



Next Editors: James and Andrea Forster: huntonherald@outlook.com
All items for the next edition of the Herald to the Editors by 15th May

Hunton Club Coronation Screening - Saturday 6th May

In addition to the Coronation celebrations on Sunday 7th May at the Village Hall, Hunton Club will be showing the Coronation live on its new large-screen TV on Saturday 6th May. No booking needed. Club members and their guests welcome. Doors will be open by 9.00am, at the latest, to see the televised lead-up to the event at Westminster Abbey at 11.00am. Teas, coffees and cakes will be available to buy and the bar will be open from 10.00am. Light snacks will be available from 12.30am and the Club will close at around 2pm. Contact Club Chairman, Roger Lee, on 01622 820210 or email roger.c.lee@btinternet.com for more information.



Coronation Service of Celebration & Afternoon Tea

St Mary's Hunton warmly invites everyone to attend a special Service of Celebration to mark the Coronation of Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla. The service will take place on Sunday 7th March at 9.30am. We hope to make this a joyous, historic and memorable experience, so do come along to this very special event. The service will be led by Revd. David Jones and followed by refreshments. There will be plenty of time to prepare for the Village Tea from 3 to 6 pm at the Village Hall.

Wendy Simmons

Church & Churchyard Working Party

Thanks to the volunteers who met in April to prepare St Mary's Church and churchyard for Easter. The next working party will be on Wednesday 3rd May from 9am to 12 noon in readiness for the special Coronation Service at 9.30am on Sunday 7th May. Anyone is welcome to join the regular volunteers at this and any other working party but please let Lesley know if you are hoping to attend so she can organise refreshments. Email: lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com or Tel: 01622 820210.

Parish Council

Two significant meetings take place in May. The first is the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council on 15th May, where the Chair and Vice Chair are elected and the annual accounts presented. The meeting, as always, is open to the public, and offers a chance for parishioners to comment or ask questions. The start time is 7:30pm.

The second meeting is the Annual Parish Meeting at 7:00pm on 22nd May. There is an opportunity to hear from local groups plus the committees running the Village Hall and the Recreation Ground. There will be time for open discussion on issues that parishioners wish to raise as well as an opportunity to ask questions to Parish, Borough and County councillors. Light refreshments will be provided.

On 10th June the Football Club will be holding a series of matches for charity, so everyone is welcome to come along and support. As there will also be Bowls and Cricket Club matches on the same day, don't be surprised if the recreation ground is very busy!

David Heaton, Chairman Hunton PC

Hunton Primary School May Fayre, Saturday 20th May, 11am-2pm.

Attractions include many stalls and exciting activities for children as well as a BBQ, refreshments and a raffle. Entry fee £1 for adults and 50p for children aged 5 and above. All money raised will go towards our lovely Primary School so please come along and support us! We are also looking for donations towards our bottle stall (empty or full bottles of wine), toy stall (good quality new/used toys) and our cake stall. Please bring donations along on the day. Please email pta@hunton.kent.sch.uk and we can collect any donations.

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: Revd. Lorna Falkner	347570	Hunton Ladies: Chris Summersgill	c.a.summersgill@btinternet.com
Hon Associate Rector: Revd. David Jones	741474*	PCSO - none	
Community Wardens Team	07811 271021	Helen Grant MP helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk	0207 219 7107
Hunton Bell Ringers: Lavinia Thompson	07885 763071	Village Club: Roger Lee: roger.c.lee@btinternet.com	820210
<i>*not available on Fridays</i>		Reporting HGVs	huntontrafficroporting@gmail.com
Contact details for other village clubs and organisations are available at www.huntonparishcouncil.org.uk			

Parish Council Contacts		Chairman: David Heaton - 820678, dhhuntonpc@gmail.com
Parish Clerk: Sharon Goodwin - 681238, huntonpc@googlegmail.com		Cllr Tony Stanbridge - 820721, tshuntonpc@gmail.com
Cllr Jonny Goddard - 820096, jonny@cheveneyfarm.co.uk		Cllr Mike Summersgill - 820429, mshuntonpc@btinternet.com
Cllr Annette Trought - 820448, annette@trought.com		Cllr Jean Fuller - 07738 935630, jfhuntonpc@outlook.com
Cllr Iain Simmons - 820875, ishuntonpc@btinternet.com		

