



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

Huntonwatch Meds Collection Service Ends

Huntonwatch began its meds collection and delivery service from our three local surgeries in late March as we entered lockdown. On 24 March the first collection was made from Yalding surgery and since then weekly collections for patients of Yalding, Coxheath and Marden Surgeries became the norm. 29 Hunton residents used this service regularly but since lockdown eased; allowing free flow of movement and finding a decline for this service, we decided to suspend operations at the end of August. Huntonwatch would like to thank all the wonderful volunteers, (too many to mention); also members of surgeries and pharmacies, without whom provision of the service would quite simply not have been possible. Additionally we should like to thank the Hunton Parish Council for its support during these difficult times.

King George V Playing Field Management Committee

The Management Committee looking after the recreation field next to the Village Hall on behalf of the Parish Council is made up of Trustees from each of the Sports Clubs and the Parish Council. The Committee maintains the facilities of the field, not only for the benefit of the clubs but also for the general public. We are responsible for arranging grass cutting; trimming and pruning of the field hedges; litter bin emptying; the upkeep of the play equipment, car park, general maintenance and tidiness.

Working in conjunction with the Parish Council the Committee has overseen the installation of a new security barrier at the entrance to the car park which is open between the hours of 7.30am and 7pm during the summer and 7.30am to dusk in the winter. Signs have been posted on the gate and around the car park to remind users of the opening hours.

During the year the Committee contributed to the Bowls Club to help build new changing rooms. With the gradual re-opening of public spaces and play areas after the COVID-19 lockdown, the Committee can now complete the work it had planned for this year which includes the installation of additional litter bins, non-slip matting at the two gates to the enclosed play area, a new picnic table and repair of the car park surface. If anyone has any suggestions as to how the facilities could be further improved then please get in touch with us via the Clerk to the Parish Council at huntonpc@goolemail.com

Steve Jones, Chairman

Hedges and Ditches

As we approach autumn, the Parish Council would like to remind land and house owners that they are responsible for ensuring that their hedges are cut back so that they don't obstruct roads and footpaths.

Land and house owners are also responsible for keeping drainage ditches on their property free of any blockages so that water can drain into the rivers freely. If you have a drainage ditch on your property please ensure that it is cleared of rubbish and obstructions in order to reduce the risk of flooding during the winter.

Hunton School Update

Whilst the staff prepare to welcome back all pupils after the summer break, much activity is happening behind the scenes. The scaffolding that some of you heard and saw during August was part of the process of replacing the flat roof. Buckets in the classrooms to catch the drips should now be a thing of the past. The school is currently without a permanent Headteacher. Mr Paul Ryan, the Head at Collier Street, has been Associate Headteacher since Easter and will continue in that role until Christmas. The Governors are currently recruiting a new Headteacher. If all goes to plan, the new Head will be in post by January 2021.

Iain Simmons, Governor

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 - Paul Vasey	101
Hon Associate Rector: Revd. David Jones	741474*	Helen Grant MP helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk	0207 219 7107
Churchwarden: Alison Ellman-Brown	820288	Hunton Bell Ringers: Jeff Young	746541
Village Club: Gil Robertson	820059	WI President: Ann Sawtell	820731
Maidstone Police	690690 or 101	<i>*not available on Fridays</i>	

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
Cllr Jonny Goddard - 820096, jonny@cheveneyfarm.co.uk	Cllr Roger Lee - 820210, rhuntonpc@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

I wonder if you are aware of The Listening Project? If you are a regular listener to Radio Four, you probably are. It's a partnership between BBC Radio 4, BBC local and national radio stations, and the British Library. The idea is to capture the nation in conversation. Since 2012 collections of conversations between friends or relatives have been made, in order to build a unique picture of life today. To date they have collected over a thousand short conversations, with the intention of broadcasting them across BBC radio. These are archived by the British Library, preserving them for future generations. They cover a wide range of topics – from living with Alzheimer's to falling in love in the front seat of a Reliant Robin. About 30 of them available online are about faith.

