



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

THE HUNTON EASTER PANTO IS BACK!

The Hunton Players rehearsals are already underway for a fifth sensational pantomime. The past four productions have been a total sell-out. Come along and help us to achieve this again!

We are very grateful for the wonderful support of local businesses, who, for £30.00 can take out an advert and have their name placed in the programme, next to the member of the cast / scene that they are sponsoring. They also receive two tickets to the Sponsors Evening on Wednesday 8th April, 2020 – the open dress rehearsal – always a bit of fun!!

The profits will be split this year between The Friends of St. Mary's Hunton and Brain Tumour Research. We are generally able to donate something in the region of £1,800 to charity, thanks to your help.

A licensed bar is open for interval refreshments.

Come along and join in the spirit of Panto and support our production of Peter Pan Returns! Sponsor Information / Tickets: Sue Pinks , Producer on 01622 820709 / suepinks@icloud.com. Many thanks, in advance, from the whole Team!

Sue Pinks



STOP PRESS

Join us for coffee and cakes on Saturday 28th March 11 am to 12.30. We are opening and showing off our brand new kitchen, funded by Calor Gas Rural Community Fund, the Parish Council, the Hall, the Hunton Fete and the Hunton Herald. A fantastic community effort. We hope you like what we have achieved.

Your Local Contacts:		Village Hall Booking:	www.huntonvillagehall.co.uk
School: Secretary/Head Teacher	820360	Huntonwatch: huntonwatch@gmail.com	820403
Under 5's Pre-School:	820309	'Potholes' Hotline (KCC)	03000 418181
Pond and Tree Warden: Mike Summersgill	820429	Community Warden: Adam McKinley	07811 271021
Rector: Revd. Peter Callway	747570*	PCSO - Martin Chivers	101
Hon Associate Rector: Revd. David Jones	741474*	Helen Grant MP helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk	0207 219 7107
Associate Rector: Revd Eileen Doyle	204241**	Hunton Bell Ringers: Jeff Young	746541
Churchwarden: Alison Ellman-Brown	820288	WI President: Ann Sawtell	820731
Village Club: Gil Robertson	820059		
Maidstone Police	690690 or 101	*not available on Fridays; **not available on Mondays or Tuesdays	
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@goolemail.com	Chairman: David Heaton - 820678, dhhuntonpc@gmail.com
Clr Jonny Goddard - 820096, jonny@cheveneyfarm.co.uk	Clr Roger Lee - 820210, rhuntonpc@btinternet.com
Clr Tony Stanbridge - 820721, tshuntonpc@gmail.com	Clr Annette Trought - 820448, annette@trought.com
Clr Helen Ward - 820810, hwhuntonpc@wardy.org	Clr Gary Thomas - 820691, gthuntonpc@gmail.com

Diary Dates	
Sunday 1 st March	Visiting Pastor from Estonia at a special Benefice Service at Coxheath
Thursdays during March	Afternoon Tea ; 2:30 Hunton Village Club
Tuesday 3 rd March	WI Meeting 'Lost Empire' ; 7pm for 7:30pm at Hunton Village Club
Friday 6 th March	Service entitled 'Rise! Take Your Mat & Walk' ; 7pm Holy Trinity Church, Coxheath
Monday 16 th March	WI Open Meeting 'Hallmarking' ; 7pm for 7:30 at Hunton Village Club
Saturday 28 th March	Open Kitchen ; 11:00, Hunton Village Hall
Wednesday 1 st April	Churchyard Clean Up ; 9am to 12noon
Thursday 2 nd April	Pre-School Bazaar ; 9:15 – 11:15
Thursday 9 th April – Saturday 11 th April	Peter Pan Pantomime
Friday 17 th April	Callaghan Gig ; at Hunton Village Hall
Check out www.hunton.org.uk/diary for the latest events. If you would like to add an event, email diary@hunton.org.uk	

Bless You!