Diary Dates	
Coronation Event, Sun 7th May; Plants & Produce Day, Sat 13th May; Loddington Farm Tour, Wed 24th May; School Fayre, Sat 20th May;	
You, Me and Musicals, 10th June; Next Film Night, Sat 24th June; Organ recital, Sat 8th July; Beer Festival, Sat 2nd Sept	
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

The Coronation of King Charles III. The event for which May 2023 will be remembered.

A significant event in the life of our country and of the Church of England, and a huge responsibility for the Archbishop of Canterbury. I am sure this may be counted as one of the most extraordinary events in Justin Welby's time as Archbishop and I am sure he has found himself feeling more than a little daunted as the day approaches. I am sure that King Charles doesn't come to this day without some anxiety either.

It is this that I have decided to write to you about this month; facing the enormous things of life – the opportunities and responsibilities that are a part of our human experience. We are not all going to be anointing and crowning a king this month (thank goodness!) but many of us face things that feel huge to us: GCSE and A-level exams; starting a new job; a family event – getting married or having to plan and process a funeral. In all these things, we have the same resource available to us that the Archbishop has available to him: the presence and strength of God through the power of the Holy Spirit.

In Paul's letter to the Philippians, he urges them not be anxious about anything – but to bring all their concerns to God and try and focus on what is good and uplifting. And in trusting God with the difficult circumstances of life, he writes that they will know God's peace with them. If you are facing difficult circumstances at this time, or have something daunting on the horizon, may you also come to know God's presence and God's peace with you. We'd be happy to pray for you – just get in touch via our website.

God bless you,

Lorna.

Photo History of Hunton

A collection of photos of Hunton taken from 1905 to 1938 which temporarily went missing has now re-emerged to show narrower roads, lower hedgerows, horses and carts being driven up Hunton Hill, rather than cars and lorries, and some wonderful stone walls where none are now visible. There are also photographs of two houses which have since burnt down, a lovely stone bridge on the way to Chainhurst – which was demolished in about 1940 – and two pubs with clientele gathered outside.

It has been suggested that we should also seek to gather other photographs held by homeowners to add to this record – indeed we have already been given a few wonderful images of Hunton Court Farm when it was still a working farm. Thank you Shirley.

We would like to produce a book or booklet of Hunton through the last 120 years, showing views as they were and as they are now. If you think you can help by making further historic images available, or in any other way, please contact James or Andrea Forster on forsters.hunton@btinternet.com, tel 01622 820628.

Would you like to join the Editorial Team of the Herald?

For the first 18 years of its life, the *Hunton Herald* was the product of the editorial efforts of Les Leonard, David and Sue Heaton and Helen Ward. When Helen stepped we were unable to find anyone willing to take on this monthly task, so set up a rota of volunteers willing to help for one or two issues a year. Volunteers are paired with a partner, either their spouse or someone else in the village, and this arrangement has worked well so far, allowing each issue to reflect something of the character of its editorial team. No-one has found it too onerous and the one person to withdraw only did so because they moved to the West Country.

Our rota of editors is about to be updated for the coming year and we would be delighted to welcome new volunteers. It is an excellent way of getting to know more about what goes on in our village as well as forging new friendships and connections. Whether you have just moved to Hunton or have been here for some time and would like to join us, you could be paired with a suitable co-editor with complementary skills, or, if you come as a pair, even better. Please contact me, James Forster, by e-mail on forsters.hunton@btinternet.com if you would like to know more.

Plants, Produce & Refreshments at Hunton Club -

Saturday 13th May, 12 noon to 4pm – Everyone Welcome!

