



Next Editors: Lesley Lee & Bridget Robertson: huntonherald@outlook.com
All items for the next edition of the Herald to the Editors by 15th July

Hunton Annual Parish Meeting

May saw the annual parish meeting which brings together many of the local interest groups and organisations including Parish and Borough Councillors. This is an opportunity to reflect on the trials and successes of the past 12 months as well as look forward to the year ahead. Each year this occasion provides an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the invaluable contributions of individuals to the quality of life of many members of the Hunton community. This year it was a pleasure to see the KALC Community Award presented to two worthy recipients - Lesley and Roger Lee. Chairman of the Hunton Parish Council, David Heaton, while presenting the award, thanked Roger and Lesley for their tireless efforts in supporting many community activities, organising village events, volunteering at the Hunton Club and providing amazing catering at so many functions over the years.



Afternoon Vintage Tea Party – Supporting Myeloma UK, 27th July

Hunton Village Club in association with Hunton Ladies are hosting a Charity Vintage Tea full of old-fashioned charm, delicious treats and that proper Kentish community spirit. There'll be tea aplenty, tasty finger sandwiches, yummy cakes galore and plenty of laughs & chatter along the way – all in support of a very special cause: Myeloma UK.

This particular charity is close to home here in Hunton, as we're raising funds for the charity nominated by our very own Kevin Larkin who's currently navigating life with an aggressive form of multiple myeloma, a rare blood cancer that affects the bone marrow and immune system. Myeloma UK is the only charity in the country solely dedicated to supporting those living with this condition. They fund vital research, back families every step of the way and push for better treatments. Thanks to their work – and some brilliantly clever scientists – new therapies are emerging all the time. While multiple myeloma isn't yet curable, it is treatable and your support can truly help ease the road for so many, just like our Kevin. So, if you want to support this worthy event on Sunday 27th July at 2.30pm and have fun too at only £15 per person just contact Edna on 07493 846244 or email her edmaden@gmail.com. Book early to avoid disappointment.

If you're unable to attend the afternoon in person you can simply show your support from afar, every penny counts. To leave a donation no matter how small, please visit our dedicated Just Giving site: Hunton Village Club's Afternoon Vintage Tea Party for Myeloma UK. There will also be a raffle with proceeds supporting this worthy cause.

Let's show what we're made of here in Hunton – warm hearts, full plates, and generosity. Dust down your Sunday best, pop on a tea dress ladies and let's make it an afternoon of tea & cake to remember.

Your Local Contacts:

School: Secretary/Head Teacher 820360
Under 5's Pre-School: 820309
Pond and Tree Warden: Sam Andrews huntontreewarden@gmail.com
Rector: Revd. Lorna Faulkner* 747570
Hon Associate Rector: Revd. David Jones 741474
Churchwarden: Iain Simmons 820875
ishuntonchurchwarden@btinternet.com
Community Wardens Team 07811 271021
Hunton Bell Ringers: Lavinia Thompson 07885 763071

Maidstone Police 690690 or 101
Village Hall Booking: www.huntonvillagehall.co.uk
Huntonwatch: huntonwatch@gmail.com 07907 019996
'Potholes' Hotline (KCC) 03000 418181
Hunton Ladies: Chris Summersgill c.a.summersgill@btinternet.com
Katie Lam MP katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk
Assistant to MP Katie Lam 020 7219 8175
Village Club: Roger Lee: roger.c.lee@btinternet.com 820210
Reporting HGVs huntontrafficreporting@gmail.com
**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

Fish & Chips, Friday 27th June; Church Working Party, 12th July & 1st Aug; Quiz Night, 25th July; Charity Afternoon Tea Party, 27th July;
Pioneers Talk, 29th July; Charity Quiz Night, 16th Aug; Annual Beer Festival, 30th August; 'Green Hop' Beer Weekend, 17th -19th October;
Harvest Festival, 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

As I was pondering what to write about in this month's letter I struck on the idea of having a look in my Daily Prayer book at what saints' days and festivals fall in July. There are quite a few - big names too: Mary Magdalene, Anne and Joachim (Jesus' maternal grandparents) his great friends Mary, Martha and Lazarus. But the one I have chosen isn't a saint at all. I chose William Wilberforce, the social reformer and July 30th is his day of commemoration. William Wilberforce is well-known as one of the major voices in the - what would prove to be successful - campaign to abolish the transatlantic slave trade and indeed slavery across most of the British Empire. He was a devout and passionate Christian believer. One of his advisors, as he wrestled reconciling his faith with his career in politics, was John Newton, an Anglican priest, a repentant former slave-trader and the writer of the beautiful hymn, Amazing Grace.