I've been suffering with a virus/cold/chesty cough for a few weeks now. When it first kicked off, I was walking out of church and I sneezed very loudly. "Bless you" said Barry. Then "where does that expression come from?" It's a good question isn't it? I am fascinated by the origins of sayings. That particular one – a contraction of "God bless you!" - has two possible answers. One is that sneezing is expelling some kind of demon, and the second – more likely – is that Pope Gregory suggested a quick prayer for those who sneezed during the bubonic plague in Rome, in the belief that God's blessing would ward off the source of the infection. There are many others in a similar vein. Strewth! is a contraction of "Ain't that God's truth!" often used as an expression of surprise. Blimey is another expression of surprise and stems from another contraction: "God blind me!" Even worse (depending on your perspective) is the contraction of "Christ kill me!" into Crikey! Gadzooks (not often heard in my circle of acquaintances) comes from "God's hooks" – a reference to the nails of crucifixion on the cross. Many of these expressions develop as a way of minimising the effect of an unplanned expression of exasperation, for example "flipping heck" having the same initials as another, rather more unsavoury expression.

Calling upon God (or the Lord) is a well-known activity in the historic faith of the church, and there are over 60 Bible verses which directly reference it. The calling upon the Lord has several purposes or effects. Abraham called upon the Lord in praise and worship, giving God his rightful place. The Psalmists do likewise and also call upon God in thanksgiving. The Bible tells us that those who call upon the Lord will be saved from their sins. Mostly, their calling upon the Lord is at times of stress or distress. How true that is for us today, too. Maybe instead of using an expletive in our moments of difficulty we might do as King David did. Psalm 18:6 tells us "In my distress I called upon the LORD, And cried to my God for help; He heard my voice out of His temple, And my cry for help before Him came into His ears" and in doing so honour the name of God, and seek his help during our times of trouble.

Peter Callway, Rector.

St Mary's Church Maintenance 2020

With Spring on its way – we need to mow the Churchyard. If anyone would like to join a team of mowers, on a rota basis, they would be most welcome. The more mowers we have the less each individual will need to return to mow! Hopefully only once a year. So please come forward.

We have such a lovely Church and Churchyard and we take pride in keeping it looking smart throughout the year. It is also very popular for weddings,

Please contact Sue Heaton 01622 820678 if you would like to put your name forward.

Wendy Sharp's Accidental Smallholding

At the WI meeting in February our speaker was Hunton resident, Wendy Sharp. Her family moved to Hunton in 2002 when they were simply looking for a property to accommodate the children's 2 ponies; a smallholding was definitely not a requirement, but things change! Wendy's talk was illustrated throughout by beautifully evocative photos.

At the age of 6, a family holiday on a Hill Farm in Wales triggered Wendy's love of animals and the countryside. After Agricultural College, she worked on a number of farms in the UK and USA, learning new skills such as confidently reversing a very large tractor and trailer. However the demands of a growing family put agriculture on hold until the ponies needed a new home. Hence they moved to their present home in Hunton but the burning became "what to do with 4 acres in an Area Of Natural Beauty?"

Now there are 5 peacocks (7 before the fox visited) including 1 unusual white one; ex-caged hens; 6 geese that prove to be better guard dogs than the actual dog; turkeys and guinea fowl all wandering freely around the stable yard and sometimes the garden.

Wendy has taken a keen interest in preserving rare breeds with a pedigree breeding saddleback sow and piglets of various ages, with a liking for apples and avocados – which must give the meat an interesting flavour! As well as some commercial white sheep and a small flock of Jacob's sheep, (another rare breed, kept for their meat, fleece and skins). The ram, Daily Dave, is particularly handsome and not at all camera-shy.

Another accidental development was acquiring a German Shepherd dog after a burglary. This led to Wendy breeding pedigree German Shepherds so successfully that she is now a Kennel Club Assured Breeder with Janet winning a place at Crufts 2 years running. Janet; in addition to Crufts, has her gold dog training certificate and regularly visits schools, hospitals and care homes as a qualified Therapy Dog. She did not appear to be overly interested by Wendy's fascinating talk, preferring to have a nap for most of the evening! However, the rest of us were impressed with Wendy's enthusiasm and boundless energy in managing such a varied and diverse way of life.

It just goes to show what an amazing range of people we have living in our village.

The next WI meeting is on 3rd March at Hunton Club, doors open at 7pm for a 7.30 start, new ladies welcome. The speaker will be Wilf Lower and the topic "Lost Empires" – the last days of music hall and variety.

