



Next Editors: James and Andrea Forster: herald@hunton.org.uk
All items for the next edition of the Herald to the Editors by 15th November

Hunton Primary School

We are just coming to the end of our first term of the academic year. Summer seems a long way away but really because so much has happened at school and the children are beginning to regain the experiences they had 2 years ago. Music lessons are taking place, clubs have restarted and visitors are coming into school including our volunteer readers. The children truly benefit from the reading experiences they have with them so thank you.

We are also able to visit the church. Our new children in Devas walked up to the church this week to explore St Mary's. 'Why was there stained glass telling stories in some windows and not in others?' 'Why are there numbers hanging up in frames?' were just some of the questions our 4 and 5 year olds asked. Many had never been in a church or remembered going so it was a special visit. We are now looking forward to the whole school attending St Mary's for the Harvest Festival at the end of term.

For the first time in 2 years the school has been able to participate in an inter school's sport competition, 'the 'Back to Football Festival'. This took place on Monday 11th October at the Gallagher Stadium, home to Maidstone United, organised by Maidstone Academy Graduates.



It was a delight to see the children from 14 different primary schools compete. The event consisted of a group stage of 5 teams, a quarter final, semi-final, final. We were so thrilled with the sportsmanship and the competitive nature of our team. It paid off as the eventual winners were Hunton CEP School!

Our new children in Devas have settled into our school so well now. Being a class of 15 means that transition is so nurturing and caring. It seems hard to believe now is the time when we encourage families of children whose children will start school in September 2022 to come and visit us



Walk and Saturday lunch – 25th September

Just under 20 people and several well-behaved dogs, enjoyed a dry circular walk from Hunton Club through George Street, by the Church and Village Hall to Grove Lane and back to the Club. This was followed by lunch of two hot pasta dishes, salads, cheeses and a wide variety of cakes. Just under 40 people had lunch which raised money for the Friends of St. Mary's and the Club for maintenance work. Thanks to the many people who prepared the food and donated cakes, helped serve and cleaned up afterwards.

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	07907 019996
Pond and Tree Warden: Mike Summersgill	820429	'Potholes' Hotline (KCC)	03000 418181
Rector: vacant		Community Warden: James Watson	07811 271021
Hon Associate Rector: Revd. David Jones	741474*	PCSO - Paul Vasey	101
Curate: Revd. lornafaulkner@gmail.com	439304*	Helen Grant MP helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk	0207 219 7107
Hunton Bell Ringers: Jeff Young	746541	WI President: Ann Sawtell	820731
Village Club: Gil Robertson	820059	*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, huntonpc@googlemail.com	Chairman: David Heaton - 820678, dhhuntonpc@gmail.com
Cllr Jonny Goddard - 820096, jonny@cheveneyfarm.co.uk	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, ishuntonpc@btinternet.com	

Diary Dates
Check out www.huntonparishcouncil.org.uk/events-list for the latest events. If you would like to add an event, email huntonpc@gmail.com

Pastoral Letter

I'm fed up! Every day I switch on the news there's something else that is in short supply. This morning it was bricklayers, yesterday it was Christmas not coming this year! Steel now on the danger list. The list grows each day and the gloom increases. What a world we are living in!

Someone once said to me the purpose of a good pastoral letter is to bring comfort to those who feel challenge and to challenge those who feel comfortable. To bring a smile to those who find life difficult and to annoy those who think life is easy. So here goes. Decide how you feel, read what follows and then think again about how you feel.

'Hasten, O God, to save me; O Lord, come quickly to help me.' So writes the author of Psalm 70 who may have been the same writer of Psalm 69 who opens his psalm with the word 'Save me, O God, for the waters have come up to my neck. I sink in the miry depths, where there is no foothold.' Do you sometimes feel a bit like that? I do if I spend too long watching or listening to the news. Everything seems to be falling apart and the future grim. There are times throughout our lives where perhaps personally we feel low, confused and life isn't good.

