



Next Editors: James & Andrea Forster: [huntonherald@outlook.com](mailto:huntonherald@outlook.com)  
All items for the next edition of the Herald to the Editors by 15th September

## Hunton Harvest Supper

**Saturday 19th October, 7.30pm, Hunton Village Hall. Tickets now on sale!**

Great news, advance notice, the 'Village Harvest Supper' returns! Don't miss your opportunity to come to this fabulous family village event - a chance to catch up with old friends (or even meet new ones!) all whilst enjoying a delicious, hearty, home-cooked Harvest Supper provided by the 'Friends of St Marys'.

We will be running a cash bar, and there will be great raffle prizes to be won plus other fun activities. Numbers are limited so we recommend booking early! 'Friends of St Marys' is a non-denominational charity, and all monies raised go towards the preservation and maintenance of our beautiful, historic village church.

Tickets: In advance only, please contact [ianppinks@gmail.com](mailto:ianppinks@gmail.com). Adults £10, Under 14's £7.50

**Harvest Festival**  
**Sunday the 20<sup>th</sup> October at 9.30am**  
Following the delicious 'Harvest Supper', everyone is invited to St Mary's for the annual 'Harvest Festival Church Service'.

## PETER GRIFFITHS - 'SEXTANT TO SAT NAV'. 45 YEARS IN AVIATION, WITH A FEAR OF HEIGHTS!

Hunton Village Club will be welcoming Peter Griffiths on Tuesday the 24<sup>th</sup> of September. Peter will deliver his extremely interesting talk on aviation. Peter's career began during the time of 'steam driven' aircraft, when navigation was by map, compass, sextant and a certain amount of hope! With the advances in technology, his career included flying the highly sophisticated aircraft of today, accurate to within a few feet.

His talk includes a rich fund of stories, both humorous and serious. During his time with 'Cathay Pacific' he evacuated people from China after the 'Tiananmen Square Massacre' and flew a freighter during the 'First Gulf War'. He will be sharing anecdotes about the days of flying before the cockpits became so automated, as well as telling us about the foibles of the rich and infamous on their private jets! He will be happy to take questions after his talk and will attempt to put minds at rest about the more lurid stories, so beloved of the tabloid press!

Doors open early at 7.15pm. There will be time to gather drinks and settle in before Peter's talk at 8pm. This event is organised by the 'Hunton Ladies group' who welcome Hunton Club members and non-members alike. There is a cost of £5 per head.

## Green Hop Weekend

Join us at 'Hunton Village Club' over the weekend of Friday 25<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> of October.

As you may know, hop picking usually begins at the start of September. Green Hop Beer is beer made with fresh, or green hops – instead of using hops that have been dried in the more traditional method of brewing. 'Hop Picking' is deep rooted in our local area, and beyond in the wider Kent community. We shall look forward to tasting a selection of the newly released, 2024, 'Green Hop Beers' at Hunton Village Club; so, 'Hop' along!

To help celebrate this Kentish tradition there will also be display of historic photographs and memorabilia for all to enjoy. More details will follow in the next issue of the Hunton Herald, which is only a 'Hop', Skip and a Jump away!

<b>Your Local Contacts:</b>		Maidstone Police	690690 or 101
School: Secretary/Head Teacher	820360	Village Hall Booking:	<a href="http://www.huntonvillagehall.co.uk">www.huntonvillagehall.co.uk</a>
Under 5's Pre-School:	820309	Huntonwatch: <a href="mailto:huntonwatch@gmail.com">huntonwatch@gmail.com</a>	07907 019996
Pond and Tree Warden: Sam Andrews	<a href="mailto:huntontreewarden@gmail.com">huntontreewarden@gmail.com</a>	'Potholes' Hotline (KCC)	03000 418181
Rector: Revd. Lorna Faulkner*	747570	Hunton Ladies: Chris Summersgill	<a href="mailto:c.a.summersgill@btinternet.com">c.a.summersgill@btinternet.com</a>
Hon Associate Rector: Revd. David Jones	741474	PCSO - none	
Churchwarden: Iain Simmons	820875	Katie Lam MP	<a href="mailto:katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk">katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk</a>
	<a href="mailto:ishuntonchurchwarden@btinternet.com">ishuntonchurchwarden@btinternet.com</a>	Village Club: Roger Lee: <a href="mailto:roger.c.lee@btinternet.com">roger.c.lee@btinternet.com</a>	820210
Community Wardens Team	07811 271021	Reporting HGVs	<a href="mailto:huntontrafficroporting@gmail.com">huntontrafficroporting@gmail.com</a>
Hunton Bell Ringers: Lavinia Thompson	07885 763071		<b>*not available on Fridays</b>
Contact details for other village clubs and organisations are available at <a href="http://www.huntonparishcouncil.org.uk">www.huntonparishcouncil.org.uk</a>			