As you may remember when Hunton held fetes, there was a popular plant stall run by the Gardening Group. Last year a successful plant sale was held at the Club and it has been decided to run it again. So, on Saturday 13th May between 12 noon and 4pm, volunteers will be opening the Club for an afternoon of Plants, Produce & Refreshments. The bar will be open with cask ales, tea, coffee and snacks for sale.

Before the event, Linton Walkers will be leading a short walk – leaving from the Club at 11am prompt. The walk will take one hour and will be around 2.5 miles. They welcome anyone who would like to join them; please note they charge £1 a head, which is donated to various local good causes – including Hunton Club and church.

Donations of plants, produce – including fruit, vegetables, eggs & honey – as well as cakes, are very welcome. Proceeds will go towards further refurbishment of the Club. Parking is available at the Village Hall. Please take donations to the Club on Friday 12th May between 3 and 5pm or contact Lorraine on 07702 078187 or email lori.redfarn@btinternet.com to arrange a convenient time.

Loddington Farm Tour – Wednesday 24th May

Members of Hunton Gardening Club will be visiting Loddington Farm in Linton on Wednesday 24th May. The tour will start at 4pm and last between 1 and 2 hours. Numbers are limited but anyone is welcome to join this tour where we will learn about regenerative farming or 'farming with nature instead of chemicals to produce more nutritious, more environmentally friendly food'. If you would like to join this visit, please contact Lesley 01622 820210 lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com.

Yalding Art Group

The Annual Arts & Craft Fair will be held at Yalding Village Hall on Sunday 14th May 2023 from 11 am – 4 pm. Free Entry. Food and refreshments available. All welcome!

Many hands make light work of large amount of rubbish

We had a rewarding, if slightly depressing, rubbish collection day on Saturday 18th March and are deeply grateful to Clockhouse Farm for removing 82 sacks of rubbish, 8 tyres, a child's bike, a lorry wheel and a wide selection of old furniture and building materials. We are also all indebted to the many volunteers throughout the village who turned out on the day -- and on the days before if they had a diary clash.

We found the usual collection of Ibuprofen / Codeine packets, takeaway food wrappings, beer and Red Bull cans and for a while, the roads looked clear of rubbish. Our most surprising find was seven condoms on a narrow bend on West Street. We can only speculate as to how and why anyone thought this was a good place to leave them!

It was, as usual, sad to see how quickly a few thoughtless motorists could create further unsightly mess. Do they realise it is not a nameless council employee who clears it away but rather volunteer villagers? If you know anyone who does litter, please ask them not to. On a similar crusade, if anyone visits Hunton churchyard with flowers, please don't leave packaging or other non-plant-based rubbish behind. Again, the churchyard is looked after by volunteers and we shouldn't expect those volunteers to remove rubbish left by other people.

Hunton CE Primary School

I could fill pages sharing all the wonderful things we have been up to at school, from designing and making in DT week to a Reading Café experience, from sports competitions to church performances – we even managed a visit to Kent Life. What a fabulous day we had with Devas at Kent Life. It was their first school trip, yet despite the weather, I couldn't help but get caught up in their excitement. They listened so intently to our guide when he showed them ferrets, sheep and a Shetland pony – then afterwards we got to feed the pigs.

No doubt there was much appreciation on Mothering Sunday as children created beautiful cards and bought gifts in our pop-up shop run by the PTA. This year we also invited ladies from Hunton, whether it be from the church or community groups, to sit with the children and make spring posies for St Mary's Church. Led and provided for by Sarah Jones, the children not only made posies for the church but also for their mums. Thank you! We loved welcoming in people from our community and it seemed our children valued the 'natter time'. It was a busy afternoon as, at the same time, Devas Class held a tea party for their mums. Yet another memorable experience, with delicious cakes and a poetry recital.

I cannot go without mentioning the launch of the new Reading Café. It was so popular that the tables were fully booked. We would love even more children and their friends to experience Mr Ming's hot chocolate along with a book. Older children sharing books with the younger ones really helps to inspire a love of reading and learning.

