



Next Editors: Jennifer Stuart-Smith and Angela Baptie: [herald@hunton.org.uk](mailto:herald@hunton.org.uk)  
All items for the next edition of the Herald to the Editors by 15th March

## Welcome to Spring!

It took the combined efforts of: David and Anke Way; The Friends of St Mary's Church; and, The Churchyard Working Party, to create the first 'Snowdrop Sunday.' This year, we decided that this event should again become part of the events diary.

It was with immense pleasure that I had the opportunity to work with all the pupils from Hunton School, on an art, research and poetry project. The resulting snowdrop work was shared within a special church service; led by David Jones and Becky Parnham. We all learnt a great deal about snowdrops. For example, did you know that the bulbs, although highly poisonous, are used in the medications for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease?

Throughout Snowdrop Sunday, despite windy and rainy weather, visitors enjoyed the silent beauty of this wonderful early sign of spring. Everyone was able to see the special 'Hunton Giant' in all its glory. This magnificent snowdrop is particularly tall, with the inner vibrantly marked in emerald green. We also have a variety named 'Hunton Herald.' As a village, we have made a significant contribution to the Galanthus (snowdrop) world.

Thank you to all who made and served the wide range of delicious cakes and savoury items. In total, the event raised £300 for the daily running costs of the church.

*Wendy Simmons*

## Village Club News

As part of the continuing improvements being made to the village Club a new fence has been installed on the eastern boundary. This involved removing the remains of a damaged wall that we believe was built many years ago as a surround for a gas tank that was installed for the heating system. The gas tank was removed a few years ago after we were advised that new regulations required the pipelines to be under ground, which would have involved digging up the car park. Instead, the Committee opted to install a new oil tank and have the gas tank removed to create more car parking space. Unfortunately, the wall was damaged, most probably by a vehicle, and was in danger of collapsing. We are hopeful that insurance will meet some of the costs involved. Our next project is to see if we can remove the front hedges, which are in a poor state and the remains of the holly trees at the entrance, plus extending the car park over the grassed areas. However, the costs involved may make the project unviable. In the meantime, the interior is in need of a spring clean and some touching up of paintwork. A working party will be organised in the near future when it is hoped some members will come along armed with brushes and paint rollers to help out.

Our next event in March will be a "Just For Fun" quiz night on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March, doors open at 7:30 p.m. for an 8 p.m. start.

*Phil Nichols*

## Hunton WI Wine Tasting Evening

This evening gave 14 members of the WI ladies group a chance to sample a variety of wines from around the world whilst also enjoying a range of cheeses and pates.

Everyone wrote their own tasting notes, guessed the country (none of us were experts!) and gave each wine a score. As expected, there was a wide range of opinion on the merits of each wine, with some surprising results. The 'Official' tasting notes that accompanied each wine caused some hilarity and were frequently disputed! The price of a bottle seemed to have little to do with how much it was enjoyed. Unsurprisingly, it was a very enjoyable evening that has encouraged members to maybe be a little more adventurous in their own wine choices.

*Chris Summersgill*

### 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: Mike Summersgill	820429	Huntonwatch: <a href="mailto:huntonwatch@gmail.com">huntonwatch@gmail.com</a>	07907 019996
Rector: vacant		'Potholes' Hotline (KCC)	03000 418181
Hon Associate Rector: Revd. David Jones	741474*	Community Warden: James Watson	07811 271021
Curate: Revd. Iornafaulkner@gmail.com	439304*	PCSO - Paul Vasey	101
Hunton Bell Ringers: Jeff Young	746541	Helen Grant MP <a href="mailto:helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk">helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk</a>	0207 219 7107
Village Club: Roger Lee	820210	WI President: Ann Sawtell	820731
*not available on Fridays			

Contact details for other village clubs and organisations are available at [www.huntonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.huntonparishcouncil.org.uk)

### 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:dhuntonpc@gmail.com">dhuntonpc@gmail.com</a>
Clr Jonny Goddard - 820096, <a href="mailto:jonny@cheveneyfarm.co.uk">jonny@cheveneyfarm.co.uk</a>	Clr Tony Stanbridge - 820721, <a href="mailto:tshuntonpc@gmail.com">tshuntonpc@gmail.com</a>
Clr Annette Trought - 820448, <a href="mailto:annette@trought.com">annette@trought.com</a>	Clr Mike Summersgill - 820429, <a href="mailto:mshuntonpc@btinternet.com">mshuntonpc@btinternet.com</a>
Clr Iain Simmons - 820875, <a href="mailto:ishuntonpc@btinternet.com">ishuntonpc@btinternet.com</a>	

### Diary Dates

12th March: Quiz Night, The Club; 20th March: Annual Parochial Meeting and election of Churchwardens

21st March: Parish Council public meeting (village hall - 7.30pm); 1st April: Hannah Sanders & Ben Savage Village Hall; 5th June: Big Jubilee Lunch

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)

## Pastoral Letter

March sees the start of Lent in the churches calendar. Forty days of preparation for Easter and a time when in many ways Christians are asked to consider 'charging their batteries'. It is a time when we exam our relationship to God in Christ Jesus by looking firstly inwards to the things that perhaps have become a habit and a drain on our spiritual journey and then secondly to look outwards to a new journey with God. So, this year Wednesday March 2<sup>nd</sup> starts Lent, Shrove Tuesday the day before is pancake day (or panic day if you've forgotten how to make pancake mix).

