



Next Editors: Fay Joyce and Tricia Nichols: huntonherald@outlook.com
All items for the next edition of the Herald to the Editors by 15th June

Coronation Weekend in Hunton

King Charles's coronation was celebrated in true Hunton style.

The Village Club opened its doors at 8.30am on Saturday. Duly decorated and with the television running for the pre-ceremony details, it was ready to welcome whoever wished to share the company of others. Although it was not known how many people would come to watch the proceedings by 11am the club was buzzing, the bar busy and the room full. The atmosphere was warm and friendly and with plenty of refreshment and bacon rolls, it was declared a huge success.

This event was followed by a special service in St Mary's Church on the Sunday morning. The church flower arranging team had done a wonderful job decorating the church, with three show stopping crown flower displays.

The bells were rung to call us all in and then our very own village treasure, Rev'd David Jones, led a lovely and relaxed celebratory service. The hymns were old favourites, ones some of us think we know word for word and are occasionally reminded that we don't! Praise my Soul, I Vow to Thee my Country, Jerusalem ... what's not to love? Marion played the organ beautifully and one attendee who is not typically seen in the church, showed us all just how hymns should be sung! The service ended with two verses of the National Anthem and then coffee, tea and coronation biscuits.

On Sunday afternoon the Village Hall hosted a tea party. Doors were thrown open at 3pm. The hall looked fit for a king with decorations made by Hunton School strung along the walls, the most glorious floral crowns, table decorations and above all plenty of food! The hall was full with about 130 friends and neighbours; newcomers were also welcomed. Conversations flowed so any background music was deemed unnecessary and for the whole afternoon there was not a lull in the conversation. Chair of the Parish Council, David Heaton, gave a light hearted speech outlining the disasters of previous monarchs' coronations. We all drank a toast to King Charles III and, as suggested from the floor, gave three cheers to rattle the rafters. It was affirmed by all that this coronation had been a resounding success!



Hunton Wanderers Cricket Club

Spring is in the air and club members' thoughts are turning to the new cricket season.

We have home games every Saturday from early May through to early September with a 1pm start, so if you're visiting the playing field please drop by and say hello and we'll put the kettle on or make you a cold drink.

We are always looking for new players both young and old so, if you fancy starting a new sport or getting back to the game after a break like I did, please drop us an email at hwcc@btinternet.com You can also follow our progress through the season at <https://hwcc.play-cricket.com/home>.

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
*not available on Fridays		Reporting HGVs	huntontrafficroporting@gmail.com
Contact details for other village clubs and organisations are available at www.huntonparishcouncil.org.uk			

Parish Council Contacts		Chairman: David Heaton - 820678, dhhuntonpc@gmail.com
Parish Clerk: Sharon Goodwin - 681238, huntonpc@googlegmail.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		

Diary Dates
You, Me and Musicals, 10th June; Next Film Night, Sat 24th June; Organ recital, Sat 8th July; Beer Festival, Sat 2nd Sept
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

June, the month when the world seems to appear in full technicolour – as though the polaroid which had been slowly developing and brightening through spring finally reveals the picture in all its glory. Flowers reveal their splendour all around us in the gardens and the hedgerows. The sky becomes a brighter, sun steaked shade of blue and everything just feels a little lighter and more glorious.

One of the possible origins for the name of the month is from the Latin 'juniores' meaning younger ones and it is indeed a month when we feel the brightness and possibilities of youth. But it is also halfway through our year – maybe a time to look back to January and the rash New Year's resolutions you made or the hopes and dreams you had at the dawn of 2023. Or maybe it's a time to look forward to where you hope to be as 2023 draws to a close, are you already making plans as to how you will celebrate Christmas?

We all know that life can change in an instance – maybe this year has already thrown you a curved ball and you are not at all where you expected to be. Maybe your life looks completely different to what you'd thought it would and you find yourself having to change and adapt to a new, unexpected, set of circumstances.

As Christians we have a sure foundation to hold onto, no matter what the world throws at us. From Genesis, the first book of the bible, to Revelation, the last, God promises to be with us, to care for us and to love us. It doesn't say that belief in God will make your life any less troubled or complicated, but faith does give us a firm anchor to hold onto.