What might be less well-known is that Wilberforce, born in Yorkshire, was, in fact, no stranger to our part of Kent. Two of his sons, Robert and Henry, were vicars of East Farleigh church in our Benefice. There is a grave plot down at East Farleigh, where William's wife, Elizabeth, is buried as well as other members of the family. He gave his last anti-slavery speech in Maidstone, just 3 months before his death in 1833, hearing just days before his death that the Bill for the Abolition of Slavery had been passed.

The Church of England has a special prayer for each day, known as the Collect. The Collect for July 30th contains these words 'grant that, as your servant William Wilberforce toiled against the sin of slavery, so we may bring compassion to all and work for the freedom of all the children of God...'

We are living in turbulent times, switching on the news of an evening can feel like an act of courage as we brace ourselves for reports of more unrest and suffering. We may not know how to solve the world's problems. We may not all be a Wilberforce and go down in history for our part in trying - but we can all choose, as he did, to bestow respect and dignity on our fellow human beings, and challenge others to do the same. A prayer that we may work to 'bring compassion to all' is perhaps a very good place to start.

Lorna

Fish & Chip Friday at Hunton Village Club Friday 27th June from 6.30pm

There's nothing better than classic Fish & Chips on a Friday evening and we've got you covered. Join us at Hunton Village Club for a relaxed and tasty end to the week with good old fashioned fish & chips. For just £11.25 enjoy crispy battered fish, golden chips - served piping hot. Pair it with a pint from the bar, a chilled glass of wine or your favourite soft drink. If numbers are good it may push the price down. Hopefully we'll see you there. To book get in touch with Simon Webb Simonwebb5@btinternet.com or call 07878 018997.

Church Working Parties - Saturday 12th July & Friday 1st August

The recent rain has encouraged the grass to grow and the weeds to explode in June. Like our gardens, the Churchyard benefits from attention and inside St Mary's there is also always plenty to do. Join the team of volunteers at a working party. Everyone chooses what to tackle and at around 11am we stop for free tea, coffee & biscuits or cake. Even an hour of your help will be welcomed at these sessions which run between 9am and 12 noon. Please let me know if you will take part so enough supplies are available for the break.

lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com

Save the date - Friday 25th July for another Quiz Night at Hunton Club

All welcome, members and non-members alike. Make up your team of four to six players or join one when you arrive. Those of you who regularly attend will know it's a "just for fun" quiz. Doors open at 7.30pm for a prompt start to the quiz at 8pm. Hope to see you there.



Update on play equipment at King George V Playing Field, Hunton

We are sorry for the extended closure of the play equipment facility at the field, whilst repairs are undertaken. We know that some of you are disappointed with the length of time this is taking and we share your frustration. At a routine inspection earlier this year, some corrosion was found in the metalwork that forms part of one of the multiplay platforms. It was decided that the whole platform should be replaced and a new component has now been manufactured and awaits installation. Unfortunately, when the old platform was removed, decay was also found in one or more of the supporting timber posts and we are now trying to get these replaced. Because of the likely cost, we need to get several quotes from specialist suppliers and this is taking longer than expected. We are doing our very best to get this work done, but the likelihood is that the play equipment area will remain closed for some time.

The Playing Field Committee is made up of volunteers who do this work in their spare time and funding needs to be secured, so this makes it difficult to fast track repairs. Once again, we apologise for the extended closure and ask you to bear with us whilst this important work is carried out. I am sure everybody understands that the safety of users is paramount.

Colin Slattery, Chairman, King George V Playing Field Committee.

Hunton Beer Festival

Donations for the Spin to Win and Produce Counter would be very much appreciated for this year's Beer Festival to be held on Saturday 30th August from 12.30. Local beers, Pimms bar, food and activities plus music and fun for all the family so please make a note on your calendar to come and join us.

