



Next Editors: Liz Oliver & Graham Dolman: herald@hunton.org.uk
All items for the next edition of the Herald to the Editors by 15th June

75th Anniversary. The end of the Second World War in Europe

On Friday 8th May 2020 Hunton, like the rest of the Nation, celebrated Victory in Europe Day (VE Day). We decked our gardens with flags and bunting. Alas, we were in isolation, 'socially distanced' from our families, friends, and neighbours. There were no street parties, veterans' parades, or large group events. Nonetheless, in true Hunton style, despite the coronavirus lockdown, 1940s-style tea parties were the order of the day. Everyone followed the two-metre distancing rule and gathered just outside their houses. How fortunate we were to have enjoyed an amazingly sunny day, just as it was 75 years ago!

The two minutes' silence honoured the service and sacrifice of the Second World War generation. At 3pm many re-lived a moment in history by listening to the Rt Hon. Winston Churchill's victory speech. His words resonate with us now, "We may allow ourselves a brief moment of rejoicing; but let us not, for a moment, forget the toil and efforts that lie ahead." The war in Japan was not over until 'Victory in Japan' (VJ Day), 15th August 1945.

We remembered the heroic efforts, and often tragic losses, of so many associated with the RAF, Army, Navy and in civilian life. As our Prime Minister, Boris Johnson said on May 8th, "It is a day when we pay tribute to the millions who fought and struggled through the Second World War." So, we celebrated the heroism of ordinary people with respect. Our glasses were raised, we toasted those who served our county. In quiet reflection, we thought of those who served and fought; so that we could live in peace.

Just as in 1945, as the day lengthened into a balmy evening, it was time to have fun. Sounds of 1940s music wafted over fields and hedges! I guess several people had a go at dancing the 'lindy hop'. Those living close to George Street were lucky enough to hear the wonderful sound of a young lone bagpiper. I am sure that many of us joined in with the virtual duet between Vera Lynn (now 103) and Katherine Jenkins, as they sang: 'We'll Meet Again'.

Regally, the day drew to a close with the Queen reading a message to the nation. She spoke, as her father King George VI had, about "A total war, that had affected everyone. The outlook had seemed bleak, the end distant, and the outcome uncertain." There are parallels with life at the moment. With pride, she spoke of the way that we protect and support one another. We do this extremely well in Hunton. Indeed, there are far too many acts of care and kindness that have taken place between neighbours in the last few weeks to list here.

Hopefully, we will have our freedom again as we work together to come out of the coronavirus pandemic. Let us hope that we, in Hunton, can come together during August 2020 to celebrate VJ and VE day as a village, celebrating together.

Wendy and Iain Simmons

Fred Dixon will be 12 this month, 'Happy Birthday Fred'. He has been playing the bagpipes since September 2019. He is a keen member of his school pipe band. The volume of 'the pipes' means that we encourage him to practice in the garden... hence the fact that much of the village has heard him! He often gets requests to play, and the excitable rabble who gathered at a safe distance on Elm Corner got 2 performances. There was one evening performance in the field, for a neighbour who had recently celebrated his birthday.



Your Local Contacts:		Village Hall Booking:	www.huntonvillagehall.co.uk
School: Secretary/Head Teacher	820360	Huntonwatch: huntonwatch@gmail.com	07907 019996
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@googlegmail.com	Chairman: David Heaton - 820678, dhhuntonpc@gmail.com
Cllr Jonny Goddard - 820096, jonny@cheveneyfarm.co.uk	Cllr Roger Lee - 820210, rlhuntonpc@btinternet.com
Cllr Tony Stanbridge - 820721, tshuntonpc@gmail.com	Cllr Annette Trought - 820448, annette@trought.com
Cllr Helen Ward - 820810, hwhuntonpc@wardy.org	Cllr Gary Thomas - 820691, gthuntonpc@gmail.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

If you are of a certain age, you will probably remember a song by Boney M called "By the Rivers of Babylon". It got to number 30 in the charts in 1978. For those of you who are under 50, you can find it on Deezer, Spotify, Apple Music or YouTube. The words of the song are drawn directly from the Old Testament. Psalm 137 says "By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion. ... How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?" The song was originally a Rastafarian protest song, and the Boney M version went back to the original Psalm. Rastafarians used the term "Babylon" for any repressive regime or organisation, and so the essential meaning of the song is the same – Psalm 137 laments the time of exile for the Jewish nation when they were captured by the Babylonians. They were in lockdown for about 70 years, lamenting the lack of access to their familiar surroundings and the temple where they worshipped God. Times of hardship often create both artistic responses and partisan division. Many of our spiritual songs come from times of slavery. I am not in any way comparing our current situation with the exile or slavery – but we might take heart from a little perspective. However hard we are finding things at the moment, most of us will come through this time of trial and society will recover and rebuild. For those who will have died, we must always lament, learn lessons, and grieve the tragic loss of life.

