



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

Hunton Herald serves the community

When the Herald was first established, over 18 years ago, it was to replace the Parish Magazine that had proved expensive to produce and which could no longer be printed. It was hoped that the simple format would allow us to provide a news-sheet, with wider appeal. It was intended to be distributed, free of charge, to every home in the village, while covering its costs and raising surplus funds for village causes from advertising.

Thanks to the support of all those who have been involved over its life, we are delighted that we can look forward to another year. Not only has our editorial team given us another 12 months of support, but we are also able to start a fresh year of Business Directory adverts. Four new advertisers have replaced those who have moved away.

You will notice that this year, we have decided to replace the village sign, on the front cover, with two beautiful photographs of Hunton scenes. This was a last-minute decision but, if it is well received, we will be more organised next year and invite submissions more widely. Thank you to our two amateur photographers Celia and Ian for getting us started!

As regards the 'Directory', please do support those who advertise with us - we have used three of the new advertisers ourselves and were absolutely delighted with the outcome; the work of the fourth can be viewed on Facebook where it speaks for itself!

In terms of the Herald's finances, we will shortly have an undistributed surplus of over £8,000 so are well placed to provide support to a number of village ventures. Since it started, the Herald has distributed about £16,000 to village causes, with the four largest recipients being: the School; the Friends of St Mary's; the Church; the Village Club; and, the Village Hall. Together this accounts for 85% of funds distributed. Donations are typically in the £500 to £1,000 range but, as we currently have a healthy surplus, we might be able to increase this for the right projects.

If you are involved in a village initiative that requires funding, please let us know and we might be able to help you too. Similarly, if you want to join the team of volunteers who support the Herald, we would love to hear from you.

Please contact James Forster by email on: forsters.hunton@btinternet.com and we will be delighted to get back to you.

Parish Council Annual General Meeting 17th May

Monday evening was the AGM of the Parish Council. It was also the first meeting face to face since March 2020, so it was a little strange, as we still had to observe social distancing because of Covid.

The meeting followed the re-election of four councillors and the election of one new councillor, Mike Summersgill. As there were two vacancies outstanding, Sue Pinks and Iain Simmons were unanimously co-opted. All three, I am sure, will be great additions to the Council. The Chair and Vice Chair were reappointed for a further year.

Borough Councillor Richard Webb was in attendance along with newly elected Borough and County Councillor Simon Webb. Both were made aware of: the concern regarding the Friday's development in Chainhurst; the lack of significant rural policing; and, the poor policing of speed and weight limits, a topic they will pursue as they know it is a concern of neighbouring parishes. A significant number of planning applications came up for perusal, fortunately none are of concern and the PC made no comment to Maidstone Planning.

The need for the repair to one of the footbridges on the permissive path from the village Hall was passed to KCC following the last PC meeting; a reminder is being sent. Fortunately, a public-spirited local resident has made a temporary repair.

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	<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@googlemail.com	Chairman: David Heaton - 820678, dhhuntonpc@gmail.com
Cllr Jonny Goddard - 820096, jonny@cheveneyfarm.co.uk	Cllr Tony Stanbridge - 820721, tshuntonpc@gmail.com
Cllr Annette Trought - 820448, annette@trought.com	Cllr Mike Summersgill - 820429, mshuntonpc@btinternet.com
Cllr Sue Pinks - 820709	Cllr Iain Simmons - 820875

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

Dear Friends,

'You can feel it in your heart; You can see it in the ground; You can see it in the trees; You can smell it in the breeze; Look around! Look around! Look around! June is bustin' out all over'.

So sang the cast of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Carousel*. By the time this letter is published, beautiful June will have arrived! At last! It's been a long winter and a long chilly spring.

I am actually writing this on May 11th. Yesterday, the Prime Minister announced that we will, from Monday 17th, be taking the next step in the easing of Covid lockdown restrictions. When you read this, we will be a couple of weeks into this new phase, enjoying freedoms we have only been able to dream about. As I write, it feels odd, as if I am writing to the future – a future that, however close, I cannot yet see!

I do have some ideas, though. I am looking forward to meeting up with my family – the first time we will all be together since Christmas 2019. I am planning to invite people to dinner. I will have barbecues, and tea and cake, and long lunches with friends; and I am going to hug people!

The truth is, though, I do not know that my plans will come to fruition. I have no certainty that the outcome will be as I want it to be, anything could go wrong. The weather could make a garden gathering impossible. Someone's car could break down. Someone could be ill. Everything could change.

Which of us has made a plan that had to be changed or was interrupted by forces beyond our control? Yet, we continue to plan because we continue to exercise that most powerful of human instincts: Hope. Aristotle said, 'Hope is a waking dream'. A reality we imagine and visualise and wait to see materialised.