Talking with somebody and discovering more about them is a natural, very human thing to do. We crave relationship and even the most introvert or shy amongst us value a chance to chat from time to time. During lockdown, when we have not been able to meet in church, we quickly realised that an important part of being together, even online, was to chat. So we started inviting folk to stay on and go into a chat room with 3 or 4 others after the online service. It proved to be immensely popular and facilitated discussions between people from different parishes, backgrounds and interests. Some people have found new friendships and I know of others who have since met up for socially distanced chats face to face!

Alpha Online - (see more information on Page 4.) If you wish to discuss any element of this upcoming course, feel free to contact the Rector, who would be delighted to have a chat about it – or anything else on your mind!

Peter Callway, Rector

Gardening – Why Make It Hard - Mulch?

Wrist jarring at best and tool bending at worst, working hard dry soil at this time of year is hard work. Mulching is the simple answer. Wealden clay soil, is often sodden and heavy in winter and like concrete in summer, but you can change the soil structure so that the fork slips in and perennial pernicious roots are more easily extracted by mulching. The friable soil can be tickled over as you weed to allow the rain to soak in. This won't happen overnight and does need to be repeated once or twice a year, but it pays dividends.

There are many advantages to mulching: a good compost can provide food for plants; suppress weeds and conserve moisture in the soil; but the main function is to condition and improve the soil structure. It flocculates clay, breaking the particles to open up the soil structure enabling the plant roots to grow out into the soil and take up nutrients. It also helps to hold moisture (1% increase of organic matter in the soil will increase its water holding capacity by 14%). Free draining sandy soils also benefit hugely from mulching. Municipal garden waste and 'Strulch' made from rotted straw, both act as a good annual weed suppressants though can feel very dry. Mushroom compost, well-rotted horse manure or home garden compost are bulky and moisture retentive and I think it is this that helps the worms take it into the soil to work its magic. No need to dig, the worms will do it for you. Applied in Autumn and/or Spring it should lighten the load.

Sue Heaton

More from Ray Morris- Birdsong in Hunton

A familiar but, often unnoticed bird is the dunnock; also called the hedge sparrow because of its similarity to the female house sparrow, although they are not related. This is another species that has a remarkably far-reaching song that forms an audible backdrop to our gardens in the summer. If you listen carefully, it is a tuneful cascade of fluty notes. As the dunnock is one of the species targeted by the cuckoo for hosting her egg, if you hear them both in your garden there is a good chance that, come June you'll have the pleasure of seeing the ungainly cuckoo chick conspicuously parked on a roof or a lawn waiting the return of its harassed foster parents to feed it.

For those of us fortunate enough to be able to hear higher pitched (but still soft) calls, the song of Britain's smallest bird, the goldcrest, is a tantalising accompaniment to a comfy seat under the trees. Weighing no more than a 20p coin, this beautiful scrap of feathers with a bright yellow stripe across its head (the male has a another, bright orange stripe within the yellow one) sings almost continually through the day. Even gardens and areas surrounded by tall leylandii plants will enjoy their presence.

Finally, another much underrated garden songster is the chaffinch. Like the thrush family, this colourful male finch often enjoys advertising his charms from the top of a tall bush with another eminently 'summery' song. While he is singing in 'courting' mode he is invariably pleasant on the ear, but not so when mating is complete and the pair settle down to a humdrum existence raising their brood: they then adopt a monotonous, toneless two-note chirp between them to maintain contact



Ray Morris

Vacancy - Peace Cottages

There is a vacancy for a non-smoking single resident in Peace Cottages Almshouses in West Street, Hunton. Those interested, over the age of 55, preferably with a connection to Hunton should contact Liz Oliver on 01622 820200 or Roger Sawtell on 01622 820731 for an application form. Further criteria may apply.

Update from Hunton Wanderers CC

After 3 months of waiting the cricket season in Hunton finally got under way on the 18 July, with detailed guidance from the ECB and not a little confusion on the pitch.

