



Next editors: James and Andrea Forster: Huntonherald@outlook.com
All items for the next edition of the Herald to the editors by 15th August

Hunton Club Beer Festival

Saturday 22nd August 12.30pm, entry £2, children free

Bring family and friends for a relaxed afternoon at Hunton Club Beer Festival. Volunteers make this event so much more than just an excuse to drink a selection of beers but there will, of course, be a range of local real ales to sample plus other drinks. Come for lunch and stay for the afternoon to enjoy tasty food & home-made cakes and bring a bag to take home boxes of cakes, locally grown fruit, vegetables, jams, chutneys and honey. Children can take part in activities and games in the enclosed area at the back of the Club with games for all ages elsewhere. Matt Brooks, a Kent singer and guitarist, will provide entertainment during the afternoon. There is plenty of parking at Hunton Village Hall, just up the road from the Club, then enjoy the short walk down the footpath, parallel to West Street. Please bring cash if you can.

The success of this event is due to more than just a few volunteers but also the wider community. The team will be collecting donations for the produce stand, including jams and chutneys as well as prizes for the Tombola such as unwanted gifts, bottles, chocolates, puzzles and vouchers. If you can donate something or suggest somewhere to approach please contact lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com 01622 820210

Hunton Village Club is run by volunteers and events aim not only to provide entertainment for the community but also raise funds towards maintenance and running costs.

Lesley Lee

Feel Good Friday off to a great start

My first Feel Good Friday at Hunton Village Club was a great success bringing together a handful of carefully selected local businesses, club members and visitors for a relaxed evening of shopping, wellbeing and community spirit. Guests enjoyed meeting a fantastic range of local exhibitors, including skincare, artwork, photography, beauty, reflexology, crystals and garden accessories, while enjoying a drink and catching up with friends. The evening also gave the club a welcome boost with a nice little amount spent behind the bar on a night it wouldn't normally be open, a new membership application, and around £200 raised for a local charity. A huge thank you to everyone who came along, our exhibitors and those who helped me on the night. Following the positive feedback I'm hoping to offer a few more Feel Good Fridays in the near future. If you'd like to showcase at a future event please get in touch with me *Kerry Larkin on 07939869433*

Dates for your diary...

12th August 9am-midday Church Working Party

22nd August Hunton Club Beer Festival

28th August Quiz night, Village Club

3rd Sept The Fane Family Talk by Rochester Bridge Trust

16th-18th October Green Hop Beer Festival

30th October Hallowe'en at the Village Club

27th November Wine Tasting at the Village Club

Check out www.huntonparishcouncil.gov.uk/events-list for more information If you would like to add an event email clerk@huntonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Your local contacts

Village Hall booking www.huntonvillagehall.co.uk **Village Club** Roger Lee 820210 roger.c.lee@btinternet.com

School Secretary/Head Teacher 820360 **Under 5's Pre-School** 820309

Hunton Ladies Chris Summersgill c.a.summergill@btinternet.com

Pond and Tree Warden Sam Andrews huntontreewarden@gmail.com

Rector Revd. Lorna Faulkner (not available on Fridays): 747570 **Hon Associate Rector** Revd. David Jones 741474

Churchwarden Iain Simmons 820875 Ishuntonchurchwarden@btinternet.com **Community Wardens Team** 07811 271021

Hunton Bell Ringers Susan Clements 07864 041234

Maidstone Police 690690 or 101 **Huntonwatch** 820403 huntonwatch@gmail.com

Reporting HGVs huntontrafficreporting@gmail.com **Potholes Hotline (KCC)** 03000418181

Katie Lam MP katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk **Assistant to Katie Lam MP** 020 7219 8175

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 Mike Summersgill** 820429, msummergill@huntonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Simon Webb 07878 018997, simon.webb5@btinternet.com **Cllr Iain Simmons** 820875, isimmons@huntonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Stephen Banks 07850 545481 sbanks@huntonparishcouncil.gov.uk **Cllr Annette Trought** 820448, annette@trought.com



Hunton



www.huntonparishcouncil.gov.uk



@HuntonVillage

Dear Readers

I've just been sitting in one of the churches having a cup of tea and chatting to a few different folk. It was a real oasis in my day which has been packed full of emails and phone calls and organising. I returned home to write this letter to you all and found myself revitalised and a little more energetic to complete the rest of the tasks on my list for the day.

