



Next Editors: Wendy & Ian Simmons: herald@hunton.org.uk
All items for the next edition of the Herald to the Editors by 15th May

All Cisterns Go For Hunton Club's New Loos and Reopening News

The Club's Committee have now approved both the design and estimated costs for new toilets to be installed. The whole area is redesigned, which involves both the removal and erection of some walls. The plan incorporates separate Ladies, Gentlemen's, a Disabled toilet and washbasin plus much needed storage space for documents, cleaning materials, tables and chairs. It is hoped that work will commence in the near future. Inevitably there will be much disruption and external portable loos will have to be used while the work is on going but it should be possible for the Club to be open for the duration of the works. While it would have been preferable for the installation to have been made during the months of lockdown, the Committee did not feel comfortable in authorising the expenditure leaving the Club with very little in reserve. However, things have changed and with very little expenditure having been incurred during 2020/21 there is now cash available to meet the costs and have sufficient reserves to fall back on, if required. We hope that most of the dust inducing work will have been completed before reopening, leaving just the rebuilding installation work to be completed.

We also hope to be able to welcome members and their guests back to the Club commencing on Wednesday 19th May, assuming the Government "Road Map" is adhered to.

Phil Nichols

Annual Parish Meeting 2021

Normally in May, the Parish Council hosts an Annual Parish Meeting where village activities, clubs and events are reported upon. This provides a forum for parishioners to ask questions of the Council. As there is no statutory obligation for the Parish Council to call this meeting, it has been agreed not to hold one. This is because of the lack of activities in the past 12 months and the need to keep parishioners safe despite the relaxation of COVID restrictions. The Parish Council remain committed to hosting them annually from next year. The next Parish Council meeting on 17th May, will again be held in the Village Hall. If parishioners have questions for the Parish Council, there is always a 15 minute session set aside at the start of every full Parish Council meeting. Details of the meetings are posted on the village notice boards and on-line.

Don't forget to vote at the Village Hall - Thursday 6th May 7.00am – 10.00pm.

The elections will be like no other as you will receive three different ballot papers to elect:

- Your local Borough Councillor
- Your local County Councillor
- Kent's Police & Crime Commissioner

Huntonwatch Notice

The Medication Collection Service will end on 15th May. Thanks go to the many volunteers who have helped collect and deliver medication to locals over the last year or so.

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		Chairman: David Heaton - 820678, dhhuntonpc@gmail.com
Parish Clerk: Sharon Goodwin - 681238, huntonpc@googlegmail.com		Cllr Roger Lee - 820210, rhuntonpc@btinternet.com
Cllr Jonny Goddard - 820096, jonny@cheveneyfarm.co.uk		Cllr Annette Trought - 820448, annette@trought.com
Cllr Tony Stanbridge - 820721, tshuntonpc@gmail.com		
Cllr Helen Ward - 820810, hwhuntonpc@wardy.org		

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 started writing this letter on the morning of Friday April 10th with thoughts of focusing on the forthcoming local elections on May 6th. I wasn't doing too well, mainly I thought because I was writing long hand, my computer having broken down the week before. I was awaiting the arrival of a replacement part which should arrive on the following Monday and then all would be well. My solution when making little progress with a letter was to go and do something physical. So off I went to find a spade for a little digging! Suitably renewed and full of ideas I returned to the letter to find that the news was breaking about the death of the Duke of Edinburgh. Oh blow! Should I start again or try to twist my thoughts to fit in with the latest news? The answer was no, I'd try the other distraction, have a cup of coffee!!!!

Then out of the blue came a phone call. My computer was ready to collect, it had been repaired and was working again. Things were looking up. With a computer I could change anything I wrote in a moment and thoughts could flow and could be instantly discarded or amended. So off to collect the repaired computer and back for lunch. A short rest as I reflected on the morning and the news. Then through the letter box arrived the latest copy of the Hunton Herald with the obituary of Councillor Gary Thomas on the front. By now my mind was in a blur. Perhaps another excuse to put off the moment and to look for another activity to help focus my thoughts? But no, we were still in the season of Easter and an idea grew. The connection with all these events, the thoughts for the day could be summed up in three words - Service, Dedication and Commitment.

We owe a great deal to people who serve us in so many ways. People who give up their time and energy and dedicate their lives to make life better for others. Those who by their commitment to ideas and ideals strive to bring light into our world that can appear so dark at times. So much of life is supported by the many millions of people who volunteer. Our hospitals, schools, local and national government and many in the emergency services depend on the service, energy and dedication of people. For Christians, the life of Christ whose death and resurrection at Easter gives us all the prime example for how life should be lived.

So, go out on May 6th and vote and show your support for a group of people who offer their service, dedication and who are committed to serving others.

