



Next Editors: Fay Joyce and Tricia Nichols: herald@hunton.org.uk
All items for the next edition of the Herald to the Editors by 15th May

Hunton's Big Jubilee Lunch. Sunday 5th June 12 – 6pm

TICKETS ON SALE FROM FRIDAY 6th MAY!

Arrangements are now in place for Hunton's Jubilee celebration. There will be complimentary tasty nibbles/finger food in the bar for everyone whether you're staying for lunch or not. If you are, then lunch tickets will go on sale from Friday 6th May. Act quickly to avoid disappointment as it's strictly first come first served! Lunch will include the highly appropriate Coronation Chicken along with a selection of other cold dishes, puddings and cheeses.

To book your place for lunch all you need to do is ring Lesley on 820210 or email her at lesley.lee@btinternet.com. Please advise Lesley if you have any food allergies. The cost is £12.50 for an adult and £6 for a child aged 11 and under. Payment can be made via BACS once you have contacted Lesley and your place(s) have been confirmed. Bank details are: Hunton Village Club, sort Code: 53 81 51, Account Number: 01802348. Please use the reference "Jubilee" and your name. The closing date for receipt of payments is Friday 27th May. Don't want to eat lunch at the club? No worries, just come along, enjoy the nibbles, join in the festivities and stay as long as you wish. There's no need to be a Club member, entry is free to all and everyone is welcome to enjoy the afternoon.

Among the entertainment will be a magician, photo booths, royal memorabilia, activities and quizzes for the children, Jubilee cocktails, real ales and some surprises! Please note that besides West Street, additional parking will be available at the village hall car park.



The Jubilee Hedge

Hunton Parish Council has decided to plant something as part of the Queen's Green Canopy initiative, to leave a lasting memory of this Jubilee. While we already have a community orchard and some splendid oaks on the playing fields, the Council decided to undertake two pieces of work at the far north end of the field, beyond the football pitch.

The first initiative, already planted out by a team of volunteers in March, is a 'Jubilee Hedge' consisting of 700 Hawthorn & Blackthorn saplings, in an offset twin row with a post and wire fence still to be installed for the hedging to grow against. This 150m+ row is now being watered in and hopefully protected against predation or vandalism; please check it out and let Mike know if there are any problem areas.

Due to the field's geometry and pitch alignment, this leaves a triangular-shaped grassy area along the north-eastern part, which abuts the small Poplar copse by the roadside corner. It has been decided to plant a Queen's Jubilee copse in this area over the next couple of years, starting in the Autumn. To this effect, we have applied to a national 'Copse in a Box' scheme for a pack that allows young (and older!) children to grow on the saplings and plant them out.

We have also been lucky to receive permission from a local nursery/vegetable grower to remove a number of oak saplings from their cherry orchard and re-plant them here (in October). There is also a suggestion that a specific wildlife area could be created in one sector of the copse, and discussions with the PlayGroup and Primary School will take place, to hear of any proposals that might be useful for pupil visits etc.

Mike Summersgill, Hunton Tree/Pond Warden

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: Mike Summersgill	820429	Huntonwatch: huntonwatch@gmail.com	07907 019996
Rector: vacant		'Potholes' Hotline (KCC)	03000 418181
Hon Associate Rector: Revd. David Jones	741474*	Community Warden: James Watson	07811 271021
Curate: Revd. Iornafaulkner@gmail.com	439304*	PCSO - Paul Vasey	101
Hunton Bell Ringers: Jeff Young	746541	Helen Grant MP helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk	0207 219 7107
		Village Club: Roger Lee: roger.c.lee@btinternet.com	820210
		<i>*not available on Fridays</i>	

Contact details for other village clubs and organisations are available at www.huntonparishcouncil.org.uk

Parish Council Contacts	
Parish Clerk: Sharon Goodwin - 681238, huntonpc@googlegmail.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	Cllr Jean Fuller - 07738 935630, jfhuntonpc@outlook.com

Diary Dates	
School May Fayre - Saturday 21 st May;	Church Working Party - Saturday 28 th May (9am to 12noon);
Jubilee Lunch - Sunday 5 th June;	Club Plant Sale - Saturday 18 th June
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

Hello everyone,

I am writing this letter as the cost of living is going up and up! For some of you there is real anxiety about how you will manage to heat your homes, feed yourselves and your families and pay the rent or mortgage. For some the prospect of falling into debt is very real.

