



Next Editors: Fay Joyce and Laura Fry: huntonherald@outlook.com
All items for the next edition of the Herald to the Editors by 15th July

Hunton Village Hall Centenary Event - sat 25th July

Make sure you add the above date into your diaries. We're aiming for a fun filled afternoon, with a tea time BBQ followed by an evening musical gig.

We would like to have some activities on the field for families during the afternoon, for which help would be gratefully received. Please do come forward with your ideas. The plan is also for a display of photos of the Hall accumulated over its 100 years. Should anyone have any really old ones taken at past events and especially any from the Millenium Black Tie Dinner celebration that would be wonderful. Please make copies of these available to Mike (msummersgill@huntonparishcouncil.gov.uk) or Chris Summersgill (c.a.summersgill@btinternet.com). Finally, is there anyone willing to help decorate the Hall on the day? Please contact Mike or Chris, we want to make this a very special event for Hunton.

Things are moving along swimmingly for the evening too. The ever-popular Trackdogs will be performing to celebrate the Hall's Centenary. Well over half the tickets have gone (as of 7th June) and just 16 are left for residents to reserve at a subsidised price. Text Mike on 07779 367412 to add your name to the list, or book full price tickets on <https://www.ticketsource.com/hall-centenary-event/t-xdaavyd>. The band will go on to play Windsor Great Park the next day for the Scouts/Guides world Jamboree WINGS2026, so to quite a different audience!

Hunton School

The summer term's buzzing with activity. Our KS2 children attended a cricket tournament at Linton Park Cricket Club where they were able to show off their cricket skills learnt from Adrian Crust, our cricket coach from Kent County Cricket Club. In the afternoon our Y5 and Y6 team won all their matches! We have also attended a football tournament at Oakwood Grammar School and were delighted to reach the quarter finals. All the schools were much larger than ours, so we are really proud. The camaraderie and playing as a team really stood out.

What a perfectly beautiful day we had for our May Fayre. The heavens decided to open just as we were clearing up – it was almost as though we had ordered the rain to come at a specific time. We would like to send a huge thank you to the PTFA, Hunton Gardening Club, staff, parents and members of our community who gave their time, supported us and helped raise a huge amount - over £2,200!

Our new school choir gave a fabulous performance of 'When I grow up' which put smiles on everyone's faces. It was a joyous afternoon with so many going home with prizes and treats. We are particularly grateful to parents and local businesses who generously donated prizes for our raffle. Without fund raising events like these we would not be able to give our children the extras they deserve. It is moments like this which make our school a little gem of a place to be.

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: Susan Clements	07864 041234	Reporting HGVs huntontrafficreporting@gmail.com
Contact details for other village clubs and organisations are available at www.huntonparishcouncil.org.uk		

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, msummersgill@huntonparishcouncil.gov.uk	Cllr Iain Simmons - 820875, isimmons@huntonparishcouncil.gov.uk
Cllr Simon Webb - 07878 018997, simon.webb5@btinternet.com	Cllr Stephen Banks - 07850 545481 sbanks@huntonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Diary Dates
17th June - 19th July FIFA World Cup 2026, (Selected games to be shown at the Club); 26th June – 70's Night, The Club;
25th July - Village Hall 100 year anniversary; 12th August - St Mary's Church Working Party; 31st July – Stars in Your Eyes, Village Club;
22nd August - Club Beer Festival; 28th August – Quiz Night, Village Club; 16-18th October - Green Hop Beer Festival - Village Club;
30st October – Halloween Event, Village Club; 27th November – Wine Tasting, Village Club.
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



Dear Friends

The weather that Lorna mentioned in last month's newsletter, written in the middle of May, was wet and chilly. Little did she know that we would be having a record-breaking heatwave during the next two weeks! Today, as I write the July newsletter, rather early in June, it is finally a wet rainy day. The gardens will be pleased and the cooler temperature will be welcomed by many, I'm sure! I suspect that South-East Water will be pleased, too.

Water – something we all need but unfortunately, of late, many in our villages have not been getting a regular supply of. We do, however, have bottled water available to us, though rather too much for one or two vulnerable elderly folks I know, who have had huge numbers of bottles delivered to their doors! Spare a thought, though, for people throughout the world who have to walk to collect water from dirty ponds and rivers.

2.2 billion people (over 1 in 4) lack access to safely managed drinking water. According to the WaterAid charity, the average distance that women and children have to walk to get water is 5 kilometres and water is very heavy, isn't it?

So, as the summer approaches, let's enjoy the nature that's all around us, fed and nourished by the rain. We are fortunate in these villages to be surrounded by beautiful countryside. Go for walks with friends; perhaps take a picnic to share. Don't forget to call in on elderly neighbours to make sure that they are keeping cool and hydrated in hot weather. Family outings are so expensive but a picnic in a park with a playground is affordable. Don't forget hats and sunscreen – oh, and an umbrella in case it rains!

