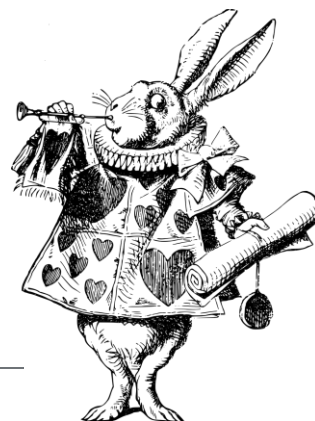


# THE HARE

NEWSLETTER FOR THE VILLAGES OF  
HEVENINGHAM, HUNTINGFIELD AND UBBESTON



## Issue 108: February – March 2025

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The Hare is delivered to all residents and businesses in Huntingfield, Heveningham and Ubbeston free of charge. It is also available on the village website (see below). If you live outside the area and would like a hard-copy of the Hare then we request a £10 annual donation towards printing and postage. The Huntingfield Hare is financed through advertising - so please support our advertisers whenever you can.

#### Contact the Hare:

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#### Find us online:

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*The Hare is always looking for ideas and articles. Whether this be something relevant to your village or locality, or just something in which you have an interest and would like to share with others, then please contact us. We would welcome your input.*

### Move over Latitude...



You heard it here first!

**Huntingfield will, this year, be hosting its very first festival on the Millennium Green.**

An intrepid group of individuals are currently working on plans for an exciting August day of music and fun, with lots of local bands, stalls, street food and a real ale bar.

It should be a great event so please save the date and, if you are able to help, out please contact them via email at

[huntingfieldhubfest@gmail.com](mailto:huntingfieldhubfest@gmail.com)

If we can make this a success, it could become an annual event!

### Local unrest

It would be surprising if you haven't heard about the local concerns regarding the development of the Wilderness Reserve's Blyth Barn (at the end of Laundry Lane) as an entertainment complex designed for weddings, corporate hospitality and similar events with a capacity for almost 300 people seated. For some time, we were all under the impression from information given by the Wilderness Reserve representatives that the accommodation was designed as three separate holiday lets for guests looking for a quiet and peaceful retreat. Hence there has, so far, been little objection to the development despite its proximity to the village. Perhaps we have been too naive? It was a bolt from the blue to hear the change of plan.

The application for a premises licence saw a large number of locals objecting, who then attended the resultant Licencing Authority hearing. Sadly (for some), the licence was granted. As we go to print, a retrospective planning application for the change of use is in the system. Sign up to our Community Facebook page for updates. Meanwhile, if you missed out on the licence hearing there is a blow by blow (and very entertaining) account of the proceedings on p 6.

**Don't forget, if you want to have your say on this or any other issue you feel strongly about then The Hare is here to publish your comments (and you can remain anonymous if preferred...)**

**We have a new advertiser... Xus Engineering & IT Services (p 3) are offering a range of services so if you are struggling with your tech or electronics, as with all our advertisers, please do support them where you can.**

## Arms Events

After a jolly successful Burn's Night, planning for events later in the year is very much in the thinking pot. New themed food nights, live music and entertainment/ dinner dates are being added regularly so keep checking our weekly email.

Our January special "Catch 22" proved popular, but don't fret if you've missed it as February brings a new offer "Pies and shine, it's dessert time"! You can have pie of the day plus a dessert for only £15.

March entertainment kicks off with the jazz singer Olivia Castle and pianist plus a 2 course dinner at The Hub which is now fully booked but, as with all our events, let us know if you would like to go on the waiting list as we do get cancellations.



On the food front we have a help yourself Chinese buffet on 13<sup>th</sup> February (also fully booked). There are some places available for the Vegetarian

Buffet on 20<sup>th</sup> March. We are also now taking bookings for Mothers Day on 30<sup>th</sup> March. As well as dining in we are offering a takeaway afternoon tea which includes sandwiches, sausage rolls, cakes and a cream tea. Contact us for more information.

Given how time is flying by it won't be long before we're enjoying some live music on the Green again. Two for June are Table 9 on 15<sup>th</sup> playing some classic tunes followed on 22<sup>nd</sup> with some folk, blues and country from Black Deek Band. On 6<sup>th</sup> July we also have singer/songwriter Alex Asher. Get these dates in your diary and join us for a Sunday afternoon in the sun!?!

Finally, don't forget our Charity Quiz nights. So we don't conflict with others we have decided to move this to first Tuesday of every month rather than Thursday. Upcoming dates are on the back page.

