



This month's issue edited by Wendy & Iain Simmons

Next month's editors: Liz Oliver & Graham Dolman Huntonherald@outlook.com Deadline for articles 15th October

Hunton's Famous Harvest Supper

Saturday 24th October, 7pm

Tickets for Hunton's hugely popular Harvest Supper on October 24th at 7pm are AVAILABLE NOW and selling fast! Not only does your ticket include a delicious a 2-course home-cooked hearty Harvest Supper, but you will be entertained with our famous seasonal, easy, fun games, which always add something extra to the evening! The event is run by FoSM - the Friends of St Mary's who are raising vital funds for the ongoing repair works to our historic village church. Please come and support them and celebrate Autumn in our wonderful village.

RESERVE A TICKET NOW: Send an email with the number of tickets you would like to fosmtickets@icloud.com You will then receive a reply email with payment details.

TIME: Bar opens 7pm (pay cash or card)

PRICE: Adult ticket in advance £12.50. Under 14 child ticket in advance £10.00

A superb achievement for Hunton Primary School

As headteacher of Hunton CE Primary School, I am delighted to finally be able to share our superb Ofsted result with you. We are incredibly proud of the outcome because we have been judged as a school doing even better than the 'Expected Standard' by providing a 'Strong Standard' in six of the seven aspects of the newly introduced 'Report Card'. The children's behaviour is quoted as both 'excellent' and 'delightful'. The report is based on the revised Ofsted inspection framework, which came into effect in November 2025 and has changed significantly in the way inspectors now arrive at their judgements. When evaluating schools, Ofsted expect most schools to be graded at the 'Expected Standard' which, in itself, means that the school is providing good and effective education for its pupils and doing everything it should be doing in that area. So, to do better than this is a marvellous achievement for us all!

I continue to feel blessed to be the Headteacher of such an amazing school and am truly honoured to serve our wonderful children and would like to thank each of them for being who they are, and being the best they can be. It is inspiring to work with such a wonderful group of staff, children, parents and governors. Every single member of our school community deserves to celebrate the outcome of their commitment to our very special school. We have a number of volunteers who not only give up their time but encourage our children in such a compassionate way.

Finally, I would like to personally thank everyone involved in the community for their phenomenal support and unwavering commitment in ensuring that Hunton CE Primary School maintains its uniqueness and continues to grow. We never stand still and will, of course, in light of the report, consider how we can improve even more! School tours are now available for children starting school in September 2027. Further details are available on the school website or via the office on 01622 820360.

Anita Makey (Headteacher)



Dates for your diary...

9th October Movie Night from 6pm

16th-18th October Green Hop Beer Festival

18th October Harvest Supper from 7pm

30th October Halloween at the Club & Churchyard Clean-up

4th November Churchyard Working party, 9am-12noon

14th November 'Crime in Action' from 6pm

21st November Christmas Market, 2.30-5.30pm

27th November Wine Tasting at the Village Club

Check out www.huntonparishcouncil.gov.uk/events-list for more information If you would like to add an event email clerk@huntonparishcouncil.gov.uk



Hunton



www.huntonparishcouncil.gov.uk



@HuntonVillage

Pastoral letter

There is a famous quote that is shared all over social media at this time of year: "I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers." There's a little bit that comes after that I just love: "It would be terrible if we just skipped from September to November, wouldn't it? Look at these maple branches. Don't they give you a thrill—several thrills? I'm going to decorate my room with them."

As I write to you, I am thinking about books. Writing for the October letter has reminded me of one book in particular: L.M. Montgomery's 'Anne of Green Gables'. Anne Shirley (who is my absolutely favourite literary character) was particularly enthralled by the month of October; she was indeed enthralled by most things. One of the things that draws me to her is her ability to find almost anything to be extraordinary!

One of the wonders of Anne for me is her ability to throw herself completely into any, and everything, she comes across. Whether she likes or dislikes something; whether she is glad or sad; Anne feels everything with a wild and furious passion. Utterly committed to embracing the depths of the people and world around her and, the full expanse of every experience. You may have guessed, I rather love her! I, not-so-secretly, yearn to grab hold of some of the spirit with which she devours life and takes every ounce of everything it presents to her.