Billy Graham, the great preacher and evangelist said "Comfort and prosperity have never enriched the world as much as adversity has." And William Shakespeare, in *As You Like It* states "Sweet are the uses of adversity which, like the toad, ugly and venomous, wears yet a precious jewel in his head." The current situation has seen something like 45% of UK adults turning to prayer – one in 20 for the first time. Online services have been attracting people to participate in ways not seen in regular worship. Over 25% of adults in the UK have "been to church" during the current pandemic. Our own Zoom™ services have seen up to 80 folk online together. It is highly regrettable that not everybody can access this (by the way you can dial in on an ordinary 'phone – details below) and when we are finally back to "normal" we have to work out how to re-integrate ourselves. Meanwhile, please do keep supporting each other, keep praying, and stay safe and well.

Peter Callway, Rector

Details of weekly service at 10.30 Sunday mornings:

Computer, tablet or smartphone: <http://bit.ly/UnitedBenefice>

By 'phone, dial 0203 051 2874 and enter 185124308#

(Cost of a call is standard cost to a geographic number.)

A few memories of Hunton residents. VE day 75 years ago.

Gilly Devas. Gilly attended 'Tudor Hall Girls' School' in Chipping Camden. Tudor Hall had been evacuated to Chipping Camden early on in the war. Gilly remembers VE Day as a, "Happy and fun occasion, we put on a dancing display in the square. A lot of practise went on to get the final effect".

Sue Scott. Sue, and her elder sister can remember that it was a quiet day for their family. Sue's father had served in the First World War, which had a profound effect on him. Sue's family were waiting for victory to come with the end of the war in the Far East and awaited VJ Day to mark the end of the World War in August 1945 before celebrating.

Shirley Parnell. Shirley was 8 years old. She remembers that her cousin was born that day. On news of the birth, her family went to see the new baby in Weirton. Shirley was amazed, the baby was wrapped in a blanket and lay in a drawer! Shirley remembers the village celebrations' "There was a big party in the grounds of the Village Hall." Shirley noted that many families were together because farm workers were exempt from service to keep the food and hop supply going.

Edna Link, a close friend of Shirley Parnell. "I remember the big party. Everyone brought a plate of food. My mother made savoury, probably cheese, cakes. Corned beef was a treat. The table stretched from the children's play area to the bench by the football pitch and there was homemade bunting. We all wore red, white, and blue. We had to make do, as fabric was rationed. So, my mother put our hair up and bunched it with lovely coloured ribbons. We danced, played games, and had such fun. There was home brew for the adults, beer, and wine. I remember my uncle, Fred Guett, being there. Fred ran the Bull pub. My father had not yet returned from the war, but many men were farm workers. I also remember when a German aeroplane came down over Peter Day's hop garden. The pilot was dead. Before he was even taken from the plane, rather than waste the hops, they were picked off the plane.

Remembering Colonel John Waddy, by James Redman. In early May 2020, on Radio 4's 'Today Programme', you may have heard Nick Robinson interviewing Colonel John Waddy. John is now 100 years old. He was an officer with 4th Parachute Brigade at the battle of Arnhem in 1944. I knew him through my father, a doctor attached to 4th brigade during the battle. Alongside his recollections, John spoke of the deep feelings of gratitude the Dutch still have for the sacrifices made in vain by the airborne forces in their failed attempt to free them from their Nazi oppressors. Even now, Dutch children lay flowers at the graves of the fallen on every anniversary of the battle. In the midst of our changing relationship with Europe there is so much more to unite than to divide us.

Gary Thomas, Parish Councillor. Gary was close to 10 years old on VE Day. He has two vivid memories. He was living in Hampton Hill. There were two street parties, one for one end of Hampton Hill and another the other end. He remembers the day very well because he put the garden fork through his foot! Earlier in the day, he remembers taking part in the races. He was going fast; he was close to winning when someone stepped out and baulked his progress. The injustice of not winning still lives with him (poor Gary). Gary also remembers the golf course close to his house, where he and his friends crept through gaps in the fence to play in the trenches. The Americans had been stationed there during the war but had left by VE day.

