



Next Editors: Stephen and Kate Banks : herald@hunton.org.uk
All items for the next edition of the Herald to the Editors by 15th October

It's finally time for "Peter Pan Returns At Last"

Script changes, costumes, even crew and performers but we can't wait to see you all on the 28th, 29th and 30th October. Evening performances begin at 7.30pm with the Saturday matinee performance at 2.00pm. Rehearsals are now in full swing. Many of you have tickets bought for the original production back in April 2020. These tickets are valid for the same days in October. If you have lost your tickets please contact Sue Pinks on 01622 820709 who will replace them for you. There are still some tickets available for Thursday and a couple on Friday and Saturday matinee – adults £9, under 14 £5. Under fives are free. Please contact Sue as above.

A huge thank you to all who have stayed committed and supported us through the last mad 18+ months. So – sit back, relax and let us entertain you for the 5th Hunton Pantomime – oh – and "Always believe in fairies".

Hunton Club Beer & Gin Festival

About 200 people from the village and local communities came to enjoy themselves once again at this Club event on Saturday 4th September. We must thank a few volunteers for their hard work spread over weeks of preparation to stage this successful event. Also thanks to the breweries, Brumaison, Goacher's, Musket and Tonbridge for producing the 11 beers and Hunton Spirit for its different flavoured gins. The Tombola had prizes donated by generous local organisations including Musket Brewery, Hunton Spirit, Spot On Produce, Your Healthy Feet, Candi Cakery, Blooming Green, Much a Do, Hunton Dog Grooming, Chill Well-Being, Beauty World, Denys & Fielding, Hunton Bowls Club, Coxheath Wine with Spirit and numerous individuals, too many to mention.

Wonderful cakes were produced and donated by volunteers and the Club's kitchen, which was on the hot side of warm, was put to good use in producing both hot and cold food. The Boughton Ceilidh Band provided music with great support from Sharon and Neil with Steph's Ices cooling things off in the late afternoon with super ice creams. Activities for children were also provided.

The Club's new Loos were officially opened by Roger Ward, who project managed their construction, both in and out of 'Lock Down' and what a splendid job has been done.

The Festival has raised in excess of £1000, which will help to restore some of the Club's funds that have been depleted over the past months with little or no income. A huge thank you to everyone that helped out and to those that came to support the event. Some comments from those 'the other side of the bar':

- Early afternoon and the bar was already buzzing, the atmosphere was fantastic and it was great to see people enjoying themselves once again after a difficult year.
- A great atmosphere, in keeping with so many Hunton events.
- Really great to see everyone this afternoon at the festival, lovely to see it so well supported.
- Beginning to believe that things are slowly getting back to normal.
- The whole family had a lovely time!



Finally, a poem from Hunton's very own Queen of Panto:

At last together on a joyful day
 The sun came out, and the music played
 The drinks there were plenty, with dance and song
 Tasty food, laughter all day long
 Encores were called to carry on the fun
 Tidy, rest now and a tremendous well done!

Your Local Contacts:

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. lornafaulkner@gmail.com	439304*	Community Warden: James Watson	07811 271021
Hon Associate Rector: Revd. David Jones	741474*	PCSO - Paul Vasey	101
Hunton Bell Ringers: Jeff Young	746541	Helen Grant MP helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk	0207 219 7107
Village Club: Gil Robertson	820059	WI President: Ann Sawtell	820731
Maidstone Police	690690 or 101	*not available on Fridays	

Contact details for other village clubs and organisations are available at www.hunton.org.uk/contacts

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 Sue Pinks - 820709, srhuntonpc@gmail.com	Cllr Iain Simmons - 820875, ishuntonpc@btinternet.com

Diary Dates

Check out www.hunton.org.uk/diary for the latest events. If you would like to add an event, email diary@hunton.org.uk

Pastoral Letter

This October it feels a bit like we're playing a waiting game – our country has begun to return to a more regular pattern of life, there are no longer restrictions on meeting and visiting friends and family; schools are returning to a more usual pattern of education; clubs and activities are re-opening but we're all holding our breath to see if it remains this way or whether everything will need to come to a halt again.

It is quite possible that this October school holiday will give us a clear indicator as to how robust the current situation is and whether there will need to be closures or restrictions on our movements again.

There is a feeling of fragility to our interactions that didn't exist before the pandemic, that feeling that life can change in an instant in ways that we have no control over. As this feeling arises from a place of fear it is easy for us to become inward looking, thinking only about how things are affecting us and what we want to do. It takes courage to look out from our personal situations and emotions to see what is going on around us, to see how our neighbours are affected by our actions and to think about what we are doing to benefit others.

Personally I have held onto the anchor of my faith in an unchanging God who knows how difficult it is to be human because they've walked in our shoes. No matter what chaos and tumult is going on in life around us there is still this one thing that never changes – God's love for us, no matter who we are and what we do.