In another existence, I was a schoolteacher and as August approaches I find myself naturally wanting to slow down and rest. It's been 6 years since I last had school summer holidays but I find my mind and body are still locked into that gentle rhythm I lived within for many years as a child, student, parent, and a teacher. In the Old Testament one of the first things in creation to be established were patterns: light and dark, night and day... and what came with that was a rhythm of rest. God rested from his labours and commanded humanity to make time to do the same. In both the Jewish, Christian and Islamic faiths observing a regular day of rest is a rhythm of life taught and encouraged. In other world religions while there may be no formal day of the week given over to rest, reflection and stepping out of the busyness of everyday life is considered vital to human flourishing. Science has proved the importance of rest — it is essential for our mental and physical health. When our bodies are resting and relaxed our systems are able to do maintenance tasks leading to improved blood pressure better memory, better mental health, stronger immune systems... the list goes on.

It is often said that we are called human beings not human doings. Whether it's a cruise or camping, a city-break or a country cottage, an hour in the garden or a quick coffee with friend - an extra bit of sleep even — the ability to 'just be' and to rest is part of our design. We would all do well to enjoy it a bit more!

May moments of rest, relaxation, restoration, recharge, and reflection bless you this month.

Lorna

The Sir Thomas Fane Memorial

As many will know there is a tomb to the left of the altar, commemorating Sir Thomas Fane and his wife Dame Helen Somersett, who after being married for 40 years, are recorded as both having died on the same day (23rd September 1606). When the Rochester Bridge Trust first visited our Church to review our grant application related to the tower roof and repointing, they were interested to see the tomb of Sir Thomas (who became a Trustee when Queen Elizabeth I passed the Rochester Bridge Act in 1576). The Trust subsequently provided very generous support for our project and they have also made a suggestion that they might help with a restoration of the tomb.

The Trust arranged for a specialist restorer to visit the Church who was impressed by the historic significance of the monument, in particular the sophisticated combination of materials from which it was constructed by a skilled Tudor craftsman. The inspector has prepared a report on the condition of the tomb with a recommended treatment plan starting with a comprehensive conservation clean to remove centuries of surface dirt and soot. A full restoration would cost a significant amount of money so it is likely to be a case of opting for whatever delivers the best value!

Sir Thomas is not the only Hunton connection to serve the Rochester Bridge Trust. A total of seven Fanes have acted as Trustees in the 16th to 18th centuries and there is a current connection through Mike Summersgill who currently serves as a trustee of the Trust.

All of these connections have led the Trust to work on an exhibition which they propose to set up in the ground floor of the bell tower. Additionally, their Bridge Clerk (Chief Executive) has offered to come and present a talk about the Fane family and the many connections between our church and the Trust on the evening of Thursday 3rd September.

By happy accident this falls on the anniversary of the death of Gilly Devas and we plan to combine this event with an "unveiling" of the bench and bible display case given in her memory by her many friends in the village.

We will circulate further details when they are known but please save the date!

James Forster

Church Working Party – Wednesday 12th August 9am to 12 noon

St Mary's Church and the churchyard looked their best for services in June as volunteers excelled themselves by not only attending a working party but also popping along to do extra jobs. July was a relatively quiet month but it is hoped that volunteers will again be out in force at the working party on Wednesday 12th August in preparation for a village wedding on Saturday 15th August. As usual there will be a coffee break at around 11am – please contact me if you think you might be able to attend so I can sort enough biscuits or cake for us all. Thanks. Lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com 01622 820210

Lesley Lee

Hunton Primary

Year 6 have been so lucky this year. We have experienced so many amazing trips. We would like to tell you how lovely this year has been for us. One of our first trips was PGL (a fun residential trip). There was a variety of activities to help us explore out of our comfort zone. It helped us spend one of our last memories with our friends in a joyful way. The teachers who came with us did not have to be here but chose to come because they care deeply for every one of the pupils in Hunton.

The production was another fun thing we got to do. We had to act out The Wizard of Oz which went great thanks to our wonderful teacher Mrs. Underdown. She put lots of time and effort into this and even brought in some supplies from her house to help make the production more realistic. She also stayed overtime painting and working on cardboard cutouts for our production. We are so grateful for all that our teachers have done to make the production special for us all.