So, this June, whilst the natural world is springing into warmth and technicoloured glory around us, why not take some time to pause and reflect on your year so far and, if you have faith, why not look to see where God has been with you, journeying alongside and keeping you safe.

Blessings, Becky

Flowers at the Coronation

My cousin Bek and I founded Blooming Green in 2007 and, although quietly ambitious, we never imagined we would supply flowers to the King! Last week we were thrilled to be one of 80 members of Flowers from the Farm, whose seasonal, sustainable flowers decorated the Quire and the Grave of the Unknown Warrior in Westminster Abbey as part of the Coronation. As 20 million people tuned in live to watch the state occasion, Bek and most of the BG team were proudly flower-spotting and knowing that the flowers we had grown were now a part of history. I was too busy arranging flowers for a wedding in Greenwich, but watched some of the ceremony on a laptop whilst toasting with fizz alongside the caterers!

Flowers from the Farm is a not-for-profit membership association that champions nearly 1,000 artisan growers and promotes local, seasonal cut flowers and foliage. A cross-section of the membership were invited to contribute flowers and supply Shane Connolly, the floral designer to the Coronation. After the ceremony, the flowers were repurposed by the charity, Floral Angels, and donated to care homes, hospices, shelters and other vulnerable members of the community.

Through his installations in Westminster Abbey, Shane Connolly wanted to shine a light on the work of flower farmers and farmer-florists across the UK. Today, 85% of the UK population lives within 30 miles of their local flower farmer and the most sustainable cut flowers you can buy are from a local, professional grower, in their natural season. A bunch from a UK flower farmer typically has just 5% of the carbon footprint of an imported bunch. If you'd like to find out more about what we do, and grow, do come and see us this flower season. We will be open as part of Open Farm Sunday at Loddington Farm, on June 11th and start our Pick Your Own Flowers, every Saturday, from June 25th.

Jennifer Dixon

Hunton Village Club

May was a busy month for the Village Club. In addition to the screening of the Coronation and providing the bar at the Parish's Coronation tea, we hosted a Plant, Produce and Refreshments Event on Saturday 13th June. The day started with a quick walk for those interested led by the Linton Walkers. A wide range of house & outdoor plants were available for sale, donated by many Hunton gardeners. There were also locally grown vegetables, local honey and home-made preserves and new season's fruit donated by Clock House Farm. A whole range of home-made cakes were sold as well as providing snacks and the usual bar drinks for all. Thanks also goes to those volunteers who helped and those who donated plants, produce and cakes as well as those who came to support the event. Money was raised towards further repairs to the Club and general running expenses. We plan to run a similar event next year.



You, Me & Musicals – Saturday 10th June

Hunton Club Committee are delighted to announce that the Club will host an evening of entertainment provided by local resident Sharon Winter. For those new to the village, Sharon is the Director of the fabulously entertaining Hunton Pantos; the next is due to be performed in October. On Saturday 10th June, Hunton Club will open at 6pm with supper available from about 6.30pm. Bookings are now being taken for this premier event of 'You, Me & Musicals' which will include a buffet supper at just £10 a head for Club members and £12 each for non-members. Everyone will be welcome but places will be limited. To book, contact Lesley on 01622 820210 or email lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com and please let her know if you, or anyone in your party, have any food allergies.

Other dates for your diary are a Film Night on Saturday 24th June showing 'Le Mans 66' with food provided for £10 for Club members or £12 for non-members. Doors open at 6pm with supper at about 6.30pm. Please contact Bridget Robertson at Bridget@invictanet.co.uk to book places.

Finally, save the date - Saturday 2nd September when we will be again hosting the popular Hunton Beer Festival.

Alas Lisa's Leaving!

On the very day that Lisa Halliday exchanged on the sale of her Hunton home a number of us gathered in the village club to say thank you for all she has done to contribute to the life of the village during her 16 years living with us. In spite of having a demanding job in the City with its then obligatory commute (no working from home allowed then!) Lisa started to get involved in village life.