So, what are your thoughts now you know? Don't look on Lent with a negative approach this year. Look at what you feel might improve your spiritual life with God. Don't simply give up chocolate! Think of something that may improve your lifestyle, something that others may appreciate you doing or changing or perhaps something that helps other. Above all try to remember that you are doing what you are doing because firstly God loves you and cares about you and secondly that knowledge is important to you and makes your Christian journey more fruitful.

Enjoy Lent, don't be miserable, don't run your lifestyle down but be positive so that by Easter Day when we have come out of Lent you will be enjoying things and have a purpose in your lives. As an afterthought, I'm showing you the way by giving up writing long letters in the hope that I will use the time more productively and that you won't waste so much time reading what I've written.

Enjoy Lent, *David*

## Annual Parochial Church Meeting and Election of Churchwardens 2022

Sunday March 20<sup>th</sup> 2022 at 9.30am at St Mary's, Hunton is the date of the 2022 APCM and meeting to elect Churchwardens. The meeting will take place during the normal Morning Service commencing at 9.30am and everyone resident in the parish of St Mary's Hunton can vote. The second part of the meeting is the APCM and only those on the Electoral Roll of St Mary's may vote but anyone can and is welcome to attend. It is at this meeting that the Financial Report is presented for 2021, reports on the work and events at St Mary's are given and PCC members are elected.

The membership of the Electoral Roll is open to anyone residing in the parish or attending St Mary's and for the purpose of the APCM applications must be made by March 7<sup>th</sup> to Rev David Jones, 13 Woodlands, Coxheath ME17 4EE 01622 741474.

Nominations to be Churchwarden or a member of the Parochial Church Council must be made before the meeting on March 20<sup>th</sup> at 9.30 am to Rev David Jones.

*David Jones*

## Sarah McQuaid at the Club

Just under 30 people attended the Sarah McQuaid gig at the Club on 3rd February, and enjoyed an interesting selection of songs, stories, instruments and electronic looping wizardry to show off her distinctive voice. Thanks to Applause Rural Touring subsidising half the artist's fee, Hunton Music may have made a small surplus on this event which almost exactly balances the small loss we made on the November gig. And many thanks to Phil for manning the Club Bar, and dealing with many enthusiastic patrons...

We now have a third and final gig of this season, back at the Village Hall on Friday 1st April. This will be part of a three-week Spring tour to promote the duo's third album, Ink of the Rosy Morning, and we hope that you will continue to support live music in Hunton.

*Mike Summersgill*

## Chainhurst Egg Factory – Another Update

After we all thought the transformation of Chainhurst's riverside woodland and pasture areas into an open range chicken farm had gone away, residents on the east side of the village got a letter drop in early February to say that new Documents had been uploaded to the MBC planning website, under MA/20/505751, and that they had 30 days to comment again, if they again wished to.

The new Documents relate to information that MBC requested by a formal Reg.25 notice under the Environmental Impact Assessment regulations, for Fridays to provide greater detail and missing information for the Planners to properly evaluate the submissions. The response took Fridays' consultant three months to provide, although the MBC Notice gave them just 30 days, and includes a revision to the footpaths (now going through the chicken ranges, against all previous comments that they couldn't do that) and a 'biodiversity net gain' report that suggests things will be 15% better than existing habitats in chicken world, along with further technical documents. But no revision to the 2020 documents that said the free range chickens only 'poop' outside 10% of their time, the ammonia extraction fans are in a different location that isn't next to 'ancient woodland' (which was surveyed in November to understand its ecology, when Spring/Summer is the optimal time), and a tepid acknowledgement that they can't fit 192,000 chickens on the site if it's stocked at 2000/ha.

WeLoveChainhurst residents' group are looking at the documents and will be sending round their critique late February and asking people to re-state their objections (or support) by 20<sup>th</sup> March. In the meantime, given that 2021 should have allowed the Consultant to carry out the ecological surveys for a 2nd year (this time without Covid restraints) but didn't, that Avian Flu outbreaks mean that all flocks are now penned into their sheds (so much for 'free range' eggs!) and river pollution by chicken farms in the Wye valley has made national TV news, with river quality now the subject of a Daily Telegraph(!) campaign, one wonders why the message is still not getting home that the River Beult is an SSSI and is already designated as 'poor' chemically and biologically by the EA! Let alone that it floods over its banks in the Winter, right where the diverted/improved footpath is shown.

