



Next Editors: Liz Oliver and Graham Dolman: huntonherald@outlook.com
All items for the next edition of the Herald to the Editors by 15th October

Get Ready for the Green Hop Beer Weekend!

Calling all beer lovers! Don't forget to hop into Hunton Village Club for the Green Hop Beer Weekend at the end of October. The Club will be open at the following times:

On Friday 25th October: 6.30 – 10.30pm, on Saturday 26th October: 6.30 – 10.30pm and on Sunday 27th October: 12 noon – 2pm & 8 – 10.30pm.

This traditional event celebrates the freshest brews made with hops harvested just days before hitting your glass!

Over the course of the weekend, you'll get to sample a range of green hop beers from local breweries. These beers are packed with bold, fresh flavours that can only be enjoyed during hop harvest season—so don't miss out!

There will be also be light snacks, the full array of regular bar drinks, local cider and a special Hop Display, celebrating the history of Hop Picking in Kent.

What a perfect excuse to relax with friends and fellow beer enthusiasts. Whether you're a craft beer lover or just want to give Green Hop Beer a try, why not 'hop in'?!

Next Litter Pick – Saturday, 12th October, 2024

Once again, the litter on our roads has built up and needs clearing so we plan to hold our next litter pick on Saturday, 12th October, meeting in the Village Hall car park at 10am. If you are unable to join us on the day, but would like to help the week before, please contact us so we can get you equipment and arrange a collection point.

We must ask volunteers to choose where they are happy to pick up litter and be responsible for their own safety. Rubbish sacks will be provided and there will be pickers and high vis jackets available to borrow but please bring your own gloves if you want to use them. Once again, thanks to Clockhouse Farm for agreeing to collect bagged rubbish and to dispose of it with their own commercial waste and to Hunton Parish Council who also provide support now that this has been withdrawn by MBC. If you can help, please let us know or just turn up on the day.

Andrea Forster (forsters.hunton@btinternet.com)

Hunton Harvest Supper: Saturday 19th October, 7.30pm Hunton Village Hall

Still tickets available for this fabulous village event! A chance to catch up with old friends (or even meet new friends!) all whilst enjoying a delicious, hearty, home-cooked Harvest Supper provided by Friends of St Mary's.

We will be running a cash bar, and there will be great raffle prizes to be won plus other fun activities. See you there!

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. Adults £10, Under 14's £7.50

Hunton Gardening Club Social & Supper: Saturday 2nd November

This relaxed evening at Hunton Village Club is a chance to catch up with friends and meet new ones in our village. Doors open at 6.15pm for drinks followed by pre-booked supper at £10 each for members of the Village Club and £15 for non-members.

Places are limited. To reserve yours, or for more information, email Lesley at: lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com.

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	Katie Lam MP	katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk
	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

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	

Diary Dates	
Friends of St Mary's Harvest Supper, Sat 19th Oct;	Hunton Club Green Hop Weekend, 25th – 27th Oct;
Church Working Party, Sat 9th Nov;	Walk / Lunch, Thurs 14th Nov;
Wreath Making, Sat 30th Nov;	Post Christmas Walk / Lunch, Sat 28th Dec.
Check out www.huntonparishcouncil.org.uk/events-list for the latest events. If you would like to add an event, email huntonpc@gmail.com	

Rector's Letter

Dates and anniversaries play an important part of life's journey. As I write this letter in September 2024 it suddenly came to me that September marked the 25th year of my retirement from teaching, a career that had lasted 35 years. It also marked my 24th year since I was first ordained on 29th September 2000. I was getting old!!!

Yet, autumn for so many years of my life, had marked the beginning of a fresh start. The school year had governed the first 50 plus years of my journey. Yet this year seemed different and I don't know why. Maybe it's the news, the international situation, the USA election for a new President, the financial problems effecting so many. In reality 'I'm all right Jack'. Yes, life has become more difficult, more complex, more demanding and more challenging? Certainly, we see and hear information more and more swiftly and in more graphic detail than we used to. Do I have an answer? Then as so often happens in my daily readings came this passage.