<b>Parish Council Contacts</b>	
Parish Clerk: Sharon Goodwin - 681238, <a href="mailto:huntonpc@googlegmail.com">huntonpc@googlegmail.com</a>	Chairman: David Heaton - 820678, <a href="mailto:dhhuntonpc@gmail.com">dhhuntonpc@gmail.com</a>
Cllr Jonny Goddard – 820096, <a href="mailto:jonny@cheveneyfarm.co.uk">jonny@cheveneyfarm.co.uk</a>	Cllr Tony Stanbridge - 820721, <a href="mailto:tshuntonpc@gmail.com">tshuntonpc@gmail.com</a>
Cllr Annette Trought - 820448, <a href="mailto:annette@trought.com">annette@trought.com</a>	Cllr Mike Summersgill - 820429, <a href="mailto:mshuntonpc@btinternet.com">mshuntonpc@btinternet.com</a>
Cllr Iain Simmons - 820875, <a href="mailto:ishuntonpc@btinternet.com">ishuntonpc@btinternet.com</a>	

<b>Diary Dates</b>	
Hunton Run Group - Hunton Backyard Ultra. Ride & Stride & Church Working Party - Sat 14th Sept;	Friends of St Mary's Harvest Supper - Sat 19th Oct;
Hunton Club Green Hop Beer Event - 25th - 27th Oct;	Gardening Club Social – Sat 2nd Nov; Walk / Lunch - Thurs 14th Nov;
Christmas Market - Sat 23rd Nov; Post Christmas Walk / Lunch – Sat 28th Dec.	
Check out <a href="http://www.huntonparishcouncil.org.uk/events-list">www.huntonparishcouncil.org.uk/events-list</a> for the latest events. If you would like to add an event, email <a href="mailto:huntonpc@gmail.com">huntonpc@gmail.com</a>	

## Pastoral Letter

A brand-new pencil case. Filled with brand new pencil case treasures. It doesn't get much better than that, right? Black pens, blue pens, red pen, green pen. Freshly sharpened pencils with no chewed-up ends. A shiny new sharpener. A smooth, white eraser that looks like a pebble from a beach. A ruler (with no scratches). A protractor (that you'll use as a ruler when the ruler has been lost...) A set-square - if anyone ever worked out what that was for feel free to enlighten me! A set of compasses to scratch doodles on your ruler (and the desk... gosh, I did get in trouble for that once!) A pot of Tippex that you're not really allowed to use in your schoolbooks.

Fully equipped, a sight to behold. A new start full of so much promise. But a promise that couldn't be realised unless the items were used for their intended purpose. What's the use of a pen that never writes, or an eraser that stays perfectly intact?

It got me wondering about the things that we might be equipped with in our own lives - the gifts and abilities we have gathered over the years; the promise that is contained in each of us that might bless not only our own lives, but also the lives of those around us.

We might be bakers, gardeners, listeners, encouragers, peacemakers, or visionaries. We might be good with numbers or paperwork; we might be fixers, builders, or organisers. We might just like to chat, putting people at their ease! Whatever we have been equipped with, maybe, September is a good time to take stock of what we carry in the 'pencil case of our lives'.

What can you offer to the world, or at least to your friends, family and community, that would see you on the journey to fulfilling your intended purpose? As you discover what treasure lies within you, I hope you, and others, will be encouraged and blessed by it!

*Happy September... (it's not long 'til Christmas now!) Lorna*

## Ride & Stride - Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September

For anyone interested in a family bike ride, or walk, I can recommend the 'Ride & Stride' event on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September. There are a lot of lovely churches within easy reach, many of which will be open to the public that day.

