



Next Editors: Liz Oliver & Graham Dolman: [huntonherald@outlook.com](mailto:huntonherald@outlook.com)  
All items for the next edition of the Herald to the Editors by 15th April

## A Dedicated Trustee of 'Peace Cottages.'

We raised our glasses to say a heartfelt 'thank you' to Liz Oliver for her dedication to the management and organization of 'Peace Cottages.' Liz has volunteered for the 'Almshouse Charity' for the past 15 years. It was a fitting celebration, enjoyed by all and kindly hosted by Ian and Sue Pinks. Celia Kennedy-Sloane led the tribute by explaining how Liz had contributed to the upkeep of the five residential lettings in West Street. Moreover, Liz has always been a key point of contact for all the residents. With a smile, she has managed issues with firmness and empathy. Very ably, Liz directed the committee; showing a determination in her approach to getting tasks completed. Reverend Lorna Faulkner has now kindly agreed to take over as Chair of the Trustees, and with the appointment of the new Church Warden, Iain Simmons, the team is once again complete. We wish Liz much happiness in the future.



## Easter Events at St Mary's Hunton

We are looking forward to welcoming the whole community to a joyous Easter service at Hunton Church on Sunday the 20<sup>th</sup> of April. Prior to that, there will be other reflective events in the Benefice to mark Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Please see the times and venues on the back of this edition of the Herald.

## Easter Monday Village Walk & Lunch - 21st April.

Do you have friends and family visiting for Easter and wondering how to keep them entertained? Why not join us for a wonderful, free, guided walk in the fresh air, with good food, and great company. We may even have sunshine!

We will be meet at Hunton Club at 11am. This scenic, circular, walk will take approximately one and a half hours. This is a perfect way to stretch your legs after the Easter weekend. If some members of your group would rather not walk, they are welcome to relax in the Club while you enjoy the fresh air. After the walk, return to a delicious buffet lunch at the Club, where the bar will also be open. Enjoy a main course, a selection of cheeses, cakes, and tea or coffee. If you would like to lend a hand on the day, Lesley would love to hear from you! The price for lunch is £10 (Club members), £12.50 (Non-members) and £5 for Children. Please book the lunch. To help with catering, please email Lesley at [lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com](mailto:lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com) by Wednesday, 16th April. Don't forget to inform me of allergies or specific food preferences.

## 80th Anniversary of VE Day 8th May 1945

To mark the 80th Anniversary of VE Day a special service of hymns, readings and prayers will be held at St Mary's Hunton on Sunday May 4th at 9.30am The Nation will be observing the anniversary with 4 days of ceremonies across the country and a national service at Westminster Abbey on Thursday May 8th.

### 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:huntontrafficreporting@gmail.com">huntontrafficreporting@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>			

\*not available on Fridays

### Parish Council Contacts

Parish Clerk: Sharon Goodwin - 681238, [clerk@huntonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@huntonparishcouncil.gov.uk) Chairman: David Heaton - 820678, [dhhuntonpc@gmail.com](mailto:dhhuntonpc@gmail.com)  
Cllr Tony Stanbridge - 820721, [tshuntonpc@gmail.com](mailto:tshuntonpc@gmail.com) Cllr Annette Trought - 820448, [annette@trought.com](mailto:annette@trought.com)  
Cllr Mike Summersgill - 820429, [mshuntonpc@btinternet.com](mailto:mshuntonpc@btinternet.com) Cllr Iain Simmons - 820875, [isimmons@huntonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:isimmons@huntonparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
Cllr Simon Webb - 07878 018997, [simon.webb5@btinternet.com](mailto:simon.webb5@btinternet.com)

### Diary Dates

5<sup>th</sup> April, Snowdrop Splitting Morning; 12<sup>th</sup> April, Bowls Club Coffee Morning, 10am; 20<sup>th</sup> April, St Mary's Easter Sunday Service, 11:00am;  
21<sup>st</sup> April, Village Easter Walk & Lunch; 30<sup>th</sup> April, Hunton Ladies' Group; 4<sup>th</sup> May, VE Special Church Service 9.30am; 10<sup>th</sup> May, Plants & Produce Sale;  
20<sup>th</sup> May, 'Pilots in the Sky'; 28<sup>th</sup> May, Farm Visit; 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> June, Singing for All; June, Quiz Night TBC; 30<sup>th</sup> August, Annual Beer Festival;  
24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> October, 'Green Hop' Beer Weekend; 18<sup>th</sup> October, Harvest Supper TBC; 19<sup>th</sup> October, Harvest Festival.

