



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

Alison Ellman-Brown

Alison E-B, as she was known to many in Hunton, was foremost a friend, but she also served as church-warden at St Mary's Church, was a trustee of the village alms houses and ran her own hearing aid consultancy.

On Sundays she was almost always to be seen before services busily preparing the church for the arrival of the Minister and the congregation, then staying long after everyone else had left to put everything away and lock up. She had served as churchwarden since 2004. She was a familiar face at social events in the village and was also very caring. Alison loved to visit people she knew for a chat and a laugh with them, or to deliver the Hunton Herald. If she felt someone might be feeling lonely, she would call on them to share a cup of tea and a biscuit or a glass of wine! She would often visit the residents of Peace Cottages alms houses, to make sure of their well-being.

Alison and her husband Michael moved to Hunton in 1972, having married in 1967.

She was actively running her business, Hear Here, up until her death and had many clients in Kent and further afield. She also held lip reading classes around the county until the pandemic restrictions made that difficult – finding Zoom an unsatisfactory medium for teaching. As well as giving lectures on lip-reading she gave talks to WIs and other groups about her other interests which included button collecting and the Arts and Crafts movement. She was on the committee of the British Button Society.

Alison had a lovely singing voice and was a member of the Hunton Consort, a group of singers in the 1970s who sang and performed classical and sacred choral music. She had been a member of Hunton Church Choir since soon after moving to the village. Alison also contributed to church life in numerous ways beyond her many duties as church warden. She created beautiful flower arrangements, frequently read the lessons and always joined volunteers cleaning the inside of the building, and maintaining the church yard.

Alison died in Pembury Hospital on Sunday July 13th, after a short illness. She leaves Michael and her children Jon, Harvey and Fillippa. Her memorial service was on July 23rd at St Mary's Church. We shall miss her vivacity, her laugh and her friendship.



New Quieter Tractors

The Editors of this month's issue would like to thank Clockhouse Farm for the trouble and expense they have gone to, to make their tractors so much quieter this year. They have changed the tractors themselves, added road-based tyres and altered the hitches, all of which resulted in one Hunton resident remarking that she might now be able to sell her home (not that she wants to!) whereas last Summer, she felt there would have been no chance. There may be other issues regarding the tractors but at least, in terms of noise, we are extremely grateful for the not inconsiderable trouble you have taken, so a big thank you from us.

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: James Watson	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

Saturday 4th September: Hunton Club Beer & Gin Festival 12.30pm – 7pm

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

The first recorded ascent of Ben Nevis was made 250 years ago, on 7th August 1771, by Scottish botanist and artist James Robertson. At 1345 metres (4411 ft), it is the highest mountain in the British Isles. Some 100,000 people now make the climb each year.

Robertson wrote: "A third part of the hill from the summit towards the top is entirely naked, resembling a heap of stones thrown together confusedly. The summit far overtops the surrounding hills."

Hill climbing was not popular in those days, but the poet John Keats made the ascent in 1818. Scots were not convinced for many years that Ben Nevis was higher than Ben Macdui, in the Cairngorms, but it is in fact more than a hundred feet higher.

The meaning of the mountain's name is uncertain. Ben simply means mountain, and "Nevis" is unclear. Some associate it with the Gaelic word for "vicious", but it seems at least equally likely that "Nevis" simply relates to snow or clouds.

It is in fact the remains of an ancient volcano that collapsed in on itself. Its summit plateau stretches for over 100 acres and contains the remains of an observatory, which was opened in 1883 and led indirectly to the invention of the cloud chamber.

I did the climb myself back when I was young and fit. Eight hours up and six hours down. I remember distinctly the way that each time we reached a brow, I thought "yes – at last – the peak", but of course, there was always more to go. The Christian life is like that – just when we think we've got it all together, along comes another hillock to climb. God uses those times to refine us as pure gold, to support us in our climb, to show us his ways and to help us to grow as disciples of Jesus.

Many blessings, Peter Callway, Rector

Beer & Gin Festival Returns to The Club. Saturday 4th September 12.30pm – 7pm

Hunton Village Club is to host another Beer and Gin festival in the afternoon of 4th September. Hopefully a similar format to the last festival in 2019 can be achieved with a selection of relatively local beers and gins being available to sample. The Boughton Ceilidh Band will once again keep us entertained and there will be activities for children. Cakes and other food will be available as well as Steph's tempting ices later in the afternoon. There will also be a raffle. A small entrance fee of just £2 will be charged for adults and there is no necessity to be a Club member to attend this event, which is open to all. It will be a great opportunity for the community to socialise once again. If you are willing to bake a cake, provide a raffle prize, or volunteer to help out before, during or after the event please contact either lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com or pk.nichols@btinternet.com - we do need help!

