



Next Editors: Fay Joyce & Tricia Nichols: huntonherald@outlook.com
All items for the next edition of the Herald to the Editors by 15th June

Save the Date! Hunton Village Club Beer Festival

Saturday 30th August from 12:30pm

Get ready for one of the best days of the summer! Hunton Village Club Beer Festival is back — and this year, we're going bigger and better than ever!

Yes, there'll be an amazing selection of local real ales, but it's so much more than just a beer festival! Think tasty food, refreshing drinks (including teas and coffees), entertainment for all ages, and a warm, buzzing community vibe that you won't want to miss. Our brilliant volunteers are already planning:

- Delicious snacks and afternoon treats
- Homemade cakes, jams, chutneys, fruit and veg
- Fun for the little ones (so bring the whole family!)

And of course, the return of the ever-popular Spin 2 Win — with some fab prizes already lined up!

Your Club Needs You!

We need your help to make it even more amazing! Could you or your workplace donate a voucher or prize? Got any unwanted but new gifts, bottles, biscuits, chocolates, or puzzles at home? Why not donate them and bring a little joy to someone else! We also need volunteers to help man the stalls on the day.

If you can help, donate, or have an idea for a fun activity on the day, please get in touch with Lesley - she'd love to hear from you! Mark your calendars and spread the word — you won't want to miss this fun event!

lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com 01622 820210

Another Historic Hunton Connection

For over 30 years I have walked into the church, noticed the wall plaque to James Arthur Wellington Foley Butler, 4th Marquess of Ormonde, and wondered if he, who lived in the village until 1943, could possibly be connected to Arthur Wellesley, the Duke of Wellington (1769-1852). Incredibly, he was his godson!

Born in 1849 Lord Arthur (as he was known) became the 4th Marquess and the 28th Hereditary Chief Butler of Ireland in 1919 on the death of his older brother. Unlike previous generations, he did not live in the family seat of Kilkenny Castle as his son inherited it directly from the 3rd Marquess, to save on death duties. Lord Arthur married the American heiress Ellen Stager in 1887 at St George's Church in Hanover Square, London. She was the daughter of Gen. Anson Stager, of Chicago, Illinois, co-founder of Western Union and the chief of U.S. Military Telegraph during the American Civil War (1861-1865).

Ellen Stager brought a personal fortune to her marriage of US\$1,000,000 - the equivalent to about £34m today. In 1901-02, they purchased Gennings which remained their home until Arthur died on 4th July 1943. Ellen continued to live there until her death in 1951. His ashes lie in Ulcombe, Kent.

Lord and Lady Ormonde had four children. Their youngest daughter married Captain Edward Brassey Egerton who was killed in 1916, aged 27. Their eldest daughter's only son, James Drummond, was in command of a submarine off Malta in 1944 when it was lost with all hands; he was 26 years old and is on our war memorial plaque.

James Forster

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	07907 019996
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

**not available on Fridays*

Contact details for other village clubs and organisations are available at www.huntonparishcouncil.org.uk

Parish Council Contacts

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

Diary Dates

17th June, Yalding Church Flower Festival; 28th-29th June, Singing for All; 25th July, Quiz Night; 30th August, Annual Beer Festival;
17th-19th October, 'Green Hop' Beer Weekend; 18th October, Harvest Supper TBC; 19th October, Harvest Festival.

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



Hunton



www.huntonparishcouncil.org.uk



@HuntonVillage

Pastoral Letter

Last month Lorna spoke to you about the feeling of having 'done nothing' – if you haven't read it, I suggest you track down a copy and reflect on how much you might actually do each day.....even if it's not the big, noticeable stuff that you think your friends are wanting to hear about.

This month I'd like to follow that by talking about the art of pottering – doing those small, daily tasks with intention and notice. A friend of mine introduced me, a few years ago, to a book called 'Pottering. A Cure for Modern Life' by Anna McGovern. The blurb on the back says it's "The perfect antidote to the stuff of life, pottering helps you discover the pace where contentment lies."

