



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

Hunton's Panto is Back!

Hunton's Panto is back with something really different and exciting - transport yourself to Pantoland, where total chaos has happened and not all is what it seems. Lots of fantastic songs, dancing, fun and laughter.

Thursday 26th, Friday 27th & Saturday 28th Oct 2023.
Evening Performances 7.30pm, Saturday Matinee 2.00pm,
Adults £10.00 - Under 14's £5.00 - Under 5's Free
Hunton Village Hall, West Street, Hunton, ME15 ORR.

Tickets available from 2nd October. Email: suepinks@icloud.com / Tel: 01622 820709



Chainhurst Egg Factory

Those residents who enjoyed visiting the Weald of Kent Ploughing Match on the Chainhurst side of the Beult on 16th September might perhaps be wondering what happened to the Application for 192,000 free range chickens and three huge sheds on the Reed Court Farm site, first raised at the end of 2020. Well, it hasn't gone away yet, nor has anything been decided by Maidstone Council as to what their views might be. The local residents' action group, WeLoveChainhurst (WLC), has recently found out, via one of their Borough Councillors, that there are 'new' ecological surveys being undertaken on site and that these will need to be received and reviewed formally, so there may not be any planning movement much before the end of 2023. This is because such reports about site ecology are deemed by the professional body of ecologists, CIEEM, to be unacceptable and inaccurate if they are generally 18-24 months old, or at the most, three years - this was pointed out by WLC several months back, while also noting the inaccuracies of seasonal timing for undertaking some of the 2020/21 reports, which it is hoped are not repeated for the 2023 ones.

In the interim, the Environment Act came into force in late 2021 and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) will be a necessity in law by November 2023 for all new Planning applications. While the Government has incorporated 10% BNG as a standard figure for improvement, Maidstone Council voted to include 20% BNG in their new Local Plan during 2021. Sadly, that Plan has not yet been approved by the Government Inspector, this means it will miss the November deadline for its formal incorporation. Even more concerning, I'd noticed that a sentence buried in the revision to the Local Plan stated that 20% BNG was for "residential applications". I personally asked a question at full Town Hall Council meeting a few months back and the Deputy Chair assured the Council (on video) that this 20% figure applied to commercial/industrial planning applications too. Sadly, a week later, I received an email saying that, after back checking with MBC Planning professionals, this was not the case. So it's 10% net gain for non-residential schemes like Reed Court Farm and other agricultural changes that need Planning.

Mike Summersgill

Hunton Football Club

Hunton FC have formally entered their 125th year with the start of the new football season in September, playing in the Rochester and District Division 2. After a tough pre-season the team got off to a positive start with a draw and a win in the first two league games. The second game was played in 33 degree heat so the team are looking forward to some cooler weather and some softer ground in the winter months. The first team have been sponsored again by Hunton Engineering with their name appearing on the new Yellow and Black kit.

Scott Elliott

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: Mike Summersgill	820429	'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	Helen Grant MP helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk	0207 219 7107
	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	Cllr Jean Fuller - 07738 935630, jfhuntonpc@outlook.com

Diary Dates	
Sun 1 Oct - Bonfleur Equestrian hosting Hunter Trials;	Sun 15 Oct - Harvest Festival at St Mary's Church;
Thurs 26, Fri 27, Sat 28 Oct - Panto - Once Upon a Time;	Sat 4 Nov - St Mary's Working Party & litter pick 9 - 12 noon;
Sat 11 Nov - Gardening Club Social 6pm;	Thurs 16 Nov - Walk/Lunch;
	Sat 25 Nov - Christmas Market;
	Sat 2 Dec - Christmas Harmony
Check out www.huntonparishcouncil.org.uk/events-list for the latest events. If you would like to add an event, email huntonpc@gmail.com	