League cricket has been abandoned for the season in favour of “competitive friendlies”. This immediately presents a moral dilemma – how competitive should one be in a friendly? Can we use the pavilion? Answer, not for changing or teas, in fact no teas at all, bring your own food! Come ready changed, we are told, easier said than done if you’ve just come straight from work. What happens if it rains? Take shelter in our cars we are told but without sharing!

How often should we hand sanitise? Every 6 overs is the ECB guideline but it seems to vary according to the state of the game, the willingness of the opposition and whether the skipper remembers! We should also use an antibacterial wipe on the ball every six overs but this often seems to happen more regularly as we’ve discovered it helps to preserve the shine on the ball!

Then there are the rules as to who can touch the ball, and when; who can touch the stumps; where the batsmen should run to avoid contact with the bowler; and should we bump elbows instead of shaking hands, or politely nod to each other?

These are some of the challenges being faced by the intensely social game that we call cricket. Despite this, it seems to be working. Games are being played and enjoyed. In the main the social distancing and hygiene rules are being observed. Last week’s 1st team game was one of the most exciting I’ve played in for years (I genuinely believe this because I hit the winning runs.) We have put 2 full teams out each week since we resumed and remarkably we have actually increased our membership. Interest in the game seems to be thriving. However, amongst all these positives I still miss a decent plate of sandwiches at tea time and of course the chocolate cake.

Simon Taylor Chairman, Hunton Wanderers CC

Tales from the Science Lab – Part 4

In my many years in the laboratory I had the opportunity to meet and work with a few people who were to go on to make a big difference to all of our lives. One such person was John - a dentist who was developing a new type of material for use in filling teeth.

Those of us old enough to remember the old mercury amalgam fillings will, I am sure, agree that the silvery material used was not very attractive and they also tended to shrink or expand over the years causing fillings to fall out, teeth to crack or infection and decay to occur. Nowadays, of course, we have much better materials being used and colour matching to our natural tooth colour is commonplace. John was very much at the forefront of the development of these new materials and when he approached the laboratory for help in his research I was only too happy to agree.

He would develop a material for trialling and fill teeth of volunteers, taking regular impressions over the coming weeks and months from which he produced 3D models of the filled teeth. These models were sent to me and I produced high magnification stereo photographs which allowed him to see how the material was performing and whether there was any structural failure or detrimental impact on the tooth. Remember, this was over 50 years ago and the sort of computer modelling we have now had not even been thought about.

The research led to the production and widespread use of the first glass ionomer cement and it was from that humble beginning that many of our modern filling materials have been developed.

The work was extremely interesting. I enjoyed being a part (albeit just a small part) of something that had the potential to change peoples’ lives for the better. And I smile every time I remember how appropriate John’s surname was for the job he was doing. It was COLGATE!

Professor Plum

Back2Bowls

It’s been a challenging season for the Bowls Club, in fact all outdoor Clubs have suffered as a result of COVID 19. We had such an eventful season to look forward to with our usual fixtures, tournaments and competitions, not to mention the opening of our new changing rooms that we had worked so hard to complete by April.

In May the Government eased lockdown sufficiently to allow some sporting activity. As a result, Bowls England provided regular updates to ensure that clubs and players were able to resume Lawn Bowls in a safe and COVID-friendly manner. For our Club this was good news, particularly for those members who had been on their own during lockdown and a great opportunity to have a roll-up with their fellow bowlers once more.

On 1 June the Club opened allowing singles play only, but further easement of lockdown by the Government enabled triples play from 25 July. However, play is conditional on following the Government Guidance on social distancing and strict hygiene rules. The pavilion and changing rooms remain closed. Every other rink only is permitted - to accommodate social distancing – so in our case only 2 rinks are playable.

Will a game of bowls ever be the same? Probably not! However, there are some things that COVID won’t change and that is our superb green, the new changing rooms and the start of a new season in April 2021.

