



Next Editors: Christina Harrison & Angela Baptie: herald@hunton.org.uk
All items for the next edition of the Herald to the Editors by 15th March

CENSUS DAY – Sunday 21st March

Apparently sneaking up on us in March is the UK's Census operation, carried out once a decade by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) for England & Wales; this provides the most accurate estimate of our population and households, and helps to build a detailed snapshot of our society.

The first Census was carried out in England in 1801 and has been repeated every ten years apart from 1941; the current Covid situation is not stopping it, but it will mean a few changes. Primarily, and for the first time, you will be able to complete the form on line. But each Household will still get a paper form through the post (from early in March), and you can fill that in and re-post it back if you want; inside that form will be a specific code for on-line completion, and a guide to filling it in.

The census asks questions about all people in your household, its specific make-up and the adults' qualifications & employment status. Your replies and the data from it helps the government and local authorities to plan for the future and to accurately forecast funding needs for local services, such as education, doctors' surgeries and roads. While the 50 questions appear daunting at first sight, most are tick boxes and allow the ONS to compare trends seen in previous decades. The law both protects your confidential replies under the GDPR regulations (which are new since 2011), but also requires you to complete the Census and to do so accurately (...or face a fine up to £1,000!).

Just like ten years ago, there will be a small army of temporary staff (including me) assisting the ONS regional management team, with area teams calling round to households to ensure that any missing forms are submitted; those census officers will have had special training for safe contact given the Covid situation and will be clearly identifiable. There will also be, from 1st March, a contact centre to answer the public's queries by phone, webchat, email, or text message; details should be on www.census.gov.uk/contact-us.

Mike Summersgill

Parish Council News

At the January meeting of the Parish Council, it was decided not to increase the parish precept above the 2020 -21 level. Parish councillors have voted to continue to explore the feasibility and cost of extending speed limited areas in Hunton. The proposal is to have East Street designated as a 30mph zone mainly because of the danger to pedestrians. West Street proposal is to extend the 40mph limit at both ends of the village; to the top of Hunton Hill to the north and to the parish boundary with Yalding to the south west. The PC has to obtain the agreement of KCC Highways and obtain the required funding.

Parish Councillors have met with the manager of Lawrence Betts Ltd and had very constructive discussions regarding methods to reduce the flooding to Grove Lane and West Street. Work has already been completed on clearing the ditch at the junction by Betts. The PC will have the culvert under Grove Lane assessed for damage and ascertain what costs might be involved in replacement.

The continual closure to East Street caused by the poor state of repair of the South East Water main is of concern. The PC writes a letter of complaint every time this happens initially to OFWAT and now to the Water Consumer Council. The PC has been told that the replacement has been budgeted for the first half of 2022. We will continue to keep the pressure on SEW.

David Heaton, Chairman

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@googlemail.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, gt1huntonpc@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

Much-loved local organist dies aged 100

Bob Caudwell, the organist and choirmaster at St Nicholas Church in Linton has died aged 100 – just a few days before the death of fellow centenarian Captain Sir Tom Moore. In Bob's case, he served with the Liverpool Welsh Tank Regiment in WWII in Egypt, North Africa, Sicily, Italy and Greece, where he was a frontline infantryman before going on to conduct the regimental choir. He later enrolled as a teacher and spent the rest of his working life teaching maths, science and music. He gained the Licentiate'ship of the Royal Academy of Music and was awarded the Fellowship of the Royal College of Organists.



He took up the organist post at Linton at the age of 76 when he first moved to Kent. Bob, who turned 100 years old in June last year, was well known to worshippers across the borough and played at Hunton church on occasion. Rev Peter Callway said: "When I first joined the church, one of the first things I noticed was how incredibly loved Bob was by everyone. In his later years, he had trouble with poor eyesight, so he memorised all the hymns and performed every single one by memory. He was a very popular, talented and gracious man. He would put on concerts and fundraisers for the church and would always entertain us with stories from the war. It is especially sad because we didn't get to see him because of lockdown. He spent his 100th birthday in lockdown. He will be sadly missed." Bob died at home on January 27

Tales from the science lab, Part 8

To be in charge of the stockroom for any organisation requires an ordered mind and an attention to detail. The stockkeeper needs to know how much he or she has of each item and when to order more to ensure there is always enough in stock to meet demand.