The Club has now installed much needed new toilets. The whole area has been transformed to include a WC for disabled users and more cupboard storage space. Coupled with the new kitchen, the Club now has extremely good modern facilities. The AGM, which has been postponed for many months, will likely take place before the 4th September but no firm date has been set. We are looking for new committee members and volunteers to help take the Club forward as a social centre for the Village Community and hope they will come forward, again we do need help. Members who paid their subscription in 2020 may collect their 2021 membership cards from the Club with no subscription fee to pay. Non-members who would like to join for 2021 may do so now at the reduced subscription fee of just £10. For the time being there are no plans to open more often than the Wednesday and Sunday evening sessions due to lack of demand, a situation that we hope will change in the not too distant future.

Phil Nichols, Club Secretary

Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Points in Hunton – Info Request

The Parish Council has recently been notified by KCC of an initiative to install EV chargers in smaller communities, starting this Autumn, at no cost to the Community and potentially earning some funds for us. This is a limited funding opportunity, and it is recommended by KCC to include a Residents' and Users' survey to gather more information – this is a request for villagers to let Mike know (mshuntonpc@btinternet.com) if they either have an electric vehicle already, OR if they are thinking of purchasing one in the near future. Could they email me or leave a message on my mobile (07779-367412) during August, as we need to submit an application sometime during September. The idea is to understand not only what EV demand there is now, but how it might change in the near future.

The concept is for KCC to install, own and maintain the EV charging kit, but that a 30% profit share will go back to the 'landowner' for community benefit. The beneficial landowner (and charger location) would preferably be at the Village Hall, but this is of course some distance from most of our housing. It does, however, offer opportunities for Sports Club & Hall users (possibly churchgoers) to put their vehicles on charge when they are at matches/events. The Hall has a suitable power supply (the solar panels there will earn us more 'points' in KCC's assessment system) and there is space at the front to have two chargers in plain view, i.e. not locked in behind the gate, when closed at dusk.

Mike Summersgill, Parish Councillor

Hunton Primary School – do you have a hobby or interest you could share with the children?

From September we are looking to run some more after school clubs and are hoping to be able to offer an engaging and varied range of activities for the children. We are keen to tap into the skills and expertise of our parents and community so that we can broaden the range of opportunities on offer. So, if you have an interest that you would like to share with the children and an hour a week (from 3:15pm) to spare for a term or two, we would love to hear from you! It could be drama, dance, aerobics, sewing, running, gardening - anything goes. Please email: office@hunton.kent.sch.uk if you have any ideas.

School Breakfast club – help needed

We are looking for helpers to enable us to run breakfast club in the mornings. The job is from 8am-9am every weekday (term-time only). The rate of pay is £9.55 per hour and your child can attend breakfast club for free if required. We are happy to have a mix of help, if you are only able to do certain days. Please email: office@hunton.kent.sch.uk for a job description and application form.

Hunton School - Anita Makey, Head Teacher

As an unprecedented academic year comes to an end, we reflect on the journey we have all had at Hunton CE Primary since September 2020. What a year it has been for pupils, parents and staff. There has been so much change for everyone; remote learning, lockdowns, Covid testing, bubbles, a new Headteacher and even changes in the weather resulting in snow. However, despite all this, the resilience everyone has shown has been incredible and the school feels a happy, special place to be. I would like to thank everyone for their patience, thoughtfulness, compassion and friendliness.

There have also been some 'goodbyes' to staff. Mrs Tompkins, our office administrator, left us to pursue a new venture in June. We are so grateful for the support she has given to Hunton over the past 7 years. At the end of term, we will be saying a special farewell

to Mrs Pilcher who has taught at Hunton for 11 years; in recent years she has been our Reception Year teacher and I know and can see how her nurturing ways encourage and create a love of learning for our youngest pupils from the outset. We will very much miss her.

Yet at this time of the year, we can also reflect on our successes and achievements. We were incredibly proud and pleased with our Ofsted rating and I believe that the report really captures our school.

