



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

An ill wind ...

The church weather vane, which had not worked for 15 years, is now back on top of the steeple.

A chance to repair it came earlier this year when high winds damaged the roof, and scaffolding was needed to carry out repairs.

What was not foreseen was quite how high and challenging it would be to erect scaffolding up the tower, and then from there to the very top of the steeple.

Darren Ward cut down the spike on top of the tower. He was working at a considerable height and the spike was cast iron and over 4 feet long with a heavy weathervane fixed on top of it, so cutting it down while leaning over scaffolding rails to control it could not have been anything other than terrifying.

Sam Andrews and I went up for a closer inspection of what was involved. Given the height, I was a little disconcerted to feel that the scaffolding was moving in the wind! Once Sam had stopped shaking the structure, to confirm that it really was solid, I felt a little better but had no wish to be involved in reaching out over empty space to put everything back, once repaired!

Thanks go to Tim Dunmall of Yalding Forge for carrying out a really good repair in double quick time and then, once again, Darren came to the rescue, climbing up the very top guard rails to fix everything back in place and adjust it so that it was as straight as we could get it. Our thanks to all who helped get the work completed ahead of a wedding on the 14th, including Barrett Roofing and the scaffolders.

So why did we go to the trouble of replacing the weathervane? The only answer I can give is that it has presided over Hunton for over 200 years, and looks fantastic now it has been replaced.

Although I could find no record of its origins, it was dated 1810 and was initialled GD and JD. I found a George Duddy resident in the village in the early 1800's who farmed from Stonewall. George died in 1807 leaving two sons, George and Joseph, who both farmed in Hunton (from Clock House Farm and from New Bridges Farm). They were clearly a prosperous family, being one of fewer than 30 recorded on a voters' roll of landowners in 1837, so it seems reasonable to link them to a gift of the weathervane.

Although the Friends of St Mary's have kindly offered to pay for the repair it is proposed that the cost be covered out of a very generous legacy from Mary Johns (formerly of Lantern Cottage, Barn Hill and a past Chair of the St Mary's Hunton Fabric Committee). We hope that she would be pleased and share our hope that it will stand for another 200 years!

James Forster



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*	Hunton Ladies: Chris Summersgill	c.a.summersgill@btinternet.com
Curate: Revd. lornafaulkner@gmail.com	439304*	PCSO - none	
Hunton Bell Ringers: Jeff Young	746541	Helen Grant MP helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk	0207 219 7107
Community Wardens Team	07811 271021	Village Club: Roger Lee: roger.c.lee@btinternet.com	820210
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
Clr Jonny Goddard - 820096, jonny@cheveneyfarm.co.uk	Clr Tony Stanbridge - 820721, tshuntonpc@gmail.com
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Clr Iain Simmons - 820875, ishuntonpc@btinternet.com	Clr Jean Fuller - 07738 935630, jfhuntonpc@outlook.com

Diary Dates
 St Mary's Working Party — Sat 3 Sept; Beer Festival — Sat 10 Sept; Clock House Farm Tour — Wed 21 Sept; Club Quiz — Sat 8 Oct;
 Film Night — Tues 18 Oct; Gardening Club Social — Fri 28 Oct; Friends of St Mary's Fireworks Party — Sun 6 Nov; Walk / Lunch — Thurs 17 Nov.
 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

Ah, September. The season of mists and mellow fruitfulness is upon us. The month that ushers in the shifting of the seasons...

The month I think I might just love the most. The orchards are being picked and packed. The blackberries are warm and sweet, nourished by the summer sun. I may need a cardigan in the morning but its barefoot paddling weather again by the afternoon. And yet, on the furthest periphery of my emotional vision, barely within my grasp, is the oncoming hint of something else... Even as we soak in the warm glow of the afternoon sunshine, we feel the gentle chill now in the morning air, whispering to us of season's end... The gardens are just tipping over from the peak of summer glory, still beautiful but more rugged now. My heart feels what my eyes can't yet see... *We know that in September, we will wander through the warm winds of summer's wreckage. We will welcome summer's ghost (Henry Rollins)*

'Not so fast!' is the cry of my heart 'I'm not ready yet!' And yet, September still comes, lightly tapping on my shoulder, reminding me that things end - and things begin - whether I'm ready for them or not.

The writer of the book of Ecclesiastes wrestles with the human state – our limitations, our finiteness - and, in it, are some very well-known words of wisdom (often attributed to The Byrds!)

To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven:

a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot,
a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to break down and a time to build,
a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance,
a time to cast away stones and a time to gather stones together,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
a time to search and a time to count as lost, a time to keep and a time to discard,
a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak,
a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

There is a time for everything. There is a time for summer. And a time for September.

And so, as we embark on this new month and wander into this new season together, may we carry the warmth of summer with us and may we embrace the new adventure and joy of the season to come.

Ukrainians come to Hunton

For many of us, living in Hunton has become a familiar and comfortable way of life. But how do you feel if your home is war-torn Ukraine and you only arrived in Hunton in May? And how is it for a family who have welcomed you into their home?

