



Next Editors: Fay Joyce & Tricia Nichols: huntonherald@outlook.com
All items for the next edition of the Herald to the Editors by 10th June

A Recollection for the 80th Anniversary of D-Day

As we approach this anniversary of that momentous day many of us can reflect on contributions made by our own family connections but, for Hunton, the story of Robert James Playford MM of Barn Hill Farm is worth remembering. Robert was called up on 23rd February 1940 joining the Hampshire Regiment. He was posted to the Middle East for 3 years before serving in Sicily and Italy and so he had already seen significant action when he landed in Normandy on D-Day on 6th June 1944.

The Royal Hampshire Regiment Museum website describes the landing: dropped off 30 yards from shore, for some up to their armpits in the sea, coming under heavy small arms fire but with the honour of being the first British troops to land on the beaches. They fought their way to the sand dunes, to attack le Hamel, then a gun position at Cabane and a Radar station before clearing Arromanches, all by 9pm that evening. In the period from D-Day to December 1944 the Hampshires lost about 1,200 men killed or wounded from a full strength battalion of 850 (a casualty rate of c 150%). Pte Playford's Military Medal citation reports:

"At Bernieres Bocage on 12th June, 1944, during an attack, Pte Playford was moving near his Company HQ when he saw a party of enemy working up towards them. The party was composed of one officer and three other ranks, and they were all carrying stick grenades ready to throw. It was clear that the rest of the Company had not seen the enemy and were oblivious of their danger. Pte Playford dashed straight at them and, with a 36 grenade and a burst of fire from his Sten gun, he killed the whole party. By his prompt action and bravery, he saved the lives of his Company Commander and the rest of Company HQ."

It appears that he was wounded then or shortly afterwards as a letter to his parents dated 29th July refers to the hope that he was not too badly hurt ("but you never can tell as he was never one to complain"). His medal was awarded to him by Monty which was a source of great pride - he also had a letter of congratulations from King George VI.

By way of a small insight into the lives of his parents during this time, Robert's older brother George was taken prisoner on 20th June 1940, over 2 weeks after Dunkirk, spending the rest of the war as a POW. He had joined the army in 1932 when he was only 16.

James Forster

Charity cycle ride to support the Royal British Legion Industries.

Over the weekend of June 28,29,30, I along with a former colleague, other armed forces veterans and supporters, am cycling the 150 miles from the Royal British Legion Industries centre in Aylesford, to the Menin Gate in Ypres.

This is an annual bike ride to raise funds and support the RBLI and enable them to continue their work supporting military veterans. Being a Royal Navy and Territorial Army veteran, this is a great opportunity for me to support and raise money for the RBLI.

We cycle from Aylesford to Dover on Friday, and Calais to Ypres on Saturday via the German cemetery at Langemark and the allied cemetery at Tyne Cot, arriving for the daily Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate.

I hope it will be a memorable, and challenging weekend, and have set up a just giving page if anyone would like further information on the event and donate to this worthy cause... <https://www.justgiving.com/page/jeremy-scott-1714679973778>

Jeremy Scott

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: Sam Andrews	huntontreewarden@gmail.com	Huntonwatch: huntonwatch@gmail.com 07907 019996
Rector: Revd. Lorna Faulkner*	747570	'Potholes' Hotline (KCC) 03000 418181
Hon Associate Rector: Revd. David Jones	741474*	Hunton Ladies: Chris Summersgill c.a.summersgill@btinternet.com
Churchwarden: Iain Simmons	820875	PCSO - none
	Ishuntonchurchwarden@btinternet.com	Helen Grant MP helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk 0207 219 7107
Community Wardens Team	07811 271021	Village Club: Roger Lee: roger.c.lee@btinternet.com 820210
Hunton Bell Ringers: Lavinia Thompson	07885 763071	Reporting HGVs huntontrafficreporting@gmail.com
Contact details for other village clubs and organisations are available at www.huntonparishcouncil.org.uk		

Parish Council Contacts	
Parish Clerk: Sharon Goodwin - 681238, huntonpc@googlegmail.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
Friday 7th & 21st June - Church and Churchyard Working Party 9-12.00; Sunday 7th July - Strawberry tea 'Berries and Bells' at St. Mary's Church;
Saturday 31st August - Beer Festival at Hunton Club; Sunday 8th September - WLR Railway Tea.
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

Hurrah, June is here! It's officially summer, and, hopefully, if the weather that is happening as I write this continues, a glorious one it will be too. After the dreary, wet, spring we have had it's so uplifting to see the sun and feel it's warmth on your skin.

