



Next Editors: Lesley Lee & Bridget Robertson: huntonherald@outlook.com
All items for the next edition of the Herald to the Editors by 15th July

Annual Parish Meeting

The evening was a chance for all the clubs and committees in the village to report back to the parish council on all the achievements over the last year. It was no surprise that bins became the dominant subject of the open session. A presentation followed by a representative of Marden History Group on how they established the group and sourced a Marden venue where artefacts and materials could be kept. Later villagers, borough councillors and councillors relaxed over some light refreshments.

The highlight of the meeting was the presentation of the KALC (Kent Association of Local Councils) community award which was given to Revd David Jones in gratitude of his valuable and committed work and presence in the village.



Bells & Berries Afternoon at St Mary's Church: Sunday 7th July 2.30 – 5pm

This fund-raising event for St Mary's Church will take place inside and weather permitting, in the churchyard. The bells will be rung and there will be opportunities to ring small (not church) bells. Delicious cream teas, home-made cakes and savoury items will be on sale for visitors to enjoy. All welcome.

Hunton SpeedWatch

Apologies for writing again so soon after the 2023 update. As the warm weather approaches it would be helpful to have more volunteers trained and available for the village SpeedWatch (which only takes place on West Street). Although we have six active volunteers we usually go out with three or four observers. Two people cannot manage mornings or evenings which we think are busy traffic and speeding times. One volunteer comes from Headcorn and with Marden & Yalding SpeedWatches both being recently revived more volunteers would really help.

Just to update on speeder numbers we have been out just ten times in the past five months to May, three at the Hall and seven at the Club. We have 'clocked' thirty nine speeders. Twenty-nine at the Club passing at 35+ mph and ten at the Hall passing at 46+ mph. Two of those cars passed the Club entrance at 45mph and received a different letter from the Police. For one of them it was the third time they had passed the Club at speed. That person will be receiving a personal letter delivered by a police officer next time! We also had the SpeedWatch PC at the Hall during May and he used his hand-held gun to catch two more drivers leaving the village. Generally, it would appear that the primary purpose of SpeedWatch as a deterrent effect is working as we are getting less numbers exceeding the speed limit on West Street however as noted above we think more effort needs to be made on traffic outside school hours. As usual we welcome volunteers or enquiries on what is involved.

Please contact 'huntontrafficroporting@gmail.com' or text/ring me on 07779 367412.

Mike Summersgill, SpeedWatch Co-ordinator

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: Sam Andrews	huntontreewarden@gmail.com	'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	huntontrafficroporting@gmail.com
Hunton Bell Ringers: Lavinia Thompson	07885 763071		*not available on Fridays

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	
Church Working Party Sat 6 July – 9-12 noon;	'Bells & Berries' St. Mary's Sun 7 July 2.30-5.00pm;
Hunton Club Beer Festival - Sat 31 Aug;	Hunton Run Group - Hunton Backyard Ultra - Sat 14 Sept;
Hunton Club Green Hop Beer Event - 4-6 th Oct;	Harvest Festival Supper in the Village Hall - Sat 19 th Oct;
Hunton Club Walk / Lunch - Thurs 14 th Nov;	Hunton Christmas Market at St Mary's Church - Sat 23 rd Nov.
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

The month of July was always a special month when I was teaching. The school examinations were over, reports were being written, the interhouse cricket, rounders, athletics and swimming events took place and the school seemed to more relaxed. However, the truth was probably that the children certainly relaxed but the teachers became a little frazzled with report writing, parents' evenings and the changes in teaching rhythm and July seemed to go on for ever. But we had the start of the long summer holiday to look forward to.

Since my retirement some 25 years ago now, July has lost a great deal of that eager "looking forward to" feeling. We used to hear about how much cheaper holidays were outside school holidays. I never found that true but isn't that true of so many things we look forward to for, when it happens it's never the same as we expected. Sometimes better but not always. So for me July was never the holiday month but the time for looking forward, enjoying the hot days, longer evenings and preparing to relax before the start of a new school year in September. You know we need patterns to our lives, times to become busy, times to maintain a steadiness in life and also times to look forward so that our batteries can be recharged.