Norman Cousins said, 'The capacity for hope is the most significant fact of life. It provides human beings with a sense of destination and the energy to get started.'

Even when life is hard – and for so many of us it is, or has been, an enormous struggle of late – the hope of good things to come can inspire us to make a plan, even a tiny one, whether it be for the next year, or the next day, or even just the next hour.

My hope, and my prayer, is that this letter finds you all in the June sunshine, basking in the warmth of friendships and family reconnected, and with many more moments of hope on the horizon.

Every blessing to you all, Lorna

The Village Club Reopens

After just over 6 months of closure, the Village Club opened its doors once again on Wednesday 19th May. At first glance there was little difference to be seen from the last time it was open but closer inspection revealed the loss of a door with a larger door replacing the previous entrance into the Gents toilet. Yes, work on updating the toilets had well and truly begun. There was little to be seen behind the door as only the skeleton of the new partitions was in place. It is hoped that work will be completed before July; in the meantime, a 'posh' port-a-loo has been positioned in the side passageway. It was a good night with the members enjoying local beers from Goacher's and Musket Breweries, wines spirits and other beverages plus, most importantly, seeing friends they had not been able to socialise with for many months. While the Covid restrictions are in place, the Club will only be open on Wednesday and Sunday evenings from 20:00 with normal service being resumed in late June....we hope!

Phil Nichols

Remembering HRH, The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

The battle with Covid has cost many of us a lot over the last 18 months or so. Some have lost loved ones, others have lost jobs, all have lost time that could have been shared with friends and family, and so we all share in this collective loss.

The recent death of His Royal Highness Prince Philip could not be marked in the way we may have wanted. Yes, the TV coverage was brilliant; it made clear that, whilst of royal stock, his early life was not to be envied. Did he complain and turn his thoughts inward? Clearly not, his resilience shone through.

He joined the navy and served with distinction before turning away from a promising career to dedicate himself to his Queen and country. The 1960s Royal Family Film showed his love for his family, which endured throughout his life. His determination to bring up his family well gave them the tools to live good and meaningful lives.

He made choices to focus on a life of extraordinary service to others, to do what was right not what was personally convenient. Through his life he made a material difference to the lives of so many, including those less fortunate than himself. He was a patron, president or member of over 780 organisations. In particular, so many young people have benefitted from 'The Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme'.

Who can forget his many icebreakers when faced with the tongue-tied and overawed? Some inspired, a few open to misinterpretation, all memorable and entertaining! He had a glint in his eye, as well as a ready sense of humour.

Who can look at the Queen, as she carries on without her constant companion and support, and not feel for her? So, whether royalist or anti royal, I hope we can all acknowledge a fine life, well lived, and an example to us all.

Imposters in the box.

We have seen the pair of barn owls on our camera every night, right up until the end of April.

Both the barn owls have been landing on the platform of the box, and other perches within the barn, but it has been really difficult to capture whether one of the owls is coming out of, or going into, the box. The barn owls have been landing on the cameras too, which has been funny, one even turning round the pillar to face the other camera. I think he must know what I am up to!

In the evenings, about 5pm, I could hear shuffling noises in the box. Optimistically, I was hoping that the owls were taking up residence. Then, one evening, the noise drew my attention to the box; I thought I saw two ears and eyes peering out of the box – definitely not a barn owl! I stepped back so I could see over the platform, but it had gone. The next evening, out popped two small heads... baby squirrels! I feel a little aggrieved at the injustice of it. There are a perfectly good mix of mature trees for the squirrels to nest in behind the barn, and they have opted for what must be a palatial, secure, and cosy home in comparison: who can blame them!

We think the barn owls have moved on; sadly, I have not caught them on the camera since. Though I had rather given up looking, now a couple of weeks later, I am looking at the camera again in vain. On a positive note, the camera has caught a huge number of bats all swooping and diving and whizzing around.

Sue Heaton

Hunton CEP School: Sir Captain Tom Moore 100 Challenge Day!

Written by Ryan. W (Year 6)



On Friday 7th May, Hunton CEP School participated in a one hundred challenge day, as both a tribute to Sir Captain Tom Moore, and as a fundraising opportunity. The school asked all the children to bring in 100 different things to collect in a bag. On the day, we gathered on the playground for collective worship to share their 100 things and challenges.

Wow! The uniqueness of these were amazing, just a few are listed: one hundred handprints (see below); one hundred kind words; one hundred baked beans; one hundred Bible quotes (see below); and one hundred kind words.

In addition to this, the school asked the children to be sponsored to do a 100 challenge at home.