The colours in the garden brighten and everything feels a little more vibrant. The birds are singing, the recently hatched chicks are developing their flight feathers and beginning to fledge the nest. The dreaded exam season is midway through, and many of our young people are beginning to think about their futures and what lies ahead for them.

As we approach the longest day of the year, we too may think about what the future holds for us. The days ahead may seem glorious and bright or they may feel overshadowed by anxiety or illness or burdened by debt and monetary fears or any of the numerous issues that daily life throws in our path.

We may look at the wider world and wonder what lies ahead, when we hear of wars and conflicts, of the desperate needs of peoples caught up in issues not of their own making.

Sometimes it all seems just a bit too much and we want to retreat into our personal little bubbles that we know and feel comfy in no matter what our circumstances.

But with the sun comes the opportunities to connect with others more easily. We may see people out in their gardens or walking and we feel more inclined to stop and have a chat in the warmer weather. Which leads us to problem sharing and how talking to others might help you gain perspective on your life, and what's going on around you.

In the gospel of Matthew Jesus tells us not to worry; to be assured that God will give us everything we need, but that can be a very hard thing to do, worrying seems to come naturally to us, but by sharing our concerns with others we may just gain a little perspective and greater peace of mind.

So enjoy the warmth and don't be so wrapped up in busy-ness that you miss those opportunities to connect with others that may just help you see the future a little more clearly.

Becky

Parish Council

Monday 13th May saw the AGM of the Parish Council at which the officers were elected. David Heaton was elected as Chairman and Mike Summersgill as Vice Chairman.

Following the election on 2nd May six councillors were elected unopposed, however this still leaves a vacancy which the Parish Council can co-opt to fill. If you are interested and require more information please contact Sharon Goodwin, Parish Clerk at huntonpc@googlemail.com by 24th June.

During the open session and during the agenda item allowing comments from Borough Councillors, the very poor quality of the bin collections in Hunton: the 'Suez Crisis', was raised. It was decided that to gather as much information as possible, as the period when contractually Suez are "allowed" to make mistakes (25th June) is coming to an end. Therefore, the PC wishes to gather as much evidence as possible, regarding both their shortcomings and also your experiences of contact, or lack of it, with both the Borough Council and Suez. Please send your comments to huntonbinspc@gmail.com. A meeting has also been arranged by Councillor Claudine Russell, for Parish Councillors to meet the Borough's head of Waste in early June.

David Heaton, Chairman Hunton PC

Hunton Bowls Club News

The new bowling season got off to a flying start at the end of April with our usual coffee morning followed by our 'Opening Fling'. As always, we have a full fixture list with league matches, competitions, and tournaments all to be completed by the end of our very short season in September. At the end of last season, the green had again been hit hard by the long dry summer and disease. During the winter months our men worked hard, and the green has now been restored to its former glory, all of the fence panels replaced that were damaged and blown down by high winds during the stormy winter.

We are pleased to have welcomed 5 new members who took advantage of 'giving bowls a go' at our recent Coffee Morning.

We are once again happy to be entertaining the Pre School to a 'Bowling Activity Morning' on the 22nd of May.

During the very successful 'Meet the Village' event in April the newly formed Running Club are interested in a Bowls Evening - date to be arranged – which should be fun. If you would like to try your hand at bowling and missed the opportunity at our recent coffee morning, why not come along on our practice evening held every Thursday between 3 and 7pm -weather permitting. You can find the bowls green behind the Village Hall or for further information please drop me a line at angela.baptie@btinternet.com or Tel: 01622 820625/Mob: 07759 296265.

Angela Baptie

Hold the Date – Hunton Beer Festival – Saturday 31st August from 12.30pm

This family friendly Beer Festival is a great opportunity for villagers and their friends to socialise. Put the date in your diary and tell your friends. Last year's volunteers have some ideas as to how to improve the event but will be pleased to hear your suggestions. Please send an email to lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com.

