



Next Editors: Wendy and Iain Simmons : huntonherald@outlook.com
All items for the next edition of the Herald to the Editors by 15th September

An Amazing Afternoon Tea Party

On Sunday 27th July, Hunton Village Club was transformed into a charming setting for an Afternoon Tea Party in support of Myeloma UK, and what an afternoon it was!

The event was a huge success, raising over £2,000 through JustGiving donations and from ticket sales, raffle tickets and other purchases.

We were truly humbled by the generosity of everyone who came along and supported this cause.

A very special thank you goes to Edna and the amazing Hunton Ladies group, who pulled out all the stops to make the afternoon so memorable. From the stunning flowers and beautiful décor to the delicious cakes and the hardworking team of sandwich makers – every detail was perfect. It was a real team effort, and every single person played a part in making the day so special.

Thank you for your kindness, generosity, and community spirit. It means more than words can say. We ♥ Hunton



Kerry & Kevin Larkin

Coming soon - Harvest Supper on Saturday 4th October

This year's Harvest Supper is being held at 7.30pm on the 4th October in our beautiful Village Hall.

Tickets cost £12 for adults and £8 for children (under 14s) and will include a wholesome home-cooked meal with a bar available to buy drinks.

Please contact Ian Pinks via email on ianppinks@gmail.com or call on 01622 820709 to buy your tickets in advance - please note, as this is a catered event, there will be no tickets available on the door.

We hope you will join us to celebrate our rural heritage, and to eat and drink with friends whilst raising much needed money to help The Friends of St Mary's preserve the fabric of our village church!

Visit Horlands Farm on Wednesday 10th September 4pm then Gardening Club Supper at Hunton Club

You are welcome to join this Hunton Gardening Club tour of Horlands Farm in Marden which is part of the Higher-Level Environmental Stewardship Scheme. The tour starts at 4pm on Wednesday 10th September and will last about two hours during which it is expected we will walk only about two miles. This mixed farm produces beef, lamb, apple & pear juice which is sold locally and to private customers.

Following the tour, the Club will be open for drinks and supper. If you would like to join the tour and / or have supper please contact me a.s.a.p. lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com or 01622 820210. Thanks.

Your Local Contacts:

School: Secretary/Head Teacher	820360	Maidstone Police	690690 or 101
Under 5's Pre-School:	820309	Village Hall Booking:	www.huntonvillagehall.co.uk
Pond and Tree Warden: Sam Andrews	huntontreewarden@gmail.com	Huntonwatch: huntonwatch@gmail.com	01622 820403
Rector: Revd. Lorna Faulkner*	747570	'Potholes' Hotline (KCC)	03000 418181
Hon Associate Rector: Revd. David Jones	741474	Hunton Ladies: Chris Summersgill	c.a.summersgill@btinternet.com
Churchwarden: Iain Simmons	820875	Katie Lam MP	katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk
	Ishuntonchurchwarden@btinternet.com	Assistant to MP Katie Lam	020 7219 8175
Community Wardens Team	07811 271021	Village Club: Roger Lee: roger.c.lee@btinternet.com	820210
Hunton Bell Ringers: Lavinia Thompson	07885 763071	Reporting HGVs	huntontrafficreporting@gmail.com
Contact details for other village clubs and organisations are available at www.huntonparishcouncil.org.uk			

*not available on Fridays

Parish Council Contacts

Parish Clerk: Sharon Goodwin - 681238, clerk@huntonparishcouncil.gov.uk	Chairman: David Heaton - 820678, dhhuntonnpc@gmail.com
Cllr Tony Stanbridge - 820721, tshuntonnpc@gmail.com	Cllr Annette Trought - 820448, annette@trought.com
Cllr Mike Summersgill - 820429, mshuntonnpc@btinternet.com	Cllr Iain Simmons - 820875, isimmons@huntonparishcouncil.gov.uk
Cllr Simon Webb - 07878 018997, simon.webb5@btinternet.com	

Diary Dates

Wayside Train Day: 7th September; Farm Tour, then Gardening Club Social, 10th September; Church Working Party and 'Ride & Stride', 13th September; Harvest Festival Supper, 4th October; 'Green Hop' Beer Weekend, 17th -19th October; Fright Night, 31st October; Hunton Christmas Market: 22nd November
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

Dear friends,

I have what most would say is a big birthday coming up in September.

When I was 50, I remember it being said that 50 is the new 40, and when I was 60 it was said that 60 is the new 50! I recently read that 70 is apparently the new 53! Research cited in the IMF's World Economic Outlook, based on samples in 41 countries, suggested the average 70-year-old in 2022 had the same cognitive ability as a 53-year-old in 2000!