Our most recent memory was the water gun fight. It was complete chaos when Mr Ming got a bucket and poured it over our heads. Our class had so much fun squirting water at each other. It made a great final memory.

Thank you Hunton Primary School for everything we have done as we go on to our new secondary schools.

Mark Ensoll (22nd June 1952 to 24th May 2026)

It is not often that our Church is filled with around 270 people wanting to honour a life well lived but Mark was a man who had earned his send off.

Born in Windsor but brought up in Kenya, he developed a love for Africa where his early years were spent during the brutal Mau Mau rebellion but, happily, he and his family emerged unscathed. Sent to boarding schools in Nairobi from the age of nine (apparently for the sanity of his parents) he was dispatched to West Buckland School in North Devon at the age of about 15 in the hope that it would make him less obviously "Colonial".

You might conclude this was optimistic: he climbed Mt Kilimanjaro (19,470ft) aged 14, became the first member of his family to speak Kiswahili and caught a hammerhead shark from a dugout canoe with his brothers (which almost ended in disaster when the shark tried to bite their legs off). They were wild days and Mark enjoyed them to the full.

Mark loved the outdoor life he experienced in Kenya where he developed an interest in rallying, repairing cars and riding motorbikes but not academic work. In his own words he thought it more fun to focus on "laughs and horse play, brewing beer and cider, smoking fags and catching rabbits to supplement the dreadful gruel" (at school) rather than O and A levels! Whilst efforts to educate him may not have been deemed a great success at the time, Mark grew into a clever, widely read, principled and staunch friend and family man so you might conclude that there is more to education than exams!

Settling in the UK after school, Mark said: "work, what a shock to the system that was!" He started work in an East End garage before moving on to sell high end cars with HR Owen of Berkley Square. The oil crisis led to redundancy and a number of well-paid manual jobs followed, working on major construction projects. Mark's final career change came when he started work for the NFU where he developed his extraordinary network of friends in the Weald of Kent farming community, who he represented so well for many years.

He was never short of a strongly held opinion which he would argue through with anyone with enthusiasm and good humour. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather and friend who enjoyed life to the full and if this involved pub lunches, the occasional beer and a jolly good exchange of views, so much the better! We were blessed to know him and will always remember him with a smile. You will be missed Mark.



Moir, Charlotte and Imogen, together with the extended family would like to thank their friends in Hunton for all the cards, condolences and care in the wake of Mark's sudden death. It has been, and still is, a difficult time for them all but the assistance and support they have had, particularly with the Celebration of Life service was so much appreciated.

Thank you one and all.

A huge thank you to everyone who braved the heat and joined us for our 70s night...

What a fantastic evening we had stepping back in time and celebrating all things retro! From the fabulous outfits and fun 70s-themed prizes to the classic Chicken in a Basket and those absolutely delicious desserts. It really was a night to remember. A huge thank you to everyone who worked so hard behind the scenes to make the evening such a success. Events like these simply wouldn't happen without such a wonderful team effort. Thanks to all who came along and supported the club, embraced the theme and helped create such a warm, fun and lively atmosphere. Seeing everyone laughing, chatting and enjoying themselves made all the hard work worthwhile.

Kerry Larkin

Bar staff needed

Could you offer approximately an evening a month to help run the bar in the Village Club? Our small team of volunteers needs one or two extra people to help. It's a fun and sociable job. No prior experience necessary and all training is provided. Please email roger.c.lee@btinternet.com for more information

Huntonwatch

Steve and Sue Wyles took on the running of Huntonwatch 13 years ago. During this time, they have helped make Hunton a safer place but also expanded the service beyond a usual Neighbourhood Watch Scheme by providing additional services to Huntonwatch members. This has included circulating details of road closures and flooding, fallen trees, reuniting lost pets with their owners, providing support and advice to members and organising the collection of medication during Covid.

Steve and Sue stood down in April due to other commitments. As no one else volunteered to take over, the Parish Council agreed to do so, to continue their valuable work. Huntonwatch members were informed of the changeover but if you are not already a member and would like to become one please contact the Clerk (Sharon Goodwin) on huntonwatch@huntonparishcouncil.gov.uk or 07517 706376. Becoming a member simply involves providing your name(s), address, contact number(s) and email details so that you can be kept informed. This information is not passed on to anyone, including the police, without your prior permission.

