



Next Editors: Lesley Lee & Bridget Robertson: herald@hunton.org.uk
All items for the next edition of the Herald to the Editors by 15th July

Quieter tractors to transport summer fruit

Noisy tractors, which last year upset a number of Hunton residents, have been replaced by quieter vehicles. The move to reduce disturbance has been taken by Clockhouse Farm following a survey of villagers, and a meeting in December between Clockhouse and a small group of concerned residents. Oli Pascall, Managing Director of Clockhouse, said: "Following this meeting we worked hard for several months with tractor manufacturer New Holland and the local dealer Haynes. We have replaced all the tractors that were deemed noisy and have gone above and beyond legislation to resolve the issue". The new tractors have 4 cylinder rather than 3 cylinder engines, quieter road biased tyres rather than agricultural tyres and their trailers are hitched much more tightly to the tractors to reduce rattling. Some residents had also complained about being woken in the early morning by flashing beacons on the tractors. Although the beacons are remaining on the vehicles for safety in the fields, drivers will be instructed not to use them on the lanes. Clockhouse will continue to plan to reduce bus vehicle movements by accommodating its seasonal workers as near as possible to its fields.

Clockhouse, which was founded in 1903, farms 350 hectares of strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, apples and plums and Mr Pascall explained: "We have to transport the fruit in a timely manner from our farms, and to operate effectively we do need to use the roads through Hunton to get from the farms to the packhouse. The majority of our fruit is packed at the packing facility at Berry Gardens in Redwall Lane for distribution to supermarkets. Soft fruit has to be picked in the early morning and chilled within minutes of picking to ensure good quality and to lock in the fresh taste".

Clockhouse has a five-year bio-diversity plan which includes tree planting, wild flower planting at the edges of fruit fields, an expansion of bee-keeping and water management on the land. Clockhouse is a LEAF (Linking Environment and Farming) certified farm, and has recently engaged with FWAG (Farming and Wild Life Advisory Group) to develop and implement an industry-leading whole farm biodiversity plan. They are also working with the Rivers Trust on a tree planting plan along parts of the Beult and the Medway. As well as increasing bee hive numbers they are also sponsors of The Bumble Bee Trust.

Mr Pascall said: "We want to take a forward-thinking approach to fruit growing and the British population needs highly nutritious and affordable food. British farmers have a duty to provide that. We would like local people to feel enthusiastic about what we do and we want to live in a community that is really positive about sustainable farming and British produce". Clockhouse is hoping in the future to arrange for some visits so that they can show interested residents more about the working of their farms.

Alison Ellman-Brown

It was with great sadness that we learnt of Alison's death on Sunday 13th June. Alison had lived in Hunton with her husband Michael for many years. She played a very full part in the life of the village and had many friends here. She was church-warden at St Mary's Church and a trustee of Peace Cottages Almshouses. A memorial service will be held at Hunton Church on Friday, 23rd July at 2pm.

Your Local Contacts:

School: Secretary/Head Teacher	820360	Village Hall Booking:	www.huntonvillagehall.co.uk
Under 5's Pre-School:	820309	Huntonwatch: huntonwatch@gmail.com	07907 019996
Pond and Tree Warden: Mike Summersgill	820429	'Potholes' Hotline (KCC)	03000 418181
Rector: Revd. Peter Callway	747570*	Community Warden: Adam McKinley	07811 271021
Hon Associate Rector: Revd. David Jones	741474*	PCSO - Paul Vasey	101
Hunton Bell Ringers: Jeff Young	746541	Helen Grant MP helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk	0207 219 7107
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 Tony Stanbridge - 820721, tshuntonpc@gmail.com
Cllr Annette Trought - 820448, annette@trought.com	Cllr Mike Summersgill - 820429, mshuntonpc@btinternet.com
Cllr Sue Pinks - 820709, srphuntonpc@gmail.com	Cllr Iain Simmons - 820875, ishuntonpc@btinternet.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

Dear Friends,

I am writing this letter on 11th June. By the time you read it we will all know whether the lockdown was eased on 21st June; whether it has been extended; whether we can holiday in certain countries; whether a third wave is here. So much uncertainty at present!

I want to take you back to another time of great uncertainty, the Second World War. On the wall of a concentration camp a prisoner scratched these words:

I believe in the sun even when it is not shining.

I believe in love even when I feel it not.

I believe in God even when He is silent.

