



Next Editors: Iain & Wendy Simmons: huntonherald@outlook.com
All items for the next edition of the Herald to the Editors by 15th July

Loddington Farm Visit

In the early evening sunshine 18 members of the Gardening Club met with Loddington Farm's MD, James Smith, for a tour of the farm. James is the 5th generation custodian of the farm, which began growing Bramley Seedling apples in 1882, but it is now diversifying. The aim is to farm regeneratively, meaning using nature and the environment together with good farming practices to produce high quality food and at the same time reducing the need for indiscriminate use of chemicals. High tech analysis of tree sap is currently used to better target their use. The tour visited several sites that illustrate this objective. A wide variety of top fruit is still grown but rather than relying solely on supermarkets, apple juice is also produced on the farm which was available at last year's Wimbledon. This year, 100 hens arrived to provide free range eggs for the farm shop. Their trailer and enclosure are moved daily, providing the hens with a fresh area to roam in whilst leaving behind fertilized ground for crops to grow.

Musket Brewery occupies one of the old farm buildings and their waste, brewer's grains, along with apple pulp from the juice making is used to feed the hens and hopefully pigs in the future, thus making use of as much 'waste' as possible.

The cut flower producer Blooming Green also has premises on the farm, and they had the honour of providing flowers for the Coronation, echoing the King's environmental ideals.

Many thanks to James for taking the time to provide us with a fascinating and informative tour and giving us an insight into some innovative farming methods.

'Open Farm Day' was on 11 June this year and Loddington took part with tours and tractor rides which was all very family friendly and everyone was welcome to go along and see what was happening on a local farm.

Jane Langdon

Parking on West Street

It has been noted that cars are now frequently parking on the pavement in West Street. This is a cause for concern for those with walkers, wheelchairs and buggies. It is particularly troublesome on the days when rubbish bins are waiting to be emptied.

The Parish Council is aware of the concerns of residents and parents about this generally and the vehicle parking on West Street outside Hunton School at morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up. This issue was discussed during the recent Annual Parish Meeting. Parish Councillors are gathering data and have organised a meeting with several parents who have expressed a desire to make things better for all. We expect to have more to say in coming editions of the Herald.

Hunton Parish Council

Call for a Volunteer Tree Warden

Mike Summersgill has been undertaking the role of Hunton Tree Warden for a decade now, and feels it's time for someone else to take over the reins. No previous experience is needed and there is lots of free training available from fellow wardens in the Kent Tree & Pond Partnership and, as Mike is continuing as Pond & Flood Warden, he will be on hand to assist. The role is to provide advice to the Parish about its own trees on the playing fields (which are inspected every 18 months by an expert) and also to respond to residents who may have issues with their trees, but it is not a role of inspecting for safety or resolving disputes. The next Parish Inspection is in October, so it would be good to have someone in place by then alongside Mike. Please contact him for further information on 820429 or email huntontreewarden@btinternet.com

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

Parish Council Contacts	
Parish Clerk: Sharon Goodwin - 681238, huntonnpc@googlegmail.com	Chairman: David Heaton - 820678, dhhuntonnpc@gmail.com
Clfr Jonny Goddard - 820096, jonny@cheveneyfarm.co.uk	Clfr Tony Stanbridge - 820721, tshuntonnpc@gmail.com
Clfr Annette Trought - 820448, annette@trought.com	Clfr Mike Summersgill - 820429, mshuntonnpc@btinternet.com
Clfr Iain Simmons - 820875, ishuntonnpc@btinternet.com	Clfr Jean Fuller - 07738 935630, jfhuntonnpc@outlook.com

Diary Dates	
Church Working Party, 6th July;	Organ Recital, 8th July
Relative Minors, 16th July;	Beer Festival, 2 Sept;
Panto - October Half Term	
Check out www.huntonparishcouncil.org.uk/events-list for the latest events. If you would like to add an event, email huntonnpc@gmail.com	



Pastoral Letter

What is July for?