One of the things I quickly learnt was that being told to buck up or there's plenty of people worse off than you had little positive effect on our feelings. In fact it can make things worse at times. We need to realize that we can't always buck up. When our situation on the face of it seems dire, we actually need to be told that it is 'all right' to feel as we do. To shout at the world and dwell in the 'miry depths, where there is no foothold' or to feel that we are sinking up to our neck.' The shout for help is real and valid. It is moments like this that we need to hold on to our faith, to recognize God exists even if at that moment we have no knowledge of that love and presence in our lives. I have a few friends who I seldom see or hear from but when I do we continue as though we never had a break. There is a feeling of a real friend who although we seldom see each other knows us and is caring for us. That is what I feel God is like. Always there, always ready to respond when we seek him but never imposing himself on us. Sometimes he doesn't seem to be near us or with us. Don't feel guilty when you feel low and don't know where or to whom to turn to. The writer of Psalms 69 and 70 found that in their despair and in their need, God was there and in the end they knew and were able to say 'You are my help and deliverer. O Lord, do not delay.' And knew his renewed presence with them. May that be the truth you find in the confusion of the time we live in today.

David

Hunton Village Club News – Quiz Night to Return

Following the successful Beer and Gin Festival a local "Walk and Lunch" took place in late September, which was well supported with profits being divided between the Club and "Friends of St. Mary's". The Linton walking group have also asked to use the Club facilities on Thursday 18th November, leaving the Club at 11a.m. and have extended an invitation to anyone who would like to join them. Further details are published elsewhere in the Herald.

Quiz nights are also returning with the next quiz to take place on Saturday 20th November. This will be in the usual format of a friendly fun quiz, no entrance fee or prizes, with teams of up to 6 people. We aim to start at 8 p.m. so we will open earlier than usual at 7:30 p.m.

Not being able to hold an AGM since 2019 has certainly hampered the Club but we are pleased to announce that the AGM this year will take place on Friday 3rd December at 8 p.m.

It is important that members attend the AGM, particularly this year as there are likely to be vacancies in the committee to be filled and the committee would really like to know how the members wish to take the Club forward now that the two major projects, the kitchen and toilets, have been completed. We now have an excellent facility, but it is not being used by the community to its potential.

Unfortunately, as everyone is aware, prices for most things are on the up. While the Club has managed to keep its prices low we are not able to absorb the recent increased running costs without increasing the prices charged at the till. However, we will continue to be very competitive with local pub prices and will endeavour to keep price rises low.

Phil Nichols

Church Working Party: Saturday 20th November: 9am to 12 noon

As mentioned in the last issue of The Herald, a small group of volunteers mow the grass in the old churchyard at St Mary's Church and occasionally help at working parties which aim to keep that area, as well as the inside of the Church, looking cared for especially for weddings and other services. The final working party for this year is on Saturday 20th November from 9am to 12 noon. If you are free to give up a couple of hours help then or perhaps willing to go on the circulation list for future events or help with mowing next year please contact Lesley – 01622 820210 lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com

Temporary Benefice phone number

Currently there are issues with the Rectory phone number (01622 747570) callers have been reporting they receive a message stating that the number has not been recognised.

As a temporary measure we are asking people to call Lorna on 01622 439304 until we get this resolved which by the time of this publication may well have been repaired.

More Gardening Anagrams - answers on back page

suet races; mr mrs tie; bare fellow; new at racing; propels; a fir cries; gender law; new arm owl

The Origins of Pumpkin Carving



Pumpkins are the unofficial mascot of autumn! Seeing those bright orange orbs with green stems in supermarkets and at farmers' markets signals the transition from the summer to cooler temperatures, crisper air and, of course, Halloween!

