



The Hunton Herald

Issue 285
September
2026

Next editors: Wendy & Iain Simmons: Huntonherald@outlook.com

All items for the next edition of the Herald to the editors by 15th September

Walk and Supper

Friday 25th September

Following several successful walks and lunches, the Club will, for a change, be hosting a late afternoon walk followed by supper. The walk from the Club starting at 5.15pm will last about an hour and a quarter. The Club will be open from 6.30pm for drinks, followed by supper which will cost £10 for Club members and £12.50 for non-members. Those not wanting to walk are welcome to attend just the supper. If you want to walk and / or have supper please let Lesley know on lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com or 01622 820210; please do make it clear if you have any allergies.

Lesley Lee

Green Hop Beer Weekend

Friday 16th October 6.30pm – 10.30pm, Saturday 17th October 12 noon to 3pm and 6.30pm to 10.30pm and Sunday 18th October 12 noon to 3pm

Put the above dates and times in your diaries so you don't miss out on Hunton Village Club's Green Hop Beer Weekend. This is the perfect excuse to catch up with friends for a relaxed lunch or supper and sample local Green Hop Beers which are only available for a short season. Of course, the full range of bar drinks will be available as well as some snacks so plan to come for a simple meal.

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, then included in a display at this event, please contact Edna Dennison on 074938 46244 or edmaden@gmail.com.

Contact me for more information – Lesley 01622 820210 lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com.

Lesley Lee

Ride & Stride — Saturday 12th September

Many local churches in this area, including St. Mary's, Hunton will be open to the public offering a cold drink and biscuit to anyone fundraising for the Friends of Kent Churches. Details of churches involved will be available in St Mary's Church together with sponsorship forms.

Dates for your diary...

3rd Sept Fane Talk, Rochester Bridge Trust, 6pm for 6.30

16th-18th October Green Hop Beer Festival

12th September Ride & Stride

30th October Hallowe'en at the Village Club

12th September Church and Churchyard Clean-up

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

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 Tony Stanbridge 820721, tshuntonpc@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 **Cllr Annette Trought** 820448, annette@trought.com



Hunton



www.huntonparishcouncil.gov.uk



@HuntonVillage

Pastoral letter

Well, here we are, it's September, the first month of autumn. I'm writing this as we appear to be towards the end of a 5th heatwave and have experienced the 'joy' of hearing national wildfire alerts on our mobile phones as so many areas of our country have suffered losses caused by fires.

I'm hoping that things are a bit cooler by the time you are reading this, but fear that the pattern of our lives is going to have to become very different if we are to cope with ongoing weather extremes affecting us every year. I'm not a scientist, I don't know if it will be possible to reverse these changes and enjoy our temperate climate once again, but I do have hope that no matter what, if we work together, we will be able to adapt to make life bearable for all.

I draw this hope from my faith and trust in Jesus. I believe that there is intrinsic good in each of us and that we are built to live in relationship with all. I know that not everyone shares my faith but I hope that everyone shares the strong desire to live a life that improves the world around them. So, here's to embracing changes, looking for the positives, and living in harmony with each other and the natural world.

Best wishes, Becky

Church and Church Yard Clean Up – Saturday 12th September, 10 – 12 noon

There will be a working party to coincide with the popular Ride & Stride — and we hope to see you there. If you can make it, please can you let me know (fay.joyce@btinternet.com or 01622 820644) to ensure there is enough cake available for the obligatory mid-morning 'stop and chat' break.

Fay Joyce

Halloween is back at Hunton Village Club! Red or Dead – Saturday 31st October

Halloween is back at Hunton Village Club this year, and we're making a slight change to our usual opening night so we can celebrate on Halloween itself! The Club will not be open on Friday 30th October. Instead, we'll be opening the doors for a spooky Saturday night on 31st October from 7pm.

This year's theme is ...RED OR DEAD! The choice is yours – dress in red or come as dead! Whether you go glamorous, gruesome or somewhere wonderfully in between, we'd love you to join in the fun.

There'll be hot food, plenty of Halloween atmosphere and, no doubt, a prize or two along the way. Full ticket details will be released nearer the time, but for now there's just one thing you need to do...

SAVE THE DATE – SATURDAY 31ST OCTOBER! More details coming soon...

Kerry & Kevin Larkin

Stars in Their Eyes – Hunton Style!