A piece inside helps to explain it better – "One of the basic principles of pottering is 'don't try too hard', not 'don't try at all': it is not 'sitting about in your onesie on your phone'. The very opposite, in fact. Pottering is relaxing *because* you are occupied."

Pottering helps us to focus on one task at a time and helps us to disconnect from the fast pace of modern life. In the bible we read that Jesus often took himself away from the crowds and the disciples and found places of quiet to pray. I would suggest that he was an expert in pottering; knowing that we need to find those places of peace, whatever and wherever they may be, to help us recharge, refocus and be able to cope when the demands of life crowd in on us.

We can't all suddenly disappear from life for a couple of hours as Jesus did, but we can learn to find our own rhythm that helps us face the challenges of daily life.

So, my suggestion, if you have times when you're feeling overwhelmed, is to put down your phone (or whatever digital device you are using) and do something simple like making a cup of tea taking time to focus on the task you are doing, thinking only of pouring the boiling water into the pot and pushing all those other tasks clambering for your attention to one side.

Happy pottering!

Becky

Village Club News – What's Been Happening & What's Coming Up!

It's been a lively few weeks at the Village Club! We hosted our second fantastic wine tasting evening, expertly run by Helen Bellman – thank you, Helen!

A huge well done to the amazing team of volunteers and donors for another brilliant Plant, Produce & Refreshments event on Saturday 10th May. Thanks to all those who turned up on the day which enabled us to raise over £1300 (excluding drinks) – just topping last year's total!

Looking ahead, please note a date change for our popular Green Hop Beer event, which will now take place slightly earlier: 17th, 18th & 19th October – mark your calendars! We've also been reviewing our Friday night attendance and from June 2025, we'll only be opening twice a month – on the 2nd and last Fridays but..... the last Friday of each month will be a themed Special Event Night – think Fish & Chips, Quiz Nights, Film Evenings, Curry Nights, Games Nights and more! We'll share details each month so you won't miss out. First up: a Quiz Night on Friday 25th July – come along and test your trivia!

In the meantime, we've been giving the Club a little spruce-up with new chair cushions and some fresh lighting behind the bar – it's looking great!

Don't forget, we're open every Wednesday and Sunday evening, plus the 2nd and last Fridays of each month. Pop in, say hello, and join us for a friendly drink or two.

Roger Lee

A message from Katie Lam MP

Spring is one of my favourite times of year, and there's nowhere better to enjoy this time of year than here in the Weald. It's the season of Lady's Smock, Cow parsley, and butterflies. We're really fortunate that the Garden of England has so much to offer by way of flora and fauna: the wildflowers are in full bloom and our beautiful home is teeming with insect and animal life.

As your Member of Parliament, it's my job to represent you and help solve the problems that you face on a daily basis. The most enjoyable part of my job, however, is championing our truly beautiful patch and promoting what makes it such a fantastic place to live. That's why I'm excited to announce my brand-new Weald of Kent Awards, recognising the very best of our wonderful corner of Kent.

This summer, I hope you'll join me in celebrating the unsung local heroes who help our communities thrive. I want to shine a light on the Weald's favourite places to eat and drink, the very best Kentish produce, and the individuals, businesses and volunteer groups that go above and beyond to bring people together.

Can you think of someone in your area who deserves to be recognised? If so, I'd love to hear from you!

I'm inviting everyone in the Weald to nominate a winner from one or more of the following six categories:

1. The Weald of Kent Pub, Restaurant or Café 2025
2. The Weald of Kent Local Business 2025
3. The Taste of the Weald of Kent 2025
4. The Weald of Kent Local Hero 2025
5. The Weald of Kent Young Local Hero 2025
6. The Weald of Kent Heart of the Community 2025

If you know a worthy winner from your corner of the Weald, please do nominate them. Once the shortlist is decided, the finalists will be voted for by you, the people who know the Weald better than anyone else. I'll then announce the winner in August, and present them with a fabulous Weald of Kent Award.

Nominations will open on my website on Monday 2nd June 2025 at www.katieforkent.com/weald-of-kent-awards, and will be advertised across my social media pages over the summer.