It's interesting to read the stories of Jesus in the light of his pattern. He seemed to be always surrounded by crowds demanding his attention and then times, we are told, when he went looking for peace and quiet, time to think, time to reflect but above all time to look forward, refreshed, recharged and renewed, ready to move on in his life. Enjoy July and hopefully we will be prepared for a restful and refreshing August before the cycle continues into the autumn and another year. There, that's me back in 'teacher mode'. Have a good holiday whenever it comes.

David

Hunton's Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

Research in the UK shows that Neighbourhood Watch areas are associated with a 10% decrease in property crime when compared to similar areas - British Crime Survey data. Huntonwatch was set up in 2013, covers the whole village and currently has over 100 members. Membership is free and all we require from you to join is your name, address and contact details. We do not share these with anyone (even the police) without your permission. Huntonwatch has a dedicated email address and phone number; is registered with the National Neighbourhood Watch scheme and with Kent Police. We are currently planning to update our Facebook page. We supply NHW window stickers, UV marker pens and 'stay safe' information booklets for members. A Neighbourhood Watch scheme is primarily set up for the prevention of crime and whilst this remains a key element of the support we provide, it is by no means our only focus. In the last eleven years we:

- Provided a prescription collection and medication delivery service during the pandemic
- Established a network of 4x4 vehicle owners willing to help during snow or flood
- Informed members of local road closures
- Notified members of new and/or particularly sophisticated scams
- Kept members informed about criminal or suspicious activities in Hunton and neighbouring villages
- Reported matters to police as necessary and gave advice on contacting the police directly if more appropriate
- Liaised with the local PCSO
- Helped rescue a trapped horse and aided the return of lost dogs to their owners

Compare the Market (January 2023) stated: "When you complete a quote with us we'll ask if you belong to a Neighbourhood Watch scheme". If you're a member some insurance providers may offer you a discount. Please contact us if you wish to join.

Huntonwatch@gmail.com or 07907 019996

Steve and Sue Wyles

News of Newts in Hunton

Last year you may recall an article about the Parish carrying out surveys for great-crested newt (GCN) populations in four pond locations around Redwall Lane and George Street without success. This April we carried out further surveys in two private ponds in East Street. The specialist surveyors from Medway Valley Countryside did find evidence of lots of newt eggs in two of the ponds, including a substantial number of GCN eggs which are individually laid on water mint leaves. The female newt folds the leaf to seal the egg for hatching. They didn't find any newts in the overnight 'bottle traps' but one resident was able to show pictures taken in earlier years of GCNs near their house. Sadly one being rather flattened upon the tarmac - "newtered"!

There are three types of newts: GCN, Palmate & the most common one - Smooth. Since last year's article other residents have reported newts of various types in their ponds in locations off West Street. It would seem that Hunton actually has widespread newt populations of all three species. With three new ponds being developed on private land near Bishops Lane we can hope for more widespread distribution. Newts don't spend that much time in ponds during the breeding time in Spring. They are often found hibernating under log piles and old sheets of galvanised metal. GCNs don't like running water or ponds with fish as their eggs can be fish/toad/tadpole food. Juveniles are also heron food. Information and advice can be found at: <https://www.froglife.org/info-advice/frequently-asked-questions/newts-in-my-garden>

Mike Summersgill, Hunton Parish Pond Warden

Hunton Ladies

At the May meeting of the Hunton Ladies Group our guest speaker was Andy Cassidy, a retired Metropolitan Police officer, who entertained us recalling his experiences in the Force. Andy was always keen to be part of the action, particularly enjoying driving and motorcycling as part of his duties. At times he was involved in "blue lighting" his car at high speeds along the motorway in response to emergency situations. At the start of his career police boxes (of the Tardis type) were the only way a constable on duty could contact the police station. He showed us three different designs of truncheons that had evolved through the years. Later in his career he successfully went "undercover", although he thought his tall height and short haircut could have given him away. Andy told us many tales of his exploits, too many to recall here. It was a wonderfully entertaining evening. These Group meetings are held on the last Wednesday of the month at Hunton Club commencing at 8pm. New ladies are always welcome.