Pastoral Letter

Another part of the NHS left Coxheath last month as the Emergency Operation Control left after 36 years in the village. Nearly 400 staff are now located in a purpose-built Control Centre at Gillingham with the new Medway Make Ready Centre on the ground floor, the relocated 111 Operations on the first floor and the 999 Centre on the top floor with wonderful views over the estuary. For many staff it marks the end of their connection with the Ambulance Service with the travel from home increased as many staff travel in from all around Kent and East Sussex coastal towns. For Coxheath it adds to the long list of NHS facilities which have relocated or closed since I came to the village in 1967. Nothing lasts for ever but we will miss their contribution to the life of the village and to the shops. When things disappear we sometimes realise their contribution to us all. That, of course, is true of everything. We can't live in the past but we can learn from the past and recognise what we have in the present and perhaps acknowledge the good things whilst they are happening and not moan when they go or regret what replaces them. As we are reminded, we rightly worry but are surrounded by nature which in one sense accepts what it has, responds to what it experiences and often comes back stronger and more beautiful when circumstances change. I remember a wonderful willow tree at school, severely damaged in the great storm and looking very sorry for itself for a few years but in a very short time we marvelled once again at its beauty. Life goes on, nothing stands still, but it's how we react to change that makes life challenging and also exciting. Face the challenges ahead, recognise what we have and look for the opportunities that the changes bring.

David

Asian Hornet Threat to Kent Bees

Kent beekeepers are on high alert monitoring for Asian hornets, an aggressive new arrival from the continent. They have been spreading rapidly across Europe causing devastation to local bee populations both wild bees and in apiaries and are now established in Southern England with sightings in Staplehurst. The Asian hornets are smaller than our native hornets but more aggressive and they can attack and wipe out entire colonies of honey bees. One hornets nest can eat through 12.5kg of bees in a season. The Asian hornet can be distinguished by its bright yellow legs. If you do see one, try to take a photo for identification. Do take care because they can be aggressive and deliver a very nasty sting. As we move into Autumn, you may see them hunting bees and other pollinators on ivy flowers, a late food source before Winter sets in. Sightings should ideally be reported direct on the Asian Hornet Watch app, use the following number (07565 775020), email kent@asianhornetalert.org.uk or you can contact a local bee-keeper.

Local beekeepers have been setting monitoring traps in apiaries for several years. Now, in areas where sightings are confirmed, we are ramping up operations, setting thousands of traps. We're keen to work with local groups who can help us so, if hornets arrive in your village, please do support the efforts to stop them becoming permanent residents. If the Asian hornet does become established, there will be a huge impact on both beekeeping and wild bee populations. The hornets target and lurk outside hives, capturing returning bees and dismembering them to provide food for the hornet's young. Beekeeping will become even more difficult and costly due to colony loss and the efforts involved in trapping and deterring the hornets. Wild bees, outside the protection of the apiary are likely to be even more severely affected. Let's hope we can work together to keep them at bay.

Extracted from an article from Caroline Field, Laddingford and District Beekeepers Association.

Andrea Forster, forsters.hunton@btinternet.com



Hunton Ladies

At their August meeting the ladies in Hunton produced some lovely watercolour seascapes, painted under the guidance of Jennie Boatwright, local artist and teacher. After watching her paint a beautiful scene, they tried to imitate the various methods, including using a feather as a paintbrush, and surprised themselves with the results. Our thanks go to Jennie for inspiration and guidance.