Rather than big birthdays though, I am thinking about all the youngsters who have big events happening, like starting school, moving to big school, leaving school and starting apprenticeships or work, or going off to college or university. Massive events in these young lives.

This time of year can be difficult, too, for parents having to buy school uniforms and it can be emotional when children go to school for the first time or youngsters leave home to go to college or university.

Do you remember when you first went to school or college or started work? Was it a good experience? Do you look back with fondness or would you rather forget it? Bad experiences can affect people for a very long time, sometimes for their whole lives. That's why it is important that we all help our children and young people have the best experiences possible, because they are very precious.

Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a real blessing. Psalm 127:3 (Good News Translation)

You might not have any children, but you may be an auntie or uncle, or a neighbour to a family, or a friend. Do help our young people have good experiences that they will remember with joy and affection. Be a listening ear when they need to talk. Pray for them, they grow up so fast.

Big birthdays might be celebrated but when all is said and done 70 is just a number. Am I bothered? Nah! Enjoy the rest of September.

Blessings, Sue Elliott - Pastoral Assistant

Working Party for Church and Churchyard

We have a full village wedding to prepare for on the 20th September and we would again appreciate all the help we can get the weekend before, on the 13th. These are very social gatherings and so, if you are new to the village, it provides an excellent way to get involved.

This day coincides with the **Ride & Stride** event so any Riders and Striders will be very welcome to pop in and say hello!

Please email lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com if you plan to come along so she can bring along enough biscuits for everyone!

Hunton Christmas Market – Saturday 22nd November

Here I am on one of the hottest days of the year trying to cool off by thinking cold thoughts. With less than 100 days to this year's Christmas Market what better way to cool off?

Already 15 stalls are booked in and with others still on holiday and not booked yet it promises to be a 'bumper' market this year. Still wanting to join us? We can always find the odd space.

Father Christmas and at least one of his elves are gearing up to greet the children.

Contact Fay Joyce if you want to be involved – 01622 820644 or fay.joyce@btinternet.com

Do you live on East Street?

If you do, can you help take over Hunton Herald deliveries from The Old School House to Court Lodge? Sadly for us our current volunteer is leaving the village for a new life in Sussex (and we wish her well and thank her for all she has done). There are 10 copies to deliver to 7 addresses so the task is not onerous but it is important!

Please contact James Forster at forsters.hunton@btinternet.com or message on 07900 406504 if you can help.

Green Hop Beer Weekend

Friday 17th October 6.30 – 10.30pm, Saturday 18th October 12 noon to 3pm and 6.30 to 10.30pm and Sunday 19th October 12 noon to 3pm

If you would like to try local newly released Green Hop Beers, or are interested in the history of Hop Picking and other farming activities in and around Hunton, or just fancy catching up with friends for a relaxed lunch or supper, come along to Hunton Village Club's Second Green Hop Beer Weekend.

Following the very successful event last year, The Club will again be offering a range of local Green Hop Beers which are packed with bold fresh flavours. Hop Picking starts at the beginning of September then Green Hop Beer is made with the fresh, green hops instead of using hops that have been dried which is the traditional brewing method. These beers can only be enjoyed during a short season – so don't miss out. The full range of regular bar drinks will be available as well as some light snacks so come for lunch or supper or both!

The Club will again be hosting an exhibition of old photographs and memorabilia. If you have any old photos of hop picking or other farming activities in and around Hunton which could be copied and then included in a display at this event, please contact Edna Dennison edmaden@gmail.com or 074938 46244.

Hunton Ladies

At their July meeting the Hunton Ladies Group made corsages under the expert guidance of local resident Tricia Nichols. They carefully wired together ivy leaves and carnations to make beautiful arrangements fit for any mother of the bride. Our thanks to Tricia for organising a relaxing and enjoyable evening. Hunton Ladies Group meet at the Village Club at 8pm on the last Wednesday of each month. New ladies are always welcome.

Chris Summersgill

Pioneering Women

Following his most successful talk on the Battle of Britain in May, Guy Bartlett returned to the Club with a talk about pioneering women in aviation.

There were some remarkable stories, from Hilda Hewlett (born 1864 who in 1911 aged 47 was the 122nd person in England, and the first woman, to be granted a pilot's licence) to Jo Slater (the first woman to qualify as a fast jet pilot with the RAF in 1994).

