



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

Service of Remembrance, St Mary's Hunton

Since the COVID pandemic started, St Mary's has followed the Church of England's guidance concerning opening and services. Throughout this time, we have been considering how we might conduct the annual Service of Remembrance, especially considering that VE and VJ Day anniversary events were limited by 'lockdown' and 'social distancing'. If the event goes ahead the level of attendance we can provide for would be seriously constrained due to the 2-metre rule. In order to establish how many might want to attend, and so as to maximise capacity, we need to prepare a predetermined seating plan with places allocated on a first come basis. We need to be mindful that circumstances can alter at very short notice.



To reserve a seat please call Wendy Simmons on 01622 820875 or email Wendysimmons01@btinternet.com (note the zero after simmons) Those wishing to attend will be required to follow social distancing. As a consequence, all seats will be labelled with individual, or family group, names. Together, we will endeavour to ensure that the memory of those who fought, served, and gave their lives for us, continues to be remembered.

To aid planning please respond by Sunday 18th Oct. Check November's Herald for a further up-date.

Hunton Village Club –More Help Needed

Since reopening its doors on 19th July the Club has been frequented by a couple of regular groups of people on Wednesdays and Sundays. Initially the Sunday noon to 3pm session was reasonably well attended but the more recent weeks have only seen two members attending which calls into question the necessity of asking a volunteer to give up a large part of their Sunday to serve behind the bar. The Committee have decided to monitor the situation and review matters again at their October meeting. It is no surprise that income has been significantly reduced and there is concern for the future. The Club's cashflow is very much dependant upon functions such as the 12 seasonal lunches, walks, wine tasting, gardening group suppers etc. At present we cannot hold these functions so the Club will be running at a loss for 2020. Fortunately, we did qualify for a Government grant which will help tide us over for a while. It has been suggested that afternoon tea, cake and biscuits could be made available for a limited number of pre-booked seats and if feasible, dependant upon volunteers, a date in October will be set.

The Committee is also looking for help in the management of the Club. There are already 3 committee vacancies and not all of the present members will be available for re-election in December. The Chairman has provided advance notice of retirement from the position, as has the Membership Secretary, leaving up to 5 positions to be filled. The Village community certainly appreciates having the Club's facilities, which now need further support to continue in these more testing times. The old saying "Many hands make light work" is certainly true and the more people we have on the Committee eases the workload of the few. If you would like to help out please contact Phil Nichols by phone 01622 820804 or e-mail pk.nichols@btinternet.com.

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	*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@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
Sun 8 Nov – 10.45am Service of Remembrance – St Mary's Hunton
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've been helping my son with a photography project. One of the photographers whose work he is studying is American Ansel Adams who advises 'A good photograph is knowing where to stand.'

In a year of cancelled events and restricted gatherings, mask-wearing and no hugging, I have found myself standing in a less than optimistic place. I have been impatient, irritable, restless and resentful. You may have felt the same at times – but I know I can't stay there forever.

Ansel Adams was known to go out hiking early in the morning, climbing mountains in search of the perfect place to capture the image he wanted. There are constants: The mountain is still a mountain; the sky is still the sky but the way we see things depends on how we look at them. How we look at them depends on where we stand. We have to search for a perspective to discover a better way of seeing what is in front of us. Perhaps part of the journey is about finding other ways to see and do things. Possibly write a letter, or make a telephone call rather than a text? Walk in the fresh air, have autumn picnics rather than a meal out? There are so many things we can't do – but still so many we can!

Navigating the 'new normal' can feel like climbing a mountain. At times we'll walk a clear path, other times we'll feel like we're clinging on by our fingertips. Sometimes our metaphorical legs will ache from all the effort, we'll need to stop, rest and have a little moan but we will get up again and keep going seeing the beauty that is all around us as we all climb it together with God. 'I lift up my eyes to the mountains – where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.' Psalm 121.

I do pray for us all that, as this year continues, we will be inspired and refreshed as we encourage one another to stand and look at the view from a different perspective.

Does Nature have no choice but to battle it out with our litter?

As I was cutting back a shrub in a garden I was both alarmed and awestruck as I noticed a beautifully constructed bird's nest. Long vacated now but hidden very discretely in the undergrowth, included were two bits of plastic and a scrap of horticultural fleece. I thought initially how resourceful the bird was and possibly proud of her latest 'mod cons', but at the same time ashamed that our environment is so littered with our man-made debris that nature has no choice but to get involved with it.

Fifteen years ago our field had strawberries grown on raised beds with blue plastic. The rain still brings this plastic to the surface or our pigs rootle it up. I am convinced that a pig who developed breathing difficulties who had to be put down may have consumed a piece of that plastic.

Recently I came across some fox droppings, one piece was made completely of a whole sweet packet about 8-10cm long. It was all twisted and formed as it had obviously passed through the fox's gut. Goodness knows how he even swallowed it and what tummy ache he might have had!

