



Next Editors: James & 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 30th August from 12.30pm

Get ready for one of the most anticipated events of the summer! The Hunton Village Club Beer Festival is back on Saturday 30th August, kicking off from 12:30pm, and it promises to be even better than last year.

This is so much more than a typical beer festival! Alongside a fantastic selection of local real ales, there'll be plenty of other refreshments, including soft drinks, teas and coffees and back by popular demand, The Pimm's Bar!

Come for lunch and stay for tea. Enjoy your drinks with tasty toasties, bacon rolls and homemade cakes. There'll be a produce stand for you to purchase locally grown fruit, vegetables, jams and honey as well as boxes of cakes to take home.

Families are very welcome – there will be games and fun activities for the kids, and entertainment to keep everyone smiling. The ever-popular Spin 2 Win will be back with some brilliant prizes already secured! There will also be a few new games for you to enjoy. Think Fairground Sideshow and you'll see what we mean.

Park at the Village Hall then enjoy the short walk down the footpath (behind the hedge on West Street) to the Club. Bring cash if you can for the games and £2 adult entrance charge (no charge for under 18s).

The success of the Beer Festival isn't just down to the handful of volunteers to help make it happen. It's about the wider community of Hunton too. With that in mind, we're on the lookout for prize donations, produce, and more volunteers to lend a hand on the day. Can you help? Unwanted new gifts, bottles, chocolates, puzzles, and local business vouchers are all hugely appreciated. If you'd like to get involved, donate something, or simply share a great idea – please contact Lesley Lee at lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com, 01622 820210. Let's make this a summer highlight for our whole village – we can't wait to see you there!



Charity Quiz Night Diabetes UK: Saturday 16th August

Many of you here will know me; my name is Anna Banks and I moved to Hunton when I was 7. I ran the Cardiff Half Marathon last year in aid of the Motor Neurone Disease Association and will be running the Royal Parks Half Marathon in London in October this year in aid of Diabetes UK.

My target is to raise £500, although last year, with everyone's generous support, I raised £1,600. So, to kick this Marathon off we are organising a quiz night in Hunton Club on Saturday 16th August. Our very own Phil Nichols will be Quiz Master and is preparing some challenging questions I'm sure! Tickets for the night will be £5 per person, 100% of which will go to Diabetes UK.

Everyone is welcome; either come with friends to make up a table or join others on the night for what will be a fun evening in aid of a very worthy cause. We look forward to seeing you on the night.

Venue: Hunton Village Club; Time: Bar opens 18:30; Quiz 19:00; Tickets: £5 on the door

Reserve your place now! Contact Stephen Banks at scottsfarm99@gmail.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	01622 820403
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	Katie Lam MP	katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk
Churchwarden: Iain Simmons	820875	Assistant to MP Katie Lam	020 7219 8175
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, 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

Church Working Party, 1st August; Club Working Party, then Charity Quiz Night, 16th August; Litter pick, 23rd August; Annual Beer Festival, 30th August;
Wayside Train Day: 7th September; Farm Tour, then Gardening Club Social, 10th September; Church Working Party and 'Ride & Stride', 13th September;
'Green Hop' Beer Weekend, 17th-19th October; Harvest Festival Supper, 19th October.

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

Pastoral Letter

August arrives at our doorstep like a gentle friend, draped in golden sunlight and humming with the steady music of crickets. The fields, once emerald, now blush with the promise of harvest. Gardens bow under the abundance of tomatoes, beans, and sunflowers, while the orchard branches grow heavy with plums and early apples.

This is the month when the world slows in a warm embrace. The mornings begin to cool, soft dew clinging to the grass; spiderwebs sparkling like tiny jewels. The heat of the summer afternoon sun, the touch of sun-scorched grass under our feet, calling us back to the endless, open joy of our childhood school holidays. Evenings invite us to linger with friends on doorsteps, or in gardens, sharing stories as the sun sinks behind golden fields. August, the golden heart of summer.

August is a time for gratitude and gathering — a season for picnics, and market stalls brimming with produce - inviting us to savour the beauty woven through simple days: the patient labour of the allotments and gardens, the cheerful hum of bees, and the comfort of friendships old and new — reminding us to treasure the richness of life while we can lay our hands on it. As we move through these golden days, may we remember to pause and cherish the blessings we have in our village communities — the land, the people, the gentle rhythms. August reminds us that, even as autumn comes whispering to us in the misty mornings, and the rosehips and damsons begin to adorn the hedges, summer's generosity is at its height — it is there to be enjoyed, to be celebrated and to be shared. Wishing everyone a blessed and abundant August.