This is an annual fund-raising event organised by the 'Friends of Kent Churches'. This charity raises money to help maintain churches, including St Mary's. Anyone can take part by being sponsored to walk or ride between local churches, visiting as many, or as few, as they wish. Details of which churches are involved are available in St Mary's Church, together with sponsorship forms, or I can get them to you if you contact me, James Forster (email: [forsters.hunton@btinternet.com](mailto:forsters.hunton@btinternet.com) or mobile: 07900 406504). Further information can also be found on [www.kentrideandstride.co.uk](http://www.kentrideandstride.co.uk).

Volunteers are at each church so that participants can have their sponsorship forms signed. Many churches offer refreshments, including St Mary's. We also welcome anyone who just wants to make a leisurely visit to Hunton Church, with no need of any sponsorship.

This year, there is a working party at St Mary's during the morning of the 14<sup>th</sup> of September but, in the afternoon, volunteers are needed to welcome 'Ride and Stride' visitors. If you would like to take part or are willing to sit in the church that afternoon, for about an hour, please contact James Forster – 01622 820628 [forsters.hunton@btinternet.com](mailto:forsters.hunton@btinternet.com).

Anyone who is taking part in Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award Scheme, or other similar community projects, such as Scouts and Guides, do get in touch if you are interested in taking an active part in any of our community volunteering events. Individuals and groups welcome.

## St Mary's Church Working Party - Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September 9am – 12 noon

The friendly team of volunteers would love more people to join them. even on an occasional basis and even for just the odd hour. The more people who can help each time, the more tasks that are achieved to keep the church and the churchyard looking good. We welcome all of the community. If you can join us, you will choose what you wish to do, either inside the church or outside. The team usually stop around 11am for a social coffee break with biscuits or similar. Please contact Lesley if you would like more information or would like to join the team - [lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com](mailto:lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com) 01622 820210.

## Ragwort, Friend or Foe!

So many of us enjoy the wonderful walks in, and beyond, our village. It is common for us to wander through fields where the attractive, small yellow daisy like flower, known as ragwort, is considered both a friend and foe! Please be aware of the potential dangers of ragwort, especially if it is lying on the ground following cutting. Ragwort is poisonous if ingested by dogs and cats. Advice from vets; if you think your dog has eaten any, contact your vet as soon as you can.

Risks can range considerably. Risks to dogs include quite mild symptoms, with your dog being generally unwell, to liver failure. Usually, it is off-putting to live-stock. Nonetheless, it can be harmful to horses and cattle. The danger comes if ragwort, that's been cut and dried, gets mixed up in dry hay feed for livestock. The good news is that Ragwort is not very tasty, so the chances of a dog eating some are quite small. Cats may like to nibble on the leaves!

We know, from our own endeavours, that it is very hard labour pulling up ragwort! Unless you remove the entire root, mowing or pulling ragwort is unlikely to destroy it. Indeed, we need to be proactive in controlling it in a careful way. It is likely that many of us come across ragwort. Remember, it like many plants, is toxic. Suitable precautions must be taken when handling live and dead plants. It is therefore advised that suitably protective gloves and trousers be worn when hand pulling and handling ragwort plants. Whatever, we must not forget that ragwort is an important native plant that helps feed dozens of bees, moths, other insects and birds. Notably, the black and red 'Cinnabar Moth', which is often confused as a butterfly, relies significantly on ragwort as a key food source for their black and yellow caterpillars.

## **'Just-For-Fun'**

On the last Saturday in July the Village Club held another 'Just-For-Fun' quiz night. Given that it was the start of the holiday season, there was a good turn-out of members and their guests. Five teams of up to six people prepared to pit their wits against one another. One team also had a pet dog as a member, which may have given them an advantage in the marathon round which required 20 dog breeds to be identified! The other half of the marathon round involved identifying car manufacturers logos, this caused quite some debate regarding Honda and Hyundai, but was resolved amicably.

The other rounds included questions on Foods from Around Britain; few had tried a 'Bedfordshire Clanger' ! The next challenge required a knowledge of 'Bridges'. For example, did you know that Tower Bridge is raised on average 800 times a year? Then came 'History and Politics', closely followed by the usual rounds of 'Lucky Dip' and 'Trivia'.

The competition was very close with the teams 'Pit Ponies' and 'The Optimists' being just 1.5 points apart after 7 rounds. At the close of play, the Optimists were the winners having played their Joker for double points on the last round, scoring 16 points out of a possible 20. Thank you to Phil for another fun evening enjoyed by all. Another quiz night will be held before the year is out.