I found myself sitting down to write to you this month and this was the question that faced me. The first half of the year provides us with all kinds of possibilities to think about, New Year and Valentines, Lent, new shoots and the changing of the clocks as Spring arrives, Easter, then the oncoming hope of Summer on the horizon.

Fast-forward to August and we can think about school holidays, then the slow shift towards Autumn, through September into harvest-time and the chill of the nights drawing in, into October – there go the clocks again - then Remembrance and into Advent and Christmas.

But what is July for? It's not leading us anywhere or coming from somewhere. It's a bit of a nothing month in some ways. Or, maybe, its an everything month. A singular moment in time when the peak of the seasonal cycle is upon us; Nature in full resplendence is holding the stage, we the audience enthralled by her beauty.

It puts me in mind of the story of creation in the book of Genesis. By the end of chapter 1, God has made it all: Heavens and earth, light and darkness, day and night, sea and sky, sun, moon and stars, plants, fish, birds, animals, people. As God sits back and looks at the fullness of creation at the end of the sixth day, he doesn't think about what to do next – the story tells us that 'God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.'

And perhaps that's the answer to my question – perhaps that's what July is for. To remind us that we don't always have to be doing and preparing and shifting and changing, that sometimes we can just let life be and let ourselves live it for a while without worrying about the next thing to do; a pause in the proceedings; a semi-colon in time. So, this July, whatever is coming up on the horizon of your life - take a moment if you can, let it be, look around; breathe in the beauty.

God bless you, Lorna

Roadside Ditches and Culvert - Responsibilities and Riparian Ownership

Residents will have noted that KCC Drainage people (finally) have been clearing the culverts along West Street and East Street over the past couple of months, which hopefully will resolve some of the worst flooding problems. Your Traffic & Road Safety Working Group (T&RSWG) has been separately logging the positions of such culverts, gulleys and road signs, so that we have a useful database for the village. T&RSWG members have also been contacting KCC Highways about clearing blockages in these road gulleys and drainage culverts, with some but not complete success and have also been asking for certain ditches to be cleared of blockages.

Some of these ditch blockages are of vegetation, much of it from hedge and verge strimming work but some (down the bottom end of George Street, for example) are large boulders that were on the road verge and have been pushed into the ditch by traffic. KCC Highways have been in contact with me and confirmed that they are NOT responsible for clearing ditches that are adjacent the highway unless they are in KCC ownership (and that is "very few"). Under 'riparian law' it is the duty/role of the adjacent landowner to keep the ditches clear even though one of the consequences of debris in an open ditch is that it washes downstream into a KCC culvert and blocks it - in which case KCC will then clear the culvert!

So if your property abuts onto a highway and there is an open ditch between you and the road, possibly between your 'boundary' hedge and the highway, YOU must keep the ditch clear. If a blockage is reported to them and KCC visit the location, they will then (just like for overhanging hedges on footpaths) send the adjacent owner a letter to do the works and if clearance is not done, then KCC will attend to it and contra-charge you. So please be aware that what you thought was KCC's responsibility may be yours.

Mike Summersgill, T&RSWG Chair

Handmade in Hunton - Calling all knitters, crocheters, sewers and crafters

Hunton's Needles and Natter Group are, in their spare time, creating items to sell at St Mary's Christmas Fair later this year. We're making cosmetic bags, shopping bags, bobble hats, greetings cards and more! All these items will hopefully be sold and every single penny raised will be donated to Friends of St Mary's.

Although you may not come along to our Needles and Natter group, which is held at the club on the third Wednesday of each month, please don't think you can't help out. If you like sewing, crafting or making anything at all and would like to donate an item (or more) for the fair please contact me. Perhaps you like carpentry or pottery or stained glass or making preserves, just about anything handmade would be welcome! If you're a cake maker then we'll accept that too and pass it along for the cake stall.

We have several months to create these goodies so hopefully we can gather a good selection of handmade items together for the benefit of our lovely church. If you would like to find out more or come along to Needles and Natter then please feel free to call me 820804 or email. tricia.nichols@btinternet.com

Tricia Nichols

Hunton Run Club

A new running club has been established this month, with weekly group runs. Meeting every Tuesday at 17:30 pm outside the Village Club, runs will be around 5km, exploring the footpaths in and around Hunton. All abilities and ages welcome and all runs will be a very casual, relaxed pace with no one being left behind! For more information, search 'Hunton Run Club' on Facebook, or contact Adam Moore on: 07766 566449 or check out the Hunton Run Club Facebook Group.