Hunton School

Thank you to everyone in Hunton who supported us with our school fete whether that be in the preparation, donations or coming to enjoy the afternoon with us. The plants from Hunton Gardening Club were much appreciated – in fact some are flourishing in our sensory garden. The strawberries donated from Berry Gardens also helped us raise more on the day. We raised an incredible £1,500 and together with the £1,000 from the Tesco's blue tokens which many of you put in the slot for us it means our children can have more opportunities in school and out. Thank you!



SIAMS - Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools

We are delighted to share with you the very strong outcome of our SIAMS Church Inspection. In a similar way to Ofsted, all Church of England schools are inspected regularly. The report states: *Hunton is a school where all are cherished and valued as unique children of God. This creates an environment where courageous steps have been taken to enable each one to 'live life in all its fullness'.*

The Rochester Diocese also sent their congratulations saying, *'The positive comments... are testament to all that is achieved in the school'.* Here are some key phrases from the report that we are so proud of:

- *Hunton has been on a transformational journey of improvement. The vision and accompanying biblical story form a bedrock for school development.*
- *Learning regularly embraces exploration, imagination and creativity, which promotes enthusiasm for the gathering of knowledge.*
- *These chances foster the growth of individual confidence as well as strengthening collaborative work and shared success. In this way strong character formation is central to academic achievement.*
- *Hunton is a community rich in exceptional relationships where adults and pupils live well together.*
- *Children are treasured in this school.*
- *The trust placed in pupils' ability to make wise and courageous choices has stimulated bold actions by many.*

There is a great deal of work that goes on behind the scenes to ensure that our children receive the best education, wider opportunities and flourish. This is thanks to the energy, skills and commitment of our whole school – staff, parents, children, governors and clergy. It's a huge team effort, our journey has been so very exciting and we feel fortunate to be part of such a supportive and caring community. The report is also now available to view/download on our website.

Old Curiosities at The Old Curiosity Shop

Hunton Walking Group chose London to celebrate their 250th walk. Most of us travelled from Paddock Wood meeting up with others at Cannon Street, the start of our walk. We passed Mansion House, Royal Exchange, Bank of England, The Guildhall (construction began in 1411) which is on the site of a Roman amphitheatre and St Paul's. Further along we came across Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese pub which definitely warranted a visit. The area that was most interesting and little visited by most of us was the Temple which includes the four inns of court, the Middle Temple and the Inner Temple, plus the Temple Church, the name of which derives from The Order of the Knights Templar. This order was established by monks in 1118 for the purpose of protecting pilgrims. We saw the Criminal Court and the Royal Courts of Justice where the ultimate legal power of England and Wales resides. Currently there are 60 courts in use including the Court of Appeal, the High Court and the Crown Court. Continuing on we passed the headquarters of the Women's Suffragette Movement, this is located within the grounds of the LSE. Close by is The Old Curiosity Shop, a building dating back to 1567 but the shop name was only added after Dickens' novel was released as it was thought to be the idea for his description of the antique shop. We continued on at a leisurely pace through Lincoln Inns Fields, a lovely green space in the heart of London and being well used by dog walkers and workers enjoying their lunch. We then passed the original Patent Office, the London Silver Vaults enroute to Chancery Lane and the end of our walk.



The group meet at 10.00am on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of every month for a walk of approximately 2 hours. New members are welcome so some along and give it a try. Contact Jane – ejanelangdon@yahoo.co.uk

Relative Minors Musical Memories- Sunday 7th July at 7pm

Church of SS Peter & Paul, Yalding - FREE ENTRY - An evening full of firm favourites from the classics, jazz and the musicals, chosen to honour players past and present. Join us for an evening of joy and celebration. Relative Minors began in 1991 as a small group of amateur musicians, composed of family and friends, playing a wide assortment of instruments. Over 34 years it has expanded to a full orchestra of 30 players and contracted to the current band of 10 regular members. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month at 5pm in Laddingford and we are always looking for new players of any and every standard. Families are welcome (the clue is in our name!). We would also welcome a musical director to guide us from strength to strength. PLEASE COME ALONG ON 7TH JULY TO SUPPORT US.