Such powerful words! This person has had their freedom, their friends and the people they love taken away in the most dreadful of circumstances. We can't compare ourselves to this horror but this might be a little bit how the last year has seemed for us in that we have not had the freedom to go where we want when we want; no meeting up with friends; many of us losing loved ones. There was something that the prisoner was sure of in the midst of all their loss – that even if they couldn't hear God they had the faith to know He was there with them.

Many years ago I wrote a song with the words:

Oh my God, where are you now? I'm so frightened and so full of doubt.

Oh my God, are you there? When I'm discouraged I need to feel your love....

It wasn't a great song but it shows that although I believed in God He was silent for me at that time. Faith can be a bumpy road but hang on in there because God loves you!

If you would like some encouragement with a moment of peace then the composer Kim André Arnesen has written a beautiful song using the concentration camp words. Head over to YouTube and search for 'Even when He is silent.' There are several versions – a particularly good one is by Sofia Vokalensemble. Here's the link <https://youtu.be/3vp1WJN5WSg> - enjoy the music... and enjoy the certainty that God is there for us all, even when we can't hear Him!

Blessings to you all, Sue

A Bicentennial Walk

Hunton Walking Group completed its 200th Walk on Tuesday 1st June, and celebrated afterwards in the Club in a sociably distant way...the weather was much kinder than on our 100th walk in February 2016 along Hythe Waterfront in the rain, with slippery mud but a tasty fish and chips for lunch. This time, it was a packet of peanuts or crisps! The eight ramblers started out from the Village Hall and went up Barn Hill and along to Buston Manor for lovely views over the Weald, before descending to Lughorse Lane and navigating through the new housing developments in Yalding before passing the Kintons and coming back via Grove Lane footpaths and The Square - a nice two hour jaunt in the sun.

The Walking Group started in the summer of 2011, as a result of replies to the village's Parish Plan consultation suggesting one would be useful. Fortnightly walks initially took in much of the Greensand Way in both directions, but coalesced around a two-hour Monday morning walk centred on a Pub for refreshments; a couple of times we have ventured more widely to do walks in London, and also 'urban' discovery walks in Kent towns when it's too wet and muddy in the fields. The wait for the 200th walk was long, because the 180th was two years ago in June 2019, but we all know why that's the case... A recent change to walks being on Tuesdays (2nd & 4th in each month) may have reduced numbers somewhat last month, but means that some pubs that are always closed on Mondays can now be visited! All are welcome, along with pets, and you don't have to be particularly fit - contact Ann Sawtell, Phil Nichols or Mike Summersgill for details.

Returning to school - three reasons to be cheerful

Now that Hunton School has been fully open for a few months in line with government guidelines we wanted to get the views of staff, pupils and parents.

Headteacher (from the 28th May newsletter)

It dawned on me this week that this is the first full term of learning in school we have had since December and what a term it has been. I am sure you will agree that children being in school taught by their teachers and teaching assistants is the absolute best place for them to be. Playing and socialising with their school friends as well as making new ones is so important too. The children's imagination here is beautiful to see; I explained this to visitors lately when children were seen playing with sticks and logs pretending and creating scenarios in so many ways. I know that playing with sticks in many schools is not permitted but how can we stop such creative positive play here in our rural school!

Parent

Home-schooling was managed very well by Hunton, and I felt very supported by our new teacher. The school organised weekly class Zooms so the children could see each other. However, it's been wonderful to stop all that and to get my daughter back to school! Seeing her friends and all being able to mix safely has done them all the world of good. The children's mental wellbeing has always been a top priority at Hunton which I find very reassuring. We have a new headmistress who seems a great fit and we are all looking forward to the school flourishing under her leadership.

Pupil

It feels wonderful to be back at school and makes me feel happy. It's so nice to have a new headmistress and a new teacher and to meet new friends and to see my old friends again. I can run around and play with friends and discuss things with them. We have different break times now and our class and the older class play together and then the younger classes play together. We also do not do assemblies in person instead we do them using Zoom which works well. I am very glad to be back!

An alternative therapy

Sometime in January I discovered that the painful leg I had been hobbling on for some weeks was a broken femur and would need surgery. Waiting for the op was boring and being sensible and avoiding walking was even more so. I needed a new hobby.

Enter Becky – my lovely daughter, now living in Oxford, who loves all crafty things and has recently taken up crochet. She had sent photos of a full-sized granny square blanket she'd made for her bed and suggested I try learning how to make a single square.