I'm aware that Linton, Marden & Hunton Parish Councils will be looking at this revised detail in the next weeks and also commenting, and their statements will go up on the MBC page for 20/505751.

*Mike Summersgill, Tree/Pond/Flood Warden*

## Hunton CE Primary School

As part of the Snowdrop Sunday service at St Mary's Church, Hunton CE Primary School children went up to the church, where Iain and Wendy Simmons helped the children spot the snowdrops around the church, whilst engaging in some rich poetry opportunities- all accompanied with some hot chocolate! Additionally, at school, the children carried out some art work and had a go at writing their own poetry. The work the children did was beautifully laid out at the church for the service (see right). Here is a poem inspired by the snowdrops from Jenna in Year 3:

### Snowdrops

*One small bulb wakes up from its sleep,  
It shoots delicately towards the winter sun,  
It's surrounded by the winter's snow,  
Astonished by its new home,  
Dancing in the icy breeze,  
Pure and white as crystals,  
Strong enough to survive the cold,  
But as fragile as bubble wrap,  
THE FIRST SIGN OF SPRING!*



**One of the school's Leading Lights (a group that helps lead and evaluate collective worship within the school) attended the service:**

*In the church we took part in a service, which involved snowdrops growing at this time of the year. There was a mixture of songs around spring and snowdrops which we enjoyed singing. After the hymns, we had a reading from Matthew 6 v25-34. Following this, some selected pupils from the school read out a combination of facts, poems and a prayer. A year 4 girl – Orla- also read a verse from the Bible. The fact I read out about snowdrops was: One of the snowdrops' Greek names was 'Galanthus' meaning 'The Milk Flower'. I enjoyed the service because it was a long time since I was able to read aloud in front of people and I enjoyed this experience.*

*Zaphenath- Year 5.*

This week has really reflected on how lucky the school is to have such a fine community to support us. As well as the Snowdrop Sunday service, a quiz and curry night was held where many of the school and local community attended. We would like to thank everyone involved who organised and attended, strengthening these community links and raising money for the school. Thank you!

## Hannah Sanders & Ben Savage – Hunton Village Hall on Friday April 1<sup>st</sup>, 7.30pm

Since emerging in 2016, Hannah Sanders and Ben Savage have been defying all conventions of style, genre and compartmentalisation. This seemingly unlikely duo have recorded two studio albums, *Before the Sun* (2016) and *Awake* (2018), produced by award-winning producer David Travers-Smith in Toronto, both praised for the crafting and skill of their musical writing and arranging. They have toured the UK, North America and mainland Europe, enrapturing audiences at shows and on festival stages alongside Americana and folk luminaries such as Sarah Jarosz, Martin Simpson, Seth Lakeman and Oh Susanna.

After all, who puts English songs together with mountain dulcimer and dobro? Or incorporates ghost stories, blues, Northumbrian music, electric guitar, Woody Guthrie, murder ballads, Billy Bragg, human seals, old time songs, the Stockholm Archipelago, hangings, Appalachia, new moons, Joan Baez, cowboys, railway journeys, street singers and Cambridge into one mesmerising explanation of their musical philosophy? Not your average acoustic duo, that's for sure. Playful and instinctive, they constantly do the unexpected; yet they do it with such panache and natural chemistry that it makes perfect sense. They are true originals, that's all there is to it. Distinctive. Innovative. Ground-breaking. Unique.

One of their early gigs together was at Hunton Village Hall in May 2016. We were so taken with them that we've been to see them about ten times since at festivals and venues in Kent, but also as far afield as Yorkshire & Shropshire, so we were delighted when they asked to come back to our lovely venue for their third CD release tour this Spring. Benefitting from the wonderful acoustics of our open-ceiling 100 year old Hall, it would be lovely to fill the space with as large an audience as we can, but still in a café-style seating. You can listen to their music, often sung round a single microphone picking up their voices and instruments, by clicking to [www.hannahbenmusic.com](http://www.hannahbenmusic.com). Or more videos by searching for them on YouTube.

Tickets are available through the WeGotTickets link on their website at £12 + Booking Fee, or places can be reserved/paid at £25 a pair via MikeS on 07779-367412 from mid-March.

