



Next Editors: : Tricia Nichols and Angela Baptie: huntonherald@outlook.com
All items for the next edition of the Herald to the Editors by 15th September

Hunton Beer Festival: Saturday 2nd September 12.30 – 6.30pm

This family friendly event at Hunton Village Club returns again. Local cask ales, unusual spirits, plenty of soft drinks, rolls & cakes, plants & produce and entertainment. Only a £2 entrance charge for adults with children free. Please park at Village Hall and bring cash for entrance fee. Cards can be used at the bar. Everyone welcome.

St Mary's Church Working Party: 9th September 9am – 12.30pm

Whilst we hope to welcome visitors taking part in Ride and Stride on this day, volunteers will be doing various jobs in the church and around the churchyard. New volunteers are always welcome for as little or as long a part of the session as they can spare, and can select their own jobs. Please contact Lesley if you hope to be there so she can prepare enough biscuits for the mid-morning break. 01622 820210 lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com

Hunton SpeedWatch Starts Again

As trailed in the March issue of the Herald, we have re-started SpeedWatch in the village this Summer, and have some initial results to pass on. The scheme is approved by Kent Police, and operators from the community are trained up, but speeding drivers are never prosecuted or fined as a direct result of our SpeedWatch activity. It is essentially a road safety initiative, to increase awareness of drivers who may be speeding on local roads, and is there to hopefully reduce speeds.

The previous SpeedWatch was active from 2015-2017 on West Street (we can only operate in 30mph or 40mph zones, so East Street doesn't qualify), and they recorded over 220 speeding vehicles in 39 sessions over a 30 month period. As the last Co-ordinator, Helen Ward, was leaving the village, Mike Summersgill took over that role and two of the previous volunteers came forward again, as did four new ones; a fifth new volunteer has just passed their training, so now we have 8 persons on the 'payroll' (it is unpaid!!). As we prefer to operate each session with 4 people, then we can allocate out sessions as suits the volunteers' timetables and availability.

We have so far carried out most SpeedWatches in the early morning and late afternoon 'rush hours', and this also usefully builds up a database of numbers of cars per hour (in 5min time frames), and identifies key periods of traffic for later examination by the Parish Road Safety group. The locations we can utilise, approved by Kent Police after a site visit, are outside the Church (40mph zone) and the Club entrance (30mph zone); we record anyone going at 46+ mph or 35+ mph, and send registration numbers, vehicle type and colour to the Police website. Looking at their records across Kent over the past 12 months, they then send out a Police letter to car/van owners that have been notified twice or three times in a year by any Speedwatch; a first-time record does not get a letter.

So far, we have carried out 17 sessions in June/July, and recorded 42 'speeders' out of 800 vehicles passing; of those 42, 34 were 'first offenders', 7 second and 1 third. One unfortunate(!) driver who got a second letter was recorded speeding through the village in one direction, then again on their return trip! Of those 42 events, 30 were recorded exceeding the speed limit (+5mph) at the Club. We would welcome any other volunteers, contact Mike on huntontrafficreporting@gmail.com.

Mike Summersgill

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 Faulkner*	747570	Hunton Ladies: Chris Summersgill	c.a.summersgill@btinternet.com
Hon Associate Rector: Revd. David Jones	741474*	PCSO - none	
Churchwarden: Iain Simmons	820875	Helen Grant MP helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk	0207 219 7107
	ishuntonchurchwarden@btinternet.com	Village Club: Roger Lee: roger.c.lee@btinternet.com	820210
Community Wardens Team	07811 271021	Reporting HGVs	huntontrafficreporting@gmail.com
Hunton Bell Ringers: Lavinia Thompson	07885 763071		*not available on Fridays

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

Diary Dates	
Sat 2nd Sept - Hunton Beer Festival, 12.30 to 6.30pm;	Sat 9th Sept - The annual 'Ride and Stride' to visit any church in Kent;
Sat 9 Sept - St Mary's Working Party;	Sun 1 Oct - Bonfleur Equestrian hosting Hunter Trials;
Thurs 26, Fri 27, Sat 28 Oct - Panto;	Sun 15 Oct - Harvest Festival at St Mary's Church;
Sat 11 Nov - Gardening Club Social;	Thurs 16 Nov - Walk/Lunch;
Sat 25 Nov - Christmas Market.	
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

Apparently, September is National Honey Month. The bees have been busy all summer and are now beginning to prepare to bed in for the winter. So, in honour of all their hard work, this month's musings are based on that rich, sweet, liquid gold; that miracle of the hive that just tastes so good on a thick crusty slice of toast or stirred into a bowl of creamy porridge.