I was advised that very thick wool and a large crochet hook might make it easier for my extra-large hands to handle – a quick search of the house revealed no such finds, so I was onto Amazon to await a delivery.

Becky then filmed a step-by-step video tutorial taking me from the very beginning – those early days involved a lot of pausing and rewinding... But a granny square appeared from the end of the crochet hook, and then another. With my wife's birthday coming up I got ambitious and decided to make a large blanket for her to snuggle under in front of the telly on chilly nights. The two-tone squares with contrasting edging were more demanding than I had anticipated but determined to get there I stayed up crocheting until 2am on the morning of her birthday!

A friend's birthday followed and a request for a scarf – duly completed.

More Amazon parcels have arrived over the past 5 months – yarns of varied colours and thicknesses and several books – my most recent being a book with instructions on how to crochet animals titled A-Z of Animals– a little more challenging than squares, but a perfect potential gift for my niece. I am currently still on Alex the Alligator....

These Amigurumi (Japanese for crocheted or knitted) projects required more techniques and so an email was sent out to friends - did anyone know anyone who might know anything about.....

A lot of responses, several unprintable but all negative until Liz (co-editor) kindly put me in contact with her sister-in-law Carol who has taken me through the next few steps. Leg is now fixed, but crochet is still there and hopefully will continue!

"If more people knitted and crocheted, the world would see fewer wars and a whole lot less road rage." - Lily Chin

Graham Dolman



A letter from Hunton School's Head teacher Anita Makey

What a difference the weather makes even to our days at school. We are blessed with the beautiful setting and the wonderful countryside. Our children enjoy learning about their environment and they respect its beauty.

Within the school grounds our garden has been reinvigorated. One of our families has generously given time to prepare the plot and has provided many different types of vegetables so the children can not only participate in their cultivation but also hopefully get to taste them too. The children ask to spend their playtime on the plot: weeding, watering and caring.

Despite the pandemic we are determined that the children have access to a wider curriculum and have opportunities to extend their learning as well as making memorable experiences. They are truly delighted that trips have been organised for them. As I write this Borton Class should be busy packing ready for their residential trip to Marchants Hill in Surrey, though I suspect there might be more treats and sweets than clothes! Our other classes will be off to the fantastic science centre in Herstmonceux, Leeds Castle and the Museum of Kent Life.

Unexpectedly we received the Ofsted phone call last month. As with other local schools we were expecting an inspection but not until the Autumn. Whilst we are anticipating the final draft I can only reiterate that the children are at the centre of everything we do at Hunton. I have to thank the staff who always work incredibly hard; during the inspection everyone was eager to show the good provision we have here. Thank you to our parents too for completing the questionnaire which goes towards Ofsted making their final judgement. I look forward to sharing the findings with you next month.

In regard to our start and finish times we have decided to continue with the staggered timings. This is not because of Covid restrictions but is an effort to try and alleviate some of the congestion and parking issues on West St which we know can cause some angst at times in the village. This is a trial arrangement which could become permanent from September. Please do let us know your thoughts.

Finally, if you would like to see more of what we do at school please do look at our Twitter account @HuntonCEPrimary. You can either do this through a Twitter account or alternatively just through Google. You can also find out more through our fortnightly newsletters which can be found at <https://www.hunton.kent.sch.uk/parents/newsletters>



Panto returns. No it doesn't....yes it does!

Our 2020 Pantomime, Peter Pan Returns, was postponed twice last year and it was quite obviously not going to happen in April this year, BUT, we are planning to perform in the village hall 27th, 28th, 29th 30th, October. Wednesday 27th is our open dress rehearsal/sponsors evening, and the first 'real' performance is on Thursday, 28th, 7.30p.m, with Friday and Saturday evening performances and also a Saturday matinee. All tickets purchased for the original April 2020 pantomime are valid for October. Further information will follow in due course.

The cast and crew are getting quite excited about being able to get together again to pick up - almost - where we left off in March 2020, except we have a revamped script and some changes in the cast line up. Our first rehearsal is on 27th June, and we will continue from that date, through July, and with the occasional rehearsal during the summer holidays and then full on through September to our performance dates in October.

We are keeping our fingers crossed that COVID does not throw in a curve ball to disrupt our plans!!!

Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

Wednesdays 8-11.00pm & Sundays 8-10.30 pm

Be Careful What You Wish For.....