Married couple Valerii and Mikhaela Kokosh are living with Ian and Sue Pinks, having left their children, a boy of ten and a girl of eight, back in Ukraine in the care of Valerii's parents.

Valerii, 39, and Mikhaela, 30, live in a village about 200 miles south west of Odessa. Their village is not currently affected by the war but there is very little work available. They have come to Kent to work at Berry Gardens to earn enough to be able to return to their children and survive through the winter.

Sue said: 'We were rather apprehensive at first about taking two complete strangers into our home.' But, thanks to a very capable Polish employee of Clockhouse Farm, Marta, the Pinks were paired up with Valerii and Mikhaela and Sue said: 'Marta was very helpful and gave us good advice and it has worked really well.'

Mikhaela said: 'We are very grateful to this family. If there is a problem they always help us and they take us to shop every week. They are wonderful people.' She is surprised at how friendly she has found the British. She smiles broadly as she explains how, when cycling to work, the men working in East Street, which is officially closed to traffic, let her through every day. She has told them she is from Ukraine and the response is 'OK, go on then love'!

Both Mikhaela and Valerii have bikes to travel to work, thanks to the generosity of people in Hunton who donated them to them. They work hard from 10 am, often until 8 or 9 pm packing fruit. When they get home late, Sue has already cooked an evening meal for everyone but, normally, they take turns, one evening's cooking is down to the Pinks and the next it's down to the Ukrainians.

Ian said: "They have a great sense of humour and are very helpful. Valerii is very practical and has helped us in the garden and also helped in the village, putting up gazebos for village events and they are both currently helping to paint the village hall, which is undergoing refurbishment."

A village event which surprised Mikhaela was the recent organ recital in the church where everyone was friendly and enjoying themselves. 'In our country, church is very serious and solemn and we have to wear our long skirts!', she said.

But Ukraine is home for Mikhaela and Valerii and they miss their children. Mikhaela said: 'We talk to them every day and we are going back in August for two weeks, for Valerii's 40th birthday, and will see them, but then we are coming back to work again until the winter.

Sue said: 'We love having them and I am surprised how easy it has been. And we feel we are helping in some small way.'



Climate-change gardening

Whether you are a farmer, fisherman or gardener, there's little point battling Mother Nature. She always has the upper hand. So, rather than railing against the hand we are dealt it makes more sense to adapt and learn to play by Her rules.

Climate-change gardening is all about learning how to garden in hotter, drier and more extreme conditions as well as reducing your garden's impact on the environment. Choosing the right plants is essential, both aesthetically and practically -- so ask your local nursery for appropriate plants. Look for 'Mediterranean origin' on the label too. My friend Claire, who was head gardener at a Greek garden I went to visit, recommends a strict watering regime: "Don't mollycoddle them -- or the plants think: 'She'll be round any minute with the watering can!'" So, it's better to water well, once a week, than give them a little water every day.

Also, water plants well when you first plant them, planting them in a little hollow to prevent surface run-off -- and keep them well-trimmed and low to the ground for the first few months. This will encourage better root growth and reduce transpiration. It's also better to water in the evening, so there is minimal evaporation and maximum water passing to the roots.

In our household -- despite my husband and step-son Fred's initial scepticism -- we have been syphoning water from our bath, out into a big tub in the front garden. When showering, we leave the plug in, and syphon this water out too. Once the temperature has dropped in the evenings, it's the perfect time to dunk a couple of large watering cans and go for a potter round the garden, watering the plants in most need. This tends to be those planted in recent weeks that have less-developed root systems. Ground cover is essential, whether that's compost or ground-cover plants. Our garden is rather overrun with geranium at the moment but we can live with it looking a bit rough and ready as it's protecting the soil around more important shrubs and favourite plants.

Lastly...fans of Monty Don may have heard him recommending the use of 'grey water' from the washing-up, to water plants and containers. Most plants don't mind a little soap, though try and reduce how much washing-up liquid you use and use an eco-friendly brand. They may be small measures, but it's strangely satisfying using your water twice... and nice to know that, with a little help, your plants will survive until we have some much-needed rain.

Jennifer Dixon

Deborah Doole

Sadly, Deborah Doole died suddenly in July. Debbie, who had lived in Hunton for the past 20 years, was an accomplished osteopath practising in Hunton and Tenterden. She will be remembered by her friends and clients as vivacious, dynamic and totally committed to providing excellent professional care. As one neighbour also reflected, 'We shall miss her laugh and her enjoyment of her garden, whether sitting in it, sun-bathing or tending her beds of white tulips in spring and her colourful pots of begonias in the summer'.