When I was doing my degree, the university's laboratory stockroom was the responsibility of a genial guy named Len. I say genial -- and so he was when you met him in a social situation -- but put him behind the stockroom counter and he turned into this obstinate and obstructive character who seemed to do anything he could to make life more difficult for us.

Each of us had a locker in which we stored our apparatus and the reagents we were using for our various pieces of work. Len insisted these lockers remained secured by a combination lock at all times "to ensure nothing went missing" and we had to sign a form at the beginning of each term to say we would adhere to his "conditions of use". It was common for him to open our lockers whilst we were in lectures "just to check" and additional apparatus removed or a note left to say apparatus was missing if things were not 100% as they should be.

This was annoying but our biggest complaint was when we needed to requisition chemicals or reagents for our work. For my thesis I needed 500 grammes of one particular reagent which Len duly ordered for me. Then came the day I wanted to use some. "Morning Len, could I have 100 grammes of that reagent please?". "No sorry," he replied, "I only have 500 grammes and that is my minimum stock level." "But you ordered it for me to use Len, so why can I not have any?" I asked. "Because there may not be enough for anybody else if they want any," was his answer. "But I am the only one using it," I said, beginning to get just a little frustrated. "Can you set the minimum stock level at, say, 100 grammes?" "No," he said, "more than my job's worth". And so it went on for a good 10 minutes before, in desperation, I got the senior lecturer to intervene and Len finally released the reagent to me.

Mine was not the only incident of this nature, so come the end of term it was time for our revenge. There were 26 students in my year group. That meant 26 lockers, 26 sets of apparatus and 26 combination locks. When we left for the summer holidays all 26 lockers had a set of apparatus (just not the correct set) and were secured with a combination lock (just not the one that was assigned to that locker). I understand it was over a week before Len managed to sort out the mess. Revenge is sweet!

Professor Plum

Club News

It is no surprise in these times that there is nothing to report upon activities at the Club. Like all involved in the sector we await news and instructions from the powers that be. The Government grants have assisted greatly in keeping the finances in good order, we are being very fortunate in owning our own premises and not having to pay rent.

We hope that there will be sufficient funds for us to make a start on the next big project, which is to revamp the Ladies and Gents toilets. This is likely to involve a complete redesign to allow for disabled facilities and some additional storage space for tables and chairs plus storage of the Club's paperwork, which is held by various present and former committee members. This revamp will create a major upheaval, it being suggested that this should perhaps be completed before reopening. However, final plans and costing have not been done and it is possibly better left until the committee can properly meet and consider proposals.

Previous requests for help have not gone unanswered with a couple of nominations having been made for the Committee, which is pleasing but when it will be possible to hold the AGM or indeed reopen remains uncertain.

Phil Nichols

Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

The Village Club is currently closed until further notice

A Brief History of Mothering Sunday

Everyone celebrates Mother's Day in their own way, from kids preparing mum breakfast in bed, to wider gatherings and celebrations for extended family and friends. Whilst we universally see it as a day of celebration for our mums along with other female family members and friends, Mothering Sunday technically isn't how we now celebrate it and it is not the same thing as Mother's Day!

Mothering Sunday was first celebrated in the UK around the 17th century with no connection to mothers at all. The word "mothering" refers to the "mother church" and Mothering Sunday is always held on the fourth Sunday of Lent because this was when Christians would visit their "mother church". The tradition mainly involved visiting your 'mother' church in your childhood home, a trip which was known as "going-a-mothering" and it was a day when children, mainly daughters, who had gone to work as domestic servants were given a day off to visit their mother and family.