If the bills mount up and there seems to be no way out of the debt that you may be in I want to tell you about an organisation called CAP (Christians against Poverty). They have enabled many thousands of people to become debt free and helped many with managing their finances. Don't let letters from those you owe money to pile up unopened because you are too afraid to open them. Give CAP a ring for advice and they will come and help you - 0800 328 0006 or <https://capuk.org/>.

It's too easy to say 'don't worry'; that is very difficult – we are human beings! However, Jesus said, 'Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life? (Luke 12:25) If we look for the good things in life that money can't buy maybe a little happiness will help overcome the worry. I am smiling now as I look out of the window at daffodils, hyacinths and tulips and birds singing and chasing each other around the gardens and rooftops - it's that time of year!

In every life we have some trouble. But when you worry you make it double Don't worry, be happy!

These are some words from Bobby McFerrin's song Don't Worry, Be Happy. For 4 minutes that will put a smile on your face listen to the whole song. As we move into Summer, I pray that happiness will overcome your worries and that you will be more aware that we have a God who loves each one of us.

Blessings to you all, Sue Elliott – Pastoral Assistant and Ministry Team Member

Please remember that we have a Benefice Pastoral Support Team of volunteers who are very willing to visit those who may not have financial worries but need a friendly ear for support for a variety of other reasons. There will soon be a telephone number to call but until then go to <https://unitedbenefice.church/benefice-groups/pastoral-support-team/> and click on 'contact us' at the bottom of the page.

One Thing Can Lead to Another

Little did I know when I joined the Village Walking Group at the end of Grove Lane for a walk to Yalding and back that it would start me off on yet another google search following a local history trail!

One of our fellow walkers recalled reading a sign on the side of a barn in Mill Lane, claiming that the first flight from Paris had in about 1909-10 landed in the field that later became Hatchgate Airfield (operational 1914 – 1940). Does anyone know more about this story?

I could find no reference to this event on the internet but did find that a German ME109 had crashed at Court Farm Hunton on 31st August 1940, killing the pilot. This was one of a number that crashed locally and was one of perhaps 10 aircraft shot down by Flight Lieutenant HK MacDonald of 603 squadron between August 1939 and September 1940, who in peacetime had been a Cambridge educated solicitor from Edinburgh.

On 28th September he was attacked by a number of ME109s and was himself shot down. His aircraft caught fire but rather than bale out, he steered away from a built-up area close to Gillingham before climbing onto the wing and jumping only 400 feet from the ground. He died aged only 28, 30 days after the death of his younger brother, who was also a pilot with 603 squadron.

James Forster 820628

Chicken Farm Proposal

The application to build three 262m long, 31m wide and 8m high chicken sheds on farmland on Hunton's border with Chainhurst to the south of the River Buel, is not, as far as the We Love Chainhurst (WLC) group are aware, going to Planning Committee on April 21st.

Local Councillor Mike Summersgill considers it unlikely that there will be a May meeting due to Committees being re-constituted after the local elections but he is monitoring the WLC for updates.

In the meantime, Hunton Parish Council has objected to the application on the grounds that the information required to support such a development has still not been supplied in spite of it being clearly required.

Hunton Primary School May Fayre, Saturday 21st May 11am-3pm

Lots of stalls and activities for the children. BBQ, refreshments and a raffle. Entry fee: £1 for adults, 50p for children aged 5 and above. All money raised will go towards our lovely Village Primary School so please come along and support us.