David Jones

Vacancy for a Cleaner at Hunton Village Hall

The Hall Committee is looking to recruit a cleaner for the Village Hall. This role involves cleaning the hall prior to hirers using the hall and cleaning it on Sunday afternoons/evenings following weekend hires. During the peak summer months you will be required every Sunday afternoon/evening and if the hall is booked for the entire weekend you will need to clean the hall 2pm-3pm on the Friday before the booking starts at 3pm. You will need your own transport due to the location of the hall (ME15 ORR). All cleaning equipment will be provided. Pay: £11 per hour. A job share would work well if you have a family member or friend who could work alongside you or you could alternate the weekends you work.

For more information please email Kathy: info@huntonvillagehall.co.uk or phone 01622820092 (9am-7pm).

Wilson's Yard, George Street

Kirstie Ashton from Ashurst Homes provided the Herald with the following item and this is published purely for interest especially for residents near to the area. This is not a sales incentive and the editors have no financial or other interest in the project.

Last autumn Ashurst Homes purchased this site for development and appreciating the uniqueness of Hunton will endeavour whilst building is in progress to cause as little noise and disruption as possible. It is the criteria to build homes which Hunton will be proud of and which blend with the surrounding properties. As few homes come on the market in the local area it is hoped that the purchasers are either local themselves or wish to join the village community.

Ashurst understand the need to build with care and attention and their aim is to build homes rather than houses. The internal designs are making this the most exciting project by Ashurst to date and will be for 6 terrace homes, with a mix of 3 and 4 bedrooms. The properties have vaulted ceilings facing south allowing light and access to the view. Living areas will be open plan for modern living with views also to the back of the properties some of which will have open landings with vaulted ceilings. Outside the terrace will be oak clad to fit with the countryside and the industrial history of the site. It is hoped the show home will be available for viewing by July and Hunton residents will be welcome to view.

Barn Owl

We erected a barn owl box in the barn just over 2 years ago. Last year having seen the occasional owl pellet and the whitewash excrement in the barn below the box we knew the barn owl had been visiting. I set up a wildlife camera and captured him on the landing platform of the box and we occasionally saw him on our night visits during lambing. Ray Morris our local bird expert advised that it was likely he had chosen this spot to roost and that it was a 'he' and not necessarily a female anticipating on using the box. Disappointingly a pair of stock doves decided to use the box last year. This March we saw the barn owl in the night during lambing and early one morning coming into the field, his slow silent white form came towards us and over the gate. We found the odd owl pellet around the barn and a smattering of whitewash.

We managed to set up a camera running on Wi Fi, after a lot of trial and error and a bit of help (we have no electricity), it runs on a battery with an inverter. With an app I can watch it real time on my phone. On the first night the camera ran I could see two barn owls come into view. Not a clear picture, but when they turned their heads it picked up two pairs of eyes. For 3 subsequent nights I saw them both. Ray said that this definitely sounded like a 'pair' and if they were not disturbed too much we might hope that she would stay and rear young. The male bird feeds the female so that she gains weight prior to egg laying, which should happen around the end of April. My excitement at the prospect of her staying keeps being dashed when I see a squirrel clatter from the vicinity of the box, and I am not sure whether he is passing through along the rafters, or whether he has been diving in the box, maybe he has a stash of nuts there. Then one morning as I arrived a barn owl flew out of the box. I have caught the pair on camera a couple of times since. I can't quite work out whether the female is already in the box or whether she flies in. However, the male turns up almost the same time each evening, flying through from the back of the barn and as the flash of white passes the camera, his screech is almost spine chilling.

I am hoping next month I may be able to have more positive news and maybe even a picture...

Sue Heaton

Give Yourself a Break!

Have some well-deserved welcome fun and relaxation post Covid! Interest has been expressed by a number of villagers to start an informal art group (no committees or formalities, nor critics or critiques and no high costs) just a friendly, relaxed atmosphere offering (if needed) inspiration, encouragement and motivation to help you get started. No art materials? That's no problem because these can be provided if you would like to have a little dabble.

If you are interested I would love to hear from you, call me, Heather Smith on 01622 820640.

The End of an Era

It is with great sadness that the Hunton Herald has heard of the death of Jan Morris of the White House Public House. Although on the edge of the village there was always a warm welcome at the "funny little pub at the top of the hill".

Jan and Arthur bought the pub in 1971 for the princely sum of £11,000, although there had been some sort of inn on this site for at least 100 years before that. Arthur used to tell tales of the meetings of the home guard in the cellars during WW2. They renovated and extended the pub and at its peak it boasted darts, pool and quiz teams, hosted the Farleigh Sports Club, and put out no fewer than 6 Pétanque teams. The Sunday lunch club was legendary.

When Arthur died in 2007, Jan carried on running the pub, continuing Arthur's legacy of charity work, most notably the "Old Folks 4", which provided food and support for local elderly residents including Christmas Hampers to the residents of Peace Cottages. The pub closed with the first lockdown and Jan died peacefully in Maidstone Hospital after a short illness. She did not survive to see the reopening and sadly it is unlikely to reopen in the current climate, where many small country pubs have been unable to survive the financial consequences of the pandemic.