The next open meeting (open to non-members for £5) will be held on Monday 16th March at Hunton Club 7 pm for 7.30. The speaker, Adam Phillips, works at the London Assay Office and he will be talking about the Hallmarking of silver, its history and how it is carried out today. As usual refreshments are included and the bar will be available.

Timber!

Those who walk past the Church may notice that a fir tree, which has been growing on the East side for over 100 years, has now been taken down. Rather overgrown (about 100ft high), and too close to the building and windows, its roots were a structural damage threat. DAC approval was obtained following the display of the required public notice.

Hunton Arborists won the tender stating "it was one of the most difficult jobs they had undertaken in their 7 years of trading" George Sharp assured us this was due to the limited drop zone caused by the close proximity of listed table top tombs, a listed church with a large number of tombstones rather than the quality of the enthusiastic volunteer workforce! Happily, George managed to avoid damaging anything (or anyone).

Just when we thought the job was over the tree did its best to make life difficult for us. The photo shows how, rather than falling to the ground as expected, it rocked onto a wedge shaped cut and stuck there – we couldn't have planned it if we had tried!

Rather than grind the stump out, as was originally planned, we have decided to turn it into a simple seat (or bench for 3 slim people) and as such it is a welcome addition to the churchyard. We also wanted to avoid damaging a listed table top tomb - a corner of which had been lifted by the tree's root system. In closing, we are sorry to report that Hunton Arborists are no longer operating.



Litter Picking Group Disbanded

It is with great regret that we must say a final thank you to Di Martin, her group of volunteers and to MBC, for the 10 years or so of their organised and supported litter-picking group. Di has done a wonderful job and her infectious enthusiasm and energy has helped to keep our village cleaner than would otherwise have been possible!

Going forward, MBC has withdrawn all meaningful support as they have concluded that they cannot be connected with any litter picking activity carried out on roads that do not have 30mph limits or on any road with no pavement. MBC has explained that this decision is driven by their concern for our own safety, as well as legislative and insurance cover constraints.

MBC will continue to collect fly tipped waste on public roads or verges (contact 01622 602600) but, for more everyday needs, we have to rely on the services of a road-sweeping vehicle (which we have now seen operating in the village). Whilst this collects rubbish from the roads it sweeps, it will not clean litter from the verges, ditches or hedgerows. MBC will not send out their street cleaning team to hand pick such litter unless KCC Highways have a scheduled road closure, nor will they accept any help from volunteers while such road closure and cleaning operation is ongoing.

MBC has stated that anyone collecting rubbish from the roads and putting it in bins (even if they are their own) is perhaps liable to prosecution for fly-tipping as the litter collection service is for household rubbish alone. Whilst any such prosecution would be unlikely, any organised litter pick would perhaps just raise the profile of this activity and make a reaction from MBC more likely.

It seems that until a better outcome can be found we either have to accept the rubbish that litters our streets or quietly and individually take whatever action we think is best to fill the gap. We will continue to try and better understand, and if appropriate challenge, MBC's interpretation of current rules, also work with the Parish Council and our local Borough Councillors to see if they can suggest an acceptable and practicable way forward.

If you have any suggestions or would like to take over from Di in trying to get litter picking organised again, do please contact either myself, or Di through the Hunton Herald.

James Forster

Do You Want to Advertise in the Herald?

We are about to start a new advertising year at the Herald and are seeking commitments from old and new advertisers - no later than 20th April please. As readers will be aware, the Hunton Business Directory is circulated to over 300 homes 6 times a year and is used by many residents looking for local suppliers of services. The costs have been broadly unchanged over the last 15 years and are very reasonable at between £43pa to £150pa, depending upon the size of the advert chosen. If you, or anyone you know, would like to advertise please send details to either James Forster or Lisa Halliday (forsters.hunton@btinternet.com / lisa.halliday7@btinternet.com) We would be delighted to provide an information pack.

What Happens to our Advertising Revenue?

After 5 years managing and developing the advertising for The Hunton Herald, Sue Pinks has decided to step down.

We would like to thank her for her enormous contribution and to say that she has left big shoes to fill so she will be greatly missed.

