



Next Editors: Fay Joyce & Corinne Wells : herald@hunton.org.uk
All items for the next edition of the Herald to the Editors by 15th September

Beer and Gin Festival

Saturday 4th September - 12.30pm – 7pm

Don't forget to come to the Village Club to enjoy an afternoon tasting a selection of local beers & gins. Such past events have proved immensely popular and it will be a great opportunity for villagers and their friends to socialise once more. There will be plenty of seating inside and out. Tasty food and tempting cakes will be available to purchase. The Boughton Ceilidh band will be entertaining us and, you never know, you may be tempted to dance along to their music! There will be activities for children as well. Entrance: Adults £2 - Children free.

Friends of Kent Churches Ride and Stride - Saturday 11th September 2021

Ride & Stride is a charity bike ride with a difference - you will be given a printed list of churches and chapels open that day and you will have the opportunity to plan your own route. Incredibly, there are 700 churches to choose from scattered right across Kent and wherever you go you'll be assured of a warm welcome. It's a fun day out! Go individually, as a couple, with friends and family, with a cycling club, with your work colleagues, with school friends, with choirs, with a sports team or whomever you wish.



For a sponsorship form please phone or email Sue O'Donnell on 07429491022 / sueodonnell@talktalk.net

If you'd like to join some neighbours for a leisurely ride (about 2½ hours) taking in some of our most beautiful local churches, meet down at All Saints Church, West Farleigh on Saturday 11th September at 10 am. St. Mary's Church, Hunton will be participating in the Ride and Stride event and will be open from 10am throughout the day for cyclist or walkers to visit and sign in. Toilet facilities and refreshments will be available.

75th Anniversary Party

Residents along with past and present Trustees of Peace Cottages Almshouses were joined by family and friends for a celebration tea to mark the 75th anniversary of the Almshouse Association. Festive bunting, tea in pretty vintage cups, copious amounts of cake and glasses of wine all added to the celebration. There were nearly thirty guests at the tea in Hunton Club who, judging by the levels of conversation and laughter, thoroughly enjoyed their afternoon together.

The Rev Peter Callway gave a short history of Peace Cottages that were founded in 1899 originally 'to provide a home for aged and infirm members of the Church of England'. The Almshouse Association came into being in 1946 and continues to provide guidance and support to more than 1600 almshouse charities including those in Hunton. Events to celebrate their 75th anniversary are being held in many towns and villages to raise awareness of the existence of almshouses and the social housing they provide.

Peace Cottages in West Street has five residents and is currently run by a team of six volunteer Trustees.

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@goolemail.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: Beer & Gin Festival – 12:30pm – 7:00pm – Hunton Village Club
Sunday 5th September: Arts & Craft Fair – 11am – 4pm – Yalding Village Hall
Saturday 11th September: Ride & Stride - 10am start – All Saints West Farleigh
Saturday 11th September: Maidstone District Change Ringers – Practice Event : 10:30am – 12:30pm – St Mary's Church
Saturday 25th September: Village Walk and/or Lunch – 11am Walk 12:45 Lunch – Hunton Village Club
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

As they part, Romeo says to Juliet “Parting is such sweet sorrow”. The sorrow comes from the departure but the sweetness from the fact that they will meet again. As Alison and I depart after eight years of serving here in the benefice, we do so with the same sentiments. Parting is difficult as we leave behind new friends and situations which have sustained us in our ministry here. We leave with the regret of things left unfinished, of having had a year and a half of pandemic that has suppressed the life of worship. However, we leave with joy as we look back on our life of ministry here and see individuals who have grown in their discipleship, in their love of Jesus. We see the benefice more closely aligned perhaps than when we arrived, and we see the potential for a continued development of the life of faith amongst the believers in these five villages. We look back with joy at the fellowship we have enjoyed with so many people and in the knowledge that we are just 10 minutes away and able to maintain friendships formed (but no church talk please if we meet up!).

As we head into retirement, we do so encouraged by the God who sustains us, and the knowledge that new horizons await. For us, sure, but for you all here too! Our prayer is for a vibrant life of worship that sees even more cross benefice support and collaboration and for a new Rector who will build upon the sure foundation of faith that is here.

Two of my favourite Bible verses spring to mind as my final Pastoral letter draws to a close. Isaiah 40:3: “those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint” and Jeremiah 29:11: “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” May they be true for each and every one of us!

Many blessings, Peter Callway Rector (retired)

Hunton Bowls Club News

It has been another challenging season for the Bowls Club so the arrival of our new sign lifted our spirits somewhat. Bernard Hill, a retired gentleman from Coxheath designed the sign. Bernard had been working on the project since before the first lockdown and, you can imagine, involved an incredible amount of skilled workmanship that resulted in this superb sign. When next you are at the playing field please take a closer look at this masterpiece which depicts a bowl, a jack inscribed with the bowls club’s founded date of 1936 and the green all painted in the club’s colours.