Check out [www.huntonparishcouncil.gov.uk/events-list](http://www.huntonparishcouncil.gov.uk/events-list) for the latest events. If you would like to add an event, email [clerk@huntonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@huntonparishcouncil.gov.uk)



Hunton



[www.huntonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.huntonparishcouncil.org.uk)



@HuntonVillage

## Dear Fellow Hibernators

Easter Sunday falls this year on April 20<sup>th</sup>; Easter being the great festival and celebration of the Christian Church. When I first came to Coxheath, in 1967, it fell on Sunday March 26<sup>th</sup>. It is a movable feast and can fall on any Sunday between March the 22<sup>nd</sup> and April the 25<sup>th</sup>. The date is calculated according to the moon. In the service on Easter Sunday the opening words are usually the greeting: 'Christ is Risen, Alleluia'; to which the congregation reply, 'He is risen indeed, alleluia'. This reminds us that, after the events of Good Friday when Jesus was crucified, the 'enemy', death, was defeated. Christ's rising conveys the understanding that life goes on and there is hope.

As a youngster, living in the suburbs of London, Easter was the first real school holiday of the year, and we would go off to stay near Grannie in the countryside. One year, we went to Glastonbury to see her and the banks of grass leading up to the Tor were covered with primroses, lambs grazed in the fields, catkins hung from the trees and the leaves were just showing life. It was wonderful! The long cold days and dark nights were almost behind us. I had the same feeling when I first came to Coxheath, walking the footpaths along the Greensand Way. The difference was that in Coxheath the wind still blows cold until the end of May. But still, the sun shining gives us hope and still does.

I hope that Easter offers you 'hope'. That the warmer weather brightens your lives, and we see people coming out for walks on the footpaths as the blossom breaks through. The longer days remind us of God's power and authority in a world that at times seems to have lost order and purpose. Have a great Easter and look forward with hope.

David

## Hunton Annual Parish Meeting – Monday 19th May

Do you want to know what is happening in the Hunton community? Do you have any issues you wish to raise? If so, please come along to the meeting which will take place at 7.30pm in the village hall. All residents are invited. We are hoping to welcome back Ray Morris from Marden Wildlife to give an update on the important, and always interesting, work the group is undertaking. There will be an open session where you can raise any issues or ask your Parish, Borough and County Councillors any questions you may have. Local groups and clubs will also present short reports on their activities over the last year. Light refreshments will be served from 7pm.

## Friday Fiesta Night – A Night to Remember!

Back in 2023, the club agreed to open on Friday evenings. To help improve attendance, a 'Friday Food Night' has been introduced and started with a 'Mexican Fiesta Night'. What a night! The Friday Fiesta was a huge success. With live music, a dance or two, and plenty of delicious food. Guests enjoyed a generous serving of spicy chilli, indulged in rich chocolate cake, and sipped on refreshing margaritas, while soaking up the fun atmosphere. Thanks to Sam Andrews & Astrid Cunningham for hosting the event, as well as to everyone who helped to make the night such fun. We can't wait to do it all again!



## Check your smoke alarms are in date!

Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS) is urging people to check the expiry date on their smoke alarms, as they only have a lifespan of up to ten years. Between 2022-2024, approximately 6,600 expired smoke alarms were discovered at properties in Kent and Medway during Home Fire Safety Visits carried out by KFRS with some residents unaware that they expire or how to check them. Having an in-date smoke alarm is important in helping keep homes safe, as once they expire the sensors in the alarms become less reliable. This means that they might fail to sound in an emergency or could go off for no reason and could impact how effectively they work if there was a fire. We recommend testing once a week. If there's no expiry date, it means you'll need to replace the alarm and even if the smoke alarm still sounds, if it has expired then it needs replacing as soon as possible. If you can't change the smoke alarm safely, we recommend asking a friend or family member for help. But if that's not possible, give us a call on 0800 923 7000 for advice and to book a free home fire safety visit. For more information visit: [www.kent.fire-uk.org/smoke-alarms-10-year-lifespan](http://www.kent.fire-uk.org/smoke-alarms-10-year-lifespan)

## I've Volunteered, Why Not Do the Same?

Hello Hunton Club Members, you may know that the Club is looking for a new Club Secretary. This will mean that Phil Nichols can finally hang up his well-earned cap. If you would like to find out more about what the role entails, please contact Phil Nichols or Roger Lee. As part of the Club's Committee, Kerry Larkin has volunteered to take some of the load off Phil, by handling regular club updates.