A tradition of Mothering Sunday was baking a Simnel cake. Simnel cake has become associated purely with Easter but it was also previously tied to Mothering Sunday as a bit of indulgence in a period of austerity during Lent. Simnel cake consists of dried fruit and layers of marzipan and a traditional Simnel cake also has 11 balls of marzipan representing all the disciples of Jesus minus Judas.

Despite its long existence in British culture, Mothering Sunday eventually fell out of fashion at the start of the 20th century. It was then thanks to the perseverance of Constance Penswick-Smith, the daughter of a vicar who worked hard to rekindle an interest in Mothering Sunday including writing a book entitled "The Revival of Mothering Sunday"! Her determination paid off and the festival was revived with a far greater focus on motherhood where our celebrations became far more similar to those of our American cousins.

The US celebrates Mother's Day on the second Sunday in May. The holiday was formed much later than Mothering Sunday and was created in 1908 by a lady named Anna Jarvis from Grafton, West Virginia, in honour of her late mother who had been a militant peace activist during the US Civil War. Anna Jarvis was determined to make the day a formal "Mother's Day" for all American mothers and in 1914 US President Woodrow Wilson made Mother's Day official!

Other countries like the US specifically refer to the day as Mother's Day and theirs was not founded through religion. Mother's Day is celebrated across the world, in more than 50 countries, though not all countries celebrate it on the same day.

However we celebrate Mothering Sunday or Mother's Day, particularly during these challenging times, may you all have a wonderful day!

Out & About

For those of you who may be curious as to what is being grown in the field known as 'Hunton North' (the field that is situated between Hunton Engineering and the horse paddock) you have every reason to be interested, as this simple 'cover crop' signifies a new, sustainable way of farming, as Nick Ottewell, Farming Director for LJ Betts Ltd explains:

"Cover crops are becoming more and more of an integral tool in LJ Betts farm management strategy. Modern soil science has been showing that using plants to do the work rather than the more traditional practice of ploughing – for example – is a much smarter way of managing productive land. With minimum tillage (ploughing etc), a cover crop can be sown after the wheat harvest. This crop will then become established and grow during the autumn and winter, effectively becoming a 'carbon harvester' not a 'carbon releaser'. As this technique becomes more commonplace, the variety or mixture of different plant species is becoming more and more tailored to this purpose.

Hunton North has been sown with a mix of phacelia, black oats, wild radish, spring vetch and berseem clover. The phacelia and the black oats don't show much on top but it's all happening below the surface. They are very deep-rooting and create deep fissures in the soil which allows water to filter and drain. They also break up any 'pans' (impervious layers of compacted soil) which may have been caused by mechanical cultivation. Wild radish is one of the best plants for harvesting nitrogen in the soil. Around 20% of wild radish in the seed mix should soak up any residual nitrogen left from the previous crop and stop this nitrogen from being lost from the soil profile (into a water course). Spring vetch and berseem clover are nitrogen-fixing legumes which harvest nitrogen from the atmosphere and reduce the reliance on chemical fertilisers in the following crop.

LJ Betts are fully committed to this modern approach. In the autumn of 2020, we drilled around 60 hectares of land with winter cover crops and, as we improve and gain greater understanding of the techniques and plant varieties, our aim is to use more and more. Hunton North was chosen as one of the first fields to be used as we really hope that a large biomass cover crop will soak up the water from heavy rainfall and stop water flooding into Grove Lane. It has definitely helped but unfortunately it hasn't eradicated the problem. We will continue to strive to solve this problem and winter cover crops will definitely be a part of that strategy."

At St Mary's Church in March

Following consultation with the ministry team and with PCC approvals, we have decided to close all five of our church buildings until the end of February.

All our services will be online at <http://bit.ly/UnitedBenefice> on Sundays and <http://bit.ly/ThursdayCommunion>

Please do pass on the message to your friends who may not have email and continue to pray for each other.

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