Hunton Village Club certainly had stars in its eyes recently when members and guests took to the stage for a brilliant evening of music, laughter and some rather fabulous transformations!

Our very own Stars in Their Eyes Night brought together a full line-up of pop icons from across the decades. For one night only, Hunton was treated to its own collection of famous faces, with plenty of costumes, wigs, and enthusiastic performances!

Everyone who took part threw themselves into the spirit of the evening, and the audience certainly played their part too, cheering on each of our stars before casting their votes.

But there could only be one winner... the star of the show was Astrid, with her fantastic transformation into Adam Ant! She completely embraced the character, looked the part and gave us a performance worthy of the title. Most importantly, thank you to everyone who came along and supported another fun and enjoyable evening at our little village club.



Hunton Christmas Market

Another heat spike so I'm trying to cool off by thinking of Christmas? Yes, I am because if I don't there will be no Christmas Market on November 21st at St Mary's as all the stall holders will be booked with other markets. Already ten of the 20 stalls have been booked as I write. 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 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.

David Jones

Village Hall Centenary Celebrations

The idea of recognising the wonderful work of our previous village residents in building their Village Hall communally in 1926 had been buzzing around the Hall committee for a few years, but plans became more concrete when Mike Summersgill spotted a Saturday gap in the UK Summer tour schedule of one of his favourite bands, TrackDogs, and contacted their lead singer in Madrid. A quick agreement was made to the date of July 25th with the band, who had first played at the Hall 10 years ago and were coincidentally on their 20th Anniversary UK tour in 2026...10-20-100! Sadly, no T-shirts were able to be produced with that logo...

However, the band had now played the Royal Albert Hall and major festivals since Hunton first welcomed them, and were a lot more expensive so the Parish Council agreed to subsidise residents' tickets substantially from some of the (post-fete) Entertainments fund. All 100 tickets were sold with two days to go!

In the meantime, many from the Ladies Group set about obtaining bunting and balloons to decorate the Hall; historical photographs from the Hall's history were sought from residents and printed up for wall posters. The whole place was decorated on Friday morning, ready for the Saturday gig. The Hall's 26 year old PA system was extracted from the loft, cleaned up, tested and found to be functional; thankfully it survived the evening.



Friends of St. Mary's organised the bar and BBQ brilliantly and the audience enjoyed a convivial hour, and a free burger, before the formal event kicked off at 8pm. Many of the audience were at the first gig in 2016, including two youngsters whose parents had brought them along then, but there were quite a few newbies too (including the Leader of the Borough Council, leaving in time for the River Festival fireworks). After two sets of trumpet-led salsa/americana/folk music, some singalongs and a final dual drummed acoustic chant, the gig ended sometime towards 11pm and the audience of 100 sauntered home after buying several CDs, T-shirts and vinyl. The band stayed over with the Summersgills and Dolmans, just as they had in 2016, and then went off to play to 6,000 Scouts and Guides at the Jamboree in Windsor Great Park on Sunday, before heading back to Madrid. Anyone wanting to catch their Autumn tour, or listen to their music, it's all on www.trackdogsmusic.com – the next UK gig is on a Thames barge leaving Chatham on Sept 3rd.

Having seen many gigs at the Hall this century, initially promoted by Alan Bishop through Applause Rural Touring, and then by myself, it was wonderful to see the place packed again and everyone enjoying the music (and free burger...and perhaps the real ale!?) but sadly another gig is not something that can be managed without help!

Mick Summersgill

Hunton Ladies get Creative

On one of hottest days of July, with the help of the Club's electric fans, a small group of the Hunton Ladies tried their hand at using water colour paints and stamps to make a birthday card. The results were all unique and very pleasing.

Hunton Ladies Group meetings are held on the last Wednesday of the month at Hunton Club commencing at 8pm. New ladies are always welcome.

Chris Summersgill

The Best View in Hunton



Watching the partial solar eclipse through a welder's visor was definitely the way to go! Thank you Alex!



James and Andrea Forster

Wine tasting Village Club November 27, 7pm

Join us in the village club for an evening of fine wine, fine food... and even finer company — hosted by local wine expert Richard Butters. After many years working in, then running Selfridges wine department... Richard went on to run his own wine and cheese company in Notting Hill. He has explored wine regions around the world — all in the name of research — and, ultimately, so he can share his knowledge and enthusiasm with his friends in Hunton.