Annual Parish Meeting

After a gap of two years due to the Covid pandemic the Annual Parish Meeting returns. The meeting will be held on the 23rd May at the Village Hall, light refreshments will be available.

The format will be similar to previous years with the first half being an opportunity for parishioners to air concerns and ask Parish, Borough and County Councillors questions. The second half will be brief reports by the societies and clubs in the village as to what they have been doing and what plans they have for the future.

Councillors look forward to seeing you there, so put the date in your diary.

David Heaton, Chairman

End of Term Report!

When writing this we are being teased by the beautiful spring weather. We all hope that everyone had a warm spring like Easter break too.

With the warmer weather comes even more outside opportunities for the children. We continue to be immensely proud of the sporting achievements of our small school against those much larger than ourselves. We are delighted to announce that we played at the Coppice Hockey Tournament; we played many matches and were rewarded by getting to the semi-final stage.



Similarly, seven of our Borton girls represented Hunton at the Under 11 girls' football tournament at the Gallagher Stadium, Maidstone. Considering the team had very little playing experience between them; we were very proud to hear that they had reached the quarter finals of the tournament where sixteen teams had participated! Well done girls!



As a church school we are very much linked to St Mary's church and we were thrilled to prepare Mother's Day posies for the ladies at church on Mothering Sunday. We do hope the posies bloomed as the daffodils were in tight bud when we made them. In addition, Devas class invited their mums into school and shared a song, their thoughts as well as an afternoon tea. Finally,

we seem to be able to welcome parents back into school for these special moments which create long lasting memories too.

On Friday 1st April we gathered as a school community for the first time in St Mary's Church for our Easter Service. The singing is tremendous at Hunton Primary and it was a delight to be able to share our singing in church. Thank you to our readers and children who shared Bible readings, prayers and poems.

Our PTA have been supporting us too on a succession of events lately. We had a Mother's Day pop up shop and an Easter Egg hunt. There are plans for our May Fayre to be held on Saturday 21st May. Please save the date as we would love to see you!



Hunton Club on the "Offensive!"

Having replaced the eastern boundary fence, as mentioned in the March Herald, we discovered that the fence between the Club and the BT/Openreach telephone exchange is also extensively damaged and in need of repair or replacement. It has been reported to BT and we await their response. Meanwhile the rotted soffits and fascia boards to the side of the kitchen have been replaced but the boards at the rear are also in need of replacement.

A new feature is an external tap, which will be useful in several ways e.g. muddy paws can now be washed, which may be useful for dog walkers using the Club.

The working party did take place on 3rd April and to be honest there was a poor response from the members. However, the usual few volunteers turned up and worked hard on cleaning, painting and decorating both inside and out and their efforts have made a noticeable difference.

We now look forward to the Easter break with the walk and lunch and to the drawing of the Easter raffle, which has been well supported.

Phil Nichols

Hannah Sanders and Ben Savage played at Hunton Village Hall

A small, but perfectly formed audience of 28 braved the icy evening weather and welcomed Hannah & Ben back to the Village Hall on the release date of their new/third album "Ink of a Rosy Morning". The duo had played one of their first gigs together here in 2016, and they'd attracted a dozen more punters that time (but that was pre-Covid, of course). Huddled around a single microphone, which picked up their voices and their un-amplified guitar/dulcimer work, they ran through two sets of their own songs and some traditional covers, and were also accompanied by the bell-ringers' work in the Church opposite during the first set - most ethereal! We were also able to raise £50 on the night in 'profits' at the self-service bar, to go to a Ukrainian family charity.

This concert closed off the trio of return artist gigs that Mike and Christine had put on since November, two at the Club and one at the Hall. Given the numbers attending (all three were between 25-30) then any further gigs are liable to be held in the Club...unless we can get TrackDogs back (note- they are playing at Cranbrook Church on 14th May, for anyone interested).