For some time, I have been badgering my husband, Jon, for some geese. Their eggs and grazing skills were both appealing, and I've had a book on goose-keeping on the bedside table for a couple of years which extolls their charms and abundance of personality. Then, this spring, friends offered to give us a pair from their flock. Or should that be gaggle? Apparently, spring is the time to acquire geese, as it's then clear who is a breeding pair.



So, one afternoon in late March, we headed to Woodchurch to bag our poultry. We had no idea that, rather than being given a large carry-crate, we would have to spend an hour or so running around a large field trying to catch our feathered friends. Once the gander and his mate were pointed out, it was just a matter of grabbing them. We were well outside our comfort zone but, to our relief, our friends caught the gander in flight and his lady friend with a fishing net. We then drove the geese home but realised, on arrival, that the crate they were in was too big to get out of the truck, so we thought we'd tempt them out. No chance! Jon experienced the first of many 'hissy fits' (the geese, not him, or me) and in the end we had to use a litter-picker to hoick them out. Needless to say, this did not improve their mood. We had made them a little paddock, with electric fencing to keep the fox out, and provided a cosy hut for night-time. Our friends had warned us that they really don't care for luxury accommodation and, sure enough, the gentle ramp and thick layer of shavings held no appeal whatsoever. They padded around their paddock, angry and alert, only stopping at feeding time to hiss at whoever was delivering their food and water – usually Jon. They determinedly camped out and, Mrs Goose – now known as Dolly – started to make herself a nest of leaves, dried grass and her own feathers. Mr Goose, 'Kenny', just got angrier. We continued with the daily routine of optimistically offering grain and fresh water, only to be hissed at and rejected. We then started to notice that Dolly was laying eggs in her nest. One, two, three... until eventually there were seven. At this point she decided to sit on them, religiously. Kenny remained angry and our 'olive branch' of board and lodgings made no difference. Days went by and nothing happened. Then weeks. (Incubation should take just over a month). Another friend told us: 'They rarely hatch successfully. I wouldn't get your hopes up'. So we didn't.

Then, one Saturday, Jon spotted something green and fluffy poking its head out from underneath Dolly. Later that day we spotted another, and another, until a couple of days later our pair of geese had become eight; mum, dad and six goslings. Finally, our efforts seem worth it. The goslings are adorable and have introduced their parents to the goose house. They are growing before our eyes and happily march around, cheeping, grazing, and grabbing at flying insects alongside their parents. We could watch them for hours. In a matter of weeks, we have become serious goose-keepers... though it may take us a few years to learn how to catch a goose in mid-flight. I have a feeling it may take even longer to gain their affection!

Jennifer Dixon

Garden tips for July

Resist cutting back hedges until the end of the month or preferably into August. Many birds are getting their second or third broods in while the weather is with them. Leave lawns a little higher in the warmer dryer weather to allow the roots to access moisture further down in the soil. Keep dead heading perennial repeat flowering plants to keep them going. Divide Iris that have become large and congested plants. Plant autumn flowering bulbs. Feed perennials that are going to be flowering a bit later in the borders and ready for a second flush of roses. If you have been busy planting new plants, make sure they continue to have water until they are well established.

Sue Heaton

Calling Hunton's Gardeners

It is ten years since the idea of an informal gardening club was suggested for Hunton. All would be welcome, whether novice or experienced gardeners. Lesley Lee kindly agreed to create an e-mail circulation list of members and to organise occasional social events. She and other volunteers arranged visits to gardens, farms and relevant places of interest and, also with the support of members and others, a considerable amount of money has been raised for village projects from plant and produce stands at village fetes. Garden visits have not been possible during the past year and Lesley says: 'So far, I have not tried to organise a social event or an outing for members as I am not sure how many people might be interested.' Anyone who would like to join the gardening club or has ideas of places to visit and/or is willing to organise a visit or social event should contact Lesley at lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com or on 01622 820210. Lesley also organises occasional working parties to help maintain the church and churchyard and would like to hear from anyone willing to be added to the e-mail list of volunteers (even the odd hour during very sociable working parties helps!)

Transitional Benefice Service Rota – July 2021

	4th	11 th	18 th	25 th
	Lead/Preach/HC	Lead/Preach/HC	Lead/Preach	Lead/Preach/HC
Zoom at 10.30am	AC/PC	LF/BW	PC/AC	BW/DJ
East Farleigh			9.30am – HC/LF	8.00am – HC/PC
Hunton	9.30am HC/PC		9.30 am – FS/DJ	
Linton		8.00am HC/LF		9.30am MP +HC/PC
West Farleigh		9.30am MP +HC/DJ		

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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