The communities of Hunton and Farleigh will miss the warm welcome from Jan and all the animals at the White House.

Sam Andrews

Music Events

The proposed 4Square music event due to take place at Hunton Village Hall on 5th June has been postponed yet again due to the on-going COVID-19 situation. Subject to the easing of lockdown restrictions in the summer and artist availability we are looking to re-start our musical events in the Autumn. For further information contact Mike Summersgill on 820429.

Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

From 19 May: Wednesdays 8-11.00pm & Sundays 8-10.30 pm

Chicken Licken – The Day the Sky Nearly Fell on Our Heads

A couple of weeks ago now, I can't remember the day. Yes, I do, it was a Thursday. We had just had 3 days heatwave and even at the break of the 4th day the sun poured down. Glorious. I stood at my bedroom window and inhaled. What is that? A sign posted up on our triangle outside. Most curious. I was out there pottering until 7pm last night. It wasn't there then. As I drew closer to the sign it smacked of a Town Planning Notice. You know "permission to build an extension" kind of sign. I angled up to it in a jaunty mood, filled with the anticipation of another unseasonal heatwave day that is so treasured by us all. Sure enough. Kent County Council, a little red emblem of a white horse, mane flowing, standing on its hind legs. KCC alright.

Heading – Highway Works.

Junction Redwall Lane and George Street, that's us. PROPOSED NEW ROUNDABOUT – What!!! I panic scanned "Remove unsurfaced triangle of land to the front of Foresters and construct a mini roundabout... street lighting, sign postings in various languages..." The very thought of this is way beyond agitation and into hard core ALARM to enable misdirected HGVs to return to Firmins without destroying the verges and causing agitation to the residents. What!!! NOT AGITATING THE RESIDENTS!!

I backed off. I'd got the message. Oh poor, poor Fay. All the hours of toil that she, Lesley and Roger had spent clearing the blackberry and scrub to make the triangle into a wild flower garden where the bird song had crescendoed since lockdown. Smothered! Drowned out in an orgy of tractors and juggernauts negotiating a merry-go-round smack outside our charming little cottages. Plumes of poison belching out choking the life force of those innocents who thought they had secured a peaceful little nook in our green and pleasant land. This will be a shock to James, the new tenant in No. 3, looking for some pastoral peace. The world is going stark raving mad. No hideous idea is too far fetched for reality these days. Town Planners with their crazy ideas probably inspired by the truck companies.

How quickly could I sell and get out of here? But who's to say this wouldn't happen elsewhere? I feel most unwell. I need to pause and settle. I need to get into my studio and meditate. Above all I mustn't run into Fay. I couldn't take her horror and grief on top of mine. "Morning" she said gaily, "Have you seen the sign?" She clearly hadn't read it. I tried to appear neutral and mumbled "Yes, it must have gone up between 7pm and 7am. Very clandestine." Apparently I had a face of thunder. I craved seclusion, my neuro transmitters wouldn't be tamed. Random firings. Hot, hot brain. After a while there was a gentle tap at the door. "No Fay" I thought "I'm out of bounds. I know, I've read the sign too. I'm trying to deal with it and you need to do the same." I said to myself and ignored her. Half an hour later when she tried again I was standing on my head. I ignored her once again. When at last I emerged I noticed a scribbled note on my back door. "It's an April Fool's Joke! It's signed Paul Djalegg." I recoiled, stared at it blankly as it sunk in, big April fool that I am. Now that was a good one. They sure got the desired effect!

Debbie Doole

Transitional Benefice Service Rota – May 2021					
	2 nd Easter 5	9 th Easter 6	16 th Easter 7	23 rd Pentecost	30 th Trinity Sunday
	Lead/Preach/HC	Lead/Preach/HC	Lead/Preach	Lead/Preach/HC	Lead/Preach
Zoom at 10.30am	PC/AC	LF/DJ	BP/PC	AC/LF	PC/BW
East Farleigh			9.30am – HC LF	8.00am – HC PC	
Hunton	9.30am HC LF		9.30 am – FS DJ	9.30am MP + APCM PC/DJ	
Linton		8.00am HC DJ		9.30am MP +HC LF	
West Farleigh		9.30am MP +HC SE/PC followed by APCM			
Thursday 13 th May 7.30pm –Ascension Day Service at Hunton PC/DJ Thursday 20 th May 7.30pm – APCM at Linton DJ – Rev. David Jones; LF - Rev. Lorna Faulkner; AC – Mrs Alison Callway; SE – Mrs Sue Elliott; BP – Mrs Becky Parnham; BW – Mrs Bertie Woodward HC – Holy Communion, MP – Morning Prayer, FS – family Service					

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