Finally, as a church school, our church services are a time to reflect as well as celebrate our links with St Mary's. At our Easter service the children read and sang with fervour. Thank you to all at St Mary's and to Reverend Lorna for helping us celebrate in the beautiful church. We would also like to express our thanks to all our volunteers for their contribution to school activities, however big or small. Your assistance is very much appreciated by both the staff and the pupils. Despite the rainy days, the sun has been shining for us and the children have had a truly fulfilling term. We are looking forward to celebrating the King's Coronation alongside the grand opening of our sensory garden.

Gardening in May

Now is the time the plants are really growing and the weather is warming up, but there is still a risk of frost. So, keep an eye on the forecast and protect plants that are more tender. Whilst many of us may have lost a few specimens over the winter, now is the time to see if new shoots are coming out before giving up on them and getting out the secateurs.

Spring flowering shrubs can be pruned back after they have flowered but be careful with large dense shrubs. The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 protects bird's nests, so it is an offence to damage or destroy them. If you are tackling large shrubs, be cautious or leave until after August when the birds will have finished nesting.

Take soft wood cuttings now, finding long enough shoots that are not going to flower. Support herbaceous plants before they start to get too tall and flop over. Choose areas around the garden to leave unmown for insects and other wildlife

In the ponds, newts will be laying their eggs and early frog and toad spawn will be hatching. All your pond maintenance should be done by now but it is a good time to add plants to the pond

Harden-off seedlings and cuttings by exposing them to outside temperatures for part of the day to acclimatise them before finally planting outside.

Finally, don't forget to pot on anything spare for the Plant and Produce Day on Sat 13th May

Hunton Bowls Club

The new bowling season got off to a flying start at the end of April with our usual coffee morning followed by our 'Opening Fling'. We have a full fixture list, league matches, competitions and tournaments all to complete by the end of our very short season in September. At the end of last season the green had been hit hard by the long dry summer, not to mention the moles who had demolished and destroyed the edges of the rinks along with disease caused by worms. During the winter months our men worked tirelessly on the green rebuilding the edges, scarifying and redressing the ground, with a weekly visit in all weathers brushing off the worm casts to allow new growth. The hard work by all has paid off and the green has been restored to its former glory.

At the end of last year South East Water set up a compensation fund of £250,000 due to loss of water and low pressure during the summer months. Hunton was one of the areas affected. Parish Councils could apply on behalf of charities, community groups and not-for-profit organisations. Thanks to the Parish Council who applied for a grant and were awarded funds from SEW which were then subsequently distributed to the Bowls, Cricket and Football Club. On behalf of the Bowls Club the money was gratefully received and put towards a much-needed water pump and sprinkler – another piece of equipment to keep our green in tip-top condition. If you would like to try your hand at bowling and missed the opportunity at our recent coffee morning, why not come along to our practice evenings starting on Thursday 4th May between 6 and 7pm at the bowls green behind the Village Hall. For further information on the Club please drop me a line at angela.baptie@btinternet.com or Tel: 01622 820625/Mob: 07759 296265.

Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

Wednesdays 8 - 11.00pm & Sundays 8 - 10.30 pm

Calling Hunton Lepidopterists – or anyone with an interest in butterflies and moths

As spring gets underway, the first butterflies (possibly Brimstones) will have emerged from winter hibernation to quicken the pulse of local lepidopterists.

Along with them come their far less appreciated cousins, the moths, who are especially important in terms of pollination. Many moths are already active and later in the year we can look forward to species that are equally as spectacular as butterflies. However, being mainly nocturnal, they are less likely to be spotted feeding from wild and garden flowers.

If you have willowherb in a wild corner of your garden, you may come across the caterpillar of an elephant hawk moth – so named because it resembles a trunk – or the beautiful pink and yellow adult hawk moth slurping nectar from honeysuckle.

So important are moths that local farmers are beginning to show more interest in them. Thanks to a £750 KCC grant, facilitated by local Ward Councillor Simon Webb, Marden Wildlife Group now has three portable moth traps for use on farms in Hunton and Clock House Farms in Coxheath, Hunton, Yalding and beyond.