You, Me & Musicals Review

Sometimes an element of surprise is the best way to catch out your friends. So, when my husband and I got an invitation on the Friday, for *You, Me & Musicals* the following night, we inadvertently said 'yes'. My husband is somewhat 'allergic' to musicals and we were both working all day Saturday but somehow we agreed to accompany our neighbours, Grant & Andy and, boy, were we pleased we did!

It's wonderful being able to walk to the club almost entirely off-road. I knew that lots of friends were going but had planned to spend the night at home with my feet up. Instead, having walked the lovely footpaths from East Street, past the church and down the salad field to the club we found ourselves sitting with a fantastic group of music enthusiasts, excitedly awaiting Sharon Winter's performance.

The drinks and conversation flowed and before long we were treated to an array of well-known show tunes, with audience participation highly encouraged. Admittedly, my husband looked a little uncomfortable as those around him became more animated but he hid it pretty well although not quite joining in with songs from ABBA & Grease. We also had songs from Oliver, Tina Turner and Les Misérables. Sam Andrews took a turn 'on stage' as did former members of The Huntones and Sharon's husband-to-be, Ben. Fantastic food was organised and served by Lesley & Roger plus a host of volunteers. So, by the end of the night we meandered our way home in the dark, nursing very full stomachs and also full of the joys of an evening of friends, music and fun. Impromptu evenings are often the best it seems.

Jennifer Dixon

Hunton Ladies

We enjoyed an evening learning about many wonderful items from the 1700s to the 1950s at our last meeting. Sylvia Thomas has collected many diverse items throughout her life and it was a pleasure to have her share some of them with us. A Georgian two penny piece, a rarity as it was only minted for one year due to its size and weight which earned it the nickname of 'the wagon wheel' and the most intricate birth gift from the 1700s beautifully decorated in floral designs and swirls of pins which were used to pin the baby into its swaddling. The lady's combinations circa 1940 proved an item of clothing very necessary at the time but not one which has endured! We discovered the world of stanhopes and intricate cut out books called Bookano by Strand Publication published in the late 1940s/early 1950s. A beautiful silk and tarlatan (a thin, open-weave muslin fabric, used for stiffening) waistcoat fashionable during the early Victorian era when men liked to look "pigeon- chested" and a wonderfully feminine ball gown of the early 1950s and so much more. If you would like to join us please come along to one of our meetings that are held in the Village Club at 8 pm on the last Wednesday of the month where you will be very welcome.

Photographs

I hope that you have all noticed and enjoyed the new front cover of the Hunton Business Directory, supplied by Donna Hollingsworth? Thank you, Donna, for this and also for agreeing to help us in putting together a record of Hunton as it is compared to Hunton as it was, recorded in photographs taken between 1905 and the mid 1950s. Further information will follow as the project progresses.

Hunton Primary School

It might surprise you but I don't often talk about being at school on Saturdays however Saturday 20th May was exceptional. What a wonderful day it was for everyone who came and supported the school at the May Fayre. There was so much to do from eating burgers, ice-cream, Ghanaian rice to bouncing on the inflatable, swinging on the carousel and banging nails in a log. A tremendous amount of work goes on behind the scenes to make all of this happen, often by a few individuals. A huge thank you to our PTFA for their organisation, to the parents and staff who were willing to help on the day and to the pupils too.

This year we were especially grateful for the donation of plants from the Hunton Gardening Group. A plant stall proved to be really popular especially at the start of the growing season. Borton Class proved their promotional and sales skills, the proceeds of their stall helping to fund the increasing cost of the coach for their upcoming residential.

On Wednesday 14th June, Borton went on a trip to London to visit the British Library where they toured round to look at King George III's book collection, the conservation of books and the treasure of books exhibition.