There were connections in that Jo Slater flew a Tornado alongside Concorde to take the only photograph of Concorde flying at supersonic speeds (the Tornado was flying flat out whereas Concorde had to throttle back to ensure speeds matched). The first officer on Concorde that day was Barbara Harmer, the only British woman qualified to fly the plane.

Other names were perhaps better known such as Amy Johnson who, after becoming the first woman to fly solo from England to Australia in 1930, joined the Air Transport Auxiliary ("ATA") in 1939 to ferry aircraft from factories in the North of England to operational bases in the South East and elsewhere. Sadly, she got lost in bad weather and died in the Thames Estuary in 1941.

We heard about Lettice Curtis, another ATA pilot who went to school locally at Benenden. She served throughout the war becoming the first woman to be trained on four engine bombers. After the war she raced aircraft setting air-speed records before qualifying to fly helicopters in 1992 aged 77, but my favourite story was about a girl called Dolly Shepherd.

Dolly was 16 when she got a job waitressing at the Alexandra Palace venue for Buffalo Bill Cody's travelling Wild West Show. Overhearing Buffalo Bill talking about his wife's refusal to carry on participating in his headline act (shooting an egg off her head) after a bullet grazed her skull, Dolly offered to stand in!

After the performance she joined his act. Buffalo Bill was grateful and gave her a tour of his collection of kites and balloons which led them developing an act in which she was lifted up to 2,000 – 4,000 ft under a balloon before releasing herself and parachuting to the ground! On one such performance in 1905 she was unable to release herself. She rose to 15,000 ft before the release mechanism worked.

In 1910 they were using a bigger balloon in a double act, when the other girl couldn't release herself. Instead of saving herself, at 11,000 ft Dolly swung toward her companion, catching hold of her and they came down together. Landing heavily Dolly was paralysed and confined to bed for weeks. A doctor advocated electric shock treatment but he hadn't quite got the dose right! Dolly flew out of bed and crashed into a wall but the combined effect realigned her vertebrae and her paralysis was cured! She returned to the act but retired later that year when another girl died on a jump that Dolly had been due to make herself.

In 1976 the Red Devils invited Dolly to jump with them which she did to celebrate her 90th birthday!!

Thank you to both Guy and Edna, who arranged the talk - It was an evening full of humbling stories of extraordinary achievements.

The Herald – Keeping you Informed!

We are happy to report that our editors, distributors and advertisers have mostly agreed to support the Herald for another 12 months. We thank you all and hope that our advertisers get good value for their adverts in our Directory.

In terms of the Herald's finances, since we started 22 years ago the Herald has now distributed over £22,000 to village causes, retaining an undistributed surplus of over £6,000, so are well placed to provide more support to village ventures should the need arise.

If you would like to help us, please e-mail James and Andrea on forsters.hunton@btinternet.com and we will be delighted to get back to you.

We Got Quizzical!

Nine teams took on the 'Just for Fun' quiz on Friday 25th July. With more than forty people present, Sam the barman was kept busy throughout the night, assisting "The Lone Stranger" team, sat at the bar, as and when he could.

There were nine rounds of questions including the 'marathon round' which required 24 pictures of road signs to be correctly identified as per the highway code. This round caused quite a stir when the answers were provided, necessitating the scorer to review each team's answer sheet to ensure a consistency of scoring. Not one team scored a maximum on that round whereas the Geography and The Arts rounds did provide some teams with maximum scores.

It was a very close-run competition with the lead swapping from team to team as the night progressed resulting in the closest result ever on a Club Quiz Night with just a one-point difference between first and second places. Perhaps a tie break question will be required next time.

The Club will be holding more quiz nights during the year, dates are yet to be set and will be advertised in The Herald and on the Club's website <https://huntonvillageclub.com>

Hunton Village Club Presents... A Friday Fright Night!

Join us for a night of thrills, chills, and devilishly good fun?

On Friday 31st October 2025, Hunton Village Club will transform into a spooky but stylish hideaway for our Friday Fright Night!

What to Expect:

- Hot Food - Bangers & Monster Mash followed by Poison Apple Crumble & Ice-Screeeeeaaaaam!
- Raffle with fang-tastic prizes
- Music to get you're freak on
- Halloween Dress Essential – let your spooky style shine!
- Prize for Best Costume
- Creepy Corner for photos

Doors creak open at 7pm... Food will be served from 8pm. Members £10 | Non-Members £12.50

Booking Essential – Payment in advance - Contact Countess Kerry: 07939 869433 or kerryanicholls1@aol.com

(This event is geared towards adults, but children over 10 are welcome if accompanied by an adult).