Following on from Steve's article last month about litter in our village, I am horrified how quickly a squashed can or bottle becomes integral into the verges and roadside, mashed flat and soon submerged. I'm all for the Carry a Carrier Campaign!

Sue Heaton

The Story of Blooming Green

My cousin Rebekah and I set up Blooming Green in 2007 when we planted flowers on an acre of former Bramley Orchard at Loddington Farm, Linton not far from my Hunton home. Wedding flowers have become a large part of our business and this year we had a full diary of weddings booked in - until lockdown happened and almost every wedding was cancelled or postponed. Rebekah is supremely organised and in charge of the 'growing' side of the business. Suddenly her spreadsheets and planting plans were good for nothing and we were left, for a week or two, figuring out what on earth to do. The plot at Loddington is the heart of our business so we decided to focus on that and not plant up our other 'secret' plot in Laddingford that we use primarily for wedding flowers. With no income to pay staff it was just the two of us for a while. A few weeks into lockdown we were contacted by friends who run a floristry business in Tuscany. They were stuck in a flat in London, so asked if they could volunteer in return for accommodation. So, with the help of Pel and Craig, then the return of a handful of volunteers, we have picked up the pieces. A flower stall in the farmyard proved to be incredibly popular. We then started to deliver flowers locally before resurrecting our courier service and offering flowers for delivery nationwide. Pick-your-own flowers is something we do each year, from June to the end of October so this year we are offering PYO on a pre-booked basis, which works surprisingly well. It allows us to restrict numbers but also means we have everyone's contact details if there's a need to 'track & trace'. We do a weekly flower delivery to a shop on Columbia Road, East London and will soon be offering wreath-making workshops, for groups of five people. They say that necessity is the mother of invention and the pandemic has certainly forced us to think on our feet. Who knows, we may end up with a more interesting and resilient business because of it.

Jennifer Stuart Smith

Hunton WI Members Keep in Touch

The two socially distanced August and September meetings in Ann Sawtell's garden had members comparing their Lockdown experiences in August and in September. Iain Simmons spoke on "The redevelopment of Aldgate".

Iain joined The Corporation of the City of London which is responsible for the City's Square Mile when the post war redevelopment was ending and planning had been very focussed on traffic. In the early 1990s, IRA attacks led to the imposition of the 'Ring of Steel' around the City with the focus on security. In the early 2000s redevelopment became more coordinated by developers and politicians. One such project was the redevelopment of Aldgate, Iain being the Project Director. A 2011 study looked at how people moved around the area, what the local population needed, rather than what they wanted. Public consultation feedback led to the design process being completed in only 18 months. The project's initial estimate was £7million. Communication with local people continued throughout. By the official opening in 2018, the old Aldgate Gyrotory system had been replaced by an open space, an innovatively designed pavilion housing a café, a grassy area, a performance area, good lighting, electrical supply and a water feature. This has to be turned off in the early morning as children at the local school were arriving soaking wet as they played in it! The old pedestrian subways beneath Aldgate were used to house the café's kitchens and act as a heat exchanger for the building. Air quality vastly improved, traffic was diverted and managed avoiding queuing round the square. Over 1000 people worked on the £23million project which has won various aspects of design awards. The square is now a very pleasant oasis in the City, used by workers, the local school and residents. Iain was proud to be instrumental in bringing the project to fruition. Several WI members visited the area on a guided walk and would certainly recommend others to visit. Iain completed his talk to a stunning sunset.

Due to restrictions the October craft session, a Scandinavian star kit will be distributed to members to do at home. Hopefully they will compare their completed star when they can safely all meet again.

Jane Langdon

A Crazy Enterprise

In 1980 we made the mad decision to start a new life, leaving London, our jobs, house, children's schools and bought a small farm in Kent. Naively, we became fruit and vegetable farmers. There were already orchards so we started with learning how to prune. As we had a small acreage, we grew what were then unusual crops of courgettes, squashes and broccoli. These were so unusual in fact, that we were astonished to get a call from the Evening Standard, wanting to do an article on our "queer gear"! In those days we sent our produce to the wholesale markets where buyers went daily. We designed an eye-catching box focusing on quality and soon realised M&S, Harrods and Fortnum and Masons were selling our produce! Supermarkets were now purchasing and meeting their contracts, standards, packaging and labelling requirements became increasingly problematical. The apples were handled by a co-operative meaning one phone call a day, rather than dozens, so we decided to plant the whole farm with apple trees.

We had wonderful helpers/pickers in those days. There was a travelling family who came yearly. We let their twelve year-old make up some boxes for pocket money. She streamlined and improved our system.