Sara & Steve

01986 798320, [huntingfieldarms@icloud.com](mailto:huntingfieldarms@icloud.com)

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All proceeds to The Hub Charity No. 1167467

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## Brunch is back...

Don't forget that the Hub Brunch is back on the fourth Saturday of every month, 10-11am. £7 for adults and £3 for children. Come along for a full English treat!

## Sheep Talk...

After a very quiet Christmas and New Year things are now back to a normal routine. Also, it's noticeable how much lighter the evenings are becoming.

The annual cycle is starting all over again. The rams came out from the ladies two weeks ago and are all now relaxing in their bachelor group. They are getting extra feed to build them back up after their eight weeks of work. So, the next big event is scanning the ladies. It's always an exciting few days when we get to find out how many lambs are being carried by each ewe and, therefore, how many lambs we're expecting to be born. Their due date is 24<sup>th</sup> March. However, one



of the ladies couldn't wait that long. On my Saturday morning check, I found a little surprise, and a very proud mum! Only two months earlier than everyone else. Obviously, the ram that was under treatment for lameness back at the farm was not as bad as he made out...

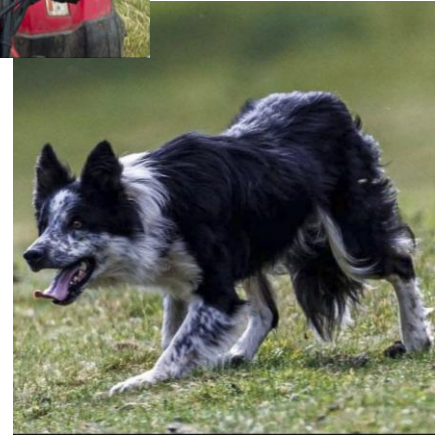
Just a quick note for anyone walking near the ladies, please keep dogs on a lead and under control whilst walking. The ladies are now at the stage of pregnancy where they need to be kept quiet and calm. I have to say, I'm always pleased at how responsible the local dog walkers are when around the stock.

Also, as the sheep get heavier in lamb, they become prone to getting stuck, either on their side, or on their back. Once in this position they can't correct themselves. If you see one like this, please let me know. Alternatively, just roll her back over onto her tummy. They normally jump up and run away, but occasionally they do wobble and fall over again.

Lameness is still continuing to be a problem here at Heveningham (and nationwide). Affected sheep are either treated out in the field or brought back to the farm for more intensive treatment. Lots of pedicures and foot soaks for the ladies in question. The hard frosts have worsened the occurrence of foot problems so some drier ground conditions will help bring things under control.



Elgwys Tweed (*right*). He was the North Wales Reserve Nursery Champion in 2022. Jazz is now on light duties and is rather frustrated at watching the other dogs do her job!  
*Lucy*



Fingers crossed I will have a new team member joining the dogs in a few weeks. My Jazz is due to have pups at the end of February. The sire of the pups is a rather handsome boy, by the name of

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## Huntingfield Plant Sale 2025 News


We have revised the date for this year's Huntingfield Plant Sale, which will now take place at The Hub on the morning of Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2025 - details to follow nearer the time.

Many thanks to those who are/will soon be sowing seeds and/or bringing on plants for donation, as well as those leaving empty plant pots at The Hub.


This year we are also planning to have a gardening bric a brac/garden tool stall for any gardening related items that people would like to donate. It will include tools in usable condition, ceramic pots, ornaments, planters etc.. Please leave any suitable items just inside the gates at Linnet Cottage, IP19 0QP (near St Mary's Church, Huntingfield) or contact Tony Howe on 07484 184487.

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## French Food & Fun Night at the Hub!

7:00pm 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2025  
2 Courses à la carte

Complimentary drink on arrival & BYO  
or  
aller vite à la Arms!

Julie is cycling London to Paris to raise funds for **Dementia UK**.  
All proceeds from the evening to support **Dementia UK**.

In aid of



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Helping families face dementia

Tickets £20.00 per head.  
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## Julie's London - Paris Challenge



The photo shows my Mum who has dementia. Dementia is an umbrella term for a range of progressive disorders that affect the brain. It is a

cruel journey for those affected and their loved ones. It can devastate families. However, help is available nationally and locally.

My Mum lives in Kent and sadly does not have organisations like the Halesworth Dementia Carers Fund locally for support and advice, but I did get absolutely invaluable support and guidance from the brilliant Admiral Nurses of Dementia UK. At a time when my family was in despair, my regular calls and virtual appointments with the Admiral Nurses Team provided much needed support and guidance enabling me to secure the best possible residential care home for my Mum's needs.