I am sure I have an Anne Shirley inside me, all ready to burst out, living with wild abandon; loving with depth and honesty; dancing through life in all its fullness. It's not easy though, I am not a literary character, and I don't, unbelievably, live a whimsical life on a little Canadian island in years gone by. I inhabit this life; my life, with all its joys and sorrows; all the challenges of modern life and family, the anxiety of living in an uncertain world, the drudgery of laundry and shopping and cleaning and a garden I can't manage!

But I do love an October. Thinking about Anne Shirley today has reminded me that there is so much 'LIFE' to be found in life itself. I must not let it pass me by. I must not miss the beauty there is around me, if only I manage to notice it!

I wonder who your favourite literary character is? And I wonder why you love them and what you learn from them? And what that might mean about who you are, and what you are longing for.

Do read some books this autumn and do email me for some further recommendations. revlornafaulkner@gmail.com

Reverend Lorna Falkner

Green Hop Beer Weekend

Friday 16th October 6.30 – 10.30pm

Saturday 17th October 12 noon to 3pm and 6.30 – 10.30pm

Sunday 18th October 12noon – 3pm

Everyone will be welcome at the Club during Green Hop Beer Weekend to try some newly released Green Hop Beers and enjoy some light snacks. Of course, other drinks will be available! Come for supper or lunch, bring your friends and enjoy a relaxing time at the Club. The hops for these beers are not dried or pelleted, as for normal beers, but are taken quickly from the field to be processed as they can spoil within hours. Depending on the brewery, hops are being turned into beer from as little as 3 hours to 12 hours after picking. Adding these very fresh hops enables the brewers to access hop oils that are not available when the hops are dried, as a result they have a very fresh flavour. These beers are only available for a short period, so don't miss this chance to try some this year! Whilst at the Club you can spend time looking at an exhibition of vintage photos and memorabilia from hop picking times and other local history events. Edna thanks those of you who have already been in touch with her to lend photos or documents for her to copy and return. She will be happy to hear from you if you find anything you think might possibly be added to the exhibition.

Contact Edna on 074938 46244 or edmaden@gmail.com

Edna Dennison

Christmas Market Update:

Save the Date: Saturday 21st November

The arrangements of the 2026 Hunton Christmas Market are coming along well. Saturday November 21st from 2.30 — 5.30pm in St Mary's Church. We have already booked 24 stalls with 4 new stalls so far and 3 'retired', so once again much to offer. Father Christmas has agreed to look in around 3.30pm for the children. There will be mulled wine, cakes and refreshments all afternoon. Hope to see you all as we start Christmas a few days earlier this year! Contact David Jones to reserve a stall.

Fay Joyce & David Jones

Hunton Village Club Classic Movie Night:

Second Friday of each month

Come and have a drink with friends or family and watch your favourite movie on the big screen. Last month we showed *Zulu*, starring Michael Caine. The next film with a famous cast is *Battle of the Bulge* on 9th October. The club will open at 6.30pm with the film starting at 7.30pm. Pick the next movie by voting in the box at the club.

Paul and Heather French

Nepal, Nepal, in my Heart!

What has Nepal got to do with Hunton? There are quite a few in our village who have visited/trekking in Nepal. Moreover, many have a heart for Nepal, especially following the recent disastrous flooding. I went to Nepal with this group for a year in the 1980s, working in the Gandaki zonal hospital, Pokhara. I was fortunate to have a stunning view of Machapuchhre from my window. Mountain Grandeur — Annapurnas, Machapuchhre, Manaslu, Everest, Lantangs. Mighty Glacial Rivers — The Karnali, Gandaki, Trishuli and Kosi. I marvelled at the Himalayan Pines, Rhododendrons, Fish Eagles, Impeyan Pheasant, Punctinello, Painted Jezebels, and Kaiser-I-Hind. Most importantly, I came to know this as home amongst the diverse, and hospitable, people groups of Nepal. Since returning to the UK, for approximately \$10 a year, a subscription to the Kantipur Media Group and