All good wishes, Sue Elliott – Pastoral Assistant

Some words that you may wish to ponder, spoken by Jesus to a woman at a well during a conversation when he asked her for a drink. John, Chapter 4. "Whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

Message from Katie Lamb

One of my favourite things to do in the summer is to visit many of our fantastic local vineyards here in the Weald. Kent has a long history of growing vines, stretching back centuries, but in recent years our corner of the county has become home to some of the finest vineyards and wineries in the country. From family-run producers to internationally recognised names, they're helping put the Weald on the map while supporting local jobs, tourism, and our rural economy. But just like many of our farms, pubs and independent shops our vineyards are being squeezed by red tape, high taxes and rising production costs. All of this pushes up prices, making it harder for our producers to compete and harder for people to support them.

I recently went to a friend's wedding in France. Driving around Provence the following day, I popped in to a little vineyard with a tasting room – not unlike one of our own small family producers here (though of course, none could truly compare with those we have here at home!). I bought a nice bottle of white for €18, roughly what you might spend on, say, a bottle of Biddenden Ortega (£15.95, about €18.50). But these two vineyards are not competing on even playing fields. Because whilst the French wine producer and the Kentish one are both paying sales tax (VAT in the UK) of 20%, in England, our vineyards are also paying another 18% – nearly £3 on a £16 bottle – in alcohol duty. The equivalent tax in France? Just three euro cents, €0.03. That means the Kentish producer is paying nearly twice as much tax per bottle as the French, and that means the vineyard needs to charge its customers almost a third more per bottle to make the same amount of money. And that's before business rates, corporation tax, national insurance or packaging duty, and before you factor in the huge subsidies the French government pays to their winemakers!

Over the last few months, I've written to every vineyard across the Weald and taken their concerns directly to HM Treasury. The new duty system is far too complicated, and it's often smaller vineyards that are hit hardest. The Government must do more to help English wine producers grow and succeed. It can't be right that English vineyards face higher costs and tighter margins than many of their French competitors.

But the future of English wine remains incredibly bright. The quality of British sparkling wine is now recognised around the world, and many local producers are telling me that this season's grapes are looking particularly promising. So, if you're looking for something to do this summer, why not spend an afternoon exploring one of our local vineyards? Enjoy the countryside, learn about the winemaking process, and perhaps treat yourself to a bottle of British wine and support local.

On a related note, nominations are now open for my Weald of Kent Awards 2026. If there's a local hero, independent shop, business, farmer, grower, producer (including of wine!), pub, café or restaurant that deserves recognition, I'd love to hear from you. You can find out more and submit a nomination here: www.katieforkent.com/weald-of-kent-awards

Church Monument to Sir Thomas Clinton (1355 – 1415)

Sir Thomas Clinton was a younger son of John de Clinton, 3rd Baron Clinton of Maxstoke, Warwickshire, Constable of Warwick Castle and Idonea de Say whose father was Constable of Rochester Castle. On the death of his father in 1398, he inherited the manors of Hunton and Bensted in Kent establishing his family home where Hunton Court is now sited.

Clinton married twice: firstly to Alice and secondly to Joan, the daughter and coheir of Sir Ralph Meynell (d. 1388) of Langley, Derbyshire and Newton Regis, Warwickshire. Through Joan he acquired land in Burton Overy and Upton, Leicestershire, Newton Regis (Warwickshire), Langley (Derbyshire) and Staffordshire. With her he may have had one daughter, Anne.

He was knighted before 1386 and saw military service in Scotland on John of Gaunt's expedition to Spain and with Thomas Mowbray, 1st Duke of Norfolk, in Ireland in 1394 when aged 39. He appears to have entered a less martial phase in his 40s, becoming MP for Warwickshire in January 1397 and for Kent in October 1404. His parliamentary career ended when, aged 60, he joined the service of the Duke of Gloucester as part of Henry V's army in 1415.

He died of disease, probably dysentery, in August 1415 at the Siege of Harfleur (18th August – 22nd September 1415) during the Hundred Years' War. His family had the arch, now built into the wall to the left of the pulpit, created in his memory. In the 17th century there were still effigies of Sir Thomas Clinton and his grandfather in the windows in the north wall of the church either side of the Canterbury window but these have been lost.



Historical footnote: Harfleur was the first time that an English army had made significant use of gunpowder artillery in the siege of a large urban settlement. After Harfleur surrendered the English marched towards Calais, leaving a garrison behind at the port. Although considerably reduced by casualties and dysentery during the siege, they fought the Battle of Agincourt (25th October 1415) inflicting a huge defeat on the French. The West and inner South doors of the church date to this time.