As ever, if there's anything you'd like to speak with me about, don't hesitate to get in touch. You can email me at katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk, or speak to me on 01580 388344.

Tasty, Tasty, Very Very Tasty!

What a fab evening we had at Hunton Ladies Night. All thanks to the lovely Sue Gunton and her brilliant Blind Tasting Night!

We munched our way through all sorts of savoury and sweet treats, trying to figure out which ones were the fancy versions and which were the bargain buys — not as easy as you'd think! There were plenty of laughs as we all second-guessed our taste buds and some of the results really surprised us. Who knew a supermarket own-brand could taste just as good - if not better - than the posh stuff at a fraction of the price? Huge thanks to Sue for putting on such a fun, relaxed and muchtastic evening.

Kerry Larkin



Plants, Produce & Refreshments day

Another lovely day was enjoyed by all on Saturday 10th May at the Club, where the community again came together to put on a wonderful display of fresh-from-the- garden produce, ranging from locally grown rhubarb, to a wide variety of seasonal plants along with a tempting variety of local jams and honey.

A beautiful day certainly brought out the numbers and many enjoyed the delicious, toasted sandwiches and homemade cakes.

Altogether another splendid local event that resulted in a record breaking £1,300 plus drinks being raised.

Many thanks to Roger and Lesley and the ever helpful and hard-working team of volunteers who manned the stalls and refreshment areas, not forgetting of course the ever-cheerful bar volunteers!

Kent County elections and the recent changes

While you were all (?) voting in the Kent County elections on 1st May, some may have wondered why there were no Borough Council elections being held at the same time. That was because the system had been changed for last year, and Borough Councillors are now all elected for four years (from 2024-2028), rather than the annual elections for just one of our three Councillors. Hence myself, Grace Couch and Claudine Russell were voted in for four-year terms (and Hunton became part of the Marden & Yalding Ward, rather than Coxheath & Farleigh). Just to note, following the significant changes from the KCC elections, there are no Reform UK councillors elected or sitting on Maidstone Borough Council (MBC).

Anyway, the new voting system also means that there is not the same re-setting of the Council members that sometimes used to happen each May as/when political numbers varied, so MBC remains being run by a coalition of Green & Independents along with the Liberal Democrats, and the Program set by the Cabinet continues to be followed as it was approved earlier in 2025. However, the Mayor continues to be appointed annually, and that is based upon seniority and not on political allegiance. With the change to four year terms, we now know in advance who the next mayors should be, as there is no chance (as happened in 2024) that the most 'senior' candidate could be voted out of his/her Ward by their electors.

On Saturday 17th May 2025, Council approved the appointment of Cllr. Martin Round as Mayor for the next year, and Cllr. Brian Clark as Deputy Mayor, and they both then took part in the Civic Parade in town, in full regalia. Martin was deputy mayor last year, and he succeeds Cllr. John Perry who came from Staplehurst Ward. Martin Round is a Conservative party Councillor for Headcorn & Sutton Valence Ward, where he has represented them for over a decade and been a Headcorn Parish Councillor before then; he had a strong message to bring at his acceptance speech about the rural communities working together for the benefit of all residents. Brian Clark is a Liberal Democrat party Councillor for Loose & Linton Ward, and has been their MBC representative for 10 years; long before being a Councillor, he ran the Post Office at the top of Loose Hill, which is where I first met him about twenty years ago. They will both do a wonderful 'job' representing the Borough over the next 12 months, I am sure.

Mike Summersgill, Borough & Parish Councillor

Hunton Primary School May Fair

Saturday 15th May was our annual May Fayre organised by the PTFA. The sun was out whilst the children enjoyed the swing chair ride and inflatable army assault course whilst the adults browsed the numerous flowers and vegetable plants for sale – kindly donated by Hunton Village Club. We had toys, games, refreshments, Beat the Goalie, fresh berries, ice cream and a BBQ.

The PTFA would like to thank Warners Solicitors who sponsored our assault course and Driscolls, Redwall Lane for donating the berries.

Lots of organising goes into these events so it was lovely to see so many people enjoying the day!