Kathmandu Post online has kept me in touch with daily life in Nepal. With sadness, I recently read of Mr Prem Bahadur and his wife Maiya Tamang; both elderly with mobility problems, living in a tin roofed house, on the hillside above the Trishuli river. On the 1st night, after the disastrous flood, they sheltered 30 distressed school children plus their teacher in their home and over ensuing days, up to 200 other people who had been greatly affected by the flood. Maiya said her stocks of lentils and rice had almost run out but she still prepared plates of steaming Dhal Bhat, the rural staple of Nepal, for her individual visitor's sustenance and comfort. A heartwarming story.

Meanwhile, Nepal's new Prime minister, Mr Balendra Shah, has presented a report to the United Nations General Assembly, 81st session, in New York, aiming to start a campaign to 'Save the Lives and Livelihood of Nepal's Mountain People'. It is hoped to prompt support for the estimated £4 billion flood reconstruction fund, from the world's highest greenhouse gas emitters, USA, India and China; Nepal, itself, being one of the world's lowest GG emitters.

What can we do in Hunton? Small donations go a long way in Nepal. I, like many others, donate to: [redcross.org.uk/Nepal-emergency/donate](https://www.redcross.org.uk/Nepal-emergency/donate)

Helen Clews retired local GP

The Fane History Talk

On Thursday 3rd September about 75 of us gathered to hear a talk by Sue Threader of The Rochester Bridge Trust on our Church's shared history with the Trust and the Fane family. It was a fascinating charge through about 450 years of history. For those who missed the talk — after a Roman bridge was destroyed, a Medieval stone bridge of eleven arches (and drawbridge) was erected in its place, and so, in 1399 Rochester Bridge Trust was established to own and maintain the crossing over the River Medway between Rochester and Strood. Endowments of funds and land were made to the Trust when it was established in the 14th century. These, combined with judicious management over many centuries, means the Trust now owns extensive property in Kent and as far away as Lincolnshire and Yorkshire. As a result, the Trust is able to distribute surplus funds for educational and charitable schemes within the Trust's remit; happily, for us, this includes Hunton and St. Mary's Church.

Sue covered 300 years of Fane history and service to the Trust at breakneck speed. We learned of seven Fane burials in the Church (only three of which we had been aware of), graffiti in the Tower of London which survives today (left by our Sir Thomas Fane's older brother after he was imprisoned for his part in the Thomas Wyatt rebellion). She explained how the Fane motto was created on a marriage into the highly regarded Neville family: Ne Vile Fano ("Don't Disgrace the Altar"), joining the Neville and Fane names. Overall, the Fane family has provided seven Wardens of the Trust.

The Trust had arranged to display the helm once owned by Sir Thomas Fane the Younger which is now kept in the Rochester Guildhall Museum. Sue dated the helm to between 1560-1585 and said it was made as a piece of fighting armour before being adapted to form part of Sir Thomas's funeral display.

The evening ended with fizz and nibbles, courtesy of a generous group of supporters, raising about £450 for our repair fund. Most of us stayed to mingle and enjoy an exhibition provided by the Trust. We also admired the new display case for our 1613 "She" bible. The case was made and donated in honour of Gilly Devas who died a year ago to the day of the talk and to whom we drank a toast in fond and grateful memory.

Connections with Hunton continue. The Trust supported the recent work on the tower at St Mary's with a very generous donation. They also paid for an assessment of the repairs of one of the Fane tombs. We also have a resident of Hunton on the Trust Board. Mike Summersgill, your local Parish and Borough Councillor, was appointed by Maidstone Borough Council. He has noted that the Trust supports many restoration projects in Kent, while also sponsoring scholars at school and university, thus strengthening the science, mathematics and engineering (STEM) work of the future.

