



Next Editors: James & Andrea Forster : [huntonherald@outlook.com](mailto:huntonherald@outlook.com)  
All items for the next edition of the Herald to the Editors by 15th February

## Snowdrop Spreading at St Mary's Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April

Over the last few years, 'Snowdrop Sunday' has become a very popular community event.

For this year, and for one year only, we plan to alter the arrangements to allow for 'Snowdrop Spreading'.

We will be dividing and spreading the snowdrops, so that the abundance of white flowers creep further into different parts of the churchyard from 2026 onwards.

The splitting process must be carried out when the snowdrops are, 'in the green'. This means that the flowers will have finished, although the green leaves will still be evident. We will split the bulbs into smaller clumps to make even more dreamy white drifts of flowers. So, pop the date into your diary and come along with



gardening gloves and a trowel. Join the big dig by taking part or just watching! Refreshments will help to make it a social event! Come along anytime from 9.30am when the churchyard working party will be on hand to give you guidance.

Many of you may still want to see the snowdrops in February this year. The churchyard is always open so do come and see the spectacle of tiny white flowers that hint at the promise of the spring to come. Everyone is welcome. However, you may like to visit during the morning of **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February**, when the bells will be rung. Our Church Warden, Iain Simmons, will be on hand for a chat and we will endeavour to keep you warm with hot drinks!

## Hunton Gardening Club Social & Supper: Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February

Even if you are not a member of the Gardening Club, or interested in gardening, you are welcome to come to this Social and Supper at Hunton Village Club. It is a chance to catch up with friends and meet new ones in our village.

Some of you may remember going on a visit in 2016 to some farms in Marden run by Peter Hall. There we heard about flood prevention works being undertaken; saw organic apples, grapes and hops growing and learnt about projects that were running in conjunction with the RSPB. Peter has kindly agreed to come to this meeting to update us on some, if not all, of the activities now going on behind his hedgerows.

The Club will be open that afternoon for a Six Nations rugby match between England and Scotland which starts at 4.45pm. You are welcome to watch the match or arrive at the Club around 6.45pm when the match should be over. A pre-booked supper at £10 for members of Hunton Village Club and £12.50 for non-members, will be served soon after everyone has arrived. Peter will talk after supper. Places are limited and to reserve yours, or for more information, email Lesley - [lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com](mailto:lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com).

Your Local Contacts:			
School: Secretary/Head Teacher	820360	Maidstone Police	690690 or 101
Under 5's Pre-School:	820309	Village Hall Booking:	<a href="http://www.huntonvillagehall.co.uk">www.huntonvillagehall.co.uk</a>
Pond and Tree Warden: Sam Andrews	<a href="mailto:huntontreewarden@gmail.com">huntontreewarden@gmail.com</a>	Huntonwatch: <a href="mailto:huntonwatch@gmail.com">huntonwatch@gmail.com</a>	07907 019996
Rector: Revd. Lorna Faulkner*	747570	'Potholes' Hotline (KCC)	03000 418181
Hon Associate Rector: Revd. David Jones	741474	Hunton Ladies: Chris Summersgill	<a href="mailto:c.a.summersgill@btinternet.com">c.a.summersgill@btinternet.com</a>
Churchwarden: Iain Simmons	820875	Katie Lam MP	<a href="mailto:katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk">katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk</a>
	<a href="mailto:ishuntonchurchwarden@btinternet.com">ishuntonchurchwarden@btinternet.com</a>	Assistant to MP Katie Lam	020 7219 8175
Community Wardens Team	07811 271021	Village Club: Roger Lee: <a href="mailto:roger.c.lee@btinternet.com">roger.c.lee@btinternet.com</a>	820210
Hunton Bell Ringers: Lavinia Thompson	07885 763071	Reporting HGVs	<a href="mailto:huntontrafficroporting@gmail.com">huntontrafficroporting@gmail.com</a>
Contact details for other village clubs and organisations are available at <a href="http://www.huntonparishcouncil.org.uk">www.huntonparishcouncil.org.uk</a>			<b>*not available on Fridays</b>