“Without the donations it would not have been possible”

The Maidstone District Sewing Group. Thank you on behalf of the sewing group (and of course the NHS and key workers) for the generous donations of fabrics and haberdashery by those in Hunton. The group started on 9th April. As soon as word got around, we were immediately inundated with requests and orders covering areas from Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells to Canterbury and everywhere in between! Our group grew with people from all walks of life offering their help or skills: printing out the patterns; couriering the fabrics; collecting and delivering made items; making cards of thanks; supplying comfort hampers to the NHS staff; sewing; knitting; crocheting; and, fundraising. Within a month we have made over: 8000 uniform bags; 800 sets of scrubs; 800 gowns; 4000 headbands; and 800 bereavement pairs of hearts! We have also made over 4000 ear savers, because the continuous wearing of the masks was making the wearers' ears sore!



Zoe Martin (Area Coordinator)

Not Just ‘Natter’. Well done Hunton’s sewing volunteers.

In the May, Hunton Club’s ‘Needles and Natter Group’ became involved in sewing for NHS and Key Workers. Since then the number of items made by sewing volunteers across Kent reached in excess of 20,000. Maidstone Sewing Group for NHS and Key Workers during COVID 19 was started by Caroline Barton, whose mother is a respiratory nurse specialist at Maidstone Hospital. Caroline was inspired by seeing her mother change out of her uniform on the front porch and decided to make laundry bags for workers to place their uniforms in before they reach home. Caroline set up a Facebook Group which now has in excess of 2000 members including 30 Co-ordinators who distribute patterns, fabric, cottons, elastic and Velcro, collect garments and deliver to hospitals and facilities. Our small group of Hunton sewing volunteers has so far contributed 128 items. These items include 28 gowns, 34 scrubs, 23 hats, 26 laundry bags, 12 ear savers and 5 hairbands. Items have been supplied to care homes, district nurses and community teams.

Trisha Nichols

Tales From The Science Lab – Part 1

I spent the first twenty years of my working life as a scientist at one of the Government’s research laboratories. I worked closely with HM Customs and Excise and the Met Police forensic laboratory on many projects and whilst a lot of the work was routine, there were occasional bright spots. This was one of them.

The lab in which I worked had many of the more sophisticated pieces of equipment available at the time and because of that we had many visitors, often science students, who were on a guided tour of the labs. On one such tour I was demonstrating our Scanning Electron Microscope to a group of 15 and 16-year-old girls from a local school. I often asked visitors if they had any jewellery on them that I would analyse for them and this time one of the girls presented me with a diamond ring, set in gold, that her parents had given her as a Christmas present. “Would you be able to tell me whether the gold is 9 or 18 carat?” she asked. “Of course.” I replied as I prepared and then placed the ring in the machine. You could feel the excitement as I explained what the machine did and how it worked. Whilst I was talking I realised that the results were not what I had expected. Her ring was actually a piece of glass set in brass!

I went cold as I wondered what I would say. My brain started racing as I returned the ring to her. Luckily, the tour guide returned at that point to hurry the group on. As they were leaving, inspiration struck, and my parting shot to the girl was “The gold used in your ring is unlike any I have seen before. It is unique and very special. You should treasure it.” That seemed to please the owner and she left with a huge smile on her face. I, on the other hand, rushed to the tea station and made myself a large strong coffee. I never did that kind of demonstration again!

Professor Plum (aka Steve Wyles)

Hunton Engineering

Hunton Engineering was established in the early 90’s and is located in the village of Hunton; in what used to be hop picking machinery buildings many years ago. The relationship with the village in the name is simply geography. As engineers, we enjoy a technical problem rather than thinking up imaginative names!

The company is a specialist in the design, manufacture, and installation of infrastructure for major water control and flood defense; in waterways and tidal locations all over the UK. We have an engineering design team in the Hunton office doing most of the product design. The manufacture and assembly of all the equipment then takes place within the workshops at Hunton. The work we do is bespoke, one-off projects. To date, we have not found a standard river or coastline and, as such, each project is unique in some way. Typical projects include bridges, lock gates on rivers, floodgates, pumping stations, and all manner of large sluice gates; plus, the drives and controls to make them open and close to control water. The largest single gate we have built weighed 31 tonnes and was installed in Gravesend on the Thames last year.

Locally, we have completed some projects which no doubt many people have passed; including the sluice gates at Allington near the Malta Inn public house, the lifting bridge in Yalding by the Boatman Pub and the radial sluice gate at Tonbridge. Currently, we are working on projects in Northamptonshire and Somerset, amongst others.