We would like to say a huge thank you to Steve and Sue for their tireless work over more than a decade. They have put a significant amount of time into Huntonwatch and helped many residents for which we are extremely grateful.

Hunton Parish Council

Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

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

Hunton Bowls Club

As we celebrate our 90th Anniversary it's hard to believe we are already halfway through the season. Looking back it's pleasing to see everything we have achieved and the changes we have made that have transformed the friendly club we all enjoy today. This success is entirely thanks to our members — both new and old — who have brought fresh ideas and moved the club into the 21st century.

At the start of the season we suffered injuries and issues to a few key players not to mention the extreme hot weather resulting in cancellations and rescheduling of several matches. It's amazing how things change with this unpredictable climate. Not so long ago it was the wet weather postponing or delaying play.

Despite the unexpected hitches we are delighted to reveal our striking new club shirts. To celebrate this fresh new look we recently gathered the members for a club photograph, captured by our club's photographer, which is now proudly displayed in a prominent position in the pavilion.

On that note we are delighted to welcome Sue Nickalls — one of our new members this season — who lives right here in Hunton. I'm sure many of you already know Sue who has recently produced a series of splendid watercolours of local landmarks. Her collection includes paintings of our church and village club as well as a new picture of the pavilion. For any enquiries contact Sue on 01622 820646 or email suenickalls@yahoo.co.uk.

Looking ahead, as we celebrate our 90th year, our club flag is in need of replacing. If any of the ladies' groups in the village would be interested in the project, or if anyone might have any ideas for replacing it, in our club colours (white/green/blue/pink) we would love to hear from you. Contact Angela on 01622 820625 or email angela.baptie@btinternet.com. Thank You!

Finally, we are delighted with the success of our new website which has already done a brilliant job of bringing in new members. Why not take a look for yourself at <https://huntonbowlsclub@gmail.com> Facebook: Hunton Bowls Club Instagram:hunton_bowls

Angela Baptie

Dudley Departs

For almost 20 years Dudley Farman has been a critical factor in preparing every Hunton Herald that has been printed. He has taken the articles from each month's editors and somehow squeezed them into the space available before liaising with Hadlums, the printers, to arrange and collect the printed versions. He has continued to lay out editions while on holiday and for a number of months now having moved to the Isle of Wight! I am enormously grateful for his support and commitment, as we should all be. Looking forward, Jen Dixon has bravely offered to take over the laying out of the Herald each month, so our thanks are due to her too!

James Forster

Hunton Ladies

At their June meeting Borough Councillor Claire Kehily gave a talk about the Maidstone Churches Winter Shelter of which she is project manager. Since 2013 a team of volunteers and staff have offered shelter in five church venues seven nights a week during the winter months. They provide a warm welcome, hot meals and, where needed, a bed for the night for their guests. Sleeping bags are taken each day to be washed in Maidstone prison laundry. Every guest's situation is unique and they are given appropriate support to give them hope to move forward and improve their lives. Claire recounted the many different situations in which a person may find themselves homeless which made one think of how lucky we are with our own lives. She also told us of how the guests value the companionship, warmth and support of the staff and volunteers. She spoke of the difficulties encountered during the Covid pandemic and various volunteer work that other organisations do to help the homeless during the daytime.

It was a very interesting and informative talk inspiring the ten ladies present to agree to donate £100 from their group funds to the Shelter and to ask about other ways in which they could be of support. If anyone would like to support or find out further information about the charity their website is <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/18270#!/DonationDetails>

Benefice Service Rota– August 2026					
Church	Week 1 (2/8) (LF off)	Week 2 (9/8)	Week 3 (16/8)	Week 4 (23/8)	Week 5 Sabbath Sunday
Coxheath 11:00 am	Communion CD	Brew and Brunch BP/LF	Communion LF	Brew and Brunch BP/LF	8am Communion LF
East Farleigh 9:30 am	Morning Worship SE		Communion DJ		
West Farleigh 9:30 am		Communion CD		Morning Worship LF	
Hunton 9:30 am	Communion DJ		Family Service LF		
Linton 9:30 am		Morning Worship BP		Communion CD	
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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