Parish Council Contacts	
Parish Clerk: Sharon Goodwin - 681238, <a href="mailto:huntonpc@googlegmail.com">huntonpc@googlegmail.com</a>	Chairman: David Heaton - 820678, <a href="mailto:dhhuntonpc@gmail.com">dhhuntonpc@gmail.com</a>
Cllr Jonny Goddard - 820096, <a href="mailto:jonny@cheveneyfarm.co.uk">jonny@cheveneyfarm.co.uk</a>	Cllr Tony Stanbridge - 820721, <a href="mailto:tshuntonpc@gmail.com">tshuntonpc@gmail.com</a>
Cllr Annette Trought - 820448, <a href="mailto:annette@trought.com">annette@trought.com</a>	Cllr Mike Summersgill - 820429, <a href="mailto:mshuntonpc@btinternet.com">mshuntonpc@btinternet.com</a>
Cllr Iain Simmons - 820875, <a href="mailto:ishuntonpc@btinternet.com">ishuntonpc@btinternet.com</a>	Cllr Simon Webb - 07878 018997, <a href="mailto:simon.webb5@btinternet.com">simon.webb5@btinternet.com</a>

**Diary Dates**  
 England and Six Nations Rugby: Ireland v England Sat 1st Feb and England v Scotland 22nd Feb; Preparation of Tea Boxes: Sat 8th Feb;  
 Snowdrops and Church Bells : Sat 8th Feb; Gardening Club Social: Sat 22nd Feb; 'Mexican Night' at Hunton Village Club: Fri 7th March;  
 Plants & Produce: Sat 10th May.  
 Check out [www.huntonparishcouncil.org.uk/events-list](http://www.huntonparishcouncil.org.uk/events-list) for the latest events. If you would like to add an event, email [huntonpc@gmail.com](mailto:huntonpc@gmail.com)

## Dear Readers

I really shouldn't put myself on the rota to write to you in the winter months. I suffer with chronic 'Winteritis' and am such a misery. I had to Google 'what is good about February?' before I could even think about writing today.

But February it is and it's the shortest month and the days are slowly getting lighter so there is some solace and even joy to be found in knowing it will be over soon!

Joking (am I?) aside if we decide to we can always try to find something positive and affirming in life. So here are a few things to love about February:

The snowdrops! The first brave, beautiful flowers to stick their heads above the parapet of winter. The churchyard of St Mary's Hunton will be a stunning carpet of white and green delightfulness over the next couple of weeks - come on down and enjoy nature's artwork!

World Nutella Day is on February 5th. Surely nothing gets much better than that? I can recommend a lovely recipe for a Nutella brioche loaf. But if you can't be bothered with that get a box of breadsticks, a jar of the sweet chocolatey joy and hunker down in front of a good film.

Of course, we have St Valentine's Day on the 14<sup>th</sup> – and, if that's your thing - enjoy! Love those dear to you, revel in the red roses and push the boat out with a lovely 'dine in for two' meal deal from M & S.

If it's not your thing let it pass by without a moment's angst. (Here's little nugget for you though: St Valentine, the patron saint of love and romance is also the patron saint of the bubonic plague... make of that what you will!)

February 17th apparently brings us Random Acts of Kindness Day 2025. What better way to combat the winter blues than to spend a day doing nice things for other people. I wonder how many people in your family and community you could manage to bless in small ways if you put your mind to it? Happy February to you all. Bless you. Keep warm. Keep loving. Hang in there!

*Lorna*

## St Mary's Christmas Eve Carol Service

St. Mary's welcomed nearly two hundred people to the annual Carol Service which was lit by many candles and decorated with beautiful flowers to celebrate Christmas. After the service there was a plentiful supply of mulled wine and mince pies to keep the chill out until people arrived home. £430.00 was collected which was split equally between the Heart of Kent Hospice and the Demelza Children's Hospice. Both charities have expressed their grateful thanks to everyone for their generosity.

*David Jones*

## St Mary's Christmas Market 2025

The PCC have approved the date of Saturday November 22nd 2025 for the Hunton Christmas Market. The timing has yet to be confirmed but it will be around late afternoon on that day. Already in response to the announcement of the date six stall holders have booked spaces. It is planned that formal invitations and the final timing will be processed in August but anyone wishing to book a stall should contact David at davidjones.coxheath@gmail.com.

## Would You Like to Help Spread a Little Happiness?

It seems another lifetime ago but a few years back Christmas was approaching and we faced another covid lockdown. Life looked grim.

The elderly and vulnerable look forward to their Christmas gatherings and lunches and we thought it horrible for them to be missing all this. What could we do? Sandra and Lottie were already involved in organising volunteers to shop and collect prescriptions for this group of people. So we hit on the idea to take some treats to them in a tea box. The whole community came together to bake, put the boxes together and deliver them which was quite a feat in the circumstances. It was amazing and all involved felt they had done something positive in such an uncertain time. We still continue with the boxes post lockdown because for lots of people Covid changed their lives and the response from the recipients is heartwarming.