For most people today Halloween represents sweets, pumpkin carving and costumes but the origins of Halloween have sinister and humble beginnings full of superstitions, death, love, and evil spirits all of which give an indication of the morbidity associated with frightening Halloween costumes today. There was once a practical need for a dark, foreboding style of dress as it was believed that dressing like death would trick evil spirits into thinking you were a fellow spirit. Many European traditions also dictated that Halloween was a time when magic was the most potent.

It is believed that the custom of making jack-o-lanterns around Halloween time began in Ireland and started from an Irish folktale about a man called "stingy Jack". In the tale, Stingy Jack tricked the Devil for his own monetary gain. When Jack died, God didn't allow him into heaven, and the Devil didn't let him into hell, so Jack was sentenced to roam the earth for eternity.

In the 19th century, turnips or mangel wurzels (now known as beets), were hollowed out to act as lanterns and often carved with grotesque faces". The carved vegetables would then be put by doors and windows in hope that they would protect those living inside. They were also used around Halloween in parts of the Scottish Highlands.

In the 19th century, when a lot of Irish immigrated to the United States, they took the Halloween tradition of using vegetables to scare the spirits away. In America, the Irish discovered a new vegetable, the pumpkin, which is harvested in the autumn, and began using it to scare the evil spirits. Over time, pumpkins became the first choice for these carvings and the practice of carving spooky faces on a pumpkin evolved into other forms of pumpkin-carving.

Pumpkins have been grown in North America for almost 5,000 years! While we now enjoy Pumpkin Spiced Lattes and pie in October and November, the growing of Pumpkins actually starts in May because they require a long time to grow with no frost.

Fun facts about pumpkins:

- Pumpkins are technically a fruit - you might not find pumpkin included in a delicious fruit salad recipe, but it's technically a fruit. The reason for this is that it contains seeds. Pumpkin is a type of winter squash and is closely related to cucumbers and melons.
- Pumpkins are packed with nutrition - pumpkins are a nutrient-dense and naturally low-calorie food. 250ml/8fl oz of cooked pumpkin contains only 49 calories, but contains 49 percent of your daily needs for vitamin K, along with vitamin C, potassium, vitamin E, iron, folate, and niacin. Pumpkins also contain plenty of the antioxidant beta-carotene. Beta-carotene is converted to vitamin A in the body and is shown in studies to help fight off infections, prevent some age-related vision problems and may help protect the skin from harmful UV rays.
- Each pumpkin produces approximately 500 Seeds which can be eaten as a nutritious snack
- Cinderella made pumpkins popular! The story of Cinderella would not be the same without the pumpkin turning into a coach to take her to Prince Charming's ball, so it's fitting that the fairy tale was the first time the word "pumpkin" was used in the form we know it today. Pumpkins were first named by French explorer Jacques Cartier in 1584. He called them "gros melons," which translated to "pompions" in English. Pompions eventually evolved into pumpkins and the first known use of the word in literature was in the story of Cinderella.
- Pumpkins grow everywhere, except Antarctica.



Parish Council

The Parish Council decided at an earlier meeting that, because of new online accessibility legislation regarding Parish Council items, a new Hunton PC website would need to be created. A subcommittee of the council with the clerk have looked at the various options available and the council is pleased to announce that the new website is now live and all items relating to the council can be found on it along with links to events. If parishioners wish to place relevant items on the site, they can do via the clerk.

www.huntonparishcouncil.org.uk

Councillors Heaton and Summersgill met with KCC Highways and Drainage engineers to discuss the problem of flooding in West Street. The next inspection of the drainage is due in June 2022. However, a job number has been raised for the cleaning of the all the gullies between Grove Lane and Vicarage Road and as a one off the gully outside the Beast House will be cleaned this autumn/winter. We were also told that the road surface will be replaced below the Gudgeon in due course.

The problem of dog fouling has been brought to the PC's attention; the PC will erect no fouling signs on the footpaths leading to Hunton Court parkland. It is hoped that some selfish dog owners will take note of this and remove their dog's mess.