She sang with the Huntones, supported churchyard working parties, became Secretary to the Friends of St Mary's, helped to organise nine village fetes running the dog shows (brave) and the raffle (not a popular job), she became Treasurer of the village Club, a general fixer for the Peace Cottage committee and last but by no means least, a key member of the core Hunton Herald team, organising the distribution network and helping with the advertising! Whatever needed doing, Lisa was happy to help, often working quietly and cheerfully in the background but doing work that was essential. She will be greatly missed, not just for what she did but for her cheerful recognition that if something wasn't going to be done, if she could, she would help. How much poorer our village would have been without her contribution!

After leaving the City Lisa was accosted by two local "bon viveurs" who wanted her to set up a brewery in the building next to her house. As Lisa didn't like beer, she instead opted to set up a bakery before realising that she no longer liked early starts, so the baker became a dog groomer. David Heaton wondered if, with Lisa departing, there will now be even more "shaggy dog" stories seen and heard around the village?!

Lisa, we wish you well, we will miss you but were lucky to share 16 years here with you.

The Bells of St Mary's

In recent months the bells of St Mary's have been undergoing well deserved maintenance. They were last rehung in 1900. The Kent County Association of Change Ringers has a team of volunteers, experienced in bell maintenance, who have been down to inspect the safety and provide routine upkeep of the bells. A few minor issues were acted upon and the bells are now in good mechanical order and will last many years with routine inspections and oiling at regular intervals. However, the ropes, which were given to St Mary's in the mid 1990's need replacing. The present ropes were given 'new' by the tower of St Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside, London (Bow Bells) as being unsuitable for their tower. After nearly 30 years the 'Sally's' (the fluffy woollen part of the rope) are wearing and it will not be long before they unravel. The tail ends are all badly worn, taped and some of the strands are wearing through. The main ropes, the top end from the bell to the Sally, are fairly good, many having been replaced in recent years with rope from Chatham Dockyard's Ropery

It has been decided, by the team of bell ringers and following advice, to replace all the ropes at a cost of about £1,500. We have the money in the Bell Fund, money given when the bells are used at weddings and by teams of ringers visiting the tower over the last quarter of a century, saved for that very purpose. The ropes are made up from a long length of pre-stressed polyester rope, a wool Sally and the tail end from natural hemp. The new Sally's will be alternate red and blue with a white stripe! Very smart!

Fitting isn't a difficult task and the order and their manufacture will take place over the coming months with hopefully the first 'ring' in time for the only booked wedding of the year in August.

Yalding Art Exhibition is Back!

Please put the weekend of 17-19 November straight into your diaries. Many of you will have visited one or several of the high quality art exhibitions that this charity has organised in the church of SS Peter and Paul Yalding, so you know that you will be in for a treat.

The cream of artists from Yalding and the surrounding area will be displaying their paintings, jewellery, ceramics, sculpture and much more. Friday night the doors open for a preview of the exquisite works – presenting a golden opportunity to be the first to buy something for yourself or a present for someone else. For a small donation you will be able to enjoy an evening of high art, delicious canapes whilst sipping a glass of your favourite tippie. Live musicians will provide a relaxing atmosphere. Throughout the Saturday and Sunday of this wonderful weekend, the doors will be open to peruse the exhibits, make your purchases and to enjoy a hot drink and a delicious array of cakes.

All the money raised will go to SchoolGambia, a charity based in Yalding for 23 years, that funds and supports the teachers, pupils and education of children in the village of Farato in the Gambia. The work of the charity began with building two classrooms for eighty 3-7 year olds and has expanded to 16 classes for over 640 pupils. Children from every walk of life and academic ability are able to access the school. Nearly all the teachers are from the village of Farato, highly trained both by the national college and by SchoolGambia workshops. They operate a reading scheme written especially by SchoolGambia, incorporating the Gambian government's adoption of phonics and introducing stories that feature Gambian children and culture. As a result of all this, the pupils from Yalding School, Farato consistently attain the highest marks in the country in national exams and frequently win scholarships to overseas universities. The school also has a high reputation for supporting children who are slower to capture ideas and concepts. A trained teacher supports these pupils with a carefully chosen individual programme and frequently these children gain in confidence and perform well in the classroom as well as in national exams.