Visit to Little Mill Farm on 28th May

Over 30 people from Hunton Gardening Club visited Peter Hall's farm to hear about his farming and conservation progress since our last visit 9 years ago. Peter farms 175 hectares broken into 67 fields in Marden on the flood plain between the Beult and Lesser Teise. Recent activity has been focussed on conservation and regeneration. We were shown several fields of top fruit including apples, plums and pears which are all grown organically and have been since 1987. In collaboration with the Felix Project, a London Food Charity, the fruit is picked by the charity volunteers and used to feed children in food poverty in the capital. Peter gets a DEFRA grant to continue to grow the trees and the charity gets the fruit for free; this agreement is set to run for at least the next four harvests.



Livestock are also grazed by others on the farm. Pigs are useful for clearing and turning over fields and regenerating woodland while sheep keep the grass down in the orchards and cattle are of great value when clearing more difficult ground. Fields have larger than usual margins with hedgerows to provide habitat for wild life particularly ground nesting birds.

We crossed the road to Foundation Farm to see more conservation efforts in conjunction with local organisations – Marden Wildlife, Marden Gardening Soc., Kent Wildlife Trust and Marden Farm Cluster. Here we saw meadows which had been seeded from hay from the Marden Meadows a site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The results are just starting to appear with some new wild flowers this year, including Green-winged orchids.

In conjunction with the Marden Gardening Society, Peter has provided a potting shed and irrigated and netted plant nursery to cultivate local species such as Chequer trees from seed which are then planted throughout the Marden and Upper Beult Farm Clusters. Oaks are encouraged to grow using natural regeneration and Dutch elm disease resistant Elms supplied by KCC have been planted

All this regeneration has led to a significant increase in wildlife on the farm from birds such as lapwings and turtle doves to insects such as dragon and damselflies. The data on this can be downloaded from Peter's website – www.hehallandson.co.uk In recent years in conjunction with KCC. Peter has built a 2 hectare lake in order to mitigate flooding from the rivers and encourage water birds. However, Peter believes that more lakes are needed in the area to prevent flooding downstream in villages including Yalding.

Peter then joined most members of the tour for supper at the Hunton Village Club where he was thanked for his time and effort in telling us about his developments.

Pilot in the Sky and The Pioneers

On Tuesday 20th May a very good audience assembled at the Village Cub to hear Guy Bartlett, a local aviation historian, give a talk about the Battle of Britain in 1940. Of course, this was a very pertinent talk for people in this area historically as much of it took place in the skies over Kent.

I was especially pleased to listen to this talk as it was quite refreshingly revisionist in its approach. The Battle of Britain has garnered quite a lot of myths, both for political and propaganda reasons at the time and in the immediate post war period. Guy quite successfully demolished these in an understated way. The myth has us believing that the might of the Luftwaffe was faced by a small group of plucky amateurs: the plucky bit was true, but amateur they certainly were not. The reality was that the Luftwaffe was defeated by a co-ordinated and systematic air defence early warning infrastructure (the first ever), that has become known as the Dowding system. Named after the head of RAF Fighter Command, it integrated two radar systems, the Observer Corps on the ground and a collection point via telephone to RAF Bentley Priory. A filter system then relayed only the pertinent information to sectors, who could then scramble the required aircraft to the correct height to intercept the German raiders.

As Guy pointed out this made the best use of the 'home' advantage. German aircraft, especially fighters, were at the limit of their range. British fighters, not having to waste fuel flying patrols, would intercept with full tanks. Furthermore, as he pointed out, if a British fighter was shot down or damaged there was a chance that pilot would survive to fight another day; even the same day! It was for these reasons that the on-paper advantage of three to one was nearer evens than the raw figures indicate. It is interesting to note that at the end of the battle RAF fighter command had more planes and pilots than they started with, the Germans did not.

Though Guy did not actually say it, a case can be argued that it was the British who were the professionals and the Germans the amateurs. The Germans did not have a real plan for the defeat of the RAF (only one RAF station was put out of action for more than one day). They then went on to try and pursue a strategic bombing campaign with aircraft designed for a tactical ground support role, and without any coherent bombing plan.

Sometimes when myths are challenged the reality can be even more impressive, as Guy clearly illustrated in his presentation. Thanks must go to Guy and Edna Dennison for organising this excellent evening event and the Village Club for hosting.