In May (the date is as yet to be decided, as it is weather dependent) there will be a public moth-trapping session at Clock House Farm to which local people are invited. It really is simple to do – and the moths come in myriad subtle patterns and colours. Anyone in Hunton or surrounding villages is very welcome to join in and help farmers in the process. Trapping on local farms will encourage their efforts to increase biodiversity that can then spill over into our gardens.

If you'd like to come along to the demonstration, or would like more information about how to become involved and help kick-start another local environmental improvement, email mardenwildlife@gmail.com to register an interest or visit the Marden Wildlife Facebook page. If you already have your own moth trap and you would like to bring it along, you will be more than welcome. Just let us know!

Ray Morris

Easter Sunday Service with a Difference...

This Easter's Sunday service started as one might hope, with a good turnout, sunshine instead of Monday's downpours and the scent of spring flowers that were adorning the window sills and pedestals of the church. After a fairly spectacular turnout at Christmas, it was good to see many familiar faces here to celebrate another important date in the church calendar.

It is customary in Hunton Church, at Easter, to decorate a wooden crucifix with flowers; daffodils and tulips which are handed out to the congregation in the early part of the service. The top of the crucifix can only be reached by climbing up into the pulpit. On this occasion it was Liz Oliver, a member of Hunton's dedicated choir, who was tasked with scaling the steps to place her daffodil on to the cross. If we mention that the pulpit is also decorated with candles, you may start to see where this is going!

As Liz reached up to put her flower in place, the draping sleeve of her choir robe got momentarily caught on the candelabra and before anyone could do anything about it, had caught on fire. To her credit, Liz avoided saying anything blasphemous and calmly exclaimed: "Help! I'm on fire!" The quick actions of Jonny Goddard, James Forster and Iain Simmons – who simultaneously rushed to Liz's aid – prevented things getting out of hand and 'ordinary service' soon resumed. Perhaps the most confused person, for a while, was Marion the organist, who was perplexed by the fact that everyone had stopped singing.

Reverend David Jones finished the service by saying: "In years to come, long after I am dead and buried, people will remember my Easter service where the lady caught on fire – and remark at what an illuminating sermon I gave!"

Hunton Ladies Group

The Hunton Ladies gathering was held on Tuesday 28th March at the Village Club and we were delighted to have local lady Nicola Rivaud, joining us. Nicola is a Clinical Aromatherapist who graduated from Neal's Yard Remedies School of Natural Health in 2022, with a diploma in Aromatherapy, Essential Oil Science and Therapeutic Massage. Nicola gave us a wonderful talk on the use of aromatherapy and holistic therapies and how they can treat imbalances in our bodies and minds – but also how they can work alongside modern-day medicine. The talk ended with us being able to mix our own oils and then Nicola showing us a hand-massage technique which we practised on the person sitting next to us. We all came away smelling of beautiful aromas and with equally beautiful hands. If you would like more information on Nicola or to book in with her at her practice in Hunton, then go to her website www.equilibre-wellness.co.uk or telephone 07736 320 749. We meet again at the Village Club on Wednesday 26th April and Wednesday 31st May. Everybody welcome.

Benefice Service Rota – May 2023

CHURCH	7 th	14 th	21 st	28 th
Coxheath 11:00 am	Communion, LF	Morning Worship, LF	Communion, DJ	All-age Worship, BP and LF
East Farleigh 9:30 am	Morning Worship, LF		Communion, LF	
West Farleigh 9:30 am		Communion, DJ		Morning Worship, LF
Hunton 9:30 am	Celebration Service, DJ		Family Service, BP	
Linton 9:30 am		Morning Worship, LF		Communion, DJ

Midweek Services

Coxheath - Every Thursday; Holy Communion, 10:00 am.

Linton - Holy Communion last Wednesday of each month, 12.00, followed by lunch

DJ – David Jones, BP - Becky Parnham, LF – Lorna Faulkner

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