Spaces are limited, so don't hang around - Come if you dare...

Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

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

The Pondlife Progress

In November 2023 we had a pond dug on our smallholding. This was created by Medway Valley Countryside Partnership as part of their drive to increase the numbers of Great Crested Newts in this part of Kent and is one of three in Hunton. The pond is about 2metres deep at its deepest and covers around 150 square metres.

To have this pond we signed a memorandum of understanding that we would fence the area off against livestock and not introduce any flora or fauna into it. This was the part of the understanding that interested me, as I was looking forward to observing what and how quickly the pond would be colonised.

As it was early winter, it started filling quite fast, by March it was overflowing onto the adjoining field. The first thing to appear was a Water Boatman within a few days, rowing around the pond while ice was forming above it. By early spring pond skaters and a number of other water beetles were seen, along with a number of other insects which I couldn't identify.

Even though the late summer last year was very dry the pond always had water in it, even though this got down to a few centimetres by early September.

Unfortunately, as we are all aware, this summer has been very dry, so as I write this the pond is down to about 10 centimetres depth and I think will dry out for a time this year. Nevertheless, though no Great Crested newts have been seen, Smooth newts have come, and I have observed efts (first year newts). It might sound sad that the pond has dried out I don't think it will do it in most years. In fact, fluctuating water levels in a pond are actually a good thing as it provides changing mini environments that different plants and insects can take advantage of. Plants that are associated with water are also appearing, so far we have one Bulrush, one Cotton Grass and one Gypsywort, along with a number of willow saplings.

The interesting point to note is the role the pond has in the landscape. It is a mecca for birds who use it for drinking and bathing. This includes a flock of 150 starlings, flocks of Goldfinches and Linnets and in the last couple of days significant numbers of Rooks and Jackdaws using it as a pitstop whilst scavenging on the recently cultivated adjacent fields. Buzzards like perching on the fence and hopping down to eat worms, taken from the soft moist soil just above the water level. Fallow deer, Foxes, Rabbits, Badgers and Field voles use it for drinking.

Sue and I are looking forward to seeing the pond and its surroundings mature and develop.

David Heaton

What a Blessing!

Saturday 2nd August was a very special day for our family.

Our daughter, Hayley and her Spanish husband Fidel, live in Northern Spain. They had hoped to have their wedding at St Mary's in Hunton, to take their vows in church, in front of family and friends. Due to the complexities of getting legally married in the UK, where one person is not a UK citizen, they decided to have their legal marriage conducted in Spain.

Lorna and David kindly agreed to a Blessing service at St Mary's, which was followed by the Christening of Hayley and Fidel's baby son Elliot and then a reception in a marquee in our garden. After many months of organization and planning, between family and friends in both countries, mainly aided by various internet applications, 2nd August finally arrived.

The church services were joyous, wonderful celebrations of the two occasions. Some readings were in Spanish and there were translations of the English parts of the service given to our Spanish guests.

Our special thanks to David for his kindness and light touch to both services - especially for allowing Elliot to get involved at the font! We are very grateful to all the volunteers who made the church look its best, to the verger, the organist and the bell ringer who gave their time, to name but a few.

All our anxieties about a marquee reception dissipated. There was no rain or high wind to cause us problems. From the time the church service started to the end of the reception, everything went to plan. The Spanish guests in particular loved our beautiful landscape and our church. Our guests celebrated and danced throughout the evening to a live band. It really was a wonderful event. We are so grateful for the support from our neighbours and friends and talented suppliers in Hunton who helped in many ways and especially to those who made our Spanish guests welcome in their homes - you all know who you are!

The theme for our Hunton Blessing and Christening event was "La familia lo es Todo" (family is everything), however, we would like to extend this sentiment to our Hunton "family", who have helped to make our family's special day so memorable.

Celia Kennedy Sloane

Benefice Service Rota – September 2025

Church	7 th	14 th	21 st	28 th
Coxheath 11.00am	Communion <i>DJ</i>	Morning Worship <i>LF</i>	Communion <i>LF</i>	Family Service <i>LF & BP</i>
E. Farleigh 9.30am	Morning Worship <i>BP</i>		Communion <i>LF</i>	
W. Farleigh 9.30am		Communion <i>LF</i>		Morning Prayer <i>DJ</i>
Hunton 9.30am	Communion <i>LF</i>		Family Service <i>DJ</i>	
Linton 9.30am		Morning Worship <i>SE</i>		Communion <i>CD</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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