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

Chris Summersgill

Gardening Club Social & Supper - Saturday 11th November

This relaxed event will take place in Hunton Club with doors opening at 6pm for supper at about 6.30pm. The cost is £10 a head for Club members & £12 for non-members. Contact Lesley after 23rd October to book your places – 01622 820210 or lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com

SpeedWatch Update

Following the article about re-commencing SpeedWatch in April, we have continued conducting sessions throughout the school holidays albeit at a reduced level of one a week because of volunteers being on holiday or busy with their families. Nevertheless, in the 6 sessions carried out since the end of July, 575 vehicles passed in just under 10 hours of recording, 31 speeding motorists were logged at the Hall or the Club. Of these, 28 were validated by Kent Police and almost all of them were 'first offenders' so they would need to be 'recorded' again before they receive a letter from the police. These statistics may be because fellow SpeedWatch operations in Collier Street, Linton and East Farleigh have recently stopped or reduced their frequency, so we are pretty much the only one this side of town. However, Yalding & Marden are considering starting again

On our last Watch, we were visited by a PC who has been recently attached to SpeedWatch Kent for 6 months and is able to both check that we are operating correctly as a unit, but also carry out supplementary patrols with a recognised speed gun and issue 'tickets' and licence points to drivers on the spot. While he was just observing us at the Church site for a short while, he was able to cleverly alert at least two passing motorists to either put their phone down or attach a seat belt IMMEDIATELY! Now he knows our 'patch' better, he will be looking at the records we have compiled since June and carry out random return visits.

We can always do with another couple of volunteers to help us with our safety messaging and we do feel that some, but not all, drivers are paying more attention to the speed limits if they have seen that we are somewhere on West Street on a weekly basis. Anyone interested in joining, please email Mike on huntontrafficreporting@gmail.com

Mike Summersgill

The Sun Shines On The Club

We were blessed with a warm, sunny afternoon for what has become the Annual Beer Festival with local villagers and others turning up in record numbers to enjoy the festivities.

It is no longer just an event to sample different beers, it has grown into much more with numerous special spirits to try, plants, local produce and homemade cakes for sale plus a tombola with prizes donated by businesses and friends. Hot bacon rolls were available, there was a children's area where there were games to play, Lottie was kept busy painting faces and children could make their own mocktails. "Hop Corner" housed a display dedicated to the various hop varieties used in the brewing process. Live music was provided by Sharon, which turned into a communal sing-a-long occasion.

One blot on the day was caused by the Club's only fully functional credit / debit card reader complaining of over use and switching itself off from time to time causing quite a delay. Apologies must go to those queuing to purchase at the bar. One card reader is perfectly adequate for the rest of the year but the committee will have to consider improvements for future events. A huge thank you to everyone involved in making this fund raising event happen and to everyone who came along to support it. In addition to ongoing maintenance costs the funds raised will contribute to future projects which include installing a new bar top and a refurbishment of the cellar.

Don't forget that the Club is now trialling opening on Friday nights as well as Wednesday and Sunday evenings.

Phil Nichols

Hold the Date – Sat. 2nd Dec. 6pm for 6.30pm - Hunton Club

Following the enjoyable & successful 'You, Me & Musicals' event in June hosted by Sharon Winter Mitchell she has kindly agreed to provide entertainment again for another Club fundraising evening. 'Christmas Harmony' on Saturday 2nd December includes supper at only £10 each for Club members & £12 for non-members. Contact Lesley after 1st November to book your places – 01622 820210 lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com .

Bowls Club News

The end of our bowling season is now just weeks away and we have time to reflect on our goals and achievements over the past 5 months. At the end of April we held a very successful and well attended Coffee/Registration Morning and anyone wishing to try their hand at bowls were able to 'have a go' which resulted in 8 new people joining the Club.

We have enjoyed and played in our usual Weald and Maidstone & District League Matches with the Ladies gaining 3rd place in the M&D Ladies League this season. Our own competitions have been well supported with some of our new members reaching the finals. We have also enjoyed taking part in numerous Tournaments at various locations around Kent & Sussex with the ladies achieving second place at Biddenden Bowls Club in July.

Our own fund raising Tournament which took place in August was a huge success with a maximum of 48 players taking part. Over 70 Lunches were served to players and guests in the Village Hall and it was, by far, one of the best Tournaments we have held making a profit of well over £1,200. Many thanks to everyone for their kind donations, raffle prizes and also cakes and sausage rolls for refreshments throughout the day.