To thank the team at Dementia UK and continue with their work to support those with dementia and their families, I have entered the London to Paris Dementia UK Cycle Challenge in June. I will leave from London on 11<sup>th</sup> and arrive in Paris on 14<sup>th</sup>. There will be between

20 and 40 riders on the challenge. We cycle to Dover on the first day and get the ferry across the channel. It is then another three gruelling days riding through the medieval market towns and small villages of Northern France. These will be long days in the saddle with strenuous hill climbs along the way! Hence you will frequently see me on my bike from the end of February as I complete the 15-week training schedule.



I am seeking donations and either the QR code or link below will take you to my fundraising page. I am also arranging a fun evening in the Hub on 22<sup>nd</sup> March (p 4) to raise additional funds. The evening will include music, food and a raffle with further details to be advised in the coming weeks – watch out for the flyers through your letterbox and posters around our villages. All proceeds will go to Dementia UK and be reported in a future edition of The Hare.

<https://dal2pjun25.enthuse.com/pf/julie-watson>



Thank you for reading this and please be assured I am very grateful for any support you may give.

*Julie Watson*



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# The Peasants Revolt!



With revolution in the air and following careful strategic planning, 23 of the good residents of Huntingfield submitted written representations in (what we thought to be) opposition of an application made for a Premises Licence for Blyth Barn, Laundry Lane. The licence was for the sale of alcohol 24/7, loud.... sorry, live and recorded music until 1.00am and service of food until 5.00am.

The license was to be for corporate events, weddings and educational courses (on how to have a good party, no doubt). Blyth Barn, at the end of Laundry Lane, is what we know to be Valley Farm. The Wilderness Reserve obtained planning permission to turn four agricultural buildings at Valley farm into three self-contained holiday lets for TOURIST USE ONLY 2½ years ago, in July 2022. Blyth Barn doesn't actually exist and has not been built (to my knowledge.... and no-one wants to be the wrong side of planning regulations?).

As we had submitted written representations a hearing was necessary as a successful premises license application using the online form submission was not possible. So, on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January, 23 of the good residents of Huntingfield trotted *en mass* to the East Suffolk Council offices in Melton. The large room used for the hearing was set up in a way which allowed the Applicants (Wilderness Reserve) to sit at a desk opposite the three members of the panel who heard the application. Other licensing bods were over to one side along with their legal advisor. The three Applicants consisted of their barrister, their expert (in how sound carries), and Matt Bostock, the Project Manager for Wilderness Reserve. The peasants were ordered to sit at the back of the room in what appeared to be a 'public gallery', behind the main proceedings. We felt not a part of the proceedings, but ancillary to them.

The meeting began with a representation from their barrister. For well over an hour, we listened to him say in as many ways as possible, "you need to grant us this license" without actually using those words. He described all the benefits that the private Blyth Barn party pad would bring to the Huntingfield residents including the creation of jobs. (Do we need jobs?) He said that there would only be a little bit of noise disturbance, nothing unreasonable. Throughout this nauseating dialogue the peasants could be heard tutting and gasping at some of the incredulous assertions made. The Chair of the Licensing Committee warned us that tittering would not be tolerated.

We then had to sit through a further 40 minutes of rhetoric from their 'expert' witness: the sound 'expert'.

## Mobile Library



The monthly mobile library stops at Huntingfield Hub on Tuesdays at 15.00-15.20. Upcoming dates are 18<sup>th</sup> February and 18<sup>th</sup> March.

Details can also be found online at: <https://www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/mobile-library-route/leiston-mobile-library-route-13>

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He tried to persuade the committee that they had a comprehensive management plan to keep all external sound to just a little bit, along with sophisticated equipment that closed windows and doors after a certain time and alerted staff if they were opened again. Any sound flowing over to the peasants homes would only be... a little bit. The muffled noises from the peasants at that point were also only a 'little bit'. The Chair repeated that our turn would come soon.

At the end of a very long afternoon, we were finally given a few remaining minutes to make our representations. However, the Chair and legal advisor to the panel consistently warned us that we must not say anything that did not fall into the four statutory categories of our 'right to reply', e.g. Public Nuisance, Harm to Children, Prevention of Crime and Disorder and Public Safety, otherwise we would be stopped. We were also warned (repeatedly) that we must not repeat anything that had already been said by another, and further warned that they did not want to hear anything about traffic as this was a planning issue. Not, of course that they wanted to deter us from speaking...