**Kerry's Update.** To start with, I want to express a big thank you to everyone who completed the feedback forms at our recent AGM & Volunteers' Evening. Your input has been invaluable. Common suggestions for improvements:

- Removing the central pillar to open up the bar.
- Enhancing seating comfort as well as giving the existing furniture a new lease of life.
- Adding a splash of colour to soft furnishings.
- Improving the lighting inside and outside the club.
- Replacing the Dart Board Surround.

Great News! All of the above suggestions are now being taken forward. You may have already noticed that the central pillar has gone! Due to popular demand, the club will be repeating well established events, while also introducing new ideas, such as: a 'Bingo Night', 'Singalong Film Nights' (Mama Mia or Grease), and a 'Halloween Night'. There was also a strong interest in another 'Meet the Village' event. The club relies on volunteers. It's a great way to meet new faces, while also strengthening older friendships. On a personal note, since moving to Hunton, Kevin & I have enjoyed meeting new people and feeling part of something special. We are very lucky to have a Village Club in the heart of the community. So, thank you for your ongoing support. Don't forget your 'membership renewals'. Better still, encourage others to join!

Kerry Larkin, on behalf of the Club's Committee.

## Gardening Club Supper

There's something special about a place that brings people together, not just for a drink or a catch-up, but for real community spirit. This was never more evident than at the recent Gardening Club Supper, where green-fingered enthusiasts put down their trowels and enjoyed an evening of great food, good company, and lively chat - all without a gardening glove in sight! A big thank you to Lesley Lee and her helpers for making it all happen. Here's to more evenings like this because it's not just about what's on your plate, but who's around the table!

Thanks also go to Peter Hall, who gave a very informative update on the 'Landscape Recovery' project in Marden. Led by Peter's vision, the project focuses on a variety of community, environmental and wild-life initiatives. These included such things as the management of land in order to mitigate flooding in our area. In total, there are twenty-eight farming members involved in the project, known as the 'Marden Farming Cluster'. Together, they unite 10,000 acres of land; of which, Peter is responsible for 400 acres. Amazingly, there are now, over, 1,000 members of the 'Marden Wildlife Group'. Through the partnership with 'Marden Medical Centre', good mental health is prescribed through access to nature! Ray Morris, a good friend of Hunton, has worked tirelessly with Peter to improve bird habitats. Bird species are thriving!

Evidence-based research underpins the success of the project. As Peter said, "Science and technology rather than muck and magic". By donating all of his fruit crop to the 'Felix Charity Project' he is helping to make a huge difference to the lives of others. This charity organises an army of volunteers to harvest the apples, pears and plums. These are then transported, for free by Amazon, to a London base where they are distributed or cooked. Many community groups benefit. Notably, in 2024, 105 tons of fruit provided 38 million free meals-WOW!

**STOP PRESS:** Peter Hall has just confirmed that a farm visit is now arranged for Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> May. The tour will start at 4pm and will last approximately two hours. More information from Lesley Lee and in the next edition of the Hunton Herald.

*Iain Simmons, Kerry Nichols and Lesley Lee*



## Decoupage Delight: A Night of Creativity at Hunton Ladies Club

Hunton Ladies Club was buzzing with creativity in March as members gathered for a fabulous 'Decoupage Delight' session! With a brilliant turnout and an atmosphere full of laughter and artistic flair, the evening was a resounding success.

Leading the charge was none other than Hunton's very own Craft Queen, Kerry Larkin, who guided the ladies through the wonderful world of decoupage. Under her expert eye, attendees transformed plain items into beautifully decorated masterpieces, each one unique and bursting with individual personality. From elegant floral patterns to bold, quirky designs, the results were truly stunning! As always, the evening wasn't just about crafting, it was a chance for the ladies to catch up, share stories, and enjoy a relaxed and welcoming environment.