The tasting will have a quiz like element, including 'guess the grape' and for the Antiques Roadshow fans amongst us — 'good, better, best'. Grazing platters will be provided to aid appreciation of the wines and to keep everyone's hunger at bay. Tickets £25.

Please email Jen Dixon for more information and / or to book: jennifer_stuartsmith@yahoo.co.uk

Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

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

Robin Hood — Earl of Hunton?

William was a younger son of the 1st Baron Maxstoke but he has an interesting history. He was a friend of Edward III (1312 – 1377) whose father, Edward II, may have been killed with a red-hot poker in 1327 on the orders of his wife Isabella of France (also known as the She Wolf of France) and Roger Mortimer, 1st Earl of March (her lover). Together they then acted as Regents, ruling on behalf of the 14-year-old newly crowned King. In 1330, when Edward III was 17, Edward encouraged William and a group of knights to seek to capture both Queen Isabella and Roger Mortimer by breaking into Nottingham Castle through an underground passage. They managed to remove them both from the castle and Mortimer was then executed for treason at Tyburn a few weeks later.

Returning to Juliana, also known as the Infanta of Kent due to her extraordinary wealth: she owned 26 manors in Kent, including that of Huntingdon (now Hunton). In 1337 William was made Earl of Huntingdon and although this was an older title that was resurrected for him, it is tempting to wonder if the Earldom was chosen for the connection to his wife's Huntingdon manor? It is also amusing to note that Robin Hood has been referred to as the Earl of Huntingdon in folk tales – could this famous fable, at least in part, allude to the story of our own “Earl of Hunton” and his exploits in Nottingham Castle?!

James Forster

Report from our local MP

In July, I spent an entire day with the palliative care team at the William Harvey hospital. The patients there, their friends and family, and the doctors and nurses, were all incredibly generous in showing me the work that they do.

Sadly, there was a lot of the day that was frustrating to watch, but it was also deeply moving to see just how much people love one another, and how, when everything is coming to an end, it's this simple fact which matters most. I was most touched by the patients who'd been married for decades, sitting in the wards holding hands, who just wanted to end their days as they'd spent them: at home, together. Unfortunately, the system makes this much, much harder than you would hope. The doctors and nurses that I met were not only talented professionals, but incredibly compassionate and attentive. They dedicate their professional lives to making sure that people can live a quality life or spend their final days, weeks, and months as they wish – which usually means with family and friends, rather than in a hospital bed.

But what I saw that day in the hospital, was that while they were trying to do so, they were faced with obstacles at every turn. Hours are spent writing reports and filling in details which have already been filled in elsewhere, because of poor data storage and sharing, and hopelessly outdated systems.

The result is that doctors and nurses spend less time dealing with patients, and more time navigating the NHS system. Patients, in turn, have to wait longer for the care and attention that they need – and when it does arrive, they're often made to repeat answers to questions that they've provided before.

I raised what I'd seen with the Health Secretary and told him how much time the team at William Harvey spend gathering and sharing information, clicking through on really old systems, all on PDF – time that could instead be spent on clinical care. When are we going to move beyond a situation in which every single time a doctor sees a patient, it's like the whole interaction with the NHS is happening for the very first time?

People don't go into medicine, committing themselves to years of training, in order to navigate complex bureaucracies. They do it because they want to help people. The current system is failing healthcare professionals as much as it's failing patients, precisely because it stops them from doing what they're best at.

Katie Lam MP

Benefice Service Rota– September 2026					
Church	6th	13th	20th	27th	
Coxheath 11:00 am	Communion LF	Morning Worship BP	Communion LF	Harvest Service All-age Team	
East Farleigh 9:30 am	Morning Worship BP		Communion LF		
West Farleigh 9:30 am		Communion LF		Morning Prayer DJ	
Hunton 9:30 am	Communion LF		Family Service DJ		
Linton 9:30 am		Morning Worship LF		Harvest Communion LF	
LF -Lorna Faulkner, DJ – David Jones, BP- Becky Parnham, CD -Clinton Davis, SE – Sue Elliott					
Midweek Services					
Coxheath - Every Thursday; 10:00 am HC Linton: 2 nd Wednesday of the month, 12 noon HC followed by lunch					

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