Lesley Lee

Hunton Ladies

The April meeting was an open meeting on Tuesday 23rd April and was well attended by local residents keen to hear about Sam Andrew's and Astrid Cunningham's experiences volunteering for a medical charity in Africa. Sam explained how his skills as a surgeon in a very basically equipped hospital helped people with severe hernias. This was illustrated by some graphic photographs of patients and the difficult circumstances they were being operated under. Astrid told us how her GP experiences were put to good use helping patients staying in the hospital and those arriving at A & E. Our thanks to Sam and Astrid for a very enlightening evening which made me feel very grateful for the NHS. Refreshments made by the ladies were served and £230 pounds was raised from donations to be given to the charity Operation Hernia.

Chris Summersgill

St Mary's Hunton Primary School

At the time of writing this we have just returned from taking our youngest pupils from Devas Class to London. What an experience and beautiful day it was. They have been reading a book called 'Katie in London' and we retraced her adventures by seeing the capital's main sites. I'm glad to say that the lions in Trafalgar Square did not come alive as they do in the story!

We would like to thank David Heaton for giving us another enrichment opportunity albeit much closer to home. Bannerman and Devas classes learnt all about Herdwick sheep and even managed to stroke a lamb which was a few days old. The children learnt about shearing, fleeces, chickens and why dandelions are important for bees. We are so very fortunate to have our school in such a beautiful rural setting; there aren't many schools that have opportunities like this on their doorstep.

I would also like to say a big thank you to everyone in Hunton who supported us by collecting the blue Tesco tokens. We are pleased to say that we won £1,000 which is a huge amount of money for us. The school council will be helping us decide on how to spend it.

A wonderful note to end on is to tell you that KCC have now managed to employ a new road crossing patrol. We welcome Nicki and are incredibly grateful that she has joined our community. Parents and caregivers have been reminded to be mindful of where they park- making sure they aren't parking in or close to the crossing or in a way that makes it difficult to see Nicki or the families she is crossing over the road.

Remember to check out our social media posts on X which is updated on a weekly basis with information and photos about what the children have been up to - <https://x.com/HuntonCEPrimary>

Bells of St Mary's

May has been a busy month with the bells at St Mary's, not least because we have been training up three new ringers. If all goes well, we will then have five Hunton ringers for the six bells. The new ringers have made wonderful progress thanks to some individual teaching and rapid learning and hopefully by June 6th when the bells will be rung for the 80th Anniversary of D-Day they will be ringing in the team.

The annual maintenance on the bells has been carried out but this year we have cleaned and repacked the bearings and oiled them. We found the packing, which had been done many years ago, was in fact children's socks! It is now felt and J clothes to contain the oil. The stays, the lengths of wood on each bell to prevent it from turning more than one complete circle, have all been checked and two replaced so we believe the bells are now ready for ringing for the weddings this summer.

The final 'good news' is that after nearly 30 years all the ropes (55 feet in length) are to be replaced, the new sally's (the fluffy coloured piece), tail ends will all be replaced hopefully by the time this article is read in June. We ordered them in October last year and they arrived a few weeks ago. The cost, just over £1,100 has been met from the Bell Fund which is money the ringers put aside from visiting teams of bell ringers wanting to ring our bells and fees from ringing at weddings.

Please come to hear the bells and see them being rung on Saturday July 7th at the Bells and Berries afternoon.

David Jones

Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Paul French!

It was a wonderful sunny day for Paul and Heather's wedding on Saturday 11th May. The memorable service, conducted by the Reverend David Jones and with the church full of family and friends, the beautiful bride entered to Stranger on the Shore, escorted by her son. It was a joyous occasion with wonderful music and singing from both sides of the family!

The couple left the church to Sweet Sensation; the bride then changed into a pair of long black boots and donned a pair of white gloves at the lych gate, to the amusement of the wedding party, and mounted Black Jack who Heather has loved to ride in the past. Her lovely burgundy and pink lacy dress was quickly arranged and along with the wedding party, they left along West Street to The Club. Traffic stopped as they went with a lot of smiling drivers amidst the odd one or two grumpy ones!

Paul helped Heather down from Black Jack as they arrived at their reception venue with the couple greeting their guests at the transformed village club. Colour co-ordinated in lovely duck egg blue and pale turquoise, with bunting, ribbons, tablecloths and chair covers the club took on a unique look. Wine, music and a sumptuous buffet followed with wedding speeches pulling the legs of both bride and groom!

A beautiful local wedding with wonderful memories for family and friends.