The monthly Hunton Ladies Club meetings continue to be a highlight in the village calendar, offering a fantastic mix of social events, creative workshops, and fun-filled activities. If you'd like to join the next gathering, the Hunton Ladies meet on the last Wednesday of each month at The Club. The next meeting is on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April. For more details, contact Chris Summersgill. New faces are always welcome!

## Thank You Evening for Hunton's Heroes

The Club's Chairman, Secretary and the Committee of Hunton Village Club would like to extend a sincere thank you to all the volunteers who make the club such a vibrant part of our community. Hard work, time and great enthusiasm do not go unnoticed. It's always hard to include everybody, but the recent 'Thank-You Evening' was a wonderful chance to come together and celebrate the collective impact of all who give up their time so generously. Thanks to Roger Lee, Club's Chairman, and many others, we enjoyed a delicious supper together. Hunton Village Club always welcomes new members and so if you've not yet had the opportunity to sign up, forms can be downloaded from the club's website <http://www.huntonclub.com>.

*Kerry Larkin*

## Managing Farm and Flock

The challenges of managing both a healthy environment on the field and the health of the sheep can be a contradiction. Take worming for example, something of an issue for all animal keepers, pets or otherwise. The anthelmics (wormers) can have an impact on the soil ecosystems, which includes earth worms and the dung beetles (of which 50% of dung beetle species are now extinct); this therefore impacts on the quality of the pasture. Extensive use of wormers has also created resistance. However, not to use them has a negative impact on animal welfare. They can affect animal growth rates, wool growth, scouring, infections, anaemia, and even kill! We have taken steps to reduce our need for worming because, lambs, in particular, do not have mature enough immune systems in the gut to expel these worms.

Having introduced some bioactive crops such as: chicory, birdsfoot trefoil and sainfoin, we then allow the flock regular access to it. As a consequence, it has shown to decrease the negative effects of parasites in the gut. Additionally, we have reduced the size of our flock and rotate the sheep grazing pastures. Determined to get on top of our worm issue we have decided not to lamb our ewes this year. Hopefully, this will protect the pasture from the high number of worm eggs. With the help of an intervening good hard winter, or two, we hope to significantly reduce the pasture of worms. Our aim is that our worm management doesn't have a negative impact on the soil biology. We believe that keeping the animals is an important part of maintaining the soil ecosystem. We have huge numbers of worm casts in the fields and flocks of starlings, invertebrates and buzzards also love to feast on the worms. Good pasture improves the health of the animals grazing on it. The alternative bioactive crops add a variety to the flock's diet and the flowers provide for pollinating insects .... what's not to like?

*Sue Heaton*

## Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

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

### Snowdrop Splitting and Church Working Party- Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April.

If you can spare an hour, or so, do pop along to St Mary's between 9am and 12 noon on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April. We really need your help to split clumps of snowdrops, so that they can be spread further round the churchyard. If you would rather help with cleaning in the church, then please join the team tidying ready for Easter. For anyone who just wants to visit the churchyard, we usually have a tea/coffee break at about 11am. Everyone enjoys the chance to chat! Please let Lesley know if you hope to take part so she can take enough supplies for the break. [lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com](mailto:lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com)

### Ever Fancied Bowling at Hunton Bowling Club? Registration & Coffee Morning, Sat 12<sup>th</sup> April, 10am

Come along try it. Bowling tuition will be available on the day, weather permitting. Please wear flat soled shoes/trainers if you would like to have a go. Alternatively, just come along for a coffee and a cake. For those of you who are not familiar with the Bowls Club, we are situated behind the Village Hall at the King George V Playing Field. We are always looking for new members, no experience necessary. Our practice & coaching afternoons/evenings are held on Thursdays from 4 pm from the beginning of May. For further information contact [angela.baptie@btinternet.com](mailto:angela.baptie@btinternet.com) or call: 01622 820625 Mob: 07759 296265

### Plants, Produce & Refreshments at The Village Club. Saturday 10th May 12 noon - 4pm

Browse, buy and chat. There will be a fantastic selection of houseplants, garden plants, herbs, and veggies on sale, along with homemade jams, chutneys, honey, and fresh rhubarb. Join us for another fantastic community event open to everyone. You will find an abundance of delicious local produce, and mouthwatering refreshments! Treat yourself! Enjoy fabulous homemade cakes, tasty toasties, and refreshing drinks from the Club Bar.