We were lucky that the majority of our members returned at the beginning of the season after what we can only describe as a non-starter in 2020. As restrictions sufficiently eased in May we were able to commence with our friendly matches against other clubs, Weald League, Friday Night Men’s Triples, Ladies Maidstone & District Triples and our own Competitions have all been played - quite like ‘old times’ once again! However, we are still very short of playing members and it has been somewhat difficult at times to fill the required teams resulting in matches having to be cancelled.

In June we welcomed the easing of restrictions on inside catering but social distancing remained. To overcome this rule the four tables were distributed between the pavilion and the two changing rooms where tea and biscuits were served at half time. We had to forego the raffle and the captain’s speech for this season at least. Will our full teas with sandwiches and cake return? I’m not too sure – now might be the time to break with tradition.

Once again this season we have had the pleasure to play on a superb green which, as always, we thank Colin our green keeper and his team of men for all their hard work. Of course the most important piece of equipment for any pitch or green is a mower and sadly our Dennis cylinder mower is in desperate need of replacement. We believe the mower to be at least 30 years old and purchased second-hand from Loose Bowls Club for a cost of £400. It has been well maintained over the years and has been fitted with numerous spare parts but now is beyond repair. Unfortunately, we have been unable to organise any of our usual fund raising events this season due to social distancing and money is very tight at this point in time to say the least. The cost of a Dennis power unit plus a bladed cylinder cassette will be in the region of £6,000 and our aim is to secure enough money in the coming months by way of grants and donations to purchase the mower before the start of the new season in April.

We are rapidly coming to the end of another season with just a few friendly matches to play so if you are passing by please feel free to come in and watch a game. The club is open to new members and if anyone wishes to join please contact Angela Baptie on 01622 820625, email angela.baptie@btinternet.com or why not join us on Facebook?



Swift Word About Swifts

Firstly, how do you know they are swifts and not swallows or martins? At this time of year the hirundines (that's swallows, house martins and sand martins) and swifts triple or quadruple their numbers with the addition of all this season's offspring. Dozens or even hundreds are often seen perching on overhead wires. If you are lucky enough to witness this locally you can be absolutely certain of one thing: you are not looking at swifts! They are swallows and/or martins – probably house martins as we have fewer sand martins hereabouts.

The scientific name for the swift is *apus*; this was the bird's Latin name and translates as 'without a foot'. Although swifts do have feet on the end of very short legs, they are only functional for clinging onto the side of a rock face or stone building, for example. They are not able to perch on a twig or wire. It's not really surprising that a bird that spends its whole life in the air (sleeping and even mating on the wing) has evolved by reducing the size of body parts it hardly uses. Thus, if it were to end up on the ground, the unfortunate bird's legs are too short and weak for it to stand. Without being able to lift itself well clear of the ground by standing, its wings (evolved to be extra long for super efficient flying) have not enough space to flap. Hence the bird would be stranded and quickly fall victim to predators. For that reason you won't see them on telephone wires, a sort of evolutionary footnote.

Neither will you see them much after the first week or so of August. For a bird that doesn't normally arrive here until around the first week of May, it is one of our shortest-staying summer birds. As soon as it finishes raising its clutch, it is on its way to its winter quarters. Until a few years ago we had no idea where these were – how would we if they don't breed in the winter so spend their time high in the sky? It was the arrival of tiny geolocators (like a little button battery for a watch) small enough for a bird to carry that we discovered they spend their time circling above central and southern Africa interspersed with long flights out into the Atlantic Ocean. So, one of our best-known summer birds (like the cuckoo) is only actually with us for a small fraction of time.

That's no help of course during May, June and July when swallows, martins and swifts are whizzing round above our heads, all with their legs and plates of meat tucked up under them! Although their wings look superficially similar, swept back for speed, swifts' are significantly longer – making them look truly 'sickle - or scythe-like'. Swallows have slender bodies and long tail streamers, those with the longest being males (of course, men showing off again as usual). Although all the species are lighter underneath, that's not a lot of help when you're looking at them above you against a bright sky. A rule of thumb might be that the higher up they are, the more likely they are to be swifts as they are consummate aerial feeders, quite capable of flying several hundred miles in a day in search of insects if the weather is poor. During this time, if they have any, their chicks can become torpid to survive the extended time without food.

But whether they are swifts, swallows or martins they are there to be marvelled at and enjoyed while they still fly thousands of miles to bring our shared planet alive. They are to be welcomed, as Shakespeare called them, as true guests of summer.