Hunton Village Club Quiz Night – Sat 27th July

Hunton Club are hosting another fun quiz for you to enjoy. Join us from 7.30pm for an 8pm start.



Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

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

Hunton Club Beer Festival: Saturday 31st August from 12.30pm

The end of August may seem a long way off but work has already started to organise the annual Club fund raising afternoon. This community event has evolved into being far more than just a 'Beer Festival' though there will be at least 10 different real ales and a variety of other drinks. Musical and other entertainment will be provided including a tombola, games and activities for children. Like many Hunton events volunteers are wanted to promote the event, help with preparing the Club and on the day. In addition, your generous donations of cakes, plants and produce as well as items for the tombola, especially bottles of any sort, will be more than welcome.

Please contact me if you would like more information or are willing to help or make a donation so that this is another enjoyable Hunton event for family, friends and neighbours. Lesley – 01622 820210 lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com

Hunton Herald Update

Our advertisers have agreed their continued support and we are happy to report that the Herald can continue for another year. We thank them all so please do support them and ensure they get value for their adverts. Many of you help out whether as part of our editorial team or with printing and distribution. Our thanks go out to you all.

In terms of the Herald's finances, since it started 21 years ago the Herald has distributed about £22,000 to village causes. We have an undistributed surplus of over £6,000 so are well placed to provide more help for village ventures. If you are involved in a village initiative that requires funding please let us know. We may be able to help you. Similarly, if you want to join the team of volunteers who support the Herald we would be delighted to hear from you.

Please e-mail forsters.hunton@btinternet.com and we will get back to you.

James & Andrea Forster

Church Working Party: Saturday 6th July 9am – 12 noon

Volunteers wanted to help at this session which is the day before the Bells & Berries event. If you think you might be able to join the team please contact Lesley 01622 820210 lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com

Hunton Orchard

Hunton is fortunate to have its own small community orchard tucked neatly between the Bowls Club and Hunton Engineering. This was set up as part of the Parish Plan in 2011 and made good use of an area which was overgrown. With the help of The Heritage Lottery Fund and Kent Orchards for Everyone we were able to get funding for the trees and fencing for the land. The Parish Council and Hunton Engineering provided the seating and it is now the perfect space for relaxing. The orchard has been maintained by a small group of volunteers who prune the trees and mow the grass. As a group we meet about three times a year (normally Sundays). Starting the year we meet for pruning and hedge trimming and occasionally in autumn for a final clear up before winter. During the growing season we take turns to mow the grass, which takes about an hour.

We are seeking additional volunteers to help maintain the orchard. As a group we gather for a couple of hours to complete the jobs which are followed up with tea and cake afterwards. If anybody would like to join us we would love to hear from you. Please contact Barbara Wright on 01622 820218.

Hunton Run Group - Hunton Backyard Ultra: Sat 14th September 9.00am

Starting from Hunton Club, on the hour, every hour, complete a 5km loop. Push yourself to run the furthest you've ever run whether that's 5k, 50k or anything in between. For more information contact Adam Moore on 07766 566449

Talk 'Sextant to Sat Nav with a Fear of Heights!' Tuesday 24th September 7.30 for 8pm

Hunton Club welcomes Peter Griffiths who will deliver his interesting talk on aviation entitled Sextant to Sat Nav with a fear of heights! This is an open meeting, all are welcome, save the date and watch this space for further details.

Benefice Service Rota – July 2024

Church	7th	14th	21st	28th
Coxheath 11:00 am	Communion	Morning Worship	Communion	All-age worship
East Farleigh 9:30 am	Morning Worship		Communion	
West Farleigh 9:30 am		Communion		Morning worship
Hunton 9:30 am	Communion		Family Service	
Linton 9:30 am		Morning Worship		Communion

Midweek Services

Coxheath - Every Thursday; Holy Communion, 10:00 am; Linton - Holy Communion last Wednesday of each month, 12.00, followed by lunch

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