So while we wait to see what, if any, further disruption this pandemic will bring to our lives we can step out daily knowing that some things hold firm no matter what happens and that even when we feel fear we can find courage to look outside ourselves if our anchor is true.

Farewell to Peter and Alison Callway

On Sunday 29 August, the United Benefice of Hunton, Linton, West Farleigh, East Farleigh and Coxheath bade farewell to the Reverend Peter Callway and his wife Alison. The church at Hunton was full and for many, it was the first time that they had joined with others on a Sunday in church for over a year.

Prior to the service, the church and surrounding countryside was filled with the sound of the bells. The service was joyful, with singing loud and glorious. As Peter remarked, during a part of the service where he was thanked for his service to the wide Benefice community, the hymns were those which greeted him at his inauguration eight years ago. Following the service, the congregation mingled outside with tea, coffee and homemade cakes. Unusually this summer, the sun shone.

Hunton and the rest of the benefice now enter a period of interregnum. The ministry team will be supporting the churches during this period and Hunton will retain its services on the first and third Sunday of the month. Sadly, as many of you know, St Mary's doesn't have a Churchwarden at present. However, the joint vice-chairs of the Parochial Church Council, Wendy Simmons and James Forster are engaged in maintaining the work of the PCC. Wendy Simmons has agreed to work with representatives of the other four churches in the process of advertising for a new Rector. More will be shared with you through the Herald as things progress.

St Mary's are pleased to welcome the community to a Harvest Festival service on Sunday 17 October at 9.30 am.

The service will be followed by brunch in the church. The collection will be donated to Christian Care in Maidstone and the proceeds from the brunch will help offset the costs.

Thanks for the Churchyards ...

Anyone who has walked past or visited the churchyards this year will be aware of the care and attention that has been lavished on them.

The Old Churchyard continues to be maintained by a group of volunteers organised by Sue Heaton (mowing) and Lesley Lee (everything else, including cleaning the inside of the church).

The New Churchyard has enjoyed a wonderful wild flower display with paths cut through and has then been wrestled back into good order, most notably by Martin Danch, who has spent many days with his strimmer getting the grass back under control.

A heartfelt thank you to all those involved; whether it has been mowing, weeding, cutting back hedges or tidying up and repairing the graves, your efforts have combined to make both churchyards a joy to behold!

Music News

The Applause Rural Touring-subsidised Nick Harper gig at the Village Hall on Sat Nov 6th has had to be postponed, but we hope to re-start some sort of live music events at the Hall or Club before Xmas or early in 2022. In the meantime, anyone who saw Hannah Scott at the Hall a few years back, she has a new CD 'Drawn to Darkness' out this month and she recently played at CranFest in Cranbrook. And the same weekend, Mike caught TrackDogs at a private garden gig in Rochester, on their way back to Gatwick after two major folk festivals 'oop North, and they are to be the support band for a Show of Hands UK tour next Spring for four weeks; they also debuted at Broadstairs Folk Week in August, during another short trip over from Madrid. Plans are afoot to get them back to Hunton in 2022.

Quiz time....just for fun. Answers on the back page

Perennial Anagrams:

1. NO MEN STEP

2. CRIES OOPS

3. AUNTS HID

4. RUIN A GEM

5. I'D RUB CAKE

6. BAIL SET

7. ONE VICAR

8. ARCH MENU MYTHS

Continuing the gardening theme

On my walks around Hunton I have enjoyed people's gardens. At this time of year usually the air is thinner and chillier but for the last few days before going to print, it has certainly been an 'Indian Summer'. I do not think I am alone when I say that certain plants and flowers bring thoughts of times long gone and of people, some of whom are sadly no longer with us. Red dahlias always remind me of my mother preparing great trugs of them for harvest festival and am so pleased to see a resurgence of dahlias in so many gardens. The pumpkins are ripening ready for Halloween and damsons have been highly sought after this year so I suspect there will be much damson gin or damson crumbles being prepared.

I love the autumn and this year more so than ever as we slowly emerge from the Corona cocoon and venture a little more boldly each week. Over the past eighteen months I have gained great solace from the flora about me in Hunton and as it slowly begins the annual hibernation I won't be the only one hoping when spring arrives we can shed the bonds and boundaries which have tied us recently and go forward with a bounce in our step.

Hunton CEP

It was another special welcome back to school; with covid restrictions being lifted even more it has meant that all the children can be together in the playground and hall for worship and eating lunch together. The children have missed playing with others in different classes and having role models which so many of our children are.

We would like to introduce two new members of staff - Miss McGregor our Year-R teacher and Mrs Lang our school secretary who already feel part of our team.

What a wonderful start our new Year-R have had. This is due to the positivity and support of our new parents and unbelievably the weather has helped too! They have had a gradual start with the school hours increasing week by week. The children at Hunton are extremely fortunate to be in a class of 15 which sets them on a strong footing for the rest of their learning years at Hunton. We immensely thank the Mothers' Union who donated 'bags of kindness' and thoughtful treats and prayers which really helped the mums with the unforgettable first day. The bags were beautifully made and filled.

