



Next Editors: Corinne Dixon and Tricia Nichols: huntonherald@outlook.com
All items for the next edition of the Herald to the Editors by 9th June

Hunton Village Hall Centenary Event - July 25th

Things are moving along well for the Hall's Centenary celebration, where there will be some mid/late- afternoon events on the field for families, and then a tea-time free Barbeque outside the Hall for all Residents, courtesy of the remnants of the entertainment funds that have been held over from past Fetes; we hope The Friends of St. Mary's will run a Bar at the event. Already a group of residents are planning internal decoration for the Hall, and are appealing for anyone with pictures taken of events there over the years, as far back as you can, then we hope to have a display inside of those pictures - please look some out, especially any of the Millenium Party, and pass them on to Christine Summersgill at the Club most Wednesday evenings...

Mike & Christine saw Trackdogs perform in Kent on 7th May on the Edith May barge in Lower Halstow, and sorted out more details for the evening gig, which should be getting publicised more widely in early June. We have already 'sold' some advance tickets to several Medway Trackies (fan group), but we are keeping back 50 tickets at a reduced price for Residents; they will be £15 a single, or £25 a couple's ticket - you can pay Mike by cash in advance or on the door on the night. After last month's Herald, already 20 of those tickets have been reserved so text Mike on 07779 367412 if you want to be sure of being on the list for a discounted ticket.

Mike Summersgill

Another hugely successful Plant & Produce day at The Club

A huge thank you to everybody who supported Saturday's Plant & Produce Event — whether you donated, baked, bought, helped organise, manned stalls or simply popped along for a chat and a browse.

It was another lovely reminder of what a friendly, supportive little community Hunton really is, and the club was buzzing all afternoon. Thank you all so much for helping make it such a success.

A special thank you especially goes to Lesley, Roger and everybody who worked so hard behind the scenes and throughout the day to help make the event run so smoothly. Community events like this really do take a team effort and it's hugely appreciated.

Kerry

Save the Date! Hunton Village Club Beer Festival – Saturday 22nd August from 12:30pm

Yes, it is still more than 2 months away however volunteers are working hard to make this event even better than last year. With entertainment for all the family it will be far more than just a 'Beer Festival'. You will be able to try a wide range of local real ales as well as other drinks, plus tempting tasty snacks including homemade cakes.

Plan to take a bag so you can buy locally grown fruit and veg, jams, honey and chutneys and even boxes of cakes to enjoy at home. Any help you can give will be welcome; baking a cake or donating some produce or tombola prizes – donate any unwanted but new gifts, bottles, puzzles, biscuits, chocolates or a workplace voucher. If you have any ideas for fun activities on the day please say! Mark your calendars and invite your family and friends.

If you can help, donate, or have ideas, please contact me, lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com 01622 820210

Lesley

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	huntontrafficroporting@gmail.com
Hunton Bell Ringers: Susan Clements	07864 041234		*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, 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		
29 th May - Comfort food Friday, The Club;	13 th June - Church working party;	26 th June – 70's Night, The Club;
25 th July - Village Hall 100 year anniversary;	22 nd August - Club Beer Festival.	

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 Readers,

June... month 6 of 12. And the gateway to summer, so it has been said.

I am writing this on a(nother) chilly, wet day in the middle of May, and the promise of summer seems a long way off. I hope by the time you are reading this we have cast off the drizzle and the not-quite-warm-enough-to-leave-your-coat-off days and can shed our cardigans with joy and abandon and embrace some outdoor living instead of wondering if the heating will ever be turned off!

I sometimes feel like I am always waiting for something better to come – for the weather to warm up, for the days to get lighter, for the flowers to bloom. I struggle in winter, so I wait for the spring, but then spring goes on longer than I remember it does, so I yearn for the summer, and then as summer continues I start to think about autumn and jumpers and, before I know it, I'm waiting for Christmas then moaning about the winter again!

As I write to you, I feel a little voice (of course I believe it to be God...) exasperated and kind, saying 'Stop! Just stop... look around you. Take in what is here, in this moment. Be present in each day. Breathe.'

I wonder, as I continually wait for what's 'next', how much of the 'now' I am missing? What might happen if I just stopped to admire the view once in a while?

So, maybe that's a word for June – stop, slow down, look around, enjoy, relish what is, without rushing on to what is to come.