I went first and attempted to point out the obvious, urm.... there is no Blyth Barn, or planning permission to build Blyth Barn and should they not be applying for a Provisional Statement under S29 of the Licencing Act 2003? (for buildings that have not been built). This fell on deaf ears. David Blackmore expertly put forward all the objections we had but was constantly stopped for any (little bit of) straying outside our allowable remit.

Other peasants trouped up to say their bit, emotional and impassioned but severely curtailed to fit into the

Chair's expressed criteria designed to control the 23 peasants looming menacingly at the back of the room. The barrister summed up, and in doing so referred to our meagre representation as lacking in any facts. (More gasps from the peasants.) As we did not have any right to defend or reply, there was no opportunity to make reference to the factual reality of making an application for a license for premises that did not actually exist.

At 6.00pm we had sat in silence (apart from a little bit of gasping and tutting), severely constrained from the opportunity to reply to the Applicants representations for four hours. There was no right to defend. No right to reply. Only the opportunity to make some narrow representations. We picked up our pitch forks and quietly filed out, feeling gloomy and despondent.

The committee adjourned to deliberate and returned at 7.30pm for the result which we watched on YouTube in the comfort of our homes. It wasn't the result that we wanted but at least we could yell, gasp and curse without being stopped. My dog ran to his bed, and took his "I know I've been naughty" position, "damn, did you discover the chewed glove", after I cursed loudly. I explained to the dog that it wasn't his fault, but he's a dog and doesn't understand. But for everyone who does understand, this wasn't our fault. We did our best. We were there, we were united and we showed unity and strength. We were organised and as prepared as we could possibly be, and we will be there to do the same for the next Application. Planning.

*Name and address supplied (depending on who's asking.)*

## Hundred Club

The 100 Club's aim is to raise £600 a year to help with the upkeep and maintenance of the Huntingfield Millennium Green and Wild Flower Meadow. 100 people each pay £12 a year to enter the monthly draw of 3 numbers. First prize is £30, £15 second and £5 for third. Many thanks to all subscribers.

### November

1st Mel Pike  
2nd Febus Roe  
3rd Billie Holmes

### December

1st Anne Oldham  
2nd Jo Palmieri  
3rd Ginny Bushell

Sue Brewer, 07885 541587 [susanmbrewer@mac.com](mailto:susanmbrewer@mac.com)



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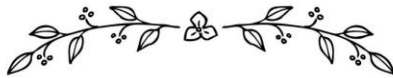
# Coming Soon!

## TO FIRE FEAST

**Spring Workshops ...**

- Mar 21st: Woodfire Cooking - The Basics Workshop
- Mar 22nd: Woodfire Cooking II - The Ember Edition
- Mar 23rd: Spoon Carving and Supper
- Apr 27th: Folk Painting and Supper
- May 17th: Foray & Fire Cooking

**If you're looking for unique gift ideas we offer vouchers for all of our workshops & events as well as summer dining & cafe**



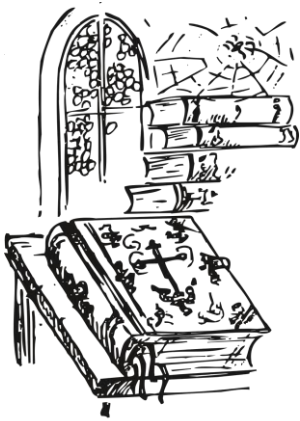
### Local Calendars sold!



Thank you to all those who purchased my calendar this year. You have helped to raise £80 towards to cost of producing The Hare. I am hoping to create something similar next year!

Helen Cannon, 01986 799103,  
[hcannon50@gmail.com](mailto:hcannon50@gmail.com)

### Church Chat



The Parochial Church Council invites you to their Annual Meeting to review the church finances and for the election of the Church Warden on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March at 6pm in the church.

**Are you interested in local village history?**

The evening will commence at 6pm with an opportunity to look at some of the Historical Books and documents owned by Huntingfield Church:

- Baptism Book** given by Rev. William Holland in 1886 and still in use today,
- The Village Burial Book** and pictures from the Archives

The APCM will commence at 6.30pm for approximately 30 minutes.

Everyone is welcome.

*Sally Clarke*

### Physiotherapy Clinics coming soon to Huntingfield Hub!

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## David's Column

You can read elsewhere in this issue of The Hare details of our attempts to prevent the granting of the 24-hour Alcohol Licence for Valley Farm (Blyth Barns). I would just like to add that it was a proud moment for our village when over 20 people travelled to Melton to try to protect Huntingfield. We tried our best, but we were outgunned; the licence was granted with the only conditions being those that Wilderness Reserve themselves had suggested.