Welcome visitors really widen the children's learning opportunities. Thank you to those who come to hear the children read. Your patience, listening ear and the praise you give motivates our readers. They are so keen to read to you. We have secured weekly hockey coaching this term from Maidstone Hockey Club for our Key Stage 2 children. Talent is being spotted and we very much anticipate playing matches against other schools which we have not done for a long time.

I now leave it to Nathaniel and Maisie, Year 5, to describe their first few weeks back.....

'We have settled back at Hunton CEP School well and have just finished our first full week after a 6-week summer holiday. As we are in year 5, we had to move into a new class with a new teacher which was a mixture of nerves and excitement. In addition, it was the first time for nearly a year and a half that we have been able to see friends from other classes and have collective worship and eat lunch as a whole school in the hall. We have loved being able to have playtimes as a whole school and not have 'bubbles' any more.'

For Year 6 some of the children sat their Kent 11+ test for grammar school next year. We wish them luck and know they did their best!

Last week each class chose their school council representatives. Those who were interested had to give a speech and the rest of the class voted for what they thought were the best. We think it is important to have a school council to suggest new ideas to make the school better.

We will be holding open days for new Year R parents who may want to visit and tour the school. These will be held on the 8th, 9th and 10th November at 10 am and 1.45 pm. We don't expect the tour to take more than 45 minutes. Any interested parents are welcome. Please email office@hunton.kent.sch.uk to book a place or contact Mrs Lang in our school office on 01622 820360.

Can you think of an appropriate caption...



Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

Wednesdays 8 - 11.00pm & Sundays 8 - 10.30 pm

Pre-School Revamp Their Play Garden

Over the summer period preschool had the childrens play garden totally revamped with all the old gravel area and the scruffy bit of astro grass taken out. New astro grass has been laid over the whole area, a new picket fence put in, new fencing at the back of the area and a new lid on the sand pit, plus a sturdy new gate leading to the front of the area. It all looks very smart indeed and gives the children a much better and cleaner play area.

The work was carried out in the main by one of our local general builders, Morgan Miller, who advertises in the Hunton Herald Business Directory as HELP. He certainly did help out and has done an excellent job. He is on 01622 820359. The pre school manager's father also helped by sorting out the back fence and new lid for the sand pit.

Yoga

Erika will commence yoga classes in the Village Club with the start of terms commencing on Saturday 2nd October at 10 am and Tuesday 5th at 10 am. The classes run for an hour. Should you be interested in joining please contact Erika on 01622 820849.

Hunton Bells

Have you heard the bells at Hunton ringing again? Just as lock down was beginning Hunton church hosted a bell ringing contest for the local association, and on the 11th the association held another contest at St Mary's. The church was also taking part in the ride and stride scheme and was open to visitors from outside the area, so there was a lot taking place on that day.

We are now back to normal ringing with the practice nights on Fridays 7.30 to 9 o'clock. Due to the pandemic the number of ringers in the area has gone down and changes have been made. Hunton church only has 3 - yes 3 ringers - one being the Rev David Jones. We rely on a local pool of ringers from other towers to help us ring the 6 bells which are one of the nicest in the area. This local pool ring is at Hunton, Linton, East Farleigh and Boughton and we are desperate to recruit new ringers.

It is a good hobby, keeps you fit mentally and physically is good for back problems and is not hard work to do. Training is done on a one to one basis when starting and when you are able to control the bell by yourself you are able to ring the basics with other ringers, within a short time you would be learning the simpler methods or tunes and progressing to more demanding ones. We all start like this so we understand all the worries that you might have but you will find that you would be most welcome, our youngest member is 15 and the oldest - well!!

If you would like to find out more phone me on 07182 896772 and we can arrange a tour of the bells and perhaps a taster of ringing. You might perhaps find you have a new hobby.

Jeff Young

Answers – PENSTEMON, COREOPSIS, DIANTHUS, GERANIUM, RUDBECKIA, ASTILBE, VERONICA, CHRYSANTHEMUM

Benefice Service Rota – October 2021					
	3rd	10th	17th	24th	31st
Coxheath 11:00am	Communion <i>DJ</i>	Morning Worship <i>DJ/LF</i>	Communion <i>LF</i>	Morning Worship <i>LF/BP</i>	
E. Farleigh 9:30am	Morning Worship Harvest <i>BP/BW</i>		Communion <i>LF</i>		
W. Farleigh 9:30am		Holy Communion Harvest <i>DJ</i>		Morning Worship <i>LF</i>	Remembering Service 2:30-4:30
Hunton 9:30am	Communion <i>LF/DJ</i>		Morning Worship Harvest <i>BP</i>		
Linton 9:30am		Morning Worship Harvest <i>LF</i>		Communion <i>DJ</i>	Benefice HC <i>DJ/LF (10:00)</i>
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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