same can and should be happening.

I came across this prayer the other day and I wondered if applied to each of our lives in a daily approach to each new day what a change would be brought about not only in our lives but in the relationships, we have in our worlds. Read it in that light, ponder how each new day might bring about changes in our outlook if we applied it.

Have a wonderful Easter but above all enjoy the new opportunities that life offers us on a daily basis.

*Blessed are you, creator of all,
To you be praise and glory forever.
As your dawn renews the face of the earth
Bringing light and life to all creation,
May we rejoice in this day you have made.
As we wake refreshed from the depths of sleep,
Open our eyes to behold your presence
And strengthen our hands to do your will,
That the world may rejoice and give you praise. Amen.*

David

Hunton Club

March was a relatively quiet month at the Club with no specific functions being organised. A few members enjoyed following England's fortunes in the 6 Nations Rugby Tournament and we hope to cover other national / international events during the year, provided of course that they are televised on terrestrial TV. Subscriptions to SKY, BT etc are just too expensive to justify as it is unlikely the profit from bar sales would cover the costs. We would also need to find more volunteers to open up, run the bar and close down again. At present we continue to limit ourselves to regular opening times on Wednesday and Sunday nights when we know that there will be members present.

The first Wednesday of the month has become known as the "Gents Beer Night" when a few male members get together to put the world to rights and enjoy a beer or two. The second Wednesday of the month sees the "Book Group" meeting with the 3rd and last Wednesdays being "Needles and Natter" and "Hunton Ladies" (previously WI) respectively. Several members also gather around the darts boards on both open nights.

We are not limited to opening only on those nights for example the "Hunton Ladies" are organising private presentations on Aromatherapy and Yoga, which will be held at the Club on different evenings of the week. The hire costs are on an hourly basis and provided we have a volunteer to open up etc the Club is available for use by members. There may be other special interest groups that would be interested in using the Club in this way, if so please get in touch with the Chairman Roger Lee (see Local Contacts) or Phil Nichols at pk.nichols@btinternet.com.

In the meantime a 'Supper and Film Night' will take place on Saturday 1st April and a walk and lunch on St. George's day, Sunday 23rd April, which will be open to all.

Phil Nichols

Hunton Coronation Tea 7th May

As announced last month, the Parish Council is sponsoring a celebration for the Coronation of King Charles III. The Coronation Tea with entertainment will be held at the Village Hall at 3:00pm on the Sunday. The tea and soft refreshments will be free. A pay bar will also be available. So that the correct numbers can be catered for, please contact a Parish Councillor or the Clerk to book your place. For further updates, please see the Hunton PC website or Hunton Facebook page. On the Saturday, the Village Club will be showing the Coronation live on their big screen.

David Heaton, Chairman Hunton PC

Would you like to Advertise in the Herald?

We are about to start a new advertising year at the Hunton Herald and are seeking commitments from old and new advertisers, by no later than 30th April.

The Hunton Business Directory is circulated to over 300 homes 4 times a year and is used by many residents looking for local suppliers of services. The costs have been broadly unchanged over the last 17 years and so are very reasonable at between £43pa to £150pa, depending on the size of the advert chosen. Over its 20 years of operation the Herald has distributed almost £22,000 to village causes with the largest recipients being the School, Church, Village Club and the Village Hall who together account for 85% of funds distributed. We currently have an undistributed surplus of about £4,000 so if you want to suggest a good village cause that would benefit from our support, do please get in touch!

Finally, if you or anyone you know would like to advertise with us please send details to James Forster (forsters.hunton@btinternet.com) and we will be delighted to provide you with an information pack.

James Forster

Pronking and Stotting

What am I talking about you may wonder? As we are getting ready for lambing our thoughts are with the ewes, making sure they have the right balance of food relative to the number of potential off spring to support them and their lambs. As the lambs arrive, we will be ensuring they too are getting enough from mum to give them their best chance of a healthy and happy life.

Lambs as young as a day old can be seen Pronking or Stotting or sometimes called Spronking. Stiff legged jumps in quick succession portray happiness and playfulness and is a delight to watch. It always makes you want to laugh out loud with pleasure. It is not just the small lambs that behave like this. Our young ewes and rams will do this and kick up their back legs when being let out into a new field, about to be fed or just for the sheer hell of it. It's a heart-warming sight.

Sue Heaton

Forthcoming Musical Events

While we have no concerts/gigs programmed for Hunton this Spring, there is a strong possibility that we will have a couple of Applause music events for the Autumn, either at the Club or the Village Hall.

