



Next Editors: Jennifer Stuart-Smith & Adam and Hermione Moore: huntonherald@outlook.com
All items for the next edition of the Herald to the Editors by 15th January

Wishing all our readers a Happy New Year

*Hunton is a small village but there is a lot happening
and*

*to make the most of the opportunities to join in
and meet new friends
keep up to date with*

THE HUNTON HERALD



Hunton Christmas Market 2025

A huge 'thank you' to Hunton for a superb Christmas Market this year. A packed church, full of stalls and people, Father Christmas and his elves (who were visited by over 50 children) and to cap it all a wonderful sum of around £2,000 raised for St Mary's Church funds. We had twenty eight stalls all selling a wide variety of goods. The cakes, refreshments, raffle, mulled wine and bottle stalls all worked hard to raise funds. Thank you to everyone. As some stall holders left they wanted to know the date for 2026. Well, it's not a secret, we haven't decided yet but why not have a guess and based on previous years you may not be wrong!

Fay and David

Hunton Walkers round off 2025.

Our last walk of 2025 turned out to be at the end of November on a lovely sunny autumnal morning. The route was very local, between Hunton and Yalding taking in the spectacular views from the Greensand Way at Buston Manor and the pretty (even in November) path alongside the Beult into Yalding.

The threat of Storm Bram put pay to the walk planned for 9th December, so 17 of us went straight to The Bull in Linton for our Christmas Lunch, no muddy boots and dry trousers! A generous and varied lunch was enjoyed by all.

We look forward to the next walk on Tuesday 13th January, and welcome anyone who would like to join us. New Year's Resolution to be a bit more active??



Jane Langdon

Your Local Contacts:

School: Secretary/Head Teacher	820360	Maidstone Police	690690 or 101
Under 5's Pre-School:	820309	Village Hall Booking:	www.huntonvillagehall.co.uk
Pond and Tree Warden: Sam Andrews	huntontreewarden@gmail.com	Huntonwatch: huntonwatch@gmail.com	01622 820403
Rector: Revd. Lorna Faulkner*	747570	'Potholes' Hotline (KCC)	03000 418181
Hon Associate Rector: Revd. David Jones	741474	Hunton Ladies: Chris Summersgill	c.a.summersgill@btinternet.com
Churchwarden: Iain Simmons	820875	Katie Lam MP	katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk
	ishuntonchurchwarden@btinternet.com	Assistant to MP Katie Lam	020 7219 8175
Community Wardens Team	07811 271021	Village Club: Roger Lee: roger.c.lee@btinternet.com	820210
Hunton Bell Ringers: Lavinia Thompson	07885 763071	Reporting HGVs	huntontrafficroporting@gmail.com
Contact details for other village clubs and organisations are available at www.huntonparishcouncil.org.uk			*not available on Fridays

Parish Council Contacts

Parish Clerk: Sharon Goodwin - 681238, clerk@huntonparishcouncil.gov.uk	Chairman: David Heaton - 820678, dhuntonpc@gmail.com
Cllr Tony Stanbridge - 820721, tshuntonpc@gmail.com	Cllr Annette Trought - 820448, annette@trought.com
Cllr Mike Summersgill - 820429, msummersgill@huntonparishcouncil.gov.uk	Cllr Iain Simmons - 820875, isimmons@huntonparishcouncil.gov.uk
Cllr Simon Webb - 07878 018997, simon.webb5@btinternet.com	Cllr Stephen Banks - 07850 545481, sbanks@huntonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Diary Dates

'Gardening Club Social Supper - Thursday 12th February

Check out www.huntonparishcouncil.gov.uk/events-list for the latest events. If you would like to add an event, email clerk@huntonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Happy New Year!

As I walk into this New Year I could make a million resolutions – ranging from the mundane (be more creative, bake cakes, remember to put the bins out every week, mow the lawn more than once this year, go proper food shopping once in a while) to the more meaningful (choose a better attitude, be more intentional with my time, speak less, love more.)

The likelihood is that most of them won't even get off the starting blocks. But I might write a list at some point. Just to make it feel like I am trying.

I do love a list. In the jumpity-round chaos that so often makes up my thought processes, the humble list is my happy place. So, I decided I would at least start the year on a positive note: With a list (to remind me why writing a list might help me achieve some of my aims!) Here we go...