I hope I can take heed of that still, small voice I hear. I hope and pray I can stop, slow down, and live each day more fully aware of all that is contained in it - and that 30 days of June don't disappear in a blur of business and waiting for July...

And if you like the sound of that? Well, that is my hope and my prayer for you too.

Lorna

Parish Council AGM and Annual Parish Meeting

May has been a busy month for the Parish Council. On the 11th May the PC AGM took place where the chair and vicechair were elected. There was no change from last year, so David Heaton and Mike Summersgill were confirmed in those offices.

There was a discussion and decision made on priorities that came from the Parish Survey made earlier this year, improved traffic control measures to be pursued, improvements to the play area, repainting of the village entrance gates, new doors for the village hall and steps to improve broadband speeds where possible were among the items confirmed.

Confirmation was also made regarding the mobile CCTV camera which is at present operating in the village to catch and deter fly tipping.

On the 18th May the Annual Parish Meeting took place in the village hall. A guest speaker, Tim Higgs, from Broadband for Rural Kent gave a presentation regarding possible methods and options to improve higher speed internet to parishioners. The PC is likely to use his services to gain data on existing infrastructure to help with more bespoke options for parishioners in future. Another speaker gave a short presentation about the new Heart of Kent Hospice to be built beside the Greensands Surgery in Linton.

Presentations were made by village organisations and clubs informing the meeting of their past endeavours and future plans. As has become somewhat of a tradition, the Annual Parish Meeting has come to celebrate the very best that our community has to offer, made richer by the many people who give their time and effort to organising events and group activities. This year it was our opportunity to recognise and thank a couple who have invested so much of their energy into the running of the Hunton Village Club. David Heaton (Parish Council Chair) presented the 2026 KALC Community Award to Kerry and Kevin Larkin. Speaking on behalf of the couple, Kerry expressed how they both enjoyed contributing to village life and the pleasure they derive from organising events at the club.

David Heaton

Ladies Pamper Night a Success at Hunton Village Club

Hunton Village Club was buzzing recently as a sold-out Pamper Night brought together a fabulous mix of local ladies for an evening full of laughter, relaxation and positive vibes.

The event was another great example of how versatile and welcoming the club can be for both villagers and surrounding residents. Guests enjoyed an introduction to Tropic Skincare, with opportunities to test and try products, enjoy mini consultations, ask questions and chat all things wellbeing and self-care in a relaxed setting. Oh and there may have been a drink or two involved too.

A huge thank you to everyone who came along and helped to make it such a fun evening.

Even better — when attendees were asked, the majority said they would love another event like this... so stay tuned, as a little more tropical magic may return soon.



Kerry

Hunton Ladies Night

For our Ladies' Night in April Tricia spoke about her family tree research and offered to help others research theirs. First we had a quick puzzle to solve with copies of a marriage certificate and letter dated December 1915. Next Tricia told us of a family story that she'd been able to clarify with her research. Then she shared her findings of a possible link to the making of Queen Victoria's coffin, although this is unproven. From delving through records she found that her family didn't originate in South East London as believed, but from all areas of the UK, Ireland and Germany. That was before her DNA proved a link to Lithuania!

Lori Redfarn

Hunton Primary School

The children at Hunton Primary have been benefitting from all sorts of extra-curricular activities. Years 3-5 had the chance of a lifetime being invited by the Williams F1 Team to their Headquarters in Oxfordshire. This was all free to us and generously funded by Williams so we could take part in a hands-on day of learning aimed at inspiring the next generation of scientists, engineers, and innovators. We explored key areas of the Williams technology campus, including the team's world-famous heritage collection, where they got up close to legendary race cars driven by the likes of F1 champions Nigel Mansell, Damon Hill, and Alain Prost. We even got to hold a £50,000 steering wheel and a £250,000 side panel from the present driver's car - Alex Albon. The highlight for many was a chance to race in state-of-the-art simulators and take on a real-world design challenge: dividing into teams to design, build and crash-test a model F1 nosecone.

Kathy Reid

Hunton Village Club – Friday 26th June Goes Back to the 70s!