The Art Exhibition of 2021 raised enough money to build a large library in the school grounds that is used by pupils, teachers and adults in the village. The money raised at the Art Exhibition 2023 will go towards refurbishing the nursery classrooms that were built by villagers over 20 years ago. The objective is to create a light, airy and interactive learning space for these young children to enjoy the foundation of their education. So many of them have developed their skills in the Nursery and grown up to obtain good jobs some returning to the school to work as IT leaders, teachers, secretary and bursar.

By spreading the word and bringing lots of people to the art exhibition, you will be helping hundreds of Gambian children to access an excellent and useful education. For more information about the Art Exhibition or the charity contact 01622 745298 or schoolgambiauk@gmail.com THANK YOU!

Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

Wednesdays 8 - 11.00pm & Sundays 8 - 10.30 pm

Thank you all!

We were delighted that we could coincide our Coronation celebrations with the Grand Opening of our Sensory Garden and that despite doubting the weather, the sun shone so the children could enjoy their tea party. It was important to us that we invited and thanked the groups and charities who so generously supported the project: Ladham Trust, Simon Webb- Maidstone Borough Council, the Diocese, The Hunton Herald and the RHS as well as specific parents and families who gave up their weekends and evenings. Without the funding and voluntary help, the children would not have a special calm place to go to.



Before, in 2022



After, in 2023



All the fruit was provided by local farms for free and the bookmarks were provided by the PTFA. I hope the children remember this time.

At the time of writing, the PTFA, along with the school, are busily organising the May Fayre for Saturday 20th May. Next month we will be able to update you with how it went.

It has been quieter in school this week with our Y6 children taking their National SATs alongside other Year 6 children in the country. They have truly demonstrated our school value of perseverance and I have to say joy when they were all over with!

Special thanks must go to Mr Ming and Mrs Underdown who provided delicious breakfasts as well as keeping an extra special eye on them too so they were as relaxed, prepared, confident and happy as possible during this time. The children always work so hard and achieve so well: we are all very proud of them already!

Congratulations to our winners of 'Design a Coronation Plate': Evie, Adam, Rose, Lexi, Lavinia, Hallie, and Niamh. All the plates were so well designed and crafted. They were also displayed at Hunton village's celebration in the hall last Sunday and we have had lots of wonderful comments from the community.

Relative Minors and Village Voices Concert - Evening of 16th July, Hunton Village Hall

Please come along to hear a variety of pieces played by your local orchestra (founded in 1991) under the direction of Rachael Hannigan. Village Voices, the Yalding based choir for all, will also be singing a range of folk, African and songs from "Les Miserables". More details next month, but make sure you keep the date free.

Can Anyone Help?

I'm 14 years old and am looking for either a weekend job or a temporary summer job. I'm a student at Tonbridge Grammar School for Girls, am responsible and hard-working and live locally at the edge of Hunton, near Chainhurst.

I have work experience as a volunteer gymnastics coach for children aged 4-8 years at Pegasus Gymnastics in Maidstone, would be interested in working with children (babysitting etc) but am also eager to experience a variety of work opportunities

You can contact me by message on my mobile phone at 07990 535 220.

Hermione Brown

Benefice Service Rota – June 2023

Church	4 th (Trinity Sunday)	11 th	18 th	25 th
Coxheath 11:00 am	Communion, CD	Morning Worship, DJ	Communion, LF	All-age worship, LF and BP
East Farleigh 9:30 am	Morning Worship, BP + BW		Communion, CD	
West Farleigh 9:30 am		Communion, LF		Morning Worship, BP
Hunton 9:30 am	Communion, DJ		Family service, LF	
Linton 9:30 am		Morning Worship, DJ		Communion, LF

Midweek Services

Coxheath - Every Thursday; Holy Communion, 10:00 am.

Linton - Holy Communion last Wednesday of each month, 12.00, followed by lunch

DJ – David Jones, BP - Becky Parnham, LF – Lorna Faulkner

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