- 1) Lists are solid. Thoughts are fleeting. But a list? I can see that. I can't forget I need to do something if it's written down before my eyes (can I?)
- 2) Lists are a positive action. Even if I can't face doing something, at least I have acknowledged it needs doing. On some days, that's progress!
- 3) Lists bring order. They are like a map. I can see where I am and where I need to be and what I need to do to get there.
- 4) Lists are encouraging. A list with everything crossed off is a reminder that life does shift and move and that, even if it's one thing at a time, things can change!
- 5) Ticking things off a list feels good.

I wonder what is on your list for 2026? What are you looking forward to? What are you hoping will change this year? Whatever it is, I hope that you meet joy along the road - in the big things and the small. And I hope you can face difficult things with the assurance of love around you.

Happy New Year. Be blessed. Lorna

Hunton Gardening Club Social & Supper: Thursday, 12th February

Even if you are not a member of the Gardening Club, or even 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.

Doors open at 6.15pm for drinks followed by pre-booked supper. £10 for members of Hunton Village Club and £12.50 for non-members. As always places are limited. To reserve yours, or for more information, please send an email to Lesley on lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com.

Hunton Ladies

At their October meeting the ladies learnt about the local charity Dandelion Time from local resident Jacquie Cassidy who volunteers for this worthwhile cause which supports children and their families who have experienced trauma. The children spend time on the smallholding in West Farleigh where the animals and outdoor activities have a positive healing effect. The money raised at the meeting was donated in December when a Big Give initiative doubled the donation to £200.

In November Club member Tricia Nichols led a topiary activity. The ladies arranged ivy leaves on a cone to make a Christmas tree. Although similar in shape each was unique and it was very quiet as the ladies concentrated on their creations!

Hunton Ladies Group meetings are held on the last Wednesday of the month at Hunton Club commencing at 8pm, although there is no meeting in December. New ladies are always welcome.



Chris Summersgill.



Some super news to share!

Hunton CE Primary received a cup at Coxheath Library in recognition of winning the KCC Libraries Reading Challenge – beating all the other schools in Maidstone.

It is a feat we are really proud of.

Hunton Bowls Club

As another season draws to a close and on reflection it has been an exceptional year. The launch of our new website has been a great success bringing in new members to the club – we now have four who live in the village.

We kicked off the new season in April with our usual coffee morning. In June the children from the pre-school enjoyed another exciting activity morning at the bowls green.

Our 'A' Team have had a great season in the Weald League and have been promoted to Division 1 hopefully we will be able to maintain that position in 2026. Our ladies have enjoyed many tournaments, often playing in some of what was the hottest days of the summer with Hunton winning at Headcorn and second place at both Biddenden and Westfield. Well done Ladies!!

Congratulations to Colin Slattery and Jennie Cook who made it to the finals of the M&D Mixed Pairs Competition achieving 2nd place – well done both!!

Our own Tournament took place in August and despite a rather wet and gloomy day was another great success and a good fund raising event. Next season marks an important milestone as the Club celebrate their 90th Anniversary.

New members are always welcome you will find us behind the Village Hall, King George V Playing Field, West Street, Hunton.

Playing season is from April to September but why not take a look at our Website: huntonbowlsclub.wixsite.com/home
Email: huntonbowlsclub@gmail.com, Facebook: Hunton Bowls Club or Instagram: [hunton_bowls](https://www.instagram.com/hunton_bowls)

Angela Baptie

Hunton Village Club AGM

The Club held its AGM on Friday 5th December. The meeting was well attended and people showed their appreciation for two long term committee members who were standing down. Eddie Chambers who has been a club and committee member for many years was presented with a watch as a token of his dedication over the years. Bridget Robertson was presented with a gift for several years of strong support for the club. They will be missed but it is hoped they will continue to visit Hunton and the club.

Roger Lee was thanked for chairing the meeting and for his dedication as chairman for the past year and also Helen Bellman for accepting the role as Club Secretary. Volunteers were thanked for their roles often behind the scenes in helping with many of the events held throughout the year.

Special acknowledgement went to Phil Nichols who has worked tirelessly for many years; very often behind the scenes to maintain the club and keep it running smoothly.

Three new Committee Members were welcomed this year. Paul French, Jennifer Stuart-Smith and Jon Dixon who will bring enthusiasm and fresh ideas to help the Club towards another successful year.

There will be no increase in the subscription fee of £25 per year and prospective new members are encouraged to join in January to enjoy a full year of events. Please call into the club for a membership application form or complete on line where the form can be found on the club website – www.huntonvillageclub.com.

Hidden History

As I walked down the path to the church, I noticed that there were some new molehills at the side of the path. Scattering the earth, I found a coin. Cleaned of mud it proved to be a 1917 halfpenny ... from Australia! How did it get there I wondered.