David Heaton

If you enjoyed Guy's Pilot talk you will be pleased to learn that he's returning on Tuesday 29 July championing British women in aviation "The Pioneers" is an inspirational talk highlighting the bravery and skill of British women through the years. It's just £4 for Club members and £5 for non-members. To reserve your place please contact: edmaden@gmail.com

Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

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

Hunton Ladies are Entranced

At our May meeting Hunton resident, Heather French, gave a talk to the ladies Group about her career as a hypnotherapist. She spoke about the theory of hypnotherapy and its practical applications. Heather explained that patients are placed in a state of deep relaxation while positive attitudes towards their problem were suggested to counteract their negative thoughts. Often the problem was caused by an experience from the past. Using hypnotherapy addiction to smoking, fear of flying, help with slimming and more unusual problems were alleviated. Our thanks to Heather for an informative but entertaining evening.

Hunton Ladies Group meet at Hunton Club on the last Wednesday of each month at 8pm. New ladies are always welcome.

Is Weeding a Bind?

Whilst weeding the garden, I have an inherent problem with bindweed in some of the herbaceous borders and it got me thinking. I have been snatching at the weed pretty regularly this year, the soil being too hard to allow a hand fork to give up its roots as I am desperate to keep it out of the canopy of the roses and even worse let it masquerade as clematis where it is impossible to extract it without a pair of scissors and a great deal of time.

This last spell of welcome rain has allowed me to fork out some of the fleshy roots, but I know that's not the end of it, they go down beyond the reach of a spade and not something you can be wielding through an established border. I have had to do my best and know it is still lurking in the rose roots and elsewhere in the border where I can't uproot it. On all fours and getting my hair caught in the roses, scrabbling at my furthest reaches it reminds me of a book I read decades ago: The Well-Tempered Garden by Christopher Lloyd. He has an amusing way of writing and talks about the need to get down on your knees close to the soil "having no inhibitions of crawling on all fours", and needing to be adept at wielding a hand fork with either hand and collecting weeds with the other reaching out amongst the plants doing as much as you can from one space to avoid wreaking havoc among the plants. The only advantage of standing in the border is that you take up less space but stepping from place to place can be a balancing act or a stride too far if you are not to tread on something precious. Though some view weeding as a 'terrible drudgery' he declares the soothing monotony keeps your mind free and that's where I started thinking.

Hunton School Visit

On Monday Porteous went to Canterbury Cathedral on the train. When we arrived we dressed up in costumes as Archbishops, Monks, Kings and Queens. We walked around the cathedral and acted out historic events that happened to those people. We saw where the Archbishop Alphege was buried in the highest special place. They think his bones are there. We also learnt how to write our names in Viking runes with quills and practised being a stone mason. We all had a fantastic time!

Olivia M and Chloe.

Parish Councillor Vacancy

Hunton Parish Council currently has a vacancy for the co-option of a Parish Councillor. If you would like to make a positive difference, and be involved in decision-making to shape the future of your local community, why not put yourself forward and apply to become a Parish Councillor? As a Councillor representing your community, you will help to keep it a great place to live and work by influencing and contributing ideas for the benefit of Hunton parishioners.

You must be aged 18 years or over, be a British, Commonwealth or EU citizen and satisfy one of the following:

- appear on the Electoral Register for the parish; or
- have lived in (or within 3 miles of) the parish for at least a year; or
- have had your main place of work within the parish for at least a year.

The Parish Council intends to consider applications at the next full council meeting on Monday 21st July 2025. The deadline for expressions of interest is 14th July 2025.

If you are interested or want to find out more, please contact the Parish Clerk (clerk@huntonparishcouncil.gov.uk or 01622 681238) or speak to any of the parish councillors to gain an insight into the role.

Benefice Service Rota – July 2025				
Church	6 th	13 th	20 th	27 th
Coxheath 11:00 am	Communion (1+2+3) LF	Morning Worship with Baptisms LF	Communion (1+2+3) LF	All-age worship BP + JT
East Farleigh 9:30 am	Morning Worship BP		Communion LF	
West Farleigh 9:30 am		Communion DJ		Morning Worship SE
Hunton 9:30 am	Communion CD + LF		Family service DJ	
Linton 9:30 am		Morning Worship CD		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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