We had a Cambridge student who attended a London black tie event. On his return journey he fell asleep on the train missing his stop. He then caught the milk train only to fall asleep again ending up back in London. He eventually arrived back just in time for work still in his DJ! A policeman told us he was working while on leave and shocked us rigid when he answered a call and reported that he was "cruising in the Cranbrook area" and promptly left to go and deal with a crime. By the 90s standards were much stricter, casual work became a thing of the past and the situation became serious. Very early we had started to pack our own fruit, a pallet a day, and some nice friends decided they would like us to pack theirs. This side of the business grew and we built a state of the art packhouse, buying ground breaking new equipment. We knew exactly how we wanted things done and worked full time in the orchard and packhouse alongside our workers who were a fabulous team of hardworking, reliable, long term staff who eased our role. Supermarket executives who took us out to dinner arranged conferences and meals for upwards of 200 people but by 2015 those days had long gone and so many small farms we relied on were being bought up by large concerns. In our 70s it was time to put away our picking buckets and retire to welcoming Hunton.

Village Verse

What happened to our Summer? We've been waiting since the Spring.
These months have been a bummer while we waited to begin.
What became of picnics and friendships in the sun?
It really doesn't cut it to just go out for a run.
We've had our Hunton sunsets, golden skies to bring us joy,
But, oh what we've missed out on from Grandma's to young boys.
No hugs from grownup children, no toddler's sloppy kiss,
Omni shambles holidays and exams all got a miss,
Our teens have missed their parties, our kids their friends from school,
And older ones have missed the chance to play the giddy fool.
No point in wearing purple, no Music on the Green
We've missed the whole of summer, Covid 19 you're just MEAN!

Music Events at the Hall - Or Not

The Nick Harper gig on November 14th has also now been cancelled. The artist has moved his Autumn tour dates to the same weeks in 2021. The Hall is currently understandably not being hired for private events so as not to compromise the midweek pre-school. Unfortunately there will be no gigs in 2020. Track Dogs were due to start their short UK tour in Hunton on October 2nd but has also been cancelled.

Mike Summersgill

Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

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

Tales From The Science Lab – Part 5

Necessity, so the saying goes, is the mother of invention. You may remember that I was grateful that I was saved by a flash of inspiration in the tale of the ‘diamond’ ring and I was very proud of the way in which I managed to get out of a very tight corner. That episode, however, pales into insignificance when compared to the story I am about to relate.

In the civil service in the late 60s most Fridays were seen as an opportunity to leave early for the weekend. Just as well because Friday lunchtimes were often extended and very ‘liquid’ (if you catch my drift!). In those days job security, especially for Civil Servants, was pretty much guaranteed. We said that the only way you could lose your job was to be a member of the Communist Party and insubordinate. My friend Pete, a member of the Labour Party, liked the odd pint and held extreme far left views. His boss Jack, was 5 years from retirement and could not see any point in over-exerting himself, he had climbed the ladder as far as he was going to. Jack’s normal day began at 10:30am, lunch was 12 until 1.30pm and he left for home well before 3pm, having ensured he missed neither his morning coffee nor afternoon tea. Pete worked hard and a 10-hour day was not uncommon. To say that Jack annoyed him would have been an understatement. One Friday, Pete got back from the pub around 2pm Jack having already left. Jack’s phone rang so Pete walked over and answered it. The conversation went like this:

PETE	CALLER
“Jack’s phone”	“Is Jack there?”
“Don’t be stupid, he left early as usual.” <i>(the actual language was rather more colourful)</i>	“Could you give him a message for me please?”
“No. Wait until Monday and talk to him then like I would have to. He will be in by 11am but won’t be here for long – he never is.”	“Do you know who I am?”
“No. Don’t care much either.”	“I am the Government Chemist.” <i>(the BIG boss)</i>
“Do you know who I am?”	“No but ..”
“Good!”	

With that Pete slammed down the phone, filled in his half-day holiday leave card, dating it for the previous day, put it in Jack in-tray where he knew Jack would not have seen it, gathered his coat, picked up his bag and went home. To this day, apart from Pete, I think I am the only one who knows the story.

Professor Plum

Returning To School

Coming back to school after so long feels very strange but exciting at the same time. Some of us attended school during the lockdown, as our parents are keyworkers. Lately, school does feel slightly different; we have been split into ‘bubbles’, so we are not with too many people at once.

During lockdown, we had a long stretch of being parted from seeing our friends but now it feels great to return to socialising again. Of course, we have also had to be slightly more careful, especially washing hands more frequently.

It has been great to be able to learn again, after missing some of our education. We feel that we are really gaining more knowledge, returning to school. In our class so far, we are learning about “number and place value” in mathematics, studying USA history and we even made our own rockets! In conclusion, it has felt great being back at school and being that little bit closer to normality.

Jessica & Ella

Poppies

British Legion Poppies will again be available locally at Hunton Primary School, Pre School and the Village Club from late October. In the year when the 75th anniversary of the end of WW2 has been marked in a subdued manner, please buy a poppy to show your support for veterans of all conflicts.

October Transitional Benefice Service Rota

October	4th	11th	18th	25th
Zoom	10:30	10:30	10:30	10:30
Hunton	09:30- HC		09:30- FS	
E. Farleigh			09:30- HC	08:00- HC
Linton		08:00- HC		09:30- MP
W. Farleigh		09:30- MP		

HC Holy Communion, MP Morning Prayer, FS Family Service

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