The inspection was incredibly thorough. Much had been researched by the inspectors prior to their visit; this included looking at our website and a 2-hour phone call with Mr Ming and myself. The actual day was a very long one with them arriving at 7.45am and leaving at 7pm.

Here are just a few quotes from the report:

Teachers have high expectations of every child. They are ambitious for pupils to succeed; Pupils behave exceptionally well both in and out of class; The close-knit community helps to ensure that teachers know each child well; Pupils work and play happily with each other; Reading is a central priority...pupils respond well and make strong progress; Teachers have a good understanding of each pupil's needs and they tailor support they give accordingly; Leaders encourage pupils to be reflective, through thinking about the school's values of compassion, perseverance, respect and joy.

We are driven by our new strong values and a determination to do the very best for every child. It is wonderful to have the recognition for our quality of provision yet we will continue to strive to achieve the very best for every child and adult at this school. Of course, it is the children who are at the heart of our school and it is with this in mind that we say a fond farewell and send our best wishes to our wonderful Year 6 pupils.

The last few weeks in particular have been memorable for us and we hope have been very special for them too. They have been fantastic role models. Their memories have been beautifully written by them for you to read.

Jess, Ella & Scarlett from Year 6 have written some of their memories

'My Time in Hunton

Hunton Primary School has given me so many unforgettable memories throughout my seven years at this school. All the teachers are compassionate and considerate of all pupils needs and the pupils themselves are friendly and will always make sure everyone has a friend. I would like to share some memories with you and show you what an enjoyable place Hunton is:

In Porteous, my class and I made Bicarbonate of Soda and vinegar erupting volcanos. This was a science project that the whole school enjoyed. Alongside with the science concept about making chemical reactions, we added an art twist to it: we coated it in mudrock and painted it after. I am sure my year 6 enjoyed it as much as I did and am grateful to Porteous for giving us this opportunity.

Another memory in Borton that I have really enjoyed is PGL. This is when Borton class go to an activity area (this time in Surrey). Many of these activities brought Borton closer together and it made my class mates smile as they heard each other cheering them on. One activity that I would like to share is 'Giant Swing'. This is when classmates continually tug a rope pulling you and your partner higher in the air (on your harness). When you get to the top there is a rope to pull and when it is pulled you swing in the air. However, it is not just the activities that made this an extraordinary experience all the PGL workers were joyful and helpful all day making sure everyone had a great time.'

'After this adventurous week we are back at school and learning new educational things. I would like to give thanks to all the staff members who have worked at this school and persuaded me to pursue my dreams. I really appreciate it. Thank you lots Hunton!'

'THANK – YOU I would like to thank Mrs Pilcher for helping Hunton with so much encouragement and joy over the past 7 years. And bringing a smile to my face. My memories in Devas will be kept locked in my chest with no key to unlock it.

THAT ONE DAY IN...My memories will be in my mind. I still remember I had an enjoyable time. Like that one time when I made my first friend. After 7 years it feels like it will never end. I opened the classroom door, I had never felt so nervous before. I now have 3 wonderful BFF's and I am astonishingly close to Secondary, however still my memories are in my head, that one day in Devas.'

Hunton Cricket

Against a background of changing government and English cricket board guidance, Hunton Wanderers Cricket Club's season started on time in early May and with the exception of one match being abandoned due to rain, we have managed to complete all our games. Formal cricket teas are still not permitted and we continue to have sanitising breaks every six overs to clean our hands and the ball. In addition to our own games, the club were pleased to be able to host the Kent Girls U15's in their county match against Essex in May which, after a very exciting finish, Kent won by the narrowest of margins.

Our 1st XI are sitting mid-table in their division and still have a chance of promotion whilst the 2nd XI, after a bright start to the season, are finding the going more difficult against some very strong teams. We have home games every Saturday from now until early September and, with the further relaxing of restrictions, if anyone is passing you would be very welcome to drop in to watch the game and call in to the pavilion for a cup of tea. The club is also open to new playing members and if anyone would like to join, please contact Steve Jones, Secretary Hunton Wanderers Cricket Club on 07860 833693 or email hwcc@btinternet.com



Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

Wednesdays 8-11.00pm & Sundays 8-10.30 pm

Garden tips for August

It's time to be thinking about what seeds you want to buy for next year's flowers or collect your own seeds from the garden. Prune wisteria of all those whippy bits to about 3 buds from the main shoot and prune tighter again in Jan / Feb. Prune back the vines of their extended growth to a couple of leaf nodes beyond the cluster of grapes.