In the meantime, some news on artists that have played Hunton in the recent past. Hannah Scott has released a new EP of re-worked earlier songs, and Mike & Chris attended its launch at Green Note, Camden in March; she is playing a support set at Cranbrook Vestry Hall at the end of April. Hannah Sanders & Ben Savage have been out on the road for a month as the support act to Fairport Convention's Winter UK tour, and we saw them perform at the Union Chapel in Highbury recently; they are going out on their own Spring tour, which includes Otford Memorial Hall on April 7th (both gigs available on www.stedithfolk.co.uk). And TrackDogs are becoming such a well-known name that they seem to be here in UK more than in Madrid – on Easter Monday, they are supporting Show of Hands at the Royal Albert Hall, and then setting off round the UK for a few weeks, including a gig at Rochester Little Theatre on April 19th (which sold out in two days, when announced). Super-group ShowDogs' live concert from last year's tour with Show of Hands has been released on CD, and they have already got slots at four summer festivals in UK, including allegedly Glastonbury; we shall be seeing them at Wickham Fest in August, and they are already booked for Otford on 3rd November.

Mike Summersgill

St George's Day Walk and / or Lunch on Sunday 23rd April

Join us on a walk along some Hunton footpaths, starting from Hunton Village Club at 11:00am on Sunday 23rd April. The circular walk will last for about 1.5 hours.

A buffet lunch will be available from about 12.45pm for £12 a head for non-members, £10 a head for members and £5 for children aged 11 or under. Membership of Hunton Club is only £20 a year and application forms are available from bar volunteers or on the Club website huntonvillageclub.co.uk/membership-info Please contact Lesley on 01622820210 or lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com if you would like to book places for either the walk or lunch or both. If booking for lunch please let her know if you have any food allergies.

Lesley Lee

World Book Day at Hunton School

For World Book Day we all had to dress up as a word. All the outfits were amazing and colourful. There were so many new words for us to learn such as 'Vendor', 'Memorandum', 'Mystical' and 'Bibliophile'. During the day, we had an assembly and we had 3 clues, and with those clues we had to guess the name of a book character. Some of the activities we did were watching a live BBC lesson based on World Book Day. We also designed a book front cover and wrote a review all about the book and why we liked it. At the end of the day, we did a parade and showed off all our funky costumes to all the parents that worked so hard to help make them. After this, Mrs Makey - our headteacher - announced the winners for the World Book Day competition. There was a winner from each class. The winner from Devas was Tilly-May who was dressed up as 'Sweets'. From Bannerman the winner was Violet, who was dressed up as 'Snow drops'. From Porteous the winner was Tommy who dressed up as 'Pollution', and last but not least, from Borton, Mia and Amelie who did one together as 'Inseparable'. Everyone loved World Book Day and was so happy to be a part of it. Thank you everyone for participating and thank you parents for helping us make such wonderful costumes and amazing word ideas as well as sponsoring our reading - it has really helped our school!



Written by Mia and Amelie (Year 6)

Hunton Gardening Club

The Gardening Club met on Friday 17th February for their usual Spring supper. This time there was no formal speaker, however David Heaton, Chairman of the Parish Council, updated the audience of over 30 members on plans for a series of ponds in the Parish to encourage Great Crested Newts. Hunton Court, owners of another local property and David are planning to create ponds with linked wildlife corridors to encourage the spread of animals such as the Great Crested Newt which exist in several places in the Parish. It is hoped that more ponds can be created in future. Many thanks to those who donated food for the supper and those who helped serve and clear up.

The next Gardening Club event is the Plants, Produce and Refreshments afternoon at the Village Club from 12 noon on Saturday 13th May. Everyone is welcome to buy plants/ produce and have a drink with food, there is no need to be a member of the Gardening Club or Village Club. If you have extra plants or produce or are willing to make a cake to donate to the event for sale, please contact Lesley Lee on 820210 lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com. There is also a possible visit to Loddington Farm on Wednesday afternoon 24th May to learn about regenerative farming. Again, contact Lesley if you are interested in taking part in this visit or would like to join the Gardening Club.