*Mike Summersgill*

## Film Night Returned to the Hunton Club

After what seemed like forever, we held another film night in Hunton Club on January 25<sup>th</sup>. About 30 people had a very pleasant supper together and then watched the iconic Michael Caine version of *The Italian Job*. The film nights so far have involved a classic film and a suitably appropriate meal but this time the main course was provided by an outside caterer who made us a delicious lasagne, and this was followed by Italian cakes, made by volunteers, and cheeses.

It was much appreciated by all that we could enjoy the company of others for a fun evening again. These evenings are not held regularly but we would welcome more people to come and any suggestions for films that benefit from being watched with others, would be much appreciated.

*Gil Robertson*

## Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

Wednesdays 8 - 11.00pm & Sundays 8 - 10.30 pm

### A note from James Watson our new KCC Community Warden for Hunton

'My name is James Watson and I am the Kent County Council, Community Warden for Hunton, Coxheath, East Farleigh and Headcorn'. Ultimately my role is focused on improving residents' quality of life and allowing their communities to thrive. We want residents to feel safe, to support the elderly and vulnerable, and work with communities to foster a sense of cohesion and wellbeing. This encompasses; conducting welfare visits, signposting residents to charities or agencies or even popping in for a regular catch up, reporting scammers, working with speed watch and helping residents navigate local services, whether it's a foodbank or helping them with finances and general life admin.

This is just a snapshot of my role, every day is different and I am more than happy to be contacted by residents even if you're not sure I'm the right person to help as I will likely be able to point you in the right direction if I cannot help!

Please do contact me via email, james.watson@kent.gov.uk or my mobile, 07811271021

### Mothering Sunday Service at St. Mary's

On Sunday March 27<sup>th</sup> at St Mary's we will be holding a special Mothering Sunday service for the whole family but especially remembering mothers. The service will be at 9.30am and everyone is welcome. (Please note that it is not one of Hunton's regular Sunday services and the usual Family Service the week before, will also now be our Annual Parochial Church Meeting at 9.30am.)

*David Jones*

### Hunton C of E Primary School PTA curry/quiz night

Thank You! - The sold-out Hunton PTA curry/quiz night on 5<sup>th</sup> February at the village hall was a tremendous success! We managed to raise a staggering £1,385!!! This will help to provide the school with new I-Pads for the children.

We would like to thank all of you who came for your amazing generosity - it was particularly special to be supported by so many of the Hunton village community, even those without children at the school.

We would like to say a huge thank you to Phil Nichols for volunteering his time and skills to be our fabulous Quiz Master and to both Mackley Construction Ltd for their generous donation to our raffle and to Richard Martin for providing the extra alcohol.

Also, a big thank you to Kashmir Kitchen for their sumptuous curry (they can be found at Loddington Farm every Wednesday night for sit down or take away curry so please pay them a visit if you haven't already) and to all those who brought desserts for our raffle. Many congratulations to the winning team OMC! We look forward to seeing you all again next year!!

*Fiona Dolman*

### SAVE THE DATE – SUNDAY 5<sup>th</sup> JUNE BIG JUBILEE LUNCH



Save the date for Hunton's very own Big Jubilee Lunch. This special event will take place on Sunday 5 June from 12 noon and everyone is welcome.

Watch this space as more details will follow here in The Herald and also on Hunton's Facebook page.

### Church up-date

The question everyone is asking is, 'When will a new Rector be appointed?' The answer is, 'not yet!' Appointing a new incumbent is a lengthy process. The wheels are now turning; slowly but gaining momentum. Churchwardens and representatives, of all five churches in the Benefice, met together to create a 'Parish Profile'. This explains the characteristics of each village and the vision that we have for a Rector. A representative from each parish has been appointed to take the process forward; this group has met with the Patron and Archdeacon. The advertisement was finalised in early February, and a date has been set for the interview process in early May. There is quite a gap between advertising and interviewing because it has been very difficult to find a date when everyone is available. We will keep you informed.

*Wendy Simmons, Representative for Hunton.*

#### Benefice Service Rota – March 2022

	6 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>	27th- Mothering Sunday
Coxheath 11:00 am	Communion - DJ	Morning Worship - BP/LF	Communion DJ	Morning Worship - LF + MU Ladies
East Farleigh 9:30 am	Morning Worship SE/BW		Communion	
West Farleigh 9:30 am		Communion DJ		Morning Worship with East Farleigh
Hunton 9:30 am	Communion LF		Morning Worship (+APCM) DJ	Family Service - DJ
Linton 9:30 am		Morning Worship LF		Communion - LF
Coxheath	Every Thursday, 10:00 - BCP Holy Communion			
Linton	Last Wednesday of each month, 12:00 noon, BCP Holy Communion (followed by Lunch)			
HC Holy Communion, MP Morning Prayer, FS Family Service, LF – Lorna Faulkner, DJ– David Jones, BP - Becky Parnham, SE - Sue Elliott				

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