So on Saturday February 8th we are repeating the boxes because pre Christmas is so busy we now deliver a box of love in February and, especially after such a cold winter and the fear of another epidemic, the love from our fantastic community sent to these people is gratefully received.

If you'd like to support us please contact Edna: edmaden@gmail.com, 07493846244 or Sandra 01622 746706, smh56211@hotmail.com.

## Hunton Club

Hunton Club again hosted a range of Christmas events this year and would like to thank everyone for their support during 2024. The Club was filled with carols for what's become a traditional sing along, then Christmas Eve drinks, followed by the Post Christmas Day walk and lunch. New Year celebrations with so many friends in the club was memorable and 2025 was very loudly greeted after the count down.

From walks and lunches, beer festival, plant sales, wine tasting and quizzes, the Club has hosted some amazing events with great attendance and support from the community. We'd like to thank you for your support in 2024 and we look forward to the events coming in 2025. The committee would welcome any suggestions for future events from you as to what you would like and we hope to see you soon.

## New Year Resolutions?

Here is one you might actually enjoy!

Get a little fitter, see friends old and new and make the most of the beautiful countryside around us - join the Hunton Walking Group. We meet at 10.00am on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month for a (mostly) local walk of about 2 hours, exploring the countryside of Kent, ending at a good pub for a drink, a chat and maybe something to eat.

Our next walks are scheduled for 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> February. If you are interested in joining our friendly group, either regularly or occasionally, contact Jane Langdon on [ejanelangdon@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ejanelangdon@yahoo.co.uk). We assure you of a warm welcome despite the weather!

## Love Hunton - Love Hunton Village Club! Joint Hunton Village Club!

5 Reasons to Become a Member:

1. Community Vibes - Meet friendly faces, make new friends, and feel right at home
2. Exclusive Events - Quiz Nights, Film Nights, Annual Beer Festival, Green Hop Weekend and more – there's always something exciting happening!
3. Member Discounts - Enjoy special prices on events – just for members!
4. Top-Notch Facilities - Darts area, main bar lounge, outdoor space and plenty of seating, perfect for relaxation and socialising!
5. Support Local

Your membership helps keep our club vibrant and our community connected!

Feel free to stop by the club for a membership form or complete one online by visiting [www.huntonvillageclub.com](http://www.huntonvillageclub.com).

Events planned for 2025 include:

Gardening Club Social & Supper - Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. You do not need to be a keen gardener to join.

Walk and/or Lunch - Easter Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April. Book a place for lunch or dust off those wellies and get some fresh air first to work up an appetite for a delicious lunch.

'Mexican Night' – Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March. Don your sombrero for a trip down Mexico way. Contact details to follow.

Plants, Produce & Refreshments – Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May. If you have any spare plants please pot them up and bring them along to the Club on Friday 9<sup>th</sup>. The time will be forthcoming. Alternatively pop in on Saturday and stock your gardens – both vegetable and floral.

Beer Festival – Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> August. Everyone is very welcome to enjoy craft ales in a pleasant atmosphere. Tuck into a snack or sample some of the drinks on offer.

Green Hop Beer Weekend - Friday 24<sup>th</sup>, Saturday 25<sup>th</sup>, Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October. After the Club's first very successful green hop weekend last year it has been decided to run it for another year. Snacks will be available and the unique flavour of green hops is not to be missed. For more information on the above please contact [lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com](mailto:lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com)

Regular monthly events include:

- Gents Beer Night – 1st Wednesday
- Book Group – 2nd Wednesday
- Needles & Natter – 3rd Wednesday
- Hunton Ladies Evening – Last Wednesday

## England & Six Nations Rugby

Once again Hunton Village Club will be screening England's Six Nations matches. Come along and join others to cheer on England watching on the big screen. The club will be open 15 minutes before kick off and close shortly after the final whistle.