Lorna

Remembering Shirley Parnell, 1937-2025

Sadly, Shirley Parnell, a former resident of Hunton, passed away on the 17th of June 2025. It is true to say, Shirley loved life in Hunton. She was much loved by her family and many friends. Her life was defined by her care and devotion to others. Shirley was born in 1937 to Stan and Dolly Bellingham at the 'Square, in Hunton'. With her sister, Betty, they had a happy childhood. Shirley attended Hunton School. At the age of fifteen, she went to work for 'Harrison and Sons', a seed and horticultural supplier in Maidstone. During this time, she met Brian Parnell, they fell in love and were married in 1958. She and Brian raised three wonderful children at The Square — Stephen, Paul, and Wendy. Shirley's devotion to her family was boundless. As time moved on, Shirley was blessed with eleven beloved grandchildren. She achieved her dream of moving to a bungalow in Coxheath. After the loss of her dear Brian, in 2011, she moved to Russet Court. Home was always a happy, welcoming place for family and friends.

During Shirley's life she contributed considerably to Hunton's community. She worked on David Hubble's, Mike Owen's, and John Scott's farms. She often spoke about the hops; the arrival of fruit pickers from London; not to mention, the backbreaking joy of picking strawberries! At Hunton School, she worked as a cleaner and as a kitchen assistant. Shirley and Brian were active members of the former 'Hunton Working Mans' Club'. She also helped to coordinate a 'Ladies Group'. As domestic supervisor at Linton Hospital, as well as being responsible for caretaking Hunton Village Hall, she gained a reputation as an excellent cleaner and organiser. She also took on additional cleaning work for seventeen years at the homes of Wendy and Iain Simmons and Karen and Kevin Martin. Until recent years, Shirley had been a regular attender at St Mary's Church. May we find comfort in our own shared memories of Shirley. Rest in peace!

Wendy Simmons.

Horlands Farm Tour: Wednesday 10th September 4pm

Following a fascinating tour in May, hosted by Peter Hall, around Little Mill and Foundation Farms in Marden, Richard Russell has kindly agreed to lead a visit to his farm not far away. Horlands Farm is a small, traditional, mixed farm covering pastures with hedgerows, ponds, mature trees and fruit orchards. It produces beef and lamb for local markets and private customers, offers livery for horses and has a secure dog walking field. Members of Hunton Gardening Club have already signed up for this tour, which will last about 2 hours and probably be only about a 2 mile walk, but there are some spaces available. If you are interested in joining this visit please contact me a.s.a.p. Thanks Lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com 01622 820210

Hunton Club's Green Hop Beer Weekend: NEW DATES:

Friday 17th Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th October

This event was scheduled for the last weekend in October so, if you have that in your diaries please change to the above dates. More information about this event in future Heralds.

Invitation to Join Marden Hedgerow Project Team

In May, Hunton Gardening Club organised a visit to Peter Hall's farms in Marden. Peter has since suggested that some Hunton residents might like to become involved in the Marden hedgerow project. This is run by www.mardenwildlife.org.uk and is part of the Great British Hedgerow Survey which assesses hedges for their value as a 'wildlife habitat' and is creating a national database 'Healthy Hedgerows'. Liz Taylor, organises sessions from time to time, lasting about 2 hours and volunteers select the dates they take part. There is no special experience or knowledge required. It is a chance to visit parts of the local area not normally open to the public, to learn more about tree and shrub identification and the wildlife found in hedgerows. If you think you would like to take part, please email Liz — ramshillhouse@btinternet.com or ring 07939 505405.

Hunton Ladies go potty!

At their June meeting the Hunton Ladies had a go at making pottery items under the expert guidance of Jennie Boatwright, a local art teacher. The pottery could be air dried so the Ladies could take home their efforts to paint. These varied from a sleeping cat to shapes cut around leaves or with objects such as lace pressed into the clay. Our thanks to Jennie for a very creative and relaxing evening. The Hunton Ladies Group meet at Hunton Club on the last Wednesday of each month at 8 pm. New ladies are always very welcome.