Lesley Lee



Sun Shone on Visitors to Plants, Produce & Refreshments Event

The Club welcomed a record number of people to buy a wide range of house & garden plants as well as local produce and cakes on 4th May. They enjoyed drinks and food whilst sitting outside on a lovely sunny afternoon. This relaxed and happy community event raised over £1,000 towards Club maintenance projects including a possible upgrading of the current sticky bar top!

Lesley Lee

Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

Wednesdays 8 – 11pm; Fridays 6.30 – 10.30pm; Sundays 8 – 10.30pm

Church Working Parties: Fridays 7th & 21st June and Saturday 6th July. 9am to 12 noon

Volunteers are wanted to help prepare St Mary's church and the churchyard for 2 weddings and then the 'Berries & Bells' event. Each of the dates above is the day before an event. Lesley sorts nibbles to go with the teas / coffees at the mid-morning break so please let her know if you think you can give up a little time to help: lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com

Safer Streets for Hunton

Nearly 30 people came along to the Village Club on Saturday 4 May, during the plant and produce event, to share their views on what could be changed. Members of the Parish Council were on hand to record their views. This is the start of a project that could transform the village. The key issues raised so far are:

- Speed of vehicles, especially early or late in the day, throughout the village and a particular danger to walkers, cyclists and horseriders.
- Vehicle parking during drop-off and pick-up from the school. safety and behaviour.
- Pot holes and blocked drains/ ditches.
- Parking near junctions, causing reduced visibility.
- Enhance some rights of way. More cycle and bridleways.

Over the next two months, Councillors will be meeting with local businesses and the school/ parents to gather more views. Please let us know what you think as it's important that we tackle the right issues. Send your thoughts to ishuntonpc@btinternet.com or hand your thoughts to any Parish Councillor. We will keep you updated through regular articles in the Hunton Herald.

Iain Simmons

State of Hunton Roads

Mike Summersgill normally writes an article updating residents to the workings of the Hunton Transport and Road Safety Group. Everybody I am sure is aware of the poor road surface in West Street the potholes everywhere and concerns over the use of heavy goods vehicles on our narrow roads. Well, the other day I heard a comment by someone in the media stating that history doesn't repeat itself, but it certainly rhymes.

So, it came as no surprise to me when I had a quick delve into some Hunton records. According to the minutes of the Parish Council the main item of discussion at the September 1939 meeting was not the outbreak of war, civil defence or anything trivial like that but the state of the highway surface in West Street. The minutes all the way back to the founding of the council in 1894 frequently refer to roads and their poor state of repair.

At the Maidstone Quarter Sessions in the first decade of the 17th century complaints were made twice regarding the poor repair and flooding on the Holloway on the Hunton/Yalding boundary where it crosses Lughorse Lane!

At the Hundredal Court in the session from October 1598 to January 1599 comments on the complaints by the residents of Hunton and Yalding of the damage to the roads caused by heavy carriages (Tudor HGV's). These wagons were carrying cannon destined for the Tower of London in its role as Royal Armoury, and possibly naval ordinance destined for ships at Chatham and Deptford. These wagons were using the route through Yalding and Hunton either via Yalding Bridge Yalding Hill or through Hunton via West street. Or very possibly as a short cut from the Benover Road via Rugmer Hill across the Beult, Water Lane to West Street behind the school following what is now the footpath, probably to Maidstone to be shipped by boat.

The reason why this traffic came this way was because Horsmonden from the mid 16th century to the late 17th century was a major centre for the founding of cannon. The Browne family of Horsmonden being at the forefront of this and John Browne being appointed one of the 'Kings's founders of iron ordinance' in 1619. One of his guns is in the Royal Armouries collection. Hundreds of cannon would have passed this way through our village. At least we don't have any heavy industry nearby...yet!

David Heaton

Benefice Service Rota – June 2024

Church	2nd	9th	16th	23rd	30th
Coxheath 11:00 am	Communion (1+2+3) <i>LF</i>	Morning Worship (2+3) <i>LF</i>	Communion (1+2+3) <i>DJ</i>	All age worship <i>LF + CFW</i> team	
East Farleigh 9:30 am	Morning Worship <i>CD</i>		Communion <i>DJ</i>		
West Farleigh 9:30 am		Communion <i>DJ</i>		Morning Worship <i>LF</i>	
Hunton 9:30 am	Communion <i>LF</i>		Family Service <i>BP</i>		Benefice Communion 10:30am
Linton 9:30 am		Morning Worship <i>LF</i>		Communion <i>CD</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

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