- Ireland v England - Saturday 1st February 2025 - Kick-off: 4:45pm
- England v France - Saturday 8th February 2025 - Kick-off: 4:45pm
- England v Scotland - Saturday 22nd February 2025 - Kick-off: 4:45pm
- England v Italy - Sunday 9th March 2025 - Kick-off: 3:00pm
- Wales v England - Saturday 15th March 2025 - Kick-off: 4:45pm

## Maintaining Your Roadside Ditches

The recent cold snap led to a lot of ice forming on highways. Some of this was prolonged by water overflowing from ditches or blocked culverts onto the highway. KCC are responsible for keeping culverts operating satisfactorily and we are continually asking for them to be cleansed and blockages jetted out. However, the open ditches alongside our highways are not usually KCC's responsibility, but the riparian duty of the adjacent landowner (even if you think your landholding ends at the hedge!). It is often the hedge cutting debris that is partially blocking the ditches which can lead to hidden culvert blockages.

Please ensure that you have your ditches cleared after hedge cutting operations and remove any debris that has accumulated in them regularly. Ultimately overhanging hedges, trees and the like can come to the notice of the KCC who can send landowners a letter to get any blockages cleared and charge land owners their costs if it is not done. An article in the July 2023 Herald covered this in greater detail but seems to have had little effect.

## Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

Wednesdays 8 – 11pm; Fridays 6.30 – 10.30pm; Sundays 8 – 10.30pm

### SpeedWatch

We have been unable to hold any SpeedWatches for a few months. Not only because of the cold weather but we barely have enough volunteers to undertake them. It would be great if we can get another couple of people to register and participate. Please find out more details on [www.kent.police.uk/speedwatch](http://www.kent.police.uk/speedwatch) or contact Mike on [huntontrafficroporting@gmail.com](mailto:huntontrafficroporting@gmail.com).

### Hunton Walkers' Christmas Lunch

One of the many benefits obtained from joining the Hunton Walking Group is the enjoyment of a Christmas lunch shared with friends. Once again after walking up an appetite everyone tucked into a delicious meal and raised a glass to another good year of companionship whilst walking and look forward to 2025's walking calendar.



### Another Fantastic Hunton Post-Christmas Walk and Lunch!

What a brilliant Saturday we had for this year's Hunton Post-Christmas Walk and Lunch! A huge thank you to everyone who turned out to make the event such a success.

We were thrilled to see twenty-eight walkers don their boots and embrace the crisp countryside air, sharing laughs and good company as well as to admire the stunning views Hunton has to offer. We nearly increased the count to twenty-nine by almost adopting a cuddly chocolate brown Labrador along the way!

Whether you were stretching your legs after the festive season or simply soaking up the wintery views your energy and enthusiasm were infectious!

Afterwards we were delighted to welcome over thirty-eight people – both locals and visitors from further afield – to our cozy lunch gathering. The food was absolutely delicious and the lively chatter and laughter made for a truly warm and inviting atmosphere.

Just like the 'Dear Hunton' article in last month's Herald, events like this remind us of what makes Hunton so special: the wonderful community spirit and the joy of coming together to share memorable moments. A big thumbs up to everyone who contributed.

Here's to more Hunton events in 2025 - Hope to see everyone again soon

### Fancy Volunteering?

If you would like to help keep Hunton clean you might like to join the periodic litter picks around the village. Your help would be very much appreciated. There is also the periodic church and churchyard clean which is a very pleasant social event when people get together for a Saturday morning. A tea and coffee stop with home made cake or biscuits is always eagerly looked forward to.

Perhaps you would like to help edit the Hunton Herald? Two people prepare each edition (typically once or twice over an 18 month period) and it is a pleasant way to pass an afternoon.

And – true to every well organised village – there is always cake making to be done!

Should you be interested in any of the above please keep an eye on the Herald where all events are posted. Concerning the Hunton Herald editorship please contact the current editors at [huntonherald@outlook.com](mailto:huntonherald@outlook.com)

Benefice Service Rota – February 2025				
Church	2nd	9th	16th	23rd
Coxheath 11.00 am	Communion LF	Morning Worship BP	Communion LF	All-age worship LF and BP
East Farleigh 9.30 am	Morning Worship LF		Communion CD	
West Farleigh 9.30 am		Communion LF		Morning worship SE
Hunton 9.30 am	Communion DJ		Family Service LF	
Linton 9.30 am		Morning Worship DJ		Communion CD
LF -Lorna Faulkner, DJ – David Jones, BP- Becky Parnham, CD -Clinton Davis, SE – Sue Elliott				
<b>Midweek Services</b>				
Coxheath - Every Thursday; Holy Communion, 10:00 am; Linton - Holy Communion last Wednesday of each month, 12.00 followed by soup				

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