We may have lost the battle, but the war is not over. Wilderness has now submitted a retrospective planning application for the construction of the party venue. This is to be (or was) discussed at a Parish Council meeting on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January. We would like to keep villagers up to date with the planning process via the Huntingfield Community Facebook page. We do, however, feel uncomfortable doing so if other users are posting vitriolic personal comments. Can I ask all users just to modify their language during what I know is, an emotional time for us all.

At our last PC meeting we agreed our budget for 2025. By trimming our budgeted expenditure in other areas, we were able to commit to supporting The Hub with a £500 donation without increasing the Parish Council share of the Council Tax that the villagers have to pay.



On behalf of the PC, I agreed to contact local drainage contractor, Les Cotton for advice on the persistently blocked drain on Brick Kiln Lane that causes water to flood the road down to the centre of the village. He told me this is locally a common

problem where ditches run into pipes. His only suggestion, and one that he gives to all the farmers, was that we should clean the grill over the entrance to the pipe once a week. A simple and cost-effective solution. **Volunteers please!**

Finally, I would draw your attention to another item in this edition: Hubfest ( p 1) is being organised as a village fundraising event to secure the financial future of The Hub. Please do not plan to go away over the weekend of 23<sup>rd</sup> August as we need you to either come along and enjoy the day or to help out. Again, **volunteers please.**

*David Blackmore, Chair, Huntingfield Parish Council*

## Petanque

It seems a long time ago now, but at our AGM on 1<sup>st</sup> December, I was elected as Captain for another year, with David Blackmore remaining as

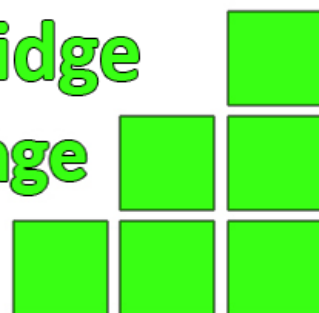


Vice-captain. This year the Cliff Spencer Memorial Shield went to Dunstan Moore. Well done Dunstan - his first year in the club and he wins the Knock-out competition!

The two teams playing in the Winter League are having different results at the moment! The Hares are currently at the top of Division 3 while the Hounds are sitting joint 3<sup>rd</sup> in Division 4. There are several more games to play and we know things can always change in this game! Once again, we will be entering a team in the Summer League and should be in Division 3. We look forward to the captain's meeting in February to see our fixture list.

*Julie Collett, Captain*

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## History Corner:



Photograph: sales catalogue Ubbeston Hall 1936

I came across this poignant letter a few years ago in the Suffolk Archives, now

The Hold, ref: SRO FC69/G9/16 Acc. 962. A desperate woman writes to the overseers of the parish requesting financial help.

*For the overseers of Ubbeston to be left at Ubbeston Hall in the County of Suffolk, Westbank? July 30 1826*

*I Mrs Watson am onder the nisety of whrighting these few lines to you to in form you how bad i am of at This present and i hope that you will be My frend for i have one years rent to pay at Micklemis and i have bean to work part of the sumer to pay a skoo bill and they want all --- cloths and i hope you will pay my rent for me if you pleas for when I did go to work I had to pay 6d a day for the child then if one years rent don't --- I hope that you will pay it for me for I expect To be sold up then so i hope you will do something for me and send me an answer if you pleas so no more from your humble servant the Widow Watson. Send the answer to me if you pleas for-I don't like to be at no trouble. So excuse me not calling yor name for I do not know it.*

How common would it have been for someone like Widow Watson in remote Ubbeston to put her child through school in 1826? (She obviously had some schooling herself.) Or has she fallen on hard times since being a widow and it was something they could afford when her husband was alive? There were a number of dame schools in neighbouring Laxfield. I couldn't find any details about the family so I don't know how the husband earned his living.