Ray Morris, West Farleigh

Charity Horse Ride

On Sunday 1st August Georgina and Joshua Pearce held a horse ride around the grounds of Hunton Court, this was to raise money for a charity called the Injured Jockey Fund. The charity helps to rehabilitate injured jockeys. Joshua Pearce had an accident whilst training one of his own racehorses which unfortunately left him with a broken back. The injured jockeys fund have two rehabilitation centres where Joshua was lucky enough to stay for three days a week for eight weeks where he made an incredible recovery and is back riding and retraining all types of horses.

Despite the wet weather the event was a great success and well attended - around £1,300 has been raised with raffle money still to be counted. Hopefully, this will become an annual event in Hunton raising money for different charities.

We would like to thank everyone in the village for their kind donations.

Well done Georgina & Joshua!

Arts & Crafts Fair – Sunday 5 September

Yalding Art Group will be holding their Arts and Craft Fair on Sunday, 5 September at 11am until 4pm at Yalding Village Hall, Lyngs Close, Yalding, Kent, ME15 6JS - Free Entry – Refreshments/Food.

Maidstone District Change Ringers – Saturday 11 September 2021

A District event will be hosted at St Mary's from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm on Saturday 11th September.

It's good to hear the bells again on a Friday evening as our own local band, supported by other local towers, have their weekly practice.

If you feel like a gentle and healthy activity why not join us on Friday at 7:30 – 9:00 pm. No previous experience is required, but always useful. We will teach you call changes, hunt and even bob doubles. For further information please ring our Captain Jeff Young on 01622 746541.

David Jones

Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

Wednesdays 8 - 11.00pm & Sundays 8 - 10.30 pm

The Village Panto - Peter Pan Returns - 'Again'

It's full steam ahead for the performances of Peter Pan Returns and finally we are able to get back into rehearsals for our overdue village pantomime.



Performance Dates

Sponsors Evening/Open Dress Rehearsal:
Wednesday 27th October - Some tickets available at £5

Evening Performances:

Thursday 28th October and Friday 29th October - Tickets available
Saturday 30th October – Tickets sold out

Matinee Performance:

Saturday 30th October - Tickets available

All evening performances start at 7.30 pm. The Saturday matinee performance starts at 2.30pm. Ticket prices are £9 for adults, £5 for under 14's, under 5's are free.

Tickets bought for the 2020 performance are valid for the day they were purchased for. If you have mislaid your tickets or if you wish to book tickets for the days they are available, please contact Sue Pinks at suepinks@icloud.com or leave a message on 01622 820709.

Village Walk and / or Lunch – Saturday 25th September

Come alone, or bring your family and friends, on a circular walk of about 1.5 hours starting at 11am on Saturday 25th September at the Village Club. Stay for a buffet lunch at £10 per person in the Club starting at about 12.45pm. Please support this event as funds raised will be divided between the Club and The Friends of St Mary's Church. Everyone welcome just for the walk, or just for lunch, or both, but please book in advance with lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com 01622 820210. If you are not already a member of the Club you will be signed in as a guest and we hope you will join with the subscription for this year being just £10.

Benefice Worship

As Peter's retirement draws ever closer, we have been in discussion with the PCCs about how we can effectively continue to share worship across the benefice in a way that provides plenty of opportunities to gather whilst managing with a much reduced ministry team. Therefore, from September 2021 there will be a slightly adjusted worship pattern in our churches.

Below, I have included an overview of what we will see happening across the benefice over the course of a month. This worship pattern is intended as an interim rota to be used throughout the interregnum.

We will continue to 'Zoom' the service from Coxheath on a weekly basis, therefore the Zoom time will change to 11:00 to coincide with the return to Sunday worship in Holy Trinity.

Please note, there will **NOT** be any 8.00am services in the benefice during the interregnum.

Holy Trinity, Coxheath will meet weekly. East Farleigh and West Farleigh will meet alternate weeks, as will Hunton and Linton.

| Benefice Service Rota – September 2021 | | | | | |
|--|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------|
| | 5th | 12th | 19th | 26th | 29th |
| Coxheath 11:00am | Communion | Service of the Word | Communion | Service of the Word | |
| E. Farleigh 9:30am | Service of the Word | | Communion | | |
| W. Farleigh 9:30am | | Communion | | Service of the Word | |
| Hunton 9:30am | Communion | | Service of the Word | | |
| Linton 9:30am | | Service of the Word | | Communion | |
| | | | | | |
| Coxheath | Every Thursday, 10:00 - BCP Holy Communion | | | | |
| Linton | Last Wednesday of each month, 12:00 noon , BCP Holy Communion (followed by Lunch) | | | | |

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