## **Hunton's Own Orient Express!**

Francesca Scott (known as Fran) is the daughter of Jeremy and Natasha Scott and granddaughter of Sue Scott. As many of you will remember, Fran grew up in the village and regularly visits her family on the farm. Fran has recently completed a grueling transcontinental race from Northern France to Istanbul, in Turkey. So, we wanted to congratulate her on her incredible achievement, well-done indeed!

In total, there were three hundred and thirty competitors, forty-three of whom were female. The race started at the iconic Roubaix Velodrome and then competitors had to cycle over the ancient, cobbled roads of northern France for 80 kilometres (km). This was the tenth edition of the race, which saw competitors choosing their own routes between the four check points and the mandatory parkour race sections. Fran, aged thirty-three, covered about 300 km a day on her drop handlebar dirt bike. Amazingly, her sensible choice of robust tubeless tyres meant that she never had to repair a puncture! Fran carried a sleeping bag and roll mat, which she used at the beginning of the race. However, as she moved eastwards through Europe, the need for a comfortable night's sleep, as well as the reducing price of hotel accommodation, enabled her to complete the 4000 kms journey in greater comfort. Many pulled out of the race. So, getting to the finish line was a huge achievement in itself. Fran was the seventh female to finish, out of 14, and the 83<sup>rd</sup> overall.

So much goes into the preparation for the race. Of course, there is the physical side, which is very demanding. Additionally, Fran spent three months planning the route; to include towns and villages where she could eat, drink and sleep.

Why did she do it? Fran had recently spent six months touring, on her bike, in North America; from Canada down to Panama. During the six months of her travels, she covered 12,000km. Her fellow travellers talked of the 'European Race' and that sparked her interest. Having recovered, (just about!) Fran is planning to tour through France and Italy. She will then head off to New Zealand to continue her pedaling quest. The whole of Hunton wishes her luck.

## **Local Policing?**

Once upon a time you might have expected your local police service to be interested in serving the needs of the decent, law-abiding members of society. After recent events in and impacting Hunton residents, it seems that these days are long gone.

In a recent accident at the junction of George Street and Redwall Lane, a car, parked 4ft off the road in a designated parking space, was crashed into by a car travelling west at speed. This car, approaching the sharp 'S bend' junction at Elm Corner, started to skid 45 yards from the point of impact. Crashing into the parked car, acquired only 12 days earlier, it demolished a road sign and ended up grounded over a drop down to a lower road. The parked car rolled down a 4ft bank and, such was the force of the impact, ended up 15 yards down the lower road laying across a grass bank, with its handbrake still on.

We were called by the owner of the car and her neighbour (both women in their mid to late 70s) because a group of youths, including the driver, were crowding round her in a threatening manner, claiming her car had been parked in the road and that this caused the accident. The police were called. While waiting for them to attend, we took photos which prove the details of the skid, the point of impact and the final positions of the two cars.

To their credit, two police cars did arrive about an hour after the initial call. One of the four police officers attending confirmed that the driver had left his details with the victim and established that the driver's car was insured and taxed. At this point, the police officer appeared to conclude that the driver had done nothing wrong and switched her focus to the victim's car.

The police officer did not accept that it had not been parked where it had ended up. As a result, she warned the distressed owner that she would be committing an offence if she left it 'parked' where it was! Happily, another neighbour managed to clamber into the car (now confirmed as 'written off') and manoeuvred it into his own driveway.

We cannot say, with certainty, that there was no police follow up with the driver, but it appears that no action was taken. As far as we are aware: there was no charge of dangerous driving, no charge of assault against an elderly widow (who incidentally was admitted to hospital the next day with a suspected heart attack bought on by the stress of the incident).

Later that night two further police cars arrived (so 8 police officers in total) but still no action was taken. I do not consider this to be either a good use of police resources or a satisfactory outcome from the perspective of the law-abiding public majority in our village – do you? If this was an isolated event, we might put it down to one inexperienced officer. However, I am aware of three other cases where police action falls below the level a reasonable person might expect. I have sent this article to the police and invited them to comment. At the time of going to press, there has been no response. Hopefully, we will receive a reply by the deadline of September the 16<sup>th</sup> for the October Issue. We will keep you informed if we receive a response.