Over its 17 years of operation the Herald has distributed over £15,000 to village causes with the four largest recipients being the School, the Friends of St Mary's, the Club and the Village Hall who together account for 80% of funds distributed. We currently have an undistributed surplus of about £6,000 (although this will fall after a contribution to the renewal of the Village Hall kitchen project). There are projects which we are aware of that might lead to requests for funding support from the Club for an upgrade to its lavatories and from the Church, for a contribution towards the cost of installing a compost loo.

Please contact James or Lisa (contacts listed above) if you have a village project that you think we might be able to help with.

Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

Wed-Fri 8-11pm Sun 12-2.30pm & 8-10.30pm

World Day of Prayer

The Benefice Churches of Coxheath, East Farleigh, Hunton, Linton and West Farleigh join together with the Linton Road, Free Church for this annual service. The service this year will be held at Holy Trinity Church, Coxheath on Friday 6th March at 7pm. The service is entitled 'Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk' and has been prepared by Christian Women of Zimbabwe. All are very welcome and there will be refreshments following the service.

Yalding Art Group 2020

The 2020 Yalding Art Group now meets at RIVERSIDEpopupGALLERY most Thursday mornings

To join this innovative group – the first session is free and they meet from 10.00am – 12.00 pm most Thursdays for £2.50 which includes refreshment and biscuits and the occasional cake!

We are looking forward to our annual Arts & Crafts Fair on Sunday, 17th May 11am until 4pm where Mel likes to paint and talk to all our visitors. Also, come along for Valerie's refreshments and give yourself a treat!. If you would like a stall, please contact June Chapman on 817324 or email chapman.june59@gmail.com www.yaldingartgroup.weebly.com or see the page on www.RIVERSIDEpopupGALLERY.com

Card Reader

The Club is now able to take payments by way of a credit/debit card reader but this is very much dependent upon the strength of the mobile phone signal at the time. As many residents in Hunton are aware, this is very much a hit or miss affair so there is a good possibility a transaction cannot be completed. Trials have shown that the system, although slow in comparison with other retailers, worked more often than not.

Payment has to be made before the service is provided - we ask that members are patient and understanding with the bar volunteers, particularly if the system fails. This system does not offer Club members a "cash back" facility.

Easter Bazaar

Hunton & Linton Pre School invite you to their Easter Bazaar to be held on Thursday 2nd April at 9:15am -11:15am at Hunton Village Hall. Attractions include Easter Raffle, Cake Stall, Children's Crafts, Easter Egg Hunt, Tombola and Refreshments. Everyone Welcome!

Village Gigs Return!

Mike Summersgill has once again taken up the mantel, lining up Applause gigs for the Village Hall from the Autumn. **Nick Harper** is already booked for Saturday 14th November. More to come - hopefully **4Square** in October...so watch this space!

Callaghan gig at the Village Hall on April 17th, promoted by BubbleClub.

TrackDogs (for those who missed them on 26th Feb) are coming over from Madrid again and are appearing at Bloomsbury's Biddenden on Friday March 27th and on the Edith May sailing barge at Lower Halstow on Sunday 29th March (and probably somewhere in the Medway Towns on Saturday 28th; not announced yet!).

Afternoon Teas at The Village Club

With the temporary absence of what has become the traditional series of new year Club lunches, the Village Club will be open for afternoon teas and cakes each Thursday in March from 2:30pm. These "bottomless" (as much as you can drink) teas will give the community the opportunity to get together which is something that has been missed by many. A small donation will be requested with the funds raised being split between St. Mary's Church and the Club.

Pre-Easter Churchyard Clean Up

Wednesday 1st April 9am to 12 noon – all help gratefully received!

At St Mary's Church in March

Flowers		Services			
No Flowers in Lent.		Sunday 15th March 9:30 - HC – Rev David Jones Sunday 22nd March 9:30 - Mothering Sunday – FS – Rev Eileen Doyle			
Other services in the Benefice					
March	1st	8th	15th	22nd	29th
Coxheath	10.30 HC	11.00 MP	11.00 HC	11.00 FS	
E. Farleigh		08.00 HC	09.30 HC	08.00 HC; 09:30 FS	
Linton			08.00 HC		10.30 Benefice Service
W. Farleigh		09.30 HC		09.30 FS	
HC Holy Communion, MP Morning Prayer, FS Family Service					

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