Lesley Lee

Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

Wednesdays 8 - 11.00pm & Sundays 8 - 10.30 pm

Speedwatch

We are hoping that you will start seeing Speedwatch in place on West Street again soon, after my call for volunteers last year resulted in 4 new faces, who will shortly be trained up in the Kent Police Community Speedwatch (CSW) system. Our equipment has come out of storage (it was last used at the Fete, to find the fastest schoolchild!) and been charged up and tested, ready to Spring into action. We can only put Speedwatch equipment out in 30mph or 40mph zones, and we have to have our locations approved by the CSW Manager before we can start; previously, these were at the Church and opposite the School. As the equipment has to be off the public highway, we are restricted in potential locations, but the Road Safety Group is looking at possibly moving the sign locations for the 30mph zone, which would make the South Lodge entrance a 'new' location, no longer being too close to a change in speed limit.

As the new co-ordinator (many thanks to Helen Ward for keeping the seat warm, and the equipment safe, over the past years), I attended the annual CSW conference in Maidstone on 11th March, and met the Inspectors, constables and volunteers running the County's response. Each Parish/Area has its own group of CSW volunteers, of which there are 40 'active' and one which has been in place for 17 years continuously. I met the volunteers from Boughton & Watlington, and I'm aware of the Collier Street, Linton & Farleigh co-ordinators' names. In 2022, CSW volunteers logged 30,000 vehicles across Kent, 10% of which were speeding in excess of the specified assessor limits (35 or 46mph); 9,719 letters were sent out to those 'speedsters' and the effect over ten years has been a steady decline in average speeds across Kent, albeit that was still said to be 38mph in '30' zones! Those speeding 'events' also recorded registrations of 739 untaxed vehicles and 771 expired MoTs, which were passed over from CSW to the Traffic Enforcement unit in Kent Police for their action.

It would always be good to have more volunteers when we get re-started, as that will allow more times we can be out on West Street, as a regular presence would seem to be the best 'deterrent'. Please contact me on my Parish email (see front page) or via 'huntontrafficking@gmail.com'.

Mike Summersgill

Film Night – Saturday 1st April

This Club event will start with drinks available at 6pm for supper at about 6.30pm at a cost of £10 a head for Club members and £12 for non-members. The film 'Made in Dagenham' will be shown but do bring your own cushions! Please contact Lesley if you would like to attend – 01622 820 210 lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com and do say if you have any food allergies.

Lesley Lee

St Mary's Annual Parochial Church Meeting 16th April 2023

The St Mary's APCM will take place during the morning service at 9.30am on Sunday 16th April. This is the meeting when the Reports for 2022 are received, the Financial Report presented and parishioners have their opportunity to ask questions and make comments about the work of St Mary's. On the same day and just before the meeting the election of the Churchwardens takes place. The office of churchwarden is an ancient office and also an important one and has been vacant for a year or so. The office holders have to meet specific qualifications and they are elected by members of the whole parish. In preparation for the APCM the Electoral Roll is revised each year and this year applications must be received by the secretary (Rev David Jones) by the end of Sunday April 2nd.

Rev'd David Jones

Church & Churchyard Working Party

There will be a Working Party on Wednesday 5th April from 9am to 12 noon to prepare St Mary's Church for Easter. A friendly group of volunteers welcome anyone willing to join them for an hour or more. You decide whether you prefer to help inside or out but if outside, please bring your own gardening gloves and kit. Please let Lesley know if you are hoping to attend so she can organise enough refreshments for the coffee break. lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com 01622 820210.

Lesley Lee

| Benefice Service Rota – April 2023 | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------|--|---|------------------------------------|
| CHURCH | 2nd | 9th | 16th | 23rd | 30th |
| Coxheath, 11:00 | Communion DJ | Communion LF | Communion LF | All age worship & APCM (after service) LF + BP | Communion (5.30) LF |
| East Farleigh, 09:30 | Morning Worship and APCM; LF | | Communion BS | | |
| West Farleigh, 09:30 | | Communion (with EF) LF | | Morning Worship BP | |
| Hunton, 09:30 | Communion DJ | Communion (11.00) DJ | Family Service & APCM LF | | |
| Linton, 09:30 | | Communion DJ | | Communion LF | Benefice Celebration (10.30) LF |
| Midweek Services Coxheath - Every Thursday; Holy Communion, 10:00 am. Linton - Holy Communion last Wednesday of each month, 12.00, followed by lunch | | | Additional Easter Services Hunton 6 April - Maundy Thursday, 7.30pm, LF + BW Coxheath 7 April - Good Friday 12:00 - 3:00pm, LF + others | | |
| DJ – David Jones, BP - Becky Parnham, LF – Lorna Faulkner, BS - Brian Stevenson, BW - Bertie Woodward | | | | | |

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