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I posed the above questions to Dr Nick Sign, who has done considerable research on the history of education and this is how he responded:

*'...my hunch would be that Widow Watson sent her child to school while her husband was alive and providing the necessary income but as for so many before the age of National Insurance and pensions, she was finding it all nearly too much on her own. She expects to be 'sold up' which suggests her husband owned either a house or a business (even if in rented premises) which could have given them enough to spend on a luxury item like educating their child.*

*'It was not very common for the lower classes to be educated. In 1833 a survey by parish overseers showed 8,000 children in 187 places or 22% of Suffolk's children went to school (Peter Northeast, 'The Provision of Elementary Education in Nineteenth Century Rural Suffolk', Suffolk Review, Summer 1981). '*

*Thus you could say that the Watsons were unusual in 1826.'*

*Lynne Ward.*

*Laxfield & District Museum will open again for the 2025 season on Good Friday.*

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## Nature Notes

Listening to a splendid Song Thrush singing, and a Great Spotted Woodpecker drumming this week had me wondering, has spring already arrived? The Vernal, or Spring Equinox, on 20<sup>th</sup> March which is officially the astronomical start of spring is still some weeks away. Even the meteorological beginning of spring on 1<sup>st</sup> March is a month ahead. Technically, we are at mid-winter and have certainly seen some recent cold weather, including several frosty mornings.



Even so, several other early indicators of spring are already appearing locally, including Snowdrops starting to bloom, Hazel catkins, Rooks gathering at their

communal nest sites, pairs of Hares chasing each other in local fields and even a bumblebee flying in our garden.

It seems likely that some of these phenomena are due, in part, to global warming. Although we have had a few icy mornings our winters are generally not as cold. The bleak midwinters with earth as hard as iron that we sang about at Christmas just don't happen anymore. Winters such as 1962/3 and 1947 saw Huntingfield's tap water completely frozen for weeks. These were exceptionally cold events, but most UK winters before the 1980s saw snow lying on paths for at least a few weeks.

The British Trust for Ornithology's nest record scheme indicates that familiar garden birds such as the Robin, Great Tit, Greenfinch and Dunnock are breeding, on average, ten days earlier than in the 1960s. This is due to the fact that in even slightly warmer winters birds, insects and other animals can feed more easily and expend less energy in keeping warm so they come into breeding condition earlier and hence build nests and lay eggs earlier. The Thrush singing and Woodpecker drumming are audible signs that for local birds nesting is not far away. So do listen out for more birds starting to sing in the next few weeks.

In my last article I mentioned the Giant Redwood tree growing near the church: this spectacular species with its soft bark has become associated with a tiny UK bird, the Treecreeper. It's a brown, mouse-like bird which lives its entire life on, or under, tree bark. It has a relatively long down-curved beak which it uses to catch spiders and other insects as it shuffles its way up mature trees. Pairs of this often overlooked species build their nests behind loose sections of bark and never perch on twigs like most other birds.



So, how has this bird become associated with the enormous American trees that were often planted in UK parkland in the 19<sup>th</sup> century? Well, Treecreepers have cleverly noticed that the bark of the Redwood is so soft that they can make a hollow of just the right size for a snug and cosy overnight roost site. Recently, I investigated our local tree after dark

with a torch. I was very lucky and excited to discover a Treecreeper actually roosting in one of these hollows. I managed to quietly and quickly take a picture and left it to enjoy a warm night tucked up in its cosy nook. I wonder now if all mature UK Redwoods play host to these diminutive night time visitors?

Another great tree growing close to the church on the Carnser is this amazing Hornbeam which must be at least 500 years old. It looks ancient with its gnarled bark and hour glass shape, resembling an Ent from the Lord of the Rings. Over centuries this, and other local trees such as Oaks, Ash and Field Maples were



pollarded, a process whereby branches were cut well above ground using saws and, no doubt a ladder. This supplied wood/timber for a multitude of uses, from firewood to house construction. Hornbeam timber itself is exceptionally hard and tough thus it was used to make such items as the teeth for cogs on windmill mechanisms.

The seeds are also very hard and only one UK bird, the Hawfinch, has a strong enough bill to crack them open. This is our largest resident finch, with a distinctive orange colour and an enormous beak. Surprisingly, although there are many Hornbeams in Huntingfield, I don't believe this species has ever been observed in the village. Please let me know if you are lucky enough spot one as they do, on occasion, visit bird feeders.

*Tony Howe 01986 785429.*

## Bicycle Maintenance Station & Course

Back in October the village was lucky enough to be able to install a bicycle maintenance station thanks to the Parish Council. The station is situated at the front of the hub and consists of a bike support stand and the following tools:

- Hex key set
- phillips screwdriver
- flat screwdriver
- T25 Torx screwdriver
- adjustable spanner
- flat wrench 8×10 mm
- flat wrench 13×15 mm
- tyre levers
- Integrated pump with pressure gauge up to 10 bar
- Schrader and presta valve for all bike types



This is everything you need to carry out basic maintenance on your bicycle.

To encourage villagers to use this facility, there will be a short introductory course on basic bicycle maintenance at the Hub on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April 10:00am – 12 noon for anyone who is interested. If you have a bike that needs a service, please bring it along and you will be shown what you need to do.