Film night – The Sting

The Sting starring Paul Newman and Robert Redford as conmen taking revenge on a villainous Robert Shaw is playing at Hunton Club on October 18th. Members £10, non-members £12 to include a two course meal. More details Bridget on 01622 820059 or Lesley on 01622 820210

Hunton Ladies

Hunton Ladies' Group enjoyed a social and entertaining evening at their July meeting, playing Newmarket and drinking Pimm's. Meetings include various activities (crafts at the August meeting) and are held on the last Wednesday of each month at Hunton club, starting at 8pm, and new members are very welcome. Just come along.

Hunton Traffic - Update from Road Safety Working Group

A group of Hunton residents (3 Councillors and 5 others) meets on an irregular basis to discuss road safety and traffic concerns within Hunton, and reports back to the Parish Council. Hunton has its own Speed Watch equipment, but not enough volunteers trained to use it and we would like to remedy that as quickly as possible. We are also replacing Lorry Watch posters which have 'degraded'; please record any lorries (date/time/registration/operator) that you think are using West & East Streets as short-cuts and not delivering to a village address/business.

We have decided (with Parish consent) to set up a dedicated email address for residents to report any transgressions (speeding, HGVs in restricted zones, signs missing/damaged), rather than relying on someone just reading messages posted on the community Facebook page. The address is 'huntontrafficreporting@gmail.com' and I will initially be the person checking the messages, and reporting back to the next Working Group meeting (end September) how/if this is functioning.

Mike Summersgill, Chair of T&RSWG

Thanksgiving Service for the Reverend Eileen Doyle at Holy Trinity Church, Coxheath

An open invitation is extended by the family of the Reverend Eileen Doyle to join them at a thanksgiving service for her life and ministry on Sunday 25th September at 3.00pm at Holy Trinity Church, Coxheath.

Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

Wednesdays 8 - 11.00pm & Sundays 8 - 10.30 pm

Village Hall Makeover

A year of estimates, planning and decision making and the hall is in the middle of a part makeover. We have had some new windows installed and there are new loos and basins going in too. This coupled with the sanding and revarnishing of the main hall floor and new flooring throughout the kitchen and toilet area and painting throughout, is making the hall look very smart indeed.

The next project is for infrared heating to be installed in October half term.

Sue Pinks

Volunteers needed to walk, ride a bike or sit!

Can you spare some time to help raise money for St Mary's Church and other Kent Churches? The annual Friends of Kent Churches Ride and Stride takes place on Saturday, September 10th. Anyone who would like to take part by cycling or walking between churches of their choice could help, while having fun. Or, if you would rather read a book, you could sit in St Mary's Church for an hour and welcome other riders and striders. The money you raise is shared between a church of your choice (hopefully Hunton Church) and the Friends of Kent Churches.

More details from David Jones 01622 741474 or davidjones.coxheath@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE 6th November 2022.

Friends of St. Mary's will be holding a Firework display on the Playing Fields starting at 5.30 pm .Professional Fireworks, Bonfire, BBQ, Bar, Music, Guy competition and ample parking, courtesy of Hunton Court. Details of ticket sales and more information on the attached flyer.

Garden tips for September

Whilst September is usually milder and wetter, it would be prudent to wait until we have some good ground soaking rain before undertaking some of these tasks in September. If necessary, leave it another few weeks.

September is usually a good time to divide herbaceous perennials, move and plant new plants. This enables them to develop a good root system while there is still moisture and warmth in the soil. These plants then have a better chance of tolerating a dry or cold spring and dry summer than those that are planted in the spring.

Plant daffodils and narcissi in the borders and pots ready for flowering in the spring. It is also a good time to order tulip bulbs while there is a wide choice available for planting later in the year.

Sow grass seed to patch up poor areas of lawn or seed new areas of lawn.

If we are going to get early leaf drop due to the dry weather it may be worth covering ponds with netting and don't forget to allow access to the water by birds and animals

Sue Heaton

New walkers welcome

After indulging in summer ice-creams and gin and tonics you may be considering shedding a few pounds and joining Hunton Walkers! The 2-hour walks of about 4 miles take place on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month in the morning. The walkers are a friendly group and no great level of fitness is required. Most walks start at a pub where cars can be parked beforehand and a sociable drink can take place afterwards. New walkers would be very welcome. More details from Jane Langdon on 01622 820705 or ejanelangdon@yahoo.co.uk.

Benefice Service Rota – September 2022

CHURCH	4th	11th	18th	25th
Coxheath 11:00 am	Communion, <i>DJ</i>	Morning Worship, <i>LF</i>	Communion, <i>LF</i>	Morning Worship, <i>BP</i>
East Farleigh 9:30 am	Morning Worship, <i>LF</i>		Communion, <i>DJ</i>	
West Farleigh 9:30 am		Communion, <i>LF</i>		Morning Worship, <i>BP</i>
Hunton 9:30 am	Communion, <i>DJ</i>		Family Service, <i>SE</i>	
Linton 9:30 am		Morning Worship, <i>DJ</i>		Communion, <i>DJ</i>
Coxheath	Every Thursday; Holy Communion; 10:00 am			
Linton	Last Wednesday of each month; Holy Communion; 12:00 pm (followed by soup)			

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

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