Despite what you hear about Bowls that it’s an “old folks” game, this is not the case. Certainly not these days as many local clubs are attracting younger players. Young or old why not come and give it a try? All are welcome. You will find the Bowls Club behind the Village Hall or contact Angela Baptie on 01622 820625 email angela.baptie@btinternet.com

Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

Wednesdays 8pm – 11pm Sundays 12.00pm to 3pm and 8 – 10.30pm

Reopening of the Village Club

The Club opened its doors once again on Sunday 19 July, blessed with some dry weather, which allowed several members to enjoy a drink outside. Others ventured in and sat appropriately socially distanced. It is all a little odd with a one-way system in operation, orders being taken at one end of the bar (behind a perspex screen) and poured drinks being left for collection at another position on the bar. The soft upholstered seats are not being used, as it is not possible to properly clean them after each customer, so the fold up chairs, which can be wiped clean with sanitiser, are in use.

Wednesday evenings have also been fairly busy with a small group playing socially distanced darts, sanitising the scoreboard after each game ready for the next scorer. The first Thursday of each month had become a traditional evening for a few gents to get together for a beer and a chat and this has now moved to the first Wednesday of the month with several attending and just managing to keep to the one meter plus distancing rule and not standing by the bar. The ladies are also contemplating moving their "Needles and Natter" night from the third Thursday of the month to the third Wednesday as it seems unlikely that the Club will be opening on other times of the week for the foreseeable future.

The weekly Saturday yoga session has also returned with slightly reduced numbers to give everyone sufficient safe space. Unfortunately, it will not be possible to hold the Beer Festival in September and with most social activities on hold we will have to consider other ways of balancing the books for the future as it is the organised functions that provide the Club with most of its income. We need all the support we can get so please do pop in for a drink on a Sunday or Wednesday.

Phil Nichols

Ride+Stride For Churches

Friends of Kent Churches Ride and Stride: Saturday 12 September 2020: 10:00 am – 6:00 pm. Bicycle or Walk around Kent Churches: Sponsorship money raised will be divided equally between The Friends of Kent Churches and the Church or Chapel of your choice

Sponsorship Forms available from www.kentrideandstride.co.uk or your Local Organiser Alison Ellman-Brown 07860 147539

Alpha Online

Alpha is a chance to ask big questions of life and explore the Christian faith in a fun, non-pressurised environment. We are delighted to be running Alpha Online using Zoom starting on Wednesday 23 September at 7.15pm and will run for 11 weeks.

Each session includes a short film and a discussion where you can share what you think. The first six sessions and the Saturday "away day" form the basic course, and then there are a number of optional sessions. The Saturday morning session will be on the 7th November at 10am – 12:30pm (tbc)

Alpha online is a series of interactive sessions designed to create and inspire dialogue, with a short talk and discussion where you can share thoughts. Each talk will look at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. There's no charge, no pressure and no follow up.

To register or get more details, go to www.unitedbenefice.church/alpha or contact the Rector.

Carry a Carrier Campaign

The amount of litter in our village is increasing and we are no longer allowed to do a formal litter pick. On three occasions within a two-week period we collected a carrier bag full of rubbish from the path around one field and another full bag from the section of Bishops Lane between West Street and Water Lane. We are introducing the 'CARRY A CARRIER' campaign to try to address the problem. When you go for a walk take a carrier with you and pick up any litter you come across, take it home and bin it. Let us know how you get on and we will put regular updates in the Herald on the number of bags collected and any weird and wonderful items you find. We live in a beautiful village and it is such a shame to see it spoiled by the thoughtless and antisocial actions of the mindless minority.

Huntonwatch

September Transitional Benefice Service Rota

September	6th	13th	20th	27th
Zoom (10:30)	LF/AC/PC	AC/PC	LF/PC	BP/DJ
Hunton	09:30- HC, DJ		09:30- FS, PC	
E. Farleigh			09:30- HC, DJ	08:00- HC, PC
Linton		08:00- HC, DJ		09:30- MP, PC/AC
W. Farleigh		09:30- MP, LF		

PC – Rev. Peter Callway; DJ – Rev. David Jones; LF - Rev. Lorna Faulkner; AC – Mrs Alison Callway; BP – Mrs Becky Parnham

HC Holy Communion, MP Morning Prayer, FS Family Service

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