Honey is antibacterial.

Honey comes against the tiny little unseen beasties that burrow their way into wounds and sore places. It cleans out dirt we didn't even know was there. It helps to destroy would-be body-invaders before their nastiness gets a grip on our immune systems. Medical grade honey is applied to septic wounds. Cleansing and healing.

Honey is antioxidant.

Honey, they say, works wonders. Dispersing poison and reversing the effects of it. It rounds up and helps to neutralise the irritants that collect and threaten to damage the fabric of our cells. (Ok, my exact honey science might be a little off, but you get the idea!)

Purifying.

Honey is anti-inflammatory.

Honey takes something angry in our system and calms it down. Where our bodies are in state of high alert, ready to fight, stressed and stretched – honey helps to disarm it. Soothing.

I can assure you that it makes a REALLY good skin moisturising mask too. Brightening and softening. Honey also gets a few mentions in the Bible. Here's one of my favourites:

'Gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body.' Proverbs 16:24

If gracious words are like honeycomb, dripping with goodness, what might happen when we choose to use gracious words? Gracious words are antibacterial – they can come against the little niggles of life that seek to infect our friendships and families. Gracious words are antioxidant – they can help flush out the poison meant to damage and destroy a person's sense of well-being, self-worth and security. Gracious words are anti-inflammatory – they can take a situation loaded with stress and confrontation – a situation threatening to develop into something nasty - and calm it. Disarming us, and others. Gracious words soften hard places and brighten our view of the world and the people around us. Gracious words are good for us. They're good for the soul – for the mind and heart. And what's good for the soul is good for the whole person. So, let's mark National Honey month in our homes and communities by gracing one another's lives with some sweet and gracious words in these coming weeks. Happy September to you all!

Lorna

Easy Listening and Picnic in the Village Hall

We all know that feeling -- when you're the last to arrive in the cinema or theatre and you have to squeeze past everyone to get to your seat, apologising all the way... Well, that was us at the Easy Listening evening in the village hall last month. The 'Elm Corner' contingent arrived on time, chiller-bags, hampers and even picnic blankets at the ready, unaware that everyone else was settled at their tables. Meanwhile, the Relative Minors were having a final tune-up before getting started.

We negotiated a path, between the chairs and tables, looking for somewhere to sit before digging out an extra trestle table from the store cupboard. Phew! The evening promised entertainment from not only the Relative Minors, the Laddingford-based instrumental group directed by Rachael Hirst, but also the Village Voices from Yalding, led by Karen di Marco.

Having survived the embarrassment of being the last to arrive, we then felt a certain self-consciousness as we unpacked our extensive picnic, with our neighbours excelling themselves with Columbian tapas and home-brew. Thank goodness the metaphorical spotlight turned on the performers at that point.

The Relative Minors started as they meant to go on, with light-hearted tunes that we all know and love; starting with the *Jungle Book* and *Can you feel the Love Tonight* from the *Lion King*. The Village Voice's selection was perhaps less well known -- starting with *Si, Si, Si* and *Juanita*. After a brief interval, the Relative Minors treated us to *Mr Blue Sky* and a selection of Abba Hits... while the Village Voices plucked at our heart strings with *Bring Him Home* and *Do Your Hear the People Sing?*, both from *Le Miserables*.

Our walk home helped to work off some of our enormous picnic while our conversation revolved around all the brilliant musicals we have seen, have yet to see... and really must see. Thank you to all who organised and were a part of such a brilliant evening. It made a nice change to *Countryfile* and the *Antiques Roadshow*.

Jennifer Dixon

Hunton Village Hall – Eco Refurbishment

Our stunning Village Hall has undergone even more changes this year. A great new lighting system has gone in, giving the hall the options of having full lights or dimmed lights AND uplighters to make the most of the vaulted, beamed ceiling. Double glazed windows are being installed throughout and the work will be complete by the time you receive this Hunton Herald.

All in all, the Pre-school had an astroturf play area installed to take the place of their muddy area and then, just before lockdown, a new kitchen was installed. Last year saw the refurbishment of the lavatories, with new sanitary ware throughout and a new floor, the walls and woodwork painted, the floor sanded and revarnished and then, in October, a new infra-red heating system was put in. Everything we have done is designed to cut down on the carbon footprint of the hall, with energy saving appliances all round.

It's all looking pretty good! Find out how to hire the hall for your event on www.huntonvillagehall.co.uk

Hunton Panto: Dates

Hunton Pantomime is back with Once Upon a Time! Save the date – Thursday 26th, Friday 27th and Saturday 28th October. Tickets will go on sale in October – more info in the next issue of the Hunton Herald.