The votes are in... and some of our club members have spoken! After putting a selection of themes to the vote, the clear favourite for June's "Last Friday of the Month" event was a full-on 70s Night — so get ready for the ultimate throwback evening at Hunton Village Club. Expect a fun-packed night celebrating all things orange, brown and beige with a funky playlist from the decade. Fancy dress is very much encouraged, so dust off those flares, platforms, floaty dresses and re-live those disco vibes. Retro food will also be on offer - including a Cheese 'n Pineapple Hedgehog or two! By the time this edition of the *Hunton Herald* lands on your doorstep, final details should be confirmed — so keep an eye on the Hunton Facebook page and member communications for full details. For more information, or to reserve your place, please contact Kerry Larkin.

A walk with my Aunt...

Over Easter I set out on one of my regular local walks, estimating it would take me about an hour. What I hadn't bargained for was how easily distracted my walking companion would be and that our walk would take us a good two hours. My Auntie Monica's late husband Mike was, for many years, deputy chairman of the Kent Wildlife Trust, so I might have guessed she'd share his love of the natural world. The first things to catch her eye were the 'milkmaids' — also known as the cuckoo flower or lady's smock — growing in the verges and field edges. They are delicate and mauve, but I couldn't understand her fascination and need to stop at each one and inspect it. It turns out she was looking for the eggs of the orange-tip butterfly. When the caterpillars emerge from their eggs, they eat the shell, then eat all the other eggs around them so that only one caterpillar survives on each flower head. As if on cue, we then saw several adult orange-tip butterflies over on the other side of the River Beult.

As we ambled through the meadows, sunshine caught the often-overlooked flowers such as dandelions, bugle and white dead-nettle, reminding us of their importance. Each is a key source of nectar for drowsy bumblebees coming out of hibernation... so spare them some thought next time you're tempted to pick up the strimmer. We then headed into the bluebell woods. Bluebell woods should never be rushed, what with their amazing scent and incredible colour. Along with wood anemones (the white, star-shaped flowers on the woodland floor) bluebells are an indicator of ancient woodland, meaning that the woodland has been there for more than 400 years — often much, much longer.

On that note we couldn't miss wandering over to the 'magic tree'; the enormous, ancient oak, close to the river. Each limb is about the size of a large tree trunk so, combined, one can only guess at its overall circumference ... or how old it might be. In recent months a limb has dropped to the ground, revealing more of the oak's hollow centre. Given the tree's size and level of decay, it would probably class as a 'veteran' tree — anything over 400 years and it's definitely ancient. It was reassuring to see a ring of saplings growing around the enormous parent tree... As the old tree dies, life continues. Oaks offer the highest biodiversity of any tree species... and I know for certain there's a resident barn owl in this one. So, next time you're out for a walk, give yourself a little extra time... Think what I would have missed if I'd rushed home for hot-crossed buns.

Jennifer Dixon

Katie Lam MP's Weald of Kent Awards 2026

One of the things I love most about being the MP for the Weald of Kent is that it genuinely is one of the most special places in the country. Our farms, village shops, pubs and cafés, growers and producers are some of the best in Britain, and I'll always do whatever I can to support them. That's why I'm so pleased to open the nominations for the Weald of Kent Awards 2026, my annual celebration of the very best of our corner of Kent. There are five categories: Local Hero of the Year, Independent Shop of the Year, Local Business of the Year, Farmer, Grower or Producer of the Year, and Pub, Café or Restaurant of the Year. The awards recognise everyone from individuals and community groups who go above and beyond, to the businesses, pubs, cafés and producers that make the Weald such a special place to live. Across the Weald, there are so many people and groups who work quietly and tirelessly to hold our villages and parishes together. Alongside them are brilliant businesses that work around the clock and which stand out as some of the best in Britain, even when the pressures on them have never been greater. Last year, we received more than 100 nominations and over 1,000 of you cast your votes. I'd love to beat that this year. There's so much to be proud of in the Weald, and I'd love for more of the people who make the Weald what it is to get the recognition that they deserve. So, if there's a local business that's gone the extra mile, a farm that grows particularly delicious fruit, or a community hero that deserves recognition, please do nominate them. You can do so at www.katieforkent.com/weald-of-kent-awards and nominations close on 13th July at 5pm with voting to begin shortly after. Let's use this as a chance to celebrate everything that makes the Weald so special, and the people and businesses who help keep it that way.