Kathy Reid



Thank You, Hunton!

A huge thank you to everyone who popped into Hunton Village Club on Thursday 8th May to mark the 80th Anniversary of VE Day. It was lovely to see friendly faces coming together to remember, reflect, and share a drink or two. Here's to community spirit at its best!

Kerry Larkin

Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

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

The APCM of St Mary's Hunton

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) of St Mary's took place during the morning service on May 18th led by the Rector, Rev Lorna Faulkner. St Mary's Hunton is part of a five parish benefice led by Lorna and each parish has its own APCM although most of the organisations within the benefice are open to everyone in each parish.

As with most organisations annual meeting are usually poorly attended but by holding the meeting at St Mary's during a service the attendance is always good. The meeting firstly elects the church wardens and Iain Simmons was duly appointed without a vote leaving one vacancy. The seven members of the Parochial Church Council were appointed and we have a full membership of Moira Ensoll, Julia Gerrish, James Forster, Sue Heaton, Sarah Jones, Fay Joyce and Wendy Simmons.

The PCC organises the running of the church and meets about six times a year. Every six years the Electoral roll of the church is completely renewed and I am pleased to report that there has been an increase in membership of about 10%, up from 32 to 36. Membership is as the word suggests, 'members' who have the responsibility of election to the PCC and also elect members to the PCC. The APCM also receives the reports on the state of the building, activities either within the building or organised by the PCC and most importantly receives a report on the financial state of St. Mary's. 2024 financially has been a satisfactory year with income matching expenditure for the first time in several years. However, the meeting was also made aware of the proposed repairs to the tower for which we hope to obtain grants for various charities including the separate charity to the Church, -The Friends of St Mary's - who have generously supported the church over many years in keeping the building in good repair.

David Jones (Secretary)

Garden tips for June

For those that have any box left, the best time to start trimming the hedges has traditionally been Derby day, the first Saturday in June. Avoid trimming box on a humid day as these conditions can encourage box blight and avoid doing it in bright sunlight too as this can scorch the leaves.

It should be safe to get annuals out into the ground as the likelihood of frost should have past. Keep tying in any tall perennials that are likely to flop and keep up the dead heading to ensure a continuous succession of flowers.

It is difficult to know what weather to expect for June. After a warm and dry May some flowering plants appear to be ahead of their usual flowering time. May has been unseasonably dry. We have had less than half of our expected rainfall for the period of January to May and if we don't get any rain by the time you read this, you will need to keep watering newly planted plants, and even those planted earlier in the year. If plants can't get enough moisture, they won't be able to establish a good root system that can spread out into the soil and will soon become stressed and take much longer to establish. Applying mulch around the plants after watering will help to retain the moisture in the soil by preventing its evaporation. Leave lawns a little longer in the warmer drier weather by raising the mower blades to allow the grass roots to access moisture further down in the soil, and aiming to keep the grass greener for longer over the season

Sue Heaton

Cheers to a Wonderful Evening at Hunton Village Club!

A big thank you to everyone who joined us for the recent Wine Tasting Night at Hunton Village Club — what a fantastic evening it was! Guests enjoyed a nice selection of wines, lively conversation, and plenty of laughter in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere. Special thanks go to Helen Bellman for hosting and guiding us through the tasting. Her enthusiasm, charm and quirky choices made the night enjoyable for all. Events like this remind us just how lucky we are to have such a friendly village community as well as Hunton Village Club. If you'd like to host an event, please do get in touch with any member of the club's community. New ideas are always welcome.

Kerry Larkin

Benefice Service Rota – June 2025					
Church	1st	8th	15th	22nd	29th
Coxheath 11.00 am	Communion LF	Morning Worship LF	Communion LF	All-age worship LF/BP	Benefice Communion 10.30 am DJ/CD
East Farleigh 9.30 am	Morning Worship LF		Communion DJ		
West Farleigh 9.30 am		Communion CD		Morning Worship BP	
Hunton 9.30 am	Communion DJ		Family Service LF		
Linton 9.30 am		Morning Worship BP		Communion LF	
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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