Hunton Wanderers CC mid-term Report

After the wettest of Springs the sun came out early in May and the club settled into the season expecting a long, hot, and successful summer. Early results were good, with both the 1st and 2nd teams recording regular victories. At one point, the 2nd team accrued 4 wins in a row, taking it to second in the league and belying its traditional position at the foot of the Kent Cricket League structure.

Alas, with the onset of July came the rain and with it a change in fortunes. Abandoned games, injuries, concessions due to lack of numbers and just a general run of back luck took both teams back to mid-table or below.

The weekly weather forecasts became monotonously predictable. Monday to Friday – sunshine and showers. Saturday and Sunday – the meteorological equivalent of Armageddon.

There are still very positive notes however. We have welcomed a lot of new players this year, having picked up some from other clubs and several youngsters (and their dads) on loan from the Mote to give them experience of adult cricket. It's also been great to see a couple of local lads turning out for us and I would encourage anybody else in the village who fancies a game to give it a bash.

The 2's won their first game for 8 weeks last Saturday, annihilating their old rivals Lordswood by 135 runs (and this is enough to keep us happy for the rest of the season). If you are passing on a Saturday afternoon, please drop in to say hello and we'd love to make you a cup of tea. Rumour has it that the sun is due out some time soon. I'm not holding my breath.

Simon Taylor, HWCC

Numerous Local Road Closures

The editors, being a bit fed up with finding so many roads suddenly blocked off round Hunton, approached two people who live in the worst areas of closures and asked for their thoughts on the frequency of having to find alternative routes. Hilariously, our grouch misfired as both replied they loved the closures as they could enjoy a quiet afternoon in the garden and easy walking. It all goes to show, there is always a silver lining!

Hunton Club News: Friday Evenings & Quiz on Friday 22nd September

The Club is pleased to announce that, as a trial, it will open on Fridays 8 – 11pm each week from September 8th until the end of the year when we will review the situation. This is happening because of increasing demand on the existing Wednesdays and Sundays and the willingness of our volunteer bar staff to undertake extra rotas. In addition, we will be running a just for fun Quiz Night on 22nd September doors open at 19:30 for a 20:00 prompt start.

Roger Lee, Chairman

Thank You Helen & Mark Ward

As many of you will already know, Helen and Mark have left the village after 28 years during which they gave up many hours of their time to supporting village activities. Both were involved in our Village Club (particularly the Darts Team & Karaoke Nights). Helen served on the Parish Council, edited the Hunton Herald, set up and ran Hunton Village Community Facebook page, ran Hunton SpeedWatch, and much more. They will both be missed. We wish them much happiness in their future and hope they will return to see us from time to time. Good Bye and Good Luck Helen & Mark.

Hunton Ladies Group

Hunton Ladies Group had a very entertaining visitor at their June meeting. Jacqui Grace, a resident of Coxheath, came to tell the group of ten ladies about her experiences working for the police. She spent several years working as a civilian for CSI teams. A finger print expert, she recalled her experiences of investigating murder scenes and other forensic investigations in the days when finger prints were not computerised but held on files at Scotland Yard. She then moved from the Met. to the National Crime Agencies to become part of a team carrying out covert investigations, often abroad. This involved drug and firearm smuggling, with many hair-raising situations. We hope she writes a book! Jaqui now delivers training at the College of Policing teaching others her skills. At the July meeting, Hunton Ladies member, Janet West, showed the group different wools, silk, equipment and some beautiful items she had produced. The dozen ladies present were very impressed by her skill and knowledge of spinning and also at the beautiful creations she had knitted or crocheted using a variety of wools and silks that she had carded, spun, and dyed herself. She told us spinning was very relaxing and so was our evening!

Hunton Ladies Group meetings are held on the last Wednesday of the month at Hunton Club commencing at 8pm. New ladies are always welcome.

Hunton Run Club

Hunton Run Club have been going out for their weekly runs, enjoying some of the great footpaths surrounding the village. To accommodate people getting back from work, the original start time of 17:30 pm has now been pushed back till 18:30 pm. Runs are still every Tuesday, setting off from the Village Club for a 5 km loop. All abilities and ages welcome.

August also saw the introduction of a longer weekend run, with a smaller group completing an 11 km trail run around Quarry Wood and parts of the Greensand Way. If popular, these longer weekend runs will become a monthly / bi-monthly occurrence, with the next one likely to be sometime in September - keep an eye out!