Whether you're a green-fingered gardener, or just love a good bargain, there's something for everyone. So, please support us, as every penny raised will go towards refurbishment projects at the Village Club. We'd love your support whether donating plants, produce, or cakes or simply coming along and having a great time! As you read this, you might think about potting up a few plants that you no longer need. For more info or to arrange a donation, contact Lesley: [lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com](mailto:lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com)

### Your Views Count

On behalf of the Parish Council's 'Traffic and Road Safety Working Party', you may remember that Iain Simmons set up a display and feedback area, during the 'Plant and Produce sale in 2024'. The specific focus of this was to encourage residents to express their views on traffic issues in Hunton. The findings of this are now being amalgamated with further information from a survey conducted by Hunton School. Furthermore, we have recently received a letter from our local MP, (see below).

### Letter from our MP, Katie Lamb

Hello! I'm Katie, and I'm now the Member of Parliament here in the Weald of Kent. I represent our area in the House of Commons, acting and advocating on behalf of all my constituents. I'll be writing in the Herald every now and then to keep everyone in Hunton up to date. Right now, I'm very focused on transport. As you'll know, getting around our beautiful rural home isn't always easy. All too often our roads and pavements are closed for works; or there are big lorries on inappropriate country lanes; or there's no longer a bus route! We deserve better! That's why I've joined the 'Transport Select Committee'. This is a cross-party group of MPs who work to scrutinise the Department for Transport and all sorts of other relevant bodies and organisations. I successfully pushed for the Committee's first enquiries to be on bus services in rural areas, and 'street works' (when utilities dig up the roads). I want to know how people find the roads and buses — and anything else transport-related. So, I'm sending out a survey to every home, asking your thoughts on local transport. You can fill it out and post it back when it arrives through your door. Or you can complete it online. [www.katieforkent.com/transportsurvey2025](http://www.katieforkent.com/transportsurvey2025). You can email me at [katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk), or speak to me on 01580 388344.

### Not to be Missed, 'Guy in the Sky'!

Look up and you might spot our local Spitfire pilot soaring through the skies—but do you know the incredible story behind this legendary aircraft? Join us for an unmissable evening as local aviation historian, Guy Bartlett, takes us back to the 'Battle of Britain'. It was a fight for survival when brave pilots, and their Spitfires and Hurricanes, turned the tide of the war. Through a captivating presentation, Guy will bring to life the heroism, strategy, and high-stakes aerial duels that helped to secure our freedom. Tuesday 20th May. Doors open at 7:30pm. The talk starts at 8:00pm. Venue, Hunton Village Club. Members £4 | Non-members £5. Spaces are limited—reserve your seat now! Contact Edna Dennison, on [edmaden@gmail.com](mailto:edmaden@gmail.com) to hear from Guy in the Sky!

Benefice Service Rota – April 2025				
Church	6th	13th	20th	27th
Coxheath 11:00 am	Communion <i>LF</i>	Morning Worship <i>CD</i>	Communion <i>LF</i>	All-age worship <i>BP/LF</i>
East Farleigh 9:30 am	Morning Worship <i>DJ</i>	Communion <i>LF</i>		
West Farleigh 9:30 am			Communion <i>LF</i>	Morning Worship + APCM <i>LF</i>
Hunton 9:30 am	Communion <i>LF</i>		Communion 11am <i>DJ</i>	
Linton 9:30 am		Morning Worship <i>BP</i>	Communion <i>DJ</i>	Communion <i>CD</i>
LF -Lorna Faulkner, DJ – David Jones, BP- Becky Parnham, CD -Clinton Davis, SE – Sue Elliott				
Midweek Services				
Coxheath - Every Thursday; Holy Communion, 10:00 am; Linton - Holy Communion last Wednesday of each month, 12.00 followed by soup				

**All items for the next edition of the Herald to the Editors by 15th April please**