Flood risk is of course very real and topical. We are proud of the works we do to help alleviate and control water across the UK. You have all seen the devastating effect of flooding recently and we enjoy the ability to be involved in complex projects that provide long term solutions to this ever-growing problem. Most of the team at Hunton are local; with a number having begun with us as apprentices and graduate engineers. Most live in the area around Tonbridge and Maidstone. We have around 30 staff based in Hunton. Most of this team have been with us for many years.

Sean Trow

Huntonwatch

Hunton started providing a 'meds' collection and delivery service on 24th March. In the 8 weeks since that first delivery, we have made 28 'runs'. We have delivered meds to Hunton residents; collected samples to be taken to the GP; and, purchased 'over the counter' medications. We have a list of 29 volunteers who are willing to help in some form or other and, 27 residents who have requested our help.

It is our belief that the situation is unlikely to improve quickly and that as lockdown measures are relaxed we are likely to see more 'spikes' in the infection rate. Both of which mean that our support will be needed for some months to come. With that in mind, and where we can, we have organised our helpers so that no one person is asked to do too many consecutive runs; reducing both the workload and risk of infection for each helper. We know that a number of Hunton residents have had Covid-19. But, as far as we are aware, none have required hospital care and thankfully we have no record of any deaths. Our sincere thanks go out to the 8 people who have so far stepped up and collected and delivered meds around the village. Continued support, and help, from the medical practices, and chemists, in Marden, Coxheath and Yalding show the community at its best.

Steve and Sue Wyles

Helen Ward. 'Champion Darts Player.'

Readers may remember that Helen Ward was the former editor of the Hunton Herald. Helen did a superb job and continues to support the current editorial team. However, much of her time is taken up with the pursuit of excellence in the world of darts! Helen has written a most interesting article that, due to space in this edition, will now appear in the next edition. Here is a taster...

When I suggested to my husband, Mark, six years ago that we go along to a fun darts competition at Hunton Village Club, (mainly to check out the club as we'd never been in there), I couldn't have imagined quite how much impact it would have on our lives.....

Making A Difference In Maidstone (M.A.D.M.)

If you have any spare non-perishable food and toiletries, the charity, M.A.D.M, would welcome them. This Charity supports many people/families in crisis in our area, including the homeless. The need is growing so if you can spare any items at all please contact Sue O'Donnell by phone 01622 727852. She will arrange to collect them from your doorstep and give it to the Charity for distribution. Alternatively, you can donate, so that the charity can buy what they need. The Sort Code is 23-05-80 The Account No. is 28525087 and the name of the account is Making A Difference in Maidstone.

A Short Hunton Quiz (Answers)

1. Hunton Manor, Bensted Manor and Buston Manor
2. C) 1963
3. Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman
4. Clapper House c.1390
5. True, there is documentary evidence and Saxon fragments remain
6. 19th Century, March 1889 costing 1d
7. East Street
8. B) 1963
9. C) Huntintune (11th C Textus Roffensis referred to in the Hunton Church History and Guide)
10. No, there were 342 males and 360 females
11. There were horses kept at the bottom of Hunton Hill to help haul wagons up it. We understand that, even then, all but the old and pregnant were required to walk).
12. Three were found on the bat walk a few years ago; the Common Pipistrelle, Brown Long Eared and the Serotine, but cannot be certain as the evening ended in a rather chaotic downpour! Does anyone have a different recollection?!
13. Much more complicated than expected: One of the table top tombs records a Richard Beeston of Elphicks who died in 1627; there is also a James Allen (1648) whose father John is buried next to him but the inscription has been lost (they were both clothiers who lived in Stonewall). The Fane tomb at the front of the church records the death of Sir Thomas Fane and his wife who both died in 1606. Church records for burials start from April 1585 with a Mary Allyn, but nothing is known of exactly where burials then took place. There is a reference to a brass in the tower recording the death of William Heede / Head, of Buston Manor, in 1513 when he left £20 to build the current porch, and a separate record in the will of William Ipingbery of Linton who was buried at St Mary's in 1460.
14. Built by and named after Thomas Bishop, a wealthy clothier, who may have died in 1597 and who may be buried under one of the table top tombs but the inscription is no longer legible.
15. Betts of Offham, MacDonalds.
16. The Prince of Wales.
17. Cinderella

St Mary's Church in June - No Church Services Until Further Notice

You may have seen that the government and Church of England guidance is changing and that it is now permitted for clergy to pray privately and stream services from a church building. For now, nothing changes for us. It may be possible to open churches from July 4th and we await further instructions, but in any case, we will need to maintain social distancing, and that will not be possible in all cases in all our churches. We will, therefore, need to have a phased return to public worship, and we will do our utmost to ensure the best outcome for all.

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