



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

Katie Lam Visits Hunton School.

During our first week back at school we had a visit from Katie Lam, MP. It is quite unusual for an MP to visit a school, especially a small, rural one so we had our questions ready for her. Such as 'Why can't the play equipment be repaired at Hunton Park?' 'Can SMART phones be banned for children?' 'Can we all have free milk?' 'Why do we have to be tested on nonsense words in the Y1 phonics test?' 'Why, as a rural school, do we have to pay more for swimming lessons because of the cost of a coach when Maidstone children do not?' We are really hoping to visit the Houses of Parliament to learn more about democracy and how our voice can be heard.

Following the visit from Katie Lam, the whole school walked along to the church and were fascinated to see all the pumpkins growing in the field. Our year 3's received bibles, which were kindly donated by the Parochial Church Council of St Mary's, and they will use these during their R.E lessons at school.



HARVEST VILLAGE SUPPER, Saturday 4th October, at 7.30pm

Do come and enjoy this rural heritage event at the Village Hall. Eat and drink with friends whilst raising much needed funds to help 'The friends of St Mary's preserve the fabric of the village church. Tickets cost £12 for adults and £8 for children, with a wholesome home-cooked meal. A bar will be available to buy drinks. Contact Ian Pinks via email on ianppinks@gmail.com, or call 01622 820709 to buy your tickets in advance. There will be no tickets available on the door.

HUNTON GREEN HOP BEER WEEKEND.

Fri 17th Oct 6:30–10:30pm; Sat 18th Oct 12–3pm & 6:30–10:30pm; Sun 19th Oct 12–3pm (Club open as normal on the Sunday Night)

Round up your friends and family and make it a date! Join us at Hunton Village Club's second Green Hop Beer Weekend—a celebration of Kent's hop-picking heritage. Green Hop Beers are only available during the short harvest season—don't miss your chance to enjoy this event. There will be beers from local brewers along with regular bar drinks. Bacon rolls, and toasties will be served with the exception of Sunday evening. A display of vintage photos and memorabilia from Hunton's hop-picking history is planned, so, if you have old photos of hop picking, or other farming activities in and around Hunton, which could then be included in a display contact Edna Dennison on edmaden@gmail.com, 074938 46244. Edna will return all photographs once copied.

HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE at St Mary's Hunton, 19th October, at 9.30am

Everyone is invited to our annual harvest celebration at St Mary's. Your donations of non-perishable foods will be greatly appreciated, blessed and then distributed to a local charity. The church will be decorated for harvest and there will be plenty of familiar harvest hymns. The service will be followed by refreshments.

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	01622 820403
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	Katie Lam MP	katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk
	Ishuntonchurchwarden@btinternet.com	Assistant to MP Katie Lam	020 7219 8175
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			

*not available on Fridays

Parish Council Contacts

Parish Clerk: Sharon Goodwin - 681238, clerk@huntonparishcouncil.gov.uk	Chairman: David Heaton - 820678, dhhuntonpc@gmail.com
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, isimmons@huntonparishcouncil.gov.uk
Cllr Simon Webb - 07878 018997, simon.webb5@btinternet.com	

Diary Dates

Harvest Festival Supper, 4th October; Harvest Festival, 19th October; 'Green Hop' Beer Weekend, 17th -19th October; Fright Night, 31st October;
Remembrance Service, 10th November at 10.50am; Curry Night, 28th November; Hunton Christmas Market, 22nd November.
Check out www.huntonparishcouncil.gov.uk/events-list for the latest events. If you would like to add an event, email clerk@huntonparishcouncil.gov.uk



Hunton



www.huntonparishcouncil.org.uk



@HuntonVillage

Parish Letter

Referring back to last month's letter from Sue, I can truthfully say that I can remember my first day at school in 1947. I also have a photo of the event. I was standing next to my big sister (only a year older) with me in short trousers, a blazer, sandals, no socks and my 'piece' in a paper bag in my left hand. My 'piece' you ask? Yes, something for playtime, in this case, a piece of homemade shortbread, which had been lovingly baked by my granny; by playtime it would have made the paper bag go almost transparent with the grease! A 'piece' accompanied me daily right up to the age of 18 when I left school!

Who'd a thought then that in 2025 I'd be marking the 25th anniversary of my ordination, married for 42 years, a teacher for 35 years, a father and grandfather. A rich life Indeed!

I wonder how many anniversaries you've had? For a few years now I've had a lovely long letter, once a month, from a lady who used to live in Coxheath but now lives in a retirement community in London. Now, she gets her carer to write, her scribe as she describes her. So, I often wonder, as I read her letters, what the scribe must be thinking as the two 'ancients' share memories. Her memories are clear, happy in some ways but there were also the worrying times while her children grew up, letters so full of life and memories.