Avoid planting new plants, leave them until the Autumn while the soil is still warm, and the weather is more clement and not the hot dry weather we usually expect in August.

Start thinking about your orders for plants and bulbs ready to plant in the autumn, including bare rooted plants such as hedging, roses and some perennials, that can be planted over winter and up until the end of March.

Keep dead heading roses and give a second feed to keep them flowering, if you have not already done so. Dead head annuals to keep them looking fresh.

It's a good time to take cuttings from tender perennials before it gets too late in the year to pot them on.

An Unusual Lady

When we decided on a total life change in 1980, we bought a small farm from a wonderful, eccentric lady, who, unknown to us, was going to be a huge part of our lives for many years to come.

She asked if she could still keep some of her animals in our barns for a while and we happily agreed but were a bit taken aback when we found quite how many she had. A chestnut cob called Seamus and two moorland ponies, Winter and Porter, were in the barn she had retained. Seamus was an Eeyore character who always expected the worst and treated everyone with a weary sigh. If he didn't like you at first meeting, you would never be accepted and was likely to threaten to bite, though I never knew him to carry it through. He was a huge favourite at his weekly visit to Riders for the Disabled where presumably he recognised his riders' disadvantages to be as pronounced as his own perceived ones. He was also a Houdini and could undo any knot with his teeth, open gates and on one occasion, even a handbag from which he removed and opened a packet of polos. Winter was a mare with a wish to gently unseat any rider unwise enough to get on her unless they were an accomplished rider. Porter, on the other hand, would teach and help any rider, child or adult, and was a joy. They were identical to look at (unless your first glance was to their nether ends) so it was important to establish which was which before mounting.

In our barns there were six moorland ponies, very young, who she was breaking to harness, very successfully and five of them went on to new homes and drivers, and they met up with her at competition driving events later on. The sixth one was "difficult" and of course, he stayed behind on the farm and she continued to train him, even after he bolted one day and jumped a stream. Sadly, the carriage didn't...but the driver jumped clear in time.

Then there were two Sussex oxen, Hannah and Dorcas, with glorious red brown coats and huge spreading horns. These gentle giants accompanied her to County shows and were driven in a yoke. Not often in harness were the two donkeys, Hosanna and Aphrodite. Aphrodite insisted on following two steps behind Hosanna at all times which made things a bit tricky but children loved riding them. And then there was Pebbles, the sheep who lived in a field and decided who could and who could not, enter her property. It was great fun to watch her regularly round up two rough collies and a border collie into a corner of the hedge and refuse to let them pass. These were her dogs. Our border collie did not venture into her field, feeling safer on our side of the hedge.

All of the hooved animals were driven in various carriages, traps and carts, the sheep's one, specially made for her. Occasionally if our yard was too full of lorries, Pebbles would pull small loads through for us, much to the amusement of the lorry drivers.

She was a wonderful woman, noted for three things in particular: first, her inability to speak ill of anyone. She didn't engage in gossip and would change the subject if she did not like it. Then her kindness and helpfulness to everyone she met and thirdly, although only about 5'2" she had a voice that could, and was, heard three fields away, even if she did not think she had raised her voice.

The fact that she had lived at the farm for about thirty years and her name was Brigid and mine is Bridget, led to a whole new level of confusion for many years.

The White House: Sunday 29th August 2 – 6pm – 'One Last Hurrah' for Jan

Jan Morris, who, with her late husband, Arthur, ran the White House pub, died suddenly in March, as recorded in the May issue. Between them, they supported many charities and sports teams, including Pétanque.

Long term barman, Simon, the Pétanque club and her pub friends plan to hold "One Last Hurrah" in her memory, in the grounds of the White House on Sunday August 29th from 2-6pm with entertainments, bar and nibbles, as she would have liked.

Transitional Benefice Service Rota – August 2021					
	1st	8th	15th	22nd	29th
Zoom or Coxheath	10.30 or 11am HC	10.30 or 11am	10.30 or 11am HC	10.30 or 11am	No Zoom
Hunton Flowers: Sue Pinks	9.30am HC		9.30am FS		10.30am Benefice Service
E. Farleigh			9.30am HC	8am HC	
Linton		8.00am HC		9.30am MP + HC	
W. Farleigh		9.30am MP + HC			
HC Holy Communion, MP Morning Prayer, FS Family Service					

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