It's a shame we can't seem to attract local residents to these events in any appreciable numbers, although a couple of people helped support this last one with donations. If anyone has ideas for other types of music or bands, and would like to help put the gigs on in the future, please contact Mike on 820429.

Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

Wednesdays 8 - 11.00pm & Sundays 8 - 10.30 pm

Where are the Bees?

We hear on the news that our bees are in trouble – is this why at least two colonies of honey bees that have lived happily in our church walls are there no longer? We also lost two colonies over the winter and have heard that another beekeeper in the village lost seven! Bad news indeed but happily the church still hosts a good number of masonry bees. We will certainly carry on trying to plant bee friendly flowers and shrubs and aim for some all-Summer colour – can you help too?

James Forster

Church News

On 20th March, due to illness, James Forster and I suddenly found ourselves leading the Annual Church Meeting! James led the business part of the meeting, while I took a deep breath, stood at the lectern, and led the congregation in the religious parts of the service! We gave thanks to the many people who support and help with the life and work of the church in Hunton, especially during this interregnum. On that note, we are conducting a further recruitment round, with interviews planned for late May. The APCM concluded with prayers when we reflected, particularly, on the plight of the Ukrainian people, as well as refugees throughout the world.

Onward to the following Sunday. The clocks changed on the 27th of March, and we lost one hour in bed! Despite this, families made it to our traditional Mothering Sunday service at 9.30am. To the delight of all, the pupils at Hunton School had made spring posies, which were shared with the congregation. We were invited to take posies to neighbours, family and friends in the time honoured Hunton way.

How wonderful to celebrate a wedding on Saturday the 9th of April. The church looked stunning; adorned in flowers, candles and sunshine, for the wedding of Dom and Becky. Congratulations to the happy couple, as they start their married life together.

Wendy Simmons

St. Mary's Church Working Party Saturday 28th May (9am – 12 noon)

Following a very productive day on Wednesday 13th April, when a team of 14 volunteers made great strides weeding and generally tidying up the old churchyard, we will hold a second work party on Saturday 28th May between 9am and 12 noon. Come and help a small sociable team of volunteers tidy the churchyard or clean inside the church. Please let Lesley know if you hope to be there so she can organise enough cake or biscuits for the coffee / tea break. lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com

Plant Sale Outside Hunton Club – Saturday 18th June 12 noon to 4pm

As there won't be a Fete in Hunton this year some volunteers have agreed to collect and sell plants to raise money for Hunton Club. So, when you are planting on your seedlings or taking cuttings, please grow a few extras and donate them to this event. The Club will be open for drinks and refreshments. If you are willing to donate plants or help at this event, please contact Lorraine at lori.redfarn@btinternet.com

Hold the date for Hunton Club Beer & Gin Festival on Saturday 10th September, 2022

A team of volunteers have agreed to help organise another family friendly Beer & Gin Festival which we hope you will enjoy attending. The event on Saturday 10th September will start at 12.30pm. Please contact me if you are willing to be involved Lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com.

Benefice Service Rota – May 2022

	1 st	8 th	15 th	22 nd	29 th
Coxheath	11.00am HC (DJ)	11.00am MP (LF)	11.00am HC (DJ)	11.00am MP (BP)	11.00am Benefice
E. Farleigh	9.30am MP (DJ)		9.30am HC (LF)		
Hunton	9.30am HC (SE/LF)		9.30am MP (DJ)		
Linton		9.30am MP (DJ)		9.30am HC (LF)	
W. Farleigh		9.30am HC (LF/BW)		9.30am MP (SE)	
Coxheath	Every Thursday, 10:00 - BCP Holy Communion				
Linton	Last Wednesday of each month, 12:00 noon , BCP Holy Communion (followed by Lunch)				
HC Holy Communion, MP Morning Prayer, FS Family Service, LF – Lorna Faulkner, DJ– David Jones, BP - Becky Parnham, SE - Sue Elliott					

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