*Edward Watson*

## orchid fitness



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## St Margaret's Church, Heveningham with Ubbeston



Welcome to 2025 and how is it already at the end of January? I always find January to be a month to think of new beginnings. A time to

reflect on the past year and to see what we can improve on, do the same or try something new.

Looking back on last year, it was lovely to see our goal of holding some social events in the church paying off and we were delighted that our first Christmas craft market was a success. This year we hope to hold a couple of bigger events and will soon be putting on our thinking caps for some new and bright ideas as well as continuing with the monthly coffee mornings and table sales and, hopefully, a few extra craft markets.



Another celebration from last year was being awarded the A Rocha UK Eco Church Silver award. A Rocha UK is a Christian charity working to protect and restore the natural world and committed to equipping Christians and churches in the UK to care for the environment. This has been quite a proud moment for me as, just over a year ago, we struggled to reach a Bronze award. However, with the dedication of our PCC members helping to make changes within our church, I am delighted that we now have the Silver Award.

Part of the process was changing all our lights to low energy LED bulbs, reducing printing, signs to remind us to switch off lights and reducing the use of disposable cups. We allow the churchyard to grow wild over the summer months, resulting in a wonderful display of wild flowers, butterflies and birds. You will all know by now about our beehives and I hope this year will be as successful as the last for our honey. We do our best to recycle and compost and we have encouraged recycling via our table sales, boot sale and our bring and buy produce market. I'm hoping to take on an allotment this year and have high hopes of growing

vegetables and flowers for the church. (I'm not a gardener so we shall see how I get on!)

So, I'm really looking forward to continuing with this in 2025 and I hope you will continue to offer your support. The church is open daily, it's a wonderful place to just sit and ponder or take a walk around the Glebe and churchyard.

Our next service is Traditional Holy Communion on 9<sup>th</sup> February. Our coffee mornings will resume in March so please check social media for dates.

If you would like to be added to our email newsletter, please get in touch.

*With thanks, Jeanette*

01986 798280. [stmargaretchurch11@gmail.com](mailto:stmargaretchurch11@gmail.com)

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[zumba-eileen@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:zumba-eileen@hotmail.co.uk)

### Date for your diary...

The joint AGM for the Hub & Millennium Green will take place on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2025 starting at 7pm. Please save the date and we would love to see you there!



## Your Parish Council

### Ubbeston Parish Council



The most recent meeting of the Parish Council took place on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025. Draft minutes from the meeting can be viewed on the Parish Council website. Apologies were received from District and County Councillors. Their full reports can be viewed on the website.

A prevention of General and Sexual Harassment in the workplace policy has been adopted by the parish council. This can be viewed on the website and on the Parish Council noticeboard which is situated at the bus stop in Ubbeston.

The thermal imaging project, 'Keep the Heat', is now underway and there is still the opportunity for local residents to have a heat-loss survey carried out on their properties. Please contact the Clerk to find out more and to express interest in your property being included in this survey. Availability runs until Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is due to take place on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7pm in The Hub at Huntingfield. Items on the agenda for the meeting include Information on Grit Bins from Suffolk Highways and ANPR data received from Suffolk County Council. All residents are welcome to attend.

Angela Colbridge, [ubbestonclerk@gmail.com](mailto:ubbestonclerk@gmail.com)

### Heveningham Parish Council



The most recent meeting of the Parish Council took place on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025. Draft minutes from the meeting will be available on the website and on the Parish Council noticeboard situated in The Street. Apologies were received from District and County Councillors. Their full reports can be viewed on the website.

The thermal imaging project, 'Keep the Heat', is now active and there is still the opportunity for local residents to have a heat-loss survey carried out on their properties. There is availability until 11<sup>th</sup> February. Please contact the Clerk to find out more and to express interest in your property being included.

Bulbs received from East Suffolk Council as part of the Spring Bulb Scheme 2024/25 have been planted by councillors in the village and should provide a nice display for all to see over the coming months.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is due to take place on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7pm in The Hub. Agenda items to include: appointment of Internal Auditor for the financial year 2024/25; adoption of Prevention of General and Sexual Harassment in the Workplace policy; Review of the Model Publications. All residents are welcome to attend.