Also, the class attended a 'Sacred Texts' workshop, where the children got to examine real, old and sacred books from a range of religions, analysing why they think the book was sacred to people of different cultures. A member of the public on the London Underground praised the class's behaviour as, "impeccable" and the workshop facilitator commented that the class were "the best group she ever had" for their deep-thinking answers and their respectful nature. We are very proud of all the children. Well done Borton!

Finally, recently we received our Note of Visit from our school improvement advisor. Mrs Hailstone-Ahern visited and monitored the teaching and learning in the school with focus on the curriculum, quality of education, book sampling and the application of phonics into writing. We were delighted with her report. Here are just a few of the comments: *'high levels of engagement and strong progress from starting points', 'tailored adaptations for pupils with specific needs', 'pupils were able to explain how their current learning linked with prior learning'*



Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

Wednesdays 8 - 11.00pm & Sundays 8 - 10.30 pm

FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN HUNTON

Church Working Party

For anyone who can join us there will be a church working party on Thursday 6th July from 9am to 12noon to prepare for the organ recital on Saturday 8th. We are a friendly team and newcomers would be welcome. The tasks are not arduous with a choice of vacuuming or dusting inside the church or tidying outside. Would you please let Lesley know if you will be coming along to ensure the appropriate supply of biscuits, tea and coffee for the mid morning break.

Lesley Lee 01622 820210, lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com

Easy Listening

**Relative Minors
and
Village Voices**

Join two village music groups for a summer evening of entertainment, with music from films, musicals, and more.

Bring a picnic dinner, a drink, and prepare for a night of good music!

7pm, Sunday July 16th, Hunton Village Hall.
Free admission, donations welcome.

Hunton Club Beer Festival Saturday 2nd September 12.30 to 6.30pm

Club volunteers are already working on this event and will welcome your help. Each year, since Liz Ridgway created the first Club Beer Festival in 2016, changes have been made to try to make the event even more interesting and enjoyable to all. This year, as well as a wide selection of beers there will be a 'spirits' area offering not just gins but some unusual vodkas, whiskeys and rums. The plants and produce event in May was so popular that there will be an area for these items so your donations to this section as well as to the tombola will be very welcome. Put this event in your diary – there will be musical entertainment provided by our very own Sharon Winter, activities for children and, of course, food including cakes. Contact Lesley on 01622 820210 or lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com if you can help or for more information.

Oh yes it is!

Pantomime 2023 "Once Upon a Time" is coming to Hunton in October half term. It will be a mix-up/mash-up of many pantomime characters, fun, laughter and so much more. More colour, more songs, more hilarious routines with a jam packed full cast with old faces and new. We'll keep you posted and we can't wait to see you all.

Sharon Winter.

Please join us for:

'An Evening of Beautiful Music.'

Performed by internationally acclaimed virtuoso
D'Arcy Trinkwon.

St Mary's Church, Hunton-Saturday July 8th at 7.30pm

Ticket: £15, to include a glass of sparkling wine and nibbles following the recital.

Further information from:

sue@cheveneyfarm.co.uk or 01622 820369

liz.oliver25@outlook.com or 01622 820 200

wendysimmons01@btinternet.com or 01622 820875 (evenings)

Proceeds to St Mary's Church Hunton

Benefice Service Rota – July 2023

Church	2 nd	9 th	16 th	23 rd	30 th
Coxheath 11:00 am	Communion <i>DJ</i>	Morning Worship <i>BP</i>	Communion <i>CD</i>	All-age worship <i>LF and BP</i>	
East Farleigh 9:30 am	Morning Worship <i>BW + LF</i>		Communion <i>DJ + BW</i>		
West Farleigh 9:30 am		Communion <i>LF</i>		Morning Worship <i>BP</i>	Benefice Communion <i>Archdeacon Sharon</i>
Hunton 9:30 am	Communion <i>CD</i>		Family service <i>LF</i>		
Linton 9:30 am		Morning Worship <i>DJ</i>		Communion <i>LF</i>	

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; CD – Clinton Davies; SE – Sue Elliott; BW – Bertie Woodward

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