"And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? (Matthew 6:28-3).

This passage from the Sermon on the Mount offers is a perfect example of how we sometimes worry about things which are actually fairly unimportant. The words may be very familiar to many. Yet it takes a greater effort to realize that Jesus is not just speaking poetically; he means what he says!

The point of this passage is in the words: which come earlier "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life." He is speaking to people who had nothing, for whom every day was a struggle to survive. He realizes that they cannot embrace the spiritual power within them if they continue to focus on the poverty in their situation. So, Jesus assures them—in very real and practical terms, that if they put their faith and focus on God, God will provide for their needs.

We may say that's not realistic; our human needs must take priority. Few indeed are the people who have fully trusted this teaching and fully surrendered their human condition to their inner divinity! But Jesus always meant what he said. The promise of this passage is always present for all of us. Our work is to remove the doubts and fears and false priorities, and trust our Oneness with God. It's a hard life and words whilst we know they are true can at times be hard to accept.

David

Cheers to Success

Hunton Village Club fundraising Beer Festival exceeds expectations! Once again, our recent Beer Festival turned out to be an unforgettable day of fun, community, and the opportunity to give back.

With over 250 attendees and 10 local beers, a locally produced cider, the fabulous Pop-up Pimms & Prosecco Bar, Plants & Produce and even activities for the kids, the event was a real success, raising more than £3,000. All profits will help support the upkeep and general running of our lovely local club.

The event brought together beer lovers from the community who came to sample local brews, to enjoy live music and to munch away on tasty toasties and bacon butties - all to support the club.

Ooooooo did I hear someone say cake???. So many delicious cakes were also made by our kind community and my oh my, did you see the size of the slices? Talk about 'Have your cake & eat it' - what amazing value!

Over 20 local business and many generous individuals donated some fantastic gifts for the Spin 2 Win Tombola Stall, where the queues were out of the door practically all day! A big shout out to my fellow 'Spinettes' and who knew what fun could be had with an upcycled Lazy Susan Board?!

The weather held out, the atmosphere was filled with good vibes and we even had a couple of surprise backing singers accompanying Sharon - you know who you are!

The success would not have been possible without the support of our volunteers, local businesses, and, of course, everyone who attended. Together, we're making a real difference, one pint at a time! Cheers to all and let's make next year even better!!



Local Policing (follow up)

Last month an article described a recent accident in Hunton which was attended by the police. Given the circumstances (what appeared to be dangerous driving followed by an assault that led to a serious health crisis requiring a few days in hospital) the apparent lack of action was at best disappointing.

The article was sent to the police for their comment; it was also raised by a Borough Councillor.

The police have written to the victim and confirmed that they will be taking no further action but provided advice on how to proceed with a private prosecution. Sadly, I am neither surprised nor reassured.

Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance 3rd November 2024

Each year we hold a service in one of the churches in the Benefice to give thanks and remember people whose funeral services we have taken in the Benefice or at Vinters Park Crematorium in the past years. We invite relatives and friends to the service from the registers over the last two years and extend the invitation via the monthly newsletters to anyone else whose relatives would like to add names to the list of names read out. If you would like a name added please contact Rev David Jones with the name you wish to be remembered by the end of October by email at davidjones.coxheath@gamail.com or 01622 741474. The service this year is on Sunday November 3rd at St Nicholas church, Linton commencing at 3pm. Light refreshments will be served after the service.

Hunton School is entertained at the Palace!

We are writing as Hunton's new Head Boy, Tommy, and Head Girl, Gracie. In our first article for the Hunton Herald, we are pleased to announce that all the children have settled in nicely and calmly, ready to learn. We are looking forward to helping the school, the younger children settle in and bringing some new ideas to the school. We also enjoy touring parents around the school, as well as helping fundraising for the school.