I thought I might get an answer by searching for people born in Hunton who then emigrated to Australia before returning to Europe to fight in WW1. I could only find one such person, a Robert Leonard Stanley whose father was a gardener at Hunton Court and who lived in a cottage on West Street, a few doors down from the entrance to The Square.

Robert served in the British Navy 1898 – 1902, got married in 1903 and emigrated to Australia before joining the Australian Army in Perth in 1916. His troopship left Freemantle on 23rd December and arrived in Plymouth on 17th February 1917. He was shot in the left buttock and through the right thigh on 25th September 1917, returning to the UK to convalesce. Could he have visited family and friends while here? Would he have had a 1917 Australian coin in his pocket at the time? Or could it have been dropped by another visitor years later? We will never know but it was a fun hunt!

In one of life's strange coincidences, I met a relative of Robert's earlier this year on a visit they were making from Australia to look at family history. I have sent them details of my find and I perhaps they may be able to provide some further background in due course.

James Forster

Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

Wednesdays 8 – 11pm; Fridays 6.30 – 10.30pm (2nd and last Fridays only); Sundays 8 – 10.30pm

Hunton Wanderers CC end of season report 2025

2025 has been generally successful for the club. During the early part of the season we were able to recruit a number of new players and as a result we started strongly, fielding full strength 1st and 2nd teams on a weekly basis. However when the dreaded holiday season came upon us in July and August, numbers fell away and our second team were forced to concede a couple of games due to a shortage of personnel. The situation wasn't helped by injuries to some regular players.

Notwithstanding, our first team were able to consolidate their early season performances and, in a very tight finish, won their division and gained promotion to the Kent League Div 9.

You might think that we would be happy with this, but there has been a groundswell of dissatisfaction with the Kent League over the past few years, in the main due to having to play more games in urban settings, on lower quality wickets and against teams whose discipline can be questionable.

As a result, a poll amongst club members has almost unanimously voted to move leagues, and in 2026 we will venture for the first time into the Kent County Village League, which offers competitive cricket in more rural settings. We will be joining our fellow teams at Bearsted and West Farleigh, as well as a number of sides in the Tonbridge and Sevenoaks areas. We are very much looking forward to the experience, as it will mesh with our own ethos of playing competitive but good humoured cricket, on lovely village grounds.

As ever, if anybody in the village or the Maidstone area would like to join us, please feel free to contact me on 07795 340008. Whatever your standard, and whether you want to play every game or just a few, you will be very welcome at HWCC.

Simon Taylor, Chairman

Advent in Hunton

Unusually, the first Sunday in Advent took place on the last day of November. St Mary's held the first of the Benefice services and welcomed churchgoers from our neighbouring Parishes. The service was even more special as we were joined by the Archdeacon of Tonbridge, The Venerable Nick Cornell, who delivered a thoughtful sermon, drawing on his experience in his former life as a tax advisor. The church was filled with joyful singing and the atmosphere was enhanced by the flickering light of the Christmas candles.

As you read this article, the church will have hosted more services, celebrating the birth of Christ. The Pre-School and Hunton Primary School have practiced and performed within the church and held their Christmas celebrations. We will have hosted the fourth Sunday in Advent Benefice service and finally, the community will hopefully have come together on Christmas Eve for our now traditional candlelit service of carols and lessons.

A great thank you to all who attended and to the many whose efforts made each event so special.

Some Christmas Cracker Jokes:

- What athlete is warmest in winter? A long jumper!
- What do you call people who are afraid of Santa Claus? Claustrophobic!
- What did the snowflake say to the fallen leaf? You are so last season
- What do you get if you lie under a cow? A pat on the head!
- What did the sea say to Santa? Nothing, it just waved!
- What is the best Christmas present in the world? A broken drum - you just can't beat it!

Benefice Service Rota – January 2026

Church	4 th	11 th	18 th	25 th
Coxheath 11:00 am	Communion <i>CD</i>	Morning Worship <i>LF</i>	Communion <i>LF</i>	All-age worship <i>All-age Team</i>
East Farleigh 9:30 am	Morning Worship <i>BP</i>		Communion <i>DJ</i>	
West Farleigh 9:30 am		Communion <i>LF</i>		Morning Worship <i>DJ</i>
Hunton 9:30 am	Communion <i>DJ</i>		Family service <i>BP</i>	
Linton 9:30 am		Morning Worship <i>SE</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 lunch

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