Chris Summersgill

Ride & Stride: Saturday 13th September

For anyone interested in a family bike ride, I can recommend the Ride & Stride event on Saturday 13th September, 2025. There are lots of lovely churches within easy reach, many of which will be open to the public that day and some will even offer drinks and perhaps a biscuit or two to anyone fundraising for the Friends of Kent Churches.

If you are doing your DoE award, could you combine an enjoyable local bike ride with credit for time spent raising money for a worthwhile charity? Details of which churches are involved will be available in St Mary's Church together with sponsorship forms, or I can get them to you if you contact me, James Forster (email: forsters.hunton@btinternet.com or mobile: 07900 406504).

Student Placements in MP's Campaign Office

From time to time our MP, Katie Lam, offers work experience placements in Westminster. She has places for volunteers in her Campaign Office in Tenterden for part or all of August and September. This would be good for anyone keen to gain hands-on experience in a political office and on the campaign trail. If you, or anyone you know, might be interested do contact Katie's Campaign Manager, Alex at campaigns@katieforkent.com as soon as possible.

Hunton School Leavers. 'One More Step...'

We have had a wonderful last term with our Year 6s before they all start their next step at secondary school. One of the highlights has been their performance of 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe'. The performance was exceptional with superb acting, improvisation at times and singing which moved us all. It created goose-bumps, laughter and joy for the audience. This was a key moment in their school journey which, I am sure has created special memories for them. A huge thank you goes to Mrs Underdown who wrote the script, created the scenery, provided the props and of course, directed our wonderful actors. Wow!

Hunton Herald – Guest Editors

The Hunton Herald is now in its 23rd year of existence, delivering a monthly newsletter free of charge to every house in the village. Thanks to our advertisers we have been able to do this at no cost while supporting local initiatives with over £22,000 of grants. None of this would be possible without our team of volunteers and we thank you all.

We are edging towards the end of our current rota of guest editors, each paired with a partner, either their spouse or someone else in the village. This arrangement has worked well so far, allowing each issue to reflect something of the character of its editorial team. No-one has found it too onerous but the more people who offer to help, the bigger the gap between our respective commitments, so we all win!

Would any of our new (or current) residents be willing to edit a monthly edition of the Herald? It is an excellent way of getting to know more about what goes on in our village as well as perhaps forging new friendships and connections. Whether you have just moved to Hunton or have been here for some time and would be happy to join us, we could pair you with a suitable co-editor with complementary skills or, if you come as a pair, even better!

Please contact us, James and Andrea Forster, by email on forsters.hunton@btinternet.com if you would like to know more.

Hunton Village Club News

For some time the Club Committee have been thinking about how to address poor attendance on Friday evenings. At the June meeting we decided to only open on two Fridays in the month; the second Friday and the last Friday. The last Friday would be a special event night. In June this was a very successful Fish and Chip night and on the last Friday in July, one of Phil Nichols well attended Quiz Nights.

The highlight in August will be the Hunton Beer Festival on Saturday 30th August where everyone will be welcome to come along from 12.30pm to enjoy a bar full of local real ales and other attractions (see front page for more details). The Club is delighted to be hosting a Charity Quiz Night, on Saturday 16th August, to raise money for Diabetes UK (See elsewhere in this issue). Also on Saturday 16th August from 2pm there will be a Working Party to prepare the Club for the Beer Festival. If you can spare a little time to join in, the team will be pleased to see you. To enjoy these activities and pay just £3.50 a pint, you can become a member for just £15 for the remainder of the year. Pop into the Club and someone will help you with an application form or you can fill one in on-line at the Club's website www.huntonvillageclub.com.

Finally, we are always looking for feedback on our events and suggestions for future events, for example, is there a film you would like us to show on a film night? We also need a new Secretary for the Club. Please contact me at roger.c.lee@btinternet.com or 01622 820210 if you are interested or if you are willing to volunteer for bar duties or events.

Roger Lee

Wayside Light Railway Train Day: Sunday 7th September from 2pm

Apply now for tickets if you would like to take your family and friends for a fun afternoon of train rides on Sunday 7th September. There are eight steam engines and numerous coaches at Wayside in Amsbury Road. The afternoon starts at 2pm and each ride lasts about 20 minutes around the track in the 5 acre grounds. There is no limit to the number of rides offered. Tea, soft drinks and cakes are included in the ticket price of £15. Under 5s free and £10 for children up to 10 years old. This event aims to raise funds for St. Mary's Church and Riding for the Disabled. No dogs allowed. Parking is opposite Wayside in Amsbury Road.