Again, there were some excellent challenges completed and a real range. These included: staying silent for 100 minutes; 100 press-ups; 100 spins; and 100 tap-shuffles. Even Mrs Makey- the headteacher- embarked on a challenge of wearing 100 scarves!



Furthermore, teachers planned lessons for the children around the '100 theme'. The children also went on a scavenger hunt to see if they could collect 100 different things. They day was exciting and successful, the Hunton students really enjoyed themselves.



Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

Wednesdays 8-11.00pm & Sundays 8-10.30 pm

Surprise visitors in Hunton

At this time of year locals look out for, and listen for, cuckoos and swifts arriving from Africa. However, on Wednesday 12 May, Hunton School received unexpected visitors from afar. Two OFSTED inspectors arrived to inspect the school; having given the school its statutory one day of notice. An inspection was anticipated at some stage this year; the previous inspection having taken place almost five years ago.

With school life returning to normal and Anita Makey, the new Headteacher, making significant positive changes to the curriculum and organisation within the school, the Governors and school staff waited in eager anticipation for the inspector's comments. Both inspectors were professional, courteous and most constructive in their feedback at the end of the day.

The formal letter setting out the grading for the school is due at the end of May. Until the report is published, the contents remain confidential. So, look out for a further up-date in the next edition of the Hunton Herald. Nonetheless, we are allowed to note that the Governors and Headteacher were very pleased with the inspection process.

Iain Simmons (Governor)

How many trees do you think there are in Hunton?

Maintaining woodland and planting trees is very topical at the moment; both locally and globally. In a recent announcement to launch her Platinum Jubilee celebrations in 2022, the Queen set out her initiative for 'The Queen's Green Canopy'. She marked the occasion by planting a tree with Prince Charles in Windsor Great Park.

Consultation is underway on a tree strategy for England, which seeks to expand, protect and improve woodlands. It contains a target of planting 30,000 hectares per annum by 2025. Our own county has pledged to plant a tree for every resident in Kent, some 1.5 million in total.

So, what has been going on in Hunton? Hunton has an area of 2,061 acres, which is about 500 hectares. We have a population of around 700, many of whom can be seen walking around the village. There are 71 trees with their own preservation order; we also have our own Tree Warden, Mike Summersgill, to keep an eye on them. There are historic areas of woodland around the village, namely in Church Wood and in the ancient Glebe land at the top of Barn Hill. Extensive and ancient chestnut woods either side of Hunton Hill have been coppiced for generations.

Trees are springing up all over the village. The recent planting on the Hunton Court Estate saw 45,000 trees planted on 15 Hectares. This has doubled the number of trees planted on the Estate over the last 10 years. A few years ago, the Parish Council created the community orchard by the sports ground. Farming in the village changes constantly. Fruit trees come and fruit trees go. Vines are planted. The current fashion seems to be the planting of extensive areas of raspberry canes.

Looking around, many households are adding trees. In my own field, a small orchard of 40 trees has been planted, with one additional acre of land left to self-seed. Nature is a wonderful thing! Windblown, and carried by birds and animals, over 700 saplings have grown. Two-thirds are oak, but we also have ash, willow, hazel, field maple, hornbeam, silver birch, blackthorn and dogwood. A few walnut, cherry and apple trees have arrived from local sources as well! The dawn chorus, as birds attract mates, is a joy to hear. In recent years, the chorus has become louder because of the tree coverage.

So, back to my original question. How many trees? My best estimation is that Hunton has about 100 Hectares of trees; about 20% of the land area. That equates to about 300,000 trees within the woods. Add to that the trees and shrubs in the hedgerows and peoples' gardens, I estimate that we have about 500,000. If anyone is interested in counting the trees in the village, I would be happy to be corrected!

Iain Simmons

Transitional Benefice Service Rota – June 2021

	6th	13 th	20 th	27 th
	Lead/Preach/HC	Lead/Preach/HC	Lead/Preach	Lead/Preach/HC
Zoom at 10.30am	LF/PC	AC/LF	PC/DJ	BP/AC
East Farleigh			9.30am – HC/DJ	8.00am – HC/PC
Hunton Flowers: Andrea Forster	9.30am HC/DJ		9.30 am – FS/LF	
Linton		8.00am HC/PC		9.30am MP +HC/DJ
West Farleigh		9.30am MP +HC/LF		

PC – Rev. Peter Callway; DJ – Rev. David Jones; LF - Rev. Lorna Faulkner; AC – Mrs Alison Callway;
SE – Mrs Sue Elliott; BP – Mrs Becky Parnham; BW – Mrs Bertie Woodward

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