There is a vacancy on the Parish Council which can be filled by cooption, so if any registered electors of the parish are interested please approach a councillor or contact the clerk.

David Heaton, Chair

Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

Wednesdays 8 - 11.00pm & Sundays 8 - 10.30 pm

Swap the spade for the pitchfork

We need to protect the soil beneath our feet, the invisible world of microorganisms, fungi and microscopic life has yet to be fully understood but we destroy this secret world at our peril as it sustains and feeds our plants. Put the spade to one side and avoid digging it over which disturbs this equilibrium and displaces carbon into the atmosphere.

Gardening is the intervention of the human hand in the natural world, creating and organising our personal spaces. In working with nature, we need to mimic it. Everything that dies and falls to the ground, will over time be absorbed and turned into soil providing the nutrients to all that is growing within it. We do the same when we make compost. It is the natural process speeded up and then we apply it to the soil.

Compost made from 50% green plant vegetation and grass (Nitrogen) and 50% woody, material, paper or cardboard, dry leaves or wood ash (Carbon), and well mixed provides the formulae that should rot quickly. Compost left open to the elements recreates what nature would be doing on the forest floor getting the compost hot 45 – 65 degrees to kill off the weed seeds and pathogens (but not too hot to destroy the valuable microorganisms) will speed the composting process up. This is where the pitchfork comes in – keep turning the heap regularly to help it break down and produce the heat. Some even advocate using a thermometer to check the temperature.

If the heap is left open to the elements and it gets too wet – add more carbon. If gets too dry and more green matter (Nitrogen) or soak with rainwaterand keep turning.



Remembrance Sunday 14th November

Just a reminder the service will be held at St Mary's Hunton on 14th November at 10.50am

Hunton Walks & Lunches

Everyone is welcome to attend these events even if you are not already a member of the Club as you will be signed in as a guest and we hope you will join. The subscription for this year is just £10.

Thursday 18th November

The Linton Walkers invite you to join them, for a donation of £1, on a circular walk from Hunton Village Club leaving at 11am on Thursday 18th November. From about 12.45pm, lunch including soup, bread, cheese, cakes & coffee will be available for £6 a head.

Thursday 30th December

Advance notice of this Club event which we hope will give you the chance to stretch your legs and walk off some of the excesses of Christmas meals and then share a simple soup lunch.

If you would like to have lunch on either of these days or are willing to make a cake, please let Lesley know in advance. 01622 820210 or Lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com.

Great Village Bake Off

Once again, on November 27th, Hunton Village Club will become the Hub for the Great Village Bake Off. We are asking for volunteers to bake cakes or savoury pastries, sausage rolls, cheese or plain scones etc to fill the cake boxes for distribution to the elderly and vulnerable people in our five parishes. We also need volunteers to deliver boxes on the afternoon of the 27th.

Please contact Sandra Hobbs on 01622 746706 or smh561211@hotmail.com or Lottie Parfitt Reid on 07919 360000 or Lottie@coxheathconservatives.com. Thank you in advance for all your support.

Edna and the rest of the Village Bake Off team.



Anagram Answers

Secateurs; strimmer; leaf blower; watering can; loppers; scarifier; lawn edger; lawn mower

Benefice Service Rota – November 2021				
	7th	14th	21st	28th
Coxheath 11.00am	Communion LF/DJ	Remembrance	Communion DJ	Benefice Communion Archdeacon Paul
East Farleigh 9.30 am	Morning Worship BW/LF	Remembrance	Communion DJ	
W.Farleigh 9.30 am		Remembrance		
Hunton 9.30 am	Communion DJ	Remembrance 10.50am DJ	Morning Worship BP	
Linton 9.30 am		Remembrance		
Coxheath	Every Thursday, 10:00 - BCP Holy Communion			
Linton	Last Wednesday of each month, 12:00 noon , BCP Holy Communion (followed by Lunch)			

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