Well, I wasn't going to say anything this month as I felt depressed by so much happening, locally, nationally and internationally. But then, her letter arrived, full of memories and hope! I share, with you, the thought: that when we get older and our joints remind us of the years, life is still worth living. We have rich memories of the past and those who remind us of them! As the evenings draw in, don't be in a rush to pull the curtains and turn on the light. Sit still and dwell for a moment or two and the memories will come back as darkness falls.

The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended, The darkness falls at Thy behest, To thee our morning hymns ascended, Thy praise shall sanctify our rest.

Revd David Jones

A Celebration for the Life of Gilly Devas

Our dear friend Gilly passed away peacefully at home, on the 3rd September 2025. She was lovingly looked after by her family, carers, and Daisy her dog, in the house that she loved. Her friends and family will miss her, especially her children Laura, Kim and Jordi and her stepdaughter Annabel, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Gilly doted on her family. By the time this article is published, the service to celebrate her life, on the 22nd September, will have taken place. I know that many people will have attended the service because Gilly was respected and loved by so many.

Gilly was a graceful and dignified lady, part of a past generation that contributed significantly to the life and history of this village. Gilly was born on the 2nd July 1932; she spent her early childhood years in India, returning to England for her education. Following her first marriage, to Charles Smith-Bingham, she later married Michael Campbell Devas, MC. of Hunton Court, where she lived happily until Michael's death in 2007.

Her legacy lives on in our memories, as well as by her substantial contributions to projects and charities. In particular, aiding the restoration of the ancient stained-glass windows in St Mary's Church and by her involvement with Hunton School. Her enduring support of St Mary's, and the school, remained throughout her life, being underpinned by her strong Christian values and high regard for education. During the late 1990s she became a lay Ofsted Inspector and for many years, she was a governor at Hunton School. The pupils have benefitted considerably from her generosity, goodwill and time. Gilly loved to take her beloved dogs, Daisy and Dillon, to school. Even in her latter days, she adored the children's singing visits to her home.

Gilly loved music, entertaining and socialising. How we remember 'Musicals on the Green' when Gilly let her hair down and was one of the first up to dance with us! She loved the village pantomimes, and was incredibly supportive, buying the first of so many of our own lights for the productions. For many years, she coordinated Hunton's 'Royal British Legion's' poppy collection.

I will remember Gilly, for her close friendship and quietly cheeky sense of humour! She had such a special way of approaching friends, showing a sincere interest in them. She always remained positive and hopeful, with an un-wavering sense of loyalty. Gilly's kindness and dignity will remain always in my thoughts. As others have also said, she was: "A very special lady," "We were honoured to have known her." A wonderful person who gave so much and was such a lot of fun to be with."

May Gilly rest in peace.

Wendy Simmons

Fond Memories of Peter Day

Peter was an avid reader of the Hunton Herald, awaiting its arrival eagerly each month. So, we were saddened to hear of his death. The funeral of Peter Day took place at St Mary's on the 5th of September, attended by 80 family and friends. The service reflected Peter's love of nature, farming and family. Peter was blessed with four children, eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Peter spent most of his years on the family farm, Clock House, in Hunton still driving a tractor well into his 80s! As a younger man, he was known as 'Day Boy' because he had the same name as his father. He was a quiet and practical man who also loved his sports; both playing and in later years watching. Peter, like so many of his generation, contributed to community life in Hunton. He served in the Working Mans' Club and went on to become treasurer and president. Peter was a gentle soul, who, in latter life, liked to sit and watch the world go by. He didn't like conflict, or a crossed word. Peter now rests in peace with his beloved wife Joan, who passed away 31 years ago. They are now buried together in the churchyard of the church where they were married in 1961.

Hunton Ladies

At the August meeting, the 'Hunton Ladies' had a games evening, playing a very entertaining German board game involving Roman chariots. Future meetings will include a talk about the Penenden Heath witches and creating a floral Christmas arrangement. The 'Hunton Ladies Group' meet at the Village Club on the last Wednesday of each month at 8pm. New members are very welcome, as are newcomers to the 'Needles and Natter Group', which meets on the third Wednesday of each month.

Chris Summersgill

Another great Charity Quiz Night at the Club in aid of Diabetes UK

On 16 August, the club hosted another successful charity quiz night, this time in aid of Diabetes UK for Anna Banks who will be running the Parks Half Marathon on October 16th. What a fun night! Hunton's very own quizmaster, Phil Nichols, enthralled the 55 strong audience with another array of challenging questions! For the first time a tie was declared and following a one question shoot out, team 'Simple Minds' were declared winners!