James Forster

Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

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

Amazing turn out for the Beer Festival

Thank you to everyone who came and supported the annual beer festival. The event would not be the success it is without you and the companies and organisations who kindly donated tombola prizes or supported the event in other ways. There were over fifty volunteers involved this year. Fourteen beers were available, together with the Pimm's and Prosecco stand. Everyone enjoyed the tasty food and home-made cakes. The produce stand offered locally grown fruit and vegetables as well as home-made jams, chutneys and preserves. Edna and Sarah ran the children's entertainment and Katie and Emma the games. The tombola was a great success with over £1,000 worth of prizes. The music was provided by Matt Brooks, Kent singer and guitarist. And thanks to you, the Club received just over £2,500 which helped with the recent redecoration costs.

Fay Joyce

Crime in Action: Murder Mystery Night at the Club — Saturday 14th November Doors open 6pm for Briefing 6.30pm

Following the 'Murder Mystery' event in February, Andy Cassidy and Jacqui Grace have been persuaded to run another evening to entertain us but also to raise funds for the Club maintenance program. As last time, there will be a raffle to create a donation for Dandelion Time the amazing local charity which helps children and their families who have suffered traumatic experiences. Both Andy and Jacqui worked for The Metropolitan Police, The National Crime Squad and the Serious Crime Agency. This time, they are proposing something a little different to challenge you. They suggest you work in groups of about 6, but you are welcome to book alone or in lesser numbers then join a team on the night. All are welcome but book early, as it was an early sell out last time.

There will be sustenance in the form of supper to encourage your brains leap into action. Tickets are £15 per person for Club members (£17.50 for non-members). Places are limited, so contact me quickly to reserve yours. Don't forget to tell me if you have any food allergies! I look forward to hearing from you. Lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com 01622 820210

Your local contacts

Village Hall booking www.huntonvillagehall.co.uk **Village Club** Roger Lee 820210 roger.c.lee@btinternet.com

School Secretary/Head Teacher 820360 **Under 5's Pre-School** 820309

Hunton Ladies Chris Summersgill c.a.summergill@btinternet.com

Pond and Tree Warden Sam Andrews huntontreewarden@gmail.com

Rector Revd. Lorna Faulkner (not available on Fridays): 747570 **Hon Associate Rector** Revd. David Jones 741474

Churchwarden Iain Simmons 820875 ishuntonchurchwarden@btinternet.com **Community Wardens Team** 07811 271021

Hunton Bell Ringers Susan Clements 07864 041234

Maidstone Police 690690 or 101 **Huntonwatch** huntonwatch@huntonparishcouncil.gov.uk or 07517706376

Reporting HGVs huntontrafficroporting@gmail.com **Potholes Hotline (KCC)** 03000418181

Katie Lam MP katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk **Assistant to Katie Lam MP** 020 7219 8175

Parish Council Contacts

Parish Clerk Sharon Goodwin 681238, clerk@huntonparishcouncil.gov.uk **Chairman** David Heaton 820678, dhhuntonpc@gmail.com

Cllr Mike Summersgill 820429, msummersgill@huntonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Simon Webb 07878 018997, simon.webb5@btinternet.com **Cllr Iain Simmons** 820875, isimmons@huntonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Stephen Banks 07850 545481 sbanks@huntonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Benefice Service Rota— September 2026					
Church	4th	11th	18th	25th	
Coxheath 11:00 am	Communion LF	Morning Worship LF	Communion LF	All-age worship All-age Team	
East Farleigh 9:30 am	Morning Worship Harvest BP		Communion LF		
West Farleigh 9:30 am		Communion Harvest DJ & CD		Morning Worship LF	
Hunton 9:30 am	Communion DJ		Harvest DJ		
Linton 9:30 am				Communion DJ & CD	
LF -Lorna Faulkner, DJ — David Jones, BP- Becky Parnham, CD -Clinton Davis, SE — Sue Elliott					
Midweek Services					
Coxheath - Every Thursday; 10:00 am BCP Holy Communion Linton: 2 nd Wednesday of the month, 12 noon HC					

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