For more information, email Adam Moore at: mail@adammoore.net or text / call on: 07766 566 449

Hunton Christmas Market

This annual event returns to St Mary's on Saturday 25th November from 3.30pm to 6.00pm. Father Christmas and his helpers (grotto makers) have already booked their slot and several stall holders have also indicated their willingness to return. We are still looking for additional stalls – wood turning, cards, art, pottery and gifts of all kinds are more than welcome to add to those already preparing to come. Pass the word around, put the date in your diaries and start Christmas on 25th November this year. Offers of support please to Rev David Jones 01622 741474 or davidjones.coxheath@gmail.com

Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

Wednesdays & Fridays 8 - 11.00pm & Sundays 8 - 10.30 pm

Handmade in Hunton at St. Mary's Christmas Market

In the July Herald, the Hunton Village Club's Needles and Natter group announced that, in their spare time, they are busy making items to sell at St. Mary's Christmas Market. All yarn, fabric and other types of materials used to make a variety of items including cosmetic bags, shopping bags, bobble hats & greetings cards, have been donated for free. Every single penny raised from the sale of these items will be given for the benefit of our lovely church. Hopefully all will be sold!

We have spare material and wool you could use so if you are rather clever at making things, big or small, and would like to donate something yourself or if you would like to find out more or indeed come along to Needles and Natter group then please feel free to call or email me. This group meets at the Club on the third Wednesday of every month at 8pm and you don't need to be a member to pop into the Club. Call 820804 or email tricia.nichols@btinternet.com

Tricia Nichols

A new Churchwarden at last.....

Good news at last! St Mary's has a new Churchwarden in the person of Mr Iain Simmons, well known in both St Mary's, the village school, where he is Chair of Governors and in the wider village. The Simmons family have lived in Hunton for several decades supporting the church, the school and the village in a wide variety of different ways. He and his family have always played their part in so many activities and events and we are grateful.

You might wonder why it has taken so long to replace Alison Ellman-Brown, our last Churchwarden for many years since her untimely death in 2021. Well, just look at the job description and wonder no more. At St Mary's we are fortunate to have a good number of people to assist Iain in his new role but it is nevertheless daunting at first sight and even a longer look is only made more bearable by the continued support that he will get.

A Churchwarden's duties: They are "ultimately responsible for almost everything in a church which does not have to be done by a priest. If the Churchwarden does not do it himself (herself), then he (she) is responsible for making sure that it is done by someone". 'Thank you, Iain,' not forgetting his greatest supporter, his wife Wendy, for taking on this role for the village.

David Jones

Friends of Kent Churches Ride & Stride: Saturday 9th September

Ride & Stride is a charity event which raises money for Kent's churches. There are about 700 which you can visit including St Mary's Church, Hunton which will be open from 9am to 6pm for participants to visit and sign in. Toilet facilities and refreshments will be available. To take part, or for more information, go to www.kentrideandstride.co.uk

Activities Across the Benefice www.unitedbenefice.church

- Holy Trinity Coxheath: Saturday 9th Sept 10.30am – 2pm Coffee, Cake, Music on grassed area around church. Everyone Welcome!

Kids Activities: Facebook: United Benefice Kids for more information

- Holy Trinity Coxheath: Thursdays - 1.30 – 3pm Tiny Tots Toybox under 5's stay and play. 3.30 – 5pm Seekers KS2 after school club.
- Holy Trinity Coxheath: Sunday 3rd Sept 7.30 – 9pm Bible Babble youth group.
- St Nicholas Linton: Saturday 17th Sept 3 - 4pm Muddy Church outdoor exploration.
- All Saints West Farleigh: Fridays 1 – 2.30pm Little Angels under 5's stay and play.

Beacon Men www.unitedbenefice.church or beaconmen.coxheath@gmail.com for more information

- Thursday 7th Sept 6.30pm: White House Petanque Club, West Farleigh an evening Petanque session. £5 inc. kit & instruction.
- Saturday 16th Sept 6.30pm: Bensted Close Hunton BBQ and bush-tucker evening.

Benefice Service Rota – September 2023				
CHURCH	3rd	10th	17th	24th
Coxheath 11:00 am	Communion <i>LF</i>	Morning Worship <i>LF</i>	Communion <i>DJ</i>	All-age Worship (Harvest) <i>LF + BP</i>
East Farleigh 9:30 am	Morning Worship <i>LF + BW</i>		Communion <i>CD</i>	
West Farleigh 9:30 am		Communion <i>DJ</i>		Morning Worship <i>LF</i>
Hunton 9:30 am	Communion <i>CD</i>		Family Service <i>LF</i>	
Linton 9:30 am		Morning Worship <i>LF</i>		Communion <i>DJ</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 Davis; SE – Sue Elliott; BW – Bertie Woodward				

All items for the next edition of the Herald to the Editors by 15th September please