Tickets are limited, so contact Sue a.s.a.p. on 01622 746125 or 07850 708596 or suej.martin@btopenworld.com.



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

'Oh no' do I hear? Midsummer and thinking of Christmas? Yes, I am because if I don't there will be no Christmas Market on Saturday 22nd November at St Mary's as all the stall holders will be booked with other markets. Also Father Christmas has to be booked early as it is his busiest time of the year. So, would you like a stall at this year's market? We already have many booked from last year but we always want additional stalls offering new and exciting gifts. Contact David Jones 01622 741474 or email davidjones.coxheath@gmail.com to book a stall otherwise put the date in your diary and we look forward to seeing you.

Next Litter Pick – Saturday 23rd August 2025

We plan to hold our next litter pick on Saturday 23rd August, 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 Clock House 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 & James Forster (forsters.hunton@btinternet.com)

Compliments for the Church Working Party!

Everyone works very hard at the St Mary's Church clean ups, and the grounds and Church look great each time we finish, but it was very nice to be complimented on it by the Father of the Bride at a recent wedding. Well done all and we must admit its fun too, having a chat as we work and enjoying lovely biscuits at the break.

There is another Working Party on Friday August 1st, in preparation for a marriage blessing and baptism the next day, then one on Saturday September 13th. That one coincides with Ride and Stride so we may have visitors encouraging us on. We hope to see you there between 9am and 12 noon. If you can make it, please just let Lesley (lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com) know and she will make sure there are enough biscuits.

Gardening with Colour

When looking at plants in a border, it is remarkable how by chance you get plants side by side that really complement each other, reflecting or contrasting colour that balances both. We might try to contrive this by having a 'white garden' or a 'hot border' or other colour schemes come to that.

I am trying to create a hot border and Tithonia, an extremely bee friendly annual that offers a true rich orange colour to the border, is a plant I have tried to incorporate for the last few years. It is a metre or more high, branching out readily and really fills a space. I have sown it from seed in the past, but lately with some difficulty and the last few dry summers it has not really reached its potential habit or height. This year none of the seeds germinated so imagine my delight when it looked like two robust plants had seeded themselves in the border. The leaves started to get really large and it wasn't until I saw a big white trumpet flower emerge that I realised I had a couple of Brugmansias and not Tithonias. We have not had these growing in the garden for at least 10 years so it is incredible how long seeds can be dormant in the soil. I now have a big white plant that will become taller than the rest of the border and will potentially overshadow my Dahlias.

Among other curious colour issues, this year having sown some yellow Cosmos to plant with my lime green Nicotiana, I found the Cosmos has turned out to be pink; whilst some pink Dahlias I ordered are now actually flowering yellow!

I saved seed from a deep red Nicotiana last year, which I now realise was an F1 hybrid, so where I thought I was planting red, they are coming up all range of colours. I should just go with the flow and appreciate that anything that is capable of growing and flowering in these particularly dry conditions this summer is a bonus.

Sue Heaton

Save the Date: Harvest Supper Saturday 4th October

The Friends of St Mary's will again be hosting a repeat of the successful Harvest Supper that was held last year. This year it will be at the Village Hall on October 4th. Please see the September issue of the Herald for details of timing and tickets.

Benefice Service Rota – August 2025					
Church	3 rd	10 th	17 th	24 th	31 st
Coxheath	6.00pm - Evening (Iona Community) SE	6.00pm - Evensong BP	6.00pm - Evensong CD	6.00pm - Evensong DJ	10.30am - Benefice all-age Communion. LF/BP 4.00pm - Back to School Blessing. LF
E. Farleigh	9.20-10.00am - Open for Prayer		10.30am - Benefice Communion LF/BP		
W. Farleigh		9.20-10.00am Open for Prayer		10.30am - Benefice Communion DJ/LF	
Hunton	10.30am - Benefice Communion DJ/CD		9.20-10.00am Open for Prayer		
Linton		10.30am - Benefice Communion CD/SE		9.20-10.00am Open for Prayer	
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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