The total raised to date stands at £1,190, raised through the entrance fee 'on the door' and after the event on Anna's Just Giving Page. With two weeks to go until race day, Anna hopes to beat her previous total raised last year for MNDA of £1,600. A huge thank you to everyone who came on 16th and to everyone's generous donations after the event. A further update on the total raised will be in the November Herald!

Kate Banks.



Let's keep Hunton Village Club Buzzing!

Hello members, and potential new members, the 'Last Friday of the Month' series is going down a treat - thank you to all of the volunteers & Committee Members who continue to make the magic happen! Now, it's time to get cosy as the nights draw in! SO, WHATS COMING UP? Firstly, do not miss the 'Green Hop Beer Weekend', as detailed on the front of the Hunton Herald.

FRIDAY FRIGHT NIGHT 31st of October- **NOW SOLD OUT!** However, if you've missed out, don't panic – we still might be able to squeeze you in. Contact Kerryanicholls1@aol.com or 07939869433.

CURRY NIGHT – NOVEMBER. Get ready for a warming night of spice, flavour and good company. Friday 28th November. Full menu & details to follow soon.

Hunton's Jacob Sheep Win Again!

Following on from her past successes, Wendy Sharp showed a number of her Jacob sheep at the Edenbridge and Oxted Show, at Lingfield Surrey, during the August Bank holiday weekend. Many congratulations to her for winning a number of well-deserved rosettes.

Breed history: Once kept primarily as ornamental sheep in England, the Jacob breed faced potential extinction in the mid-20th century. The Jacob Sheep Society was formed in the UK in 1969 to preserve the breed. It has since prospered, registering thousands of lambs each year.

It is good to know that Wendy plays a significant part in the conservation work, here in Hunton.



Hunton Club Up-Date

Hi Members, I wanted to let you know that we've got a space opening up on our friendly little committee (with another likely in the not-too-distant future), and we'd love to welcome some fresh faces. One key reason is that Phil, who has gone above and beyond as Club Secretary for many years, is ready to relinquish some of his responsibilities. He has done an incredible job, well beyond what's usually expected, and we'd really like to help ease the load so he can free up some of his time. Also, Bridget has stepped down as she will shortly be leaving the village. Thanks again - Bridget. We'll miss your delicious biscuits!

The role typically includes, attending a monthly meeting (normally around 1-2 hrs) to help plan and shape the club. We share ideas, offer support, and get stuck in as part of a team that keeps things running smoothly and supports the community. You don't need any special experience – just a bit of time and the willingness to join in. Whether you're practical, organised, creative or just enjoy being part of something local – there's definitely a place for you. Due to a high demand for space in the Herald this month, a list of who is on the Committee is sadly not included. We're just a friendly bunch trying to do good things, and we'd love to have you with us! So, if you're feeling slightly curious, why not have a chat with Roger Lee, our Chairman, or Kerry Larkin on 07939 869433.

Kerry Larkin

Amazing turn-out for the 'Beer Festival'

Thank you all. The tremendous community of Hunton was at its best defying the weather forecast and turning out in vast numbers to enjoy the day-whatever! Miraculously, the wind and heavy rain waited until the festival was over! The many beers, stylish Pimms zone and yummy savoury snacks kept us coming back for more! The event was a great tribute to the work of so many, not least the coordination by Lesley Lee and her busy team. These events could not take place without a huge number of volunteers and generous donations from individuals and supporting organisations. Many thanks to those who contributed many prizes for the attraction activities, which were popular with young and old alike! Thank you for your donations of amazing produce, home-made jams, chutneys and delicious cakes- they looked spectacular! The Bagatelle, Spin the Wheel and the other fun games created much amusement. The children had plenty to do, thanks to the creative activities. New ideas for next year are always welcome.

Coast to Coast Success: Daz & Mark Raise Over £4,000 for Myeloma UK!

Huge congratulations go to local lads Darren Law & Mark Shrosbree, who recently completed the epic Coast to Coast Walk. This was a 192-mile journey from St Bees in Cumbria to Robin Hood's Bay in North Yorkshire – all in support of Myeloma UK. Amazing! Well done, guys, you absolutely smashed it! With boots laced, backpacks stuffed and plenty of determination, the duo took on the iconic route; the weather was kind and the scenery absolutely stunning! There were also some real highlights, such as: amazing breakfasts, ice foot baths, and the chance to meet fellow travellers. It was a truly unforgettable experience that captured the spirit of adventure and community. Thanks to incredible support from friends, family, and the wider community, Darren and Mark have raised over £4,000 for 'Myeloma UK,' a charity that supports those affected by the rare blood cancer. This tremendous effort ties in beautifully with the recent 'Myeloma Afternoon Tea Party' held in Hunton, which also raised awareness and funds for the charity. Together, these events show what an impact can be made when a community and close friends come together.