On Monday 9th September, Borton class (Year 5 and 6) had a school trip to Buckingham Palace. We all had an adrenaline packed time. The first thing we did was travel through St James' Park. We quickly took a photo, then Mrs Makey came up with a game: first to find a pelican won a team point! Wren was the first, everyone was shocked. Wren even said that she wanted to cuddle one! Then after a bit of walking we had lunch as the Grenadier Guards' Band marched past us. Next it was our time to go in to the palace. When we arrived at Buckingham Palace, we sat in an education room and got given a notebook to capture our writing ideas in.

The workshop was led by a professional author! After a brief history lesson of the palace, we split up into groups and had a tour. We saw the carriage and the rooms we went in were: Grand Entrance, Throne Room, Green Drawing Room, Music Room (with a secret door!) Blue Drawing Room, picture gallery, grand staircase and the ballroom where Queen Victoria had her parties! We were so lucky as ropes were taken down to let Hunton through; we were allowed to go where the rest of the visitors could not! During the tour, we wrote in our notebooks and scribbled down certain things that came to our minds ready to do a piece of writing when we came back to school.

We all enjoyed the trip very much and had an action-packed day!

Open Days: If you, or someone you know has a child starting school in September 2025 please book a tour of Hunton CEP School. There are three open days on 11th, 12th and 14th November, but if you require an alternative date, we will do our best to accommodate you. Please book via the school website- <https://hunton.kent.sch.uk> or phone the office 01622 820360.

Wreath Making Workshop: Organised by Hunton PTA in Hunton Village Hall on Saturday 30th November at 6pm. £40 per head to include all materials, drinks and nibbles.



Hunton Backyard Ultra – September 14th

Overall we had 33 participants, with 17 early risers turning up to the Village Club at 5:30am for the official 6:00 am start.

It was an incredible effort from every single person that took part with 8 completing 73 km (45 miles), a 62-year-old from Goudhurst ran 62 kms and a 74-year-old from Maidstone 47 kms. Someone who had only ever ran 5 kms before, smashed his first marathon. A handful of participants who had run half marathons before, completed their first ultra-marathons (over 30 miles) and almost everyone ran further than they'd ever ran before.

It was a glorious day; the sun was shining, Spitfires were flying overhead and the Club was packed with runners fuelling, stretching and chatting away. A big thank you to all the volunteers who were stationed at the Club, to Phil for opening up the bar to serve some well-deserved and much needed pints, and to all the spectators that cheered us on.

Nature's Bounty

So what have you spotted in and around Hunton so far this year? For me it has been a year of firsts, starting with the discovery in late winter of 17 hibernating newts, including Great Crested Newts, at the base of a rotting fencepost. Then in early spring we came across our first colonies (aggregations) of beige and black "16 Spotted Ladybirds", thousands and thousands of tiny bugs cascading down the sunny sides of fenceposts, which from a distance looked like patches of lichen.

This was followed by my first sighting of a Marble White butterfly foraging in the meadowland of North Park, Hunton Court – a butterfly similar to the Cabbage White but covered in dark spots. Then a few weeks later an absolutely stunning Jersey Tiger Moth was found feeding on a honeysuckle in our garden. These day flying moths have green and dark striped upper wings and bright orange and red hind wings – beautiful.

More recently we have enjoyed walking through the Scott's fields at the centre of the village which have been a sea of colourful wild flowers: red clover, yellow vetch, wild carrot, hawksbit ... both a joy to behold and, as we edge towards winter, a great source of food for foraging pollinators.

Sadly for me, I had no further sightings this year of Red Kites, Honey Buzzards or White Tailed Eagles (unconfirmed). Also, was it just me or were there hardly any cuckoos heard this April? (To offset this disappointment, I did capture a cuckoo in flight on a wildlife camera – another first!)

Thankfully, as far as I know, no Asian Hornets have been spotted in or immediately around Hunton but we need to remain vigilant as confirmed sightings have been recorded as close as Staplehurst. In October, a good place to spot the Asian Hornet is around flowering ivy, one of the last food sources for insects before winter sets in, and where hornets will lie in wait and "pounce" as they come in to feed.