Katie

Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

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

St Mary's Church - next Working Party Saturday 13th June

Thank you to the volunteers who have been working since the scaffolding came down and a group who attended a working party in mid-May. St Mary's both inside and in the churchyard was looking a so much better for a service and baptism. The bad news is the recent rain has encouraged weeds and grass to grow again so there is another working party on Saturday 13th June (9am to 12 noon) to prepare both areas for two weddings. As usual please let me know if you are able to join us so I can prepare enough cake to go with our coffee break. Many thanks.

Lesley (lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com)

An Example of Victorian Charity

I was recently handed a 125-year-old splendidly-scarlet leather-bound book bought from the Army & Navy Store in Victoria Street. The book was acquired by Lt Col Arthur Close Borton and presented to his mother-in-law, Mrs Emmeline Bethea Alexander of Cheveney after she gifted Peace Cottages to the Diocese of Canterbury in 1899.

The book records that Peace Cottages, initially built by Thomas Duncome Eden (formerly Duncome Shafto) were to be held in trust to house “aged or infirm persons, members of the Church of England and inhabitants, past or present, of Hunton.” The initial residents were Widow Hannah Wyman (85), Widow Anne Botten (74), Widow Mary Anne Godsmark (74), Widow Jane Solman (66) and the Parish Nurse, Nurse Haddon. Later names referenced include Smith, Neale, Startup, Collins, Allard, Coomber, Harris, Clout and Norton.

The book also refers to Mrs Alexander endowing the charitable trust with a further £6,000 (equivalent to £626,000 today) to be invested in India 3% stock, the income from which was intended to fund the running costs and maintenance of the properties.

Thomas Shafto was born in Beamish Hall, County Durham (3rd son of the owner) and in 1845 he married Dulcibella Moore, daughter of the Rector of Hunton at that time. They established a home for themselves in Cheveney but sadly she died in 1849. They had no children and he never remarried. It appears that the Drummonds/Alexanders and Shaftos/Edens both lived in Cheveney at the same time and that Mrs Alexander was the sole beneficiary to an estate worth about £6m in today's terms under Thomas Eden's will.

Mrs Alexander (as the wife of Major General Henry Drummond who died in 1868 - she remarried in 1870) was an interesting woman who Queen Victoria had asked to accept Indian Princess Victoria Gouramma as her ward. This request was made after a Lady in Waiting, Lady Login, noted Mrs Drummond's remarkable success educating her own two daughters (who went on to marry Lt Col. Arthur Close Borton and Col. William John Vousden VC). Lady Login's husband served in India and though this connection she accompanied deposed Maharajah Dulip Singh when he gifted the Kho I Noor to Queen Victoria in 1854.

It is interesting to note that Cheveney has connections to two Generals, an Air Vice Marshall, four Colonels, a Group Captain, two VC holders and a holder of a DFC and bar – all within the last 150 years and within the same extended family!

Hunton Club – Upcoming events

Comfort Food Friday - Friday 29th May. A cosy night at the club with homemade cottage pie, rhubarb crumble, great company & a relaxed evening with your community. A perfect excuse to take a night off from cooking and enjoy a proper comfort food supper. Members £10 | Member's Guests £12.50. Bookings with Helen before 24th May on hdennison@gmail.com or 07961203716.

FIFA World Cup 2026 - The Club will be open for selected World Cup games. Stay tuned for updates and match announcements on Social Media.

70's Night - Expect a fun-packed night celebrating all things orange, brown and beige with a funky playlist from the decade. Fancy dress is very much encouraged, so dust off those flares, platforms, floaty dresses and re-live those disco vibes. Retro food will also be on offer - including a Cheese 'n Pineapple Hedgehog or two! See separate article on page 3

Benefice Service Rota – June 2026				
Church	7 th	14 th	21 st	28 th
Coxheath 11:00 am	Communion <i>LF</i>	Morning Worship <i>LF</i>	Communion <i>LF</i>	All-age worship <i>All-age Team</i>
East Farleigh 9:30 am	Morning Worship <i>SE</i>		Communion <i>DJ</i>	
West Farleigh 9:30 am		Communion <i>CD</i>		Morning Worship <i>DJ</i>
Hunton 9:30 am	Communion <i>DJ</i>		Family service <i>LF</i>	
Linton 9:30 am		Morning Worship <i>BP</i>		Communion <i>LF</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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