The Clinton peerage was created in 1298 and passes through both male and female lines; as such it is one of the most ancient still in existence. The current (22nd) Baron Clinton (b 1934) is Gerald Fane-Trufusis and his son, Charles (b 1962), is in line to become the 23rd Baron. As the name suggests they are connected to the Fanes of Hunton.

Hunton Village Club Beer Festival Saturday 22nd August from 12.30pm

If you have not already done so – do put the date in your diary to attend a brilliant village event for all the family. Meanwhile, can you help? Not only is this event more than just a 'Beer Festival' but it also aims to raise much needed funds towards running and maintenance costs of your Village Club. Do you work somewhere that might donate a voucher as a prize for the Tombola or do you have ideas of places that the volunteer team can approach?

Donations of unwanted, but new, gifts, bottles, puzzles, biscuits, chocolates etc. will be welcome to make the stand even more tempting than in previous years. Also wanted are contributions for the Produce stand – marmalades, jams, chutneys, fruit and veg.

If you willing to help in any way, or would like more information, please contact me on 01622 820210 lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com

Hunton Ladies

The May meeting of the Hunton Ladies Group was led by member Sue Gunton. A very enjoyable evening was had by all making origami flowers. Sue demonstrated then aided the ladies with their paper folding to produce beautiful paper flowers on barbeque stick stems.

Hunton Ladies Group meetings are held on the last Wednesday of the month at Hunton Club commencing at 8pm. New ladies are always welcome.



Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

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

Hunton Village Club

Are you new to the village? Or, have you lived here awhile but never been to the Club? Why not come along and have a look? For over 20 years the Club has been run by volunteers and has now become a real village hub with real community spirit and friendliness. We don't have a shop, we don't have a pub so the Club is a wonderful place where we can all get together. Keep a look out for events happening on the last Friday of every month and come along and see for yourself. You don't have to be a member for your first two visits but after that you'll need to join to adhere to licensing laws. Its only £25 to become a member for the first year then reduces to £20!

FIFA World Cup 2026

If football is your passion then come and watch the World Cup's England matches on a big screen. From 17 June until the final match on 19 July selected games will be shown at the Club. Stay tuned for updates and match announcements on Social Media.

Thank you Google!

There are a few benefits to undertaking a thorough weeding of one's garden that help to offset the increasing discomfort to back, knees and hands! Typically, this is an all too brief sense of satisfaction from a job well done and a tidy border or patch of gravel but occasionally you find something lost many years ago: a button, a coin, a ring, the backstory of which you can never know.

I was doubly blessed this week as it was my wife, Andrea, who was weeding (as is so often the case) when, in a patch of gravel, she found something that looked like a fossilised tooth. We took a photograph and sent it off to Google lens to identify. AI generated an answer for us: it was a tooth from a Sand Shark that dated back 48m to 50m years old! Could there be any doubt? About the age and type of shark perhaps but is it a fossilised shark tooth? I believe so! These are found in gravel sourced from the sea off the Kent coast and we bought the gravel locally so this seems highly probable. Has anyone else had similar good fortune?

James Forster

From the Archive: After an excellent year for roses: July 2006 - Off with their Heads!

Is dead heading spent rose blooms worth the effort? Does it produce more flowers or just tidy up the plants? The answer depends on the type of roses you have.

Hybrid Teas and Floribundas are definitely worth deadheading to improve later flowering. Roses which only produce one flush of flowers such as the old shrub roses aren't worth doing except to improve the look of the shrubs. Some old roses, such as Rosas Rugosa and Moyesii, have spectacular hips in the Autumn which would be lost if dead headed. Climbing roses should have spent blooms removed but ramblers can be left to their own devices.

Deadheading can be done with secateurs, cutting just above a strong shoot or outward facing bud. Recent research has suggested that removing just the dead head is sufficient and needs only a thumb and finger and a deft snapping motion. The best part of this job is that it can be done in a long floaty skirt and wide brimmed hat, dropping the blooms into a trug as you waft about the garden on a balmy evening. Romantic gardening at its best but perhaps forget the skirt if you're a chap!

Benefice Service Rota – July 2026				
Church	5 th	12 th	19 th	26 th
Coxheath 11:00 am	Communion <i>LF</i>	Morning Worship <i>BP</i>	Communion <i>LF</i>	All-age Worship <i>All-age team</i>
East Farleigh 9:30 am	Morning Worship <i>LF</i>		Communion <i>LF</i>	
West Farleigh 9:30 am		Communion <i>LF</i>		Morning Worship <i>DJ</i>
Hunton 9:30 am	Communion <i>CD</i>		Family Service <i>DJ</i>	
Linton 9:30 am		Morning Worship <i>DJ</i>		Communion <i>CD</i>
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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