So, what have you seen this year? Please do tell the Herald if you have anything to share, it would be interesting to know what other natural riches Hunton has to offer!

Andrea Forster

Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

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

Hunton Christmas Market

Saturday 23rd November 2024 at St Mary's 3pm to 5.30pm

Just under two months to go and I've had an email from Father Christmas to say he will be dropping in again this year, provided that his grotto and two gnomes are ready for him. The stall holders are booking their places - we have 3 new stalls so far this year and many of the regulars are already booked.

This year the Friends of St Mary's, who have provided the BBQ in past years, are adding a bar. The refreshment, cakes, mulled wine, bottle and raffle are in place so it's all systems go at present. If anyone knows someone who would like to join us with a stall then we can find a space somewhere in the church at this point.

Finally, a suggestion has been made that people may have things they have made that they wish to sell and make a donation from that sale. This 'Made in Hunton stall' will be available on the day so just bring along what you want to sell. Please put the date in your diaries or the calendar in the kitchen and we look forward to you coming along,

David Jones

Wayside Train Day

A huge thanks to Lawrence and Sue Martin who opened up their garden and its 5 acre woodland for narrow gauge steam train rides along a wonderful train track. Each trip lasted about 20 minutes, never riding over the same track twice! Stations, bridges, tunnels, a turntable and an occasional "wild deer" sighting added to the interest and made this a special day for train enthusiasts but also for young and old alike.

You could ride the trains as often as you liked (we met neighbours who an hour after the event first opened were already on their joyful way to queue for a third ride)! In addition to the trains there were amazing cakes on offer with cups of tea – all very welcome on what sadly turned out to be a wet autumnal day.

We would like to also thank all the volunteers that made it such a good day: the train drivers, signalmen (and women?!), those who keep the tracks clear and engines and other rolling stock well maintained and of course the lovely people who baked the cakes!

We understand that £500 was raised for each of St Mary's Church and Riding for the Disabled – well done one and all.

Churchyard Working Party and Ride & Stride Event

Once again, a group of volunteers gathered in the old churchyard on the morning of Saturday 13th September to help further improve an already tidy looking churchyard and to dust and polish the interior of the church.

Thanks to all volunteers, but especially to Lesley Lee, for organising us on a day that helped man the church for the morning of the Ride & Stride event and also for the delicious chocolate-chip buns and biscuits. As always, it was a sociable event where we all got on with our preferred projects and helped to get everywhere ready for winter.

Once again, we were not inundated with Ride & Striders but 6 clocked in including Andy Baker who has ridden every year for the entire 40 years of its existence! We hope record amounts of money was raised on the day for the Friends of Kent Churches.

STOP PRESS - Harvest Festival

Please note the **change of time for the 'Harvest Festival Service'**. It will now be at **10.30am on Sunday the 20th October at St Mary's Church**. All welcome. This means that you can have a "lie-in" after the 'Village harvest Supper' on the previous evening, Saturday 19th October at 7.30pm.

This year, we are hoping to increase the number and range of harvest gifts that we share with a food charity based in Maidstone. You can share your gifts during the service or by bringing them along to the 'Village Harvest Supper'. All gifts will be displayed in the church. So, please, please bring tins, pasta, coffee, tea, cereals etc. Non-perishable gifts are best, but we will be pleased to receive anything that you may wish to share. Many thanks.

Wendy and Iain Simmons

Benefice Service Rota – October 2024

Church	6th	13th	20th	27th
Coxheath 11:00 am	Holy Communion CD	Morning Worship SE	Holy Communion DJ	Family Service BP & LF
East Farleigh 09:30 am	Harvest LF		Holy Communion DJ	
West Farleigh 09:30 am		Holy Communion CD		Morning Worship BP
Hunton 09:30 am	Holy Communion DJ		Harvest LF	
Linton 09:30 am		Harvest DJ		Holy Communion LF

LF, Lorna Faulkner. DJ, David Jones. CD, Clinton Davis. BP, Becky Parham. SE, Sue Elliot.

Midweek Services

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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