Kerry & Kevin Larkin

Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

Wednesdays 8 – 11pm; Fridays 6.30 – 10.30pm (2nd and last Fridays only); Sundays 8 – 10.30pm

Hunton Christmas Market Saturday 22nd November 3.00pm to 5.30pm

We are almost at our limit of stalls for this year's market. So far, 20 stalls with food, drink, gifts, jewellery, pottery, greetings card and Father Christmas and his elves! What more could you want on a cold, and perhaps wet, Saturday afternoon in November? A great big 'thank you' to the stall holders for coming, so many old friends by now and at least 4 new people. I hope the date and times are in your diary and we look forward to welcoming 'old and new' this year.

Fay Joyce and David Jones

Gardening Club go Down to the Farm.

On the 10th September, 18 members of the Gardening Club donned walking boots and wellies for a tour around Horlands Farm in Marden. The tour was led by 5th generation farmer, Richard Russell. Richard was very keen to explain both the joys and challenges of farming today and happily answered the many questions put to him. Horlands is an interesting combination of a traditional family mixed farm which has incorporated environmental projects to increase its biodiversity.

We began by sheltering from the rain in the cowshed, while Richard gave us details of birds spotted (70 different species) on the farm's 125 acres. Some of their current projects include rainwater harvesting to provide drinking water for the livestock. As the rain eased, we set off to see the sheep and this year's lambs and year-old calves who were just as curious about us as we were about them! Further on, we walked along some of the 4 miles of hedgerow, loaded with winter berries, planted to divide up the land and to provide a habitat and food for birds and other wildlife. In one corner, completely left wild, there was the biggest bug hotel, shaped like a 'Swiss Chalet', we had ever seen! Several fields had recently received their annual dose of muck (from the cows overwintering in the barn and livery horses) to fertilise the pasture for next year's grazing and hay thus eliminating the need for chemical fertilisers. In addition to traditional farming, there are livery stables for up to 15 horses with state-of-the-art stabling and a very popular dog walking field.

Richard explained the challenges of the long, hot, dry summer, as it had reduced yields of hay by a third. Also, the grass had not grown sufficiently to support the livestock, so they were already being given winter feed. Many thanks go to Richard for such an interesting and informative afternoon and to Lesley and Roger Lee for arranging this fascinating visit and for supper at the club afterwards.

Jane Langdon

Final St Mary's Working Party for 2025, Saturday 1st November

Thanks to volunteers who have again helped during this year to maintain St Mary's church and the churchyard. Visitors always comment how well kept it is. Our aims at the final working party from 9 am to 12 noon on Saturday 1st November are to prepare for Remembrance Sunday the following weekend and the Christmas Market on Saturday 22nd November. If you can spare an hour or so to help, please let me know so I can make enough nibbles for our social coffee break.

Lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com 01622 820210

Rubbish Trends?

As many of you will know MBC will not collect litter from our roads because they consider it to be too dangerous. Instead, they send an occasional road sweeper but, whilst this no doubt collects some litter, it cannot collect rubbish in the hedgerows and on the verges. We hold two litter collecting days a year and we held our most recent one on Saturday 23rd August. Thank you to our volunteer litter pickers, Clockhouse Farm who collect and dispose of the rubbish collected and to the Parish Council who fund the purchase of bags and litter pickers. On this occasion we were delighted that we only had to pick up 40 sacks of rubbish together with some gas cannisters, car parts and old kitchen items (our lowest haul for three years). This may be partly because the grass and foliage hide items at this time of year (two months earlier than last year), also because there are those of you who now collect rubbish as part of your daily walks around the village – thank you too!

Finds this year include a £5 note (in need of a good wash) and empty boxes of prescription medicine linked to the regular and deliberate dumping of household waste on one of the most dangerous roads in the village. This evidence has been passed on to MBC who we trust will take action to end this antisocial behaviour. On a lighter note, one of the team has collected over 400 Red Bull cans on Hilltop this year! We were asked to count our own tally on our litter picking day: 115 were collected on Hunton Hill, 24 on West Street and a further 11 from the upper reaches of Barn Hill and North Folly Road to make a round 150 counted but perhaps 200 collected in one day when you consider roads for which we don't have numbers!

Benefice Service Rota – October 2025

Church	7 th	14 th	21 st	28 th
Coxheath 11:00 am	Communion DJ	Morning Worship LF	Communion LF	All-age worship HARVEST LF/BP
East Farleigh 9:30 am	Morning Worship BP		Communion LF	
West Farleigh 9:30 am		Communion LF		Morning Worship LF
Hunton 9:30 am	Communion LF		Family service DJ	
Linton 9:30 am		Morning Worship BP		Communion DJ

LF -Lorna Faulkner, DJ – David Jones, BP- Becky Parnham, CD -Clinton Davis, SE – Sue Elliott

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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