Angela Baptie

Almshouse Vacancy

There is a vacancy for a non-smoking single resident in Peace Cottages Almshouses in West Street, Hunton. Those interested, over the age of 60, preferably with a connection to Hunton or nearby villages should contact Liz Oliver on 01622 820200 or liz.oliver25@outlook.com for an application form. Further criteria will apply.

Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

Wednesdays & Fridays 8 - 11.00pm & Sundays 8 - 10.30 pm

St Mary's Churchyard

Another season drew to a close with the working party on September 9th tidying the 'old' graveyard for the winter. 2023 has been a great year with the grass well mowed by the faithful team of grass cutters and the regular working parties organised by Lesley Lee. In the early spring we 'straightened' up many of the headstones mainly for safety reasons but it did allow the grass to be more easily cut. In addition, the area for grass being cut on a regular basis increased. We have, thanks to one 'grave carer', managed the new churchyard and we begin the winter with it looking very neat. Roll on the spring with the snowdrops and daffodils welcoming the new season. Many thanks to all the volunteers for all their hard work in 2023 and of course the refreshments and cakes offered during the working party mornings.

St Mary's Church Working Parties

Can you give up an hour or so to join volunteers trying to prepare St Mary's Church and the graveyard for special events? If so, do come along to the next Working Party on Saturday 4th November between 9am and 12 noon when the group aims to prepare the church for Remembrance Sunday and the Christmas Fair. The group will meet again on Saturday 16th December to prepare for Christmas services.

Next Litter Pick – Saturday, 4th November, 2023

We plan to hold our next litter pick on Saturday, 28th October, meeting in the Village Hall car park at 10am on the day. We suggest that volunteers 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. If you can help, please let us know or just turn up on the day.

James & Andrea Forster (forsters.hunton@btinternet.com)

Harvest Festival

Everyone is welcome to come along to our Harvest brunch after the service at St. Mary's on Sunday 15 October. The service starts at 9.30am. Come and enjoy our informal gathering following the service where there will be breakfast baps and a selection of croissants and other pastries. Do bring any gifts for our Harvest collection for charity.

Wendy Simmons

Note from Hunton School

Hunton School was recently forced to go into full lock-down when a dog walker lost control of two of the dogs she was walking. Both dogs escaped into the school. One of the dogs entered into two of the classrooms. The school would like to ask that all dog walkers keep their dogs on a lead while in the vicinity of the school premises.

Remembrance Service

The annual service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving will take place this year on Sunday 29th October at Holy Trinity, Coxheath at 2.30pm. This is the service where the bereaved are invited to light a candle and take part in the service of remembrance for loved ones. We always contact the families of those whom we have conducted the funeral service for their loved ones in the last two years and also invite anyone else who would like to attend. If you would like a name read out then please contact Rev David Jones - davidjones.coxheath@gmail.com - before October 26th please. Everyone is invited and there will be a short service followed by light refreshments.

Benefice Service Rota – October 2023					
CHURCH	1st	8th	15th	22nd	29th
Coxheath 11:00 am	Communion CD	Morning Worship LF	Communion DJ	All-age Worship LF & BP	Benefice Communion 10:30am Remembrance Service 2:30pm
East Farleigh 9:30 am	Morning Worship LF		Communion CD		
West Farleigh 9:30 am		Communion LF		Morning Worship DJ	
Hunton 9:30 am	Communion DJ		Family Service LF		
Linton 9:30 am		Morning Worship BP		Communion LF	
Midweek Services					
Coxheath - Every Thursday; Holy Communion, 10:00 am.					
Linton - Holy Communion last Wednesday of each month, 12.00, followed by lunch					
DJ – David Jones, BP - Becky Parnham, LF – Lorna Faulkner; CD – Clinton Davis; SE – Sue Elliott; BW – Bertie Woodward					

All items for the next edition of the Herald to the Editors by 15th October please