*James Forster*

## Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

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

### What a weekend it turned out to be! Well Done Wendy and Family!

You may remember seeing, in an edition of the 2023 Hunton Herald, a delightful photograph of Wendy Sharp’s grandchildren, sheep and the rosettes gained at the ‘Kent County Show’. Now, a year on, we catch-up on Wendy’s second visit to the ‘Kent County Show’ in July, with her family, as exhibitors of Jacob Sheep.

Furnished with a little more knowledge than last year, and some keen helpers in the team, Wendy’s family headed off to ‘Detling Show Ground’ with fourteen sheep. They were determined to have fun! They had higher expectations than in 2023 and were anxious that this may lead to disappointment! The following is Wendy’s account of the show...

“There was much washing and grooming of the sheep before our turn in the ring. On Friday, we had one or more keen handlers in each class, and then, six young handlers for Saturday’s classes. We all supported each other. The camaraderie was amazing. Adrenalin flowed. Unsurprisingly, the competition was strong.

Soon, rosettes started to be awarded. We won several ‘Third and Second Rosettes’. Then, at last, we gained a ‘First Rosette’ for aged ewe. This was shortly followed by another for a ‘shearling ewe’. Wow! How did that happen? By then, we had two in the ‘Jacob Championship Line Up’. Then, the cherry on the cake, we won ‘Best in Breed’ for ‘Star’ our shearling ewe. A few tears shed, hugs exchanged, and hands shaken. We were elated! All that work paid off.

Finally, we had the privilege of being in the ‘Parade of Champions’. Being in the main ring filled us with an unforgettable pride and joy! Since last year, the children had grown in confidence. While we still have more to achieve, with some hot completion, it was such a pleasure watching our grandchildren and sheep excel. We couldn’t have achieved such successes without our advisors in the ‘Jacob Sheep Society’ and the help and support of family, friends, helpers and other advisors.”



### Update on the Chainhurst Chicken Farm Application

In the latest twist of a rather tawdry tale that started in 2020, we understand that Fridays’ agent has now been given yet another extension of time, until 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024, to submit information required by Natural England (such as on the flood risk) as well as responses to certain other issues raised at the MBC Planning Committee.

Even if the information is submitted by that date, Maidstone planning officers would need time to fully reconsult and Natural England would also need to submit their assessment of the information provided. On this basis, the application is not likely to be back before the Planning Committee until November, or even December 2024.

In a further development, a local farmer notes that Fridays argued that the Chainhurst site is the only one available in the South -East of England, and essential to support the nation’s need for eggs. Fridays have recently applied to close down their chicken farm in Knoxbridge to turn it into an industrial site. Their motivations in both cases appear to be clear – what will Maidstone Borough Council and the Planning Committee conclude?

*James Forster*

### Wayside Light Train Day, Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September from 2pm.

As advertised in the August edition of the Hunton Herald, this will be a great day for all ages. Don’t miss it! Contact Sue on 01622 746125 Or 07850 708596. Alternatively, tickets can be ordered via email: [suej.martin@btopenworld.com](mailto:suej.martin@btopenworld.com).

### Hunton Run Club, Hunton Backyard Ultra, Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September.

A great running challenge, with a group running 5km ever hour for as long as they can manage. To take part call/text Adam Moore on 07766 566 449. Good luck to you all. Many of us may take the easier option to watch out for the runners as they flash past!

Benefice Service Rota – September 2024					
Church	1st	8th	15th	22nd	29th
Coxheath 11:00 am	Communion (1+2+3) <i>LF</i>	Morning Worship <i>BP</i>	Communion (1+2+3) <i>DJ</i>	All-Age Harvest <i>LF + BP</i>	
East Farleigh 09:30 am	Morning Worship <i>DJ</i>		Communion <i>CD</i>		
West Farleigh 09:30 am		Communion, <i>LF</i>		Harvest Worship <i>LF + SE</i>	
Hunton 09:30 am	Communion <i>CD</i>		Family Service <i>LF</i>		
Linton 09:30 am		Morning Worship <i>DJ</i>		Communion <i>CD</i>	Benefice Communion <i>LF</i>
<b>LF, Lorna Faulkner. DJ, David Jones. CD, Clinton Davis. BP, Becky Parham. SE, Sue Elliot.</b>					
<b>Midweek Services</b>					
Coxheath - Every Thursday; Holy Communion, 10:00 am; Linton - Holy Communion last Wednesday of each month, 12.00 followed by soup					

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