Angela Colbridge, [heveninghamclerk@gmail.com](mailto:heveninghamclerk@gmail.com)

## Advertising in The Hare



Since moving up to 16 pages The Hare is looking for some new advertisers in order to keep our costs down and to allow us to distribute the newsletter free of charge to residents of the three villages. The cost for a full year (6 issues) is very reasonable:

Eighth page	£35	Quarter page	£60
Half page	£75	Full page	£100

The current distribution includes 200 hard copies delivered to all residents of Heveningham, Huntingfield and Ubbeston, email distribution to a request list and online distribution to social media and village websites.

If you are interested in advertising to the local community, please email [huntingfieldhare@gmail.com](mailto:huntingfieldhare@gmail.com).

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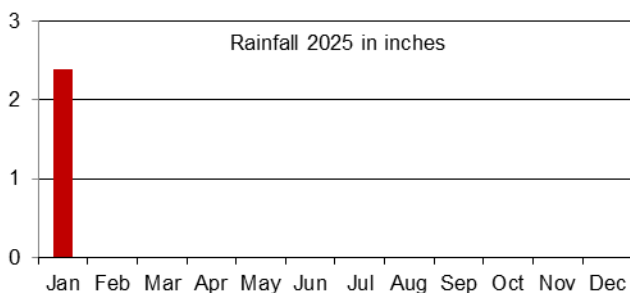
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## Weather report: Dec. 24 – Jan. 25



December 2024 and most of January 2025 have come and gone already. So, what's been happening? Needless to say, the theme of overcast skies still continues. I think last year was one of the duller on record for a while judging by the amount of electricity produced by my solar panels. At least the 'storms' of January have allowed a little more sunshine and, of course stronger winds. The last two storms occurred as a result of some very cold weather over North America meeting much warmer air over the Atlantic Ocean which created a very strong Jet Stream. - thus forcing a series of very low-pressure areas towards the UK. These were storm Eowyn and storm Herminia, just two of five named storms to affect the UK already this year. Having said that, we in the east have missed the worst winds and rainfall by far. The strongest gust of wind I have recorded here just recently was 49mph, but even that is enough to cause some damage.

Rainfall totals for December 2024 were 1.79" (45.5mm) and for 2024 as a whole 30.91 (785mm) fell, which is well above the average since 1991. For January 2025 the rain total, up to 16:00 on the 28<sup>th</sup> was 2.39" (60.71mm) and cumulatively, for Dec 24 and Jan 25 the total was 6.61" (167.9mm). Broadly speaking, the total rain for January this year is about the same as last year, as there are still a few days of the month left.



What of the next two months coming? Given the current patterns of weather, I don't think there will be any great changes, but we shall just have to wait and see.

*Richard Tyler*

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# What's on – dates for your diary

## February

4<sup>th</sup> Charity Quiz Night, The Arms, p 2  
9<sup>th</sup> Service at St Margaret's, p 13  
13<sup>th</sup> Chinese Buffet, The Arms, p 2  
18<sup>th</sup> Mobile Library, p 6  
22<sup>nd</sup> Brunch at The Hub, 10-11am

## March

1<sup>st</sup> March, Jazz Supper, p 2  
4<sup>th</sup> Charity Quiz Night, The Arms, p 2  
10<sup>th</sup> Ubbeston PC, The Hub, 7pm  
12<sup>th</sup> Huntingfield PC, The Hub, 7pm  
19<sup>th</sup> Heveningham PC, The Hub, 7pm  
18<sup>th</sup> Mobile Library, p 6  
20<sup>th</sup> Vegetarian Buffet, The Arms, p 2  
22<sup>nd</sup> Brunch at The Hub 10-11am  
22<sup>nd</sup> French Food Night, p 4  
23<sup>rd</sup> Book Bonanza, Table Top Sale, p 15  
26<sup>th</sup> St Mary's APCM, 6pm, p 8  
29<sup>th</sup> Music Bingo, p 2

## Regular events at The Hub

Kids Club Every second Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> February, 7<sup>th</sup> March, The Hub, 4-5.30pm  
Youth Club Every other Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> February, 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> March, The Hub, 7-8.30pm  
Orchid Fitness Pilates Thursday a.m. (see advert on p 12)  
Pilates Body Harmony Monday 6-7pm & Friday 6-6.45pm, The Hub (see advert on p 7)  
Yoga Tuesday, 6.30-7.30pm, £7 per class. (Contact Hayley 07776 184943)  
Tai Chi Monday, 2-3pm (contact Cindy Engel, [cindywildhealth@gmail.com](mailto:cindywildhealth@gmail.com))  
Zumba Every Thursday, 11am-noon, £7 per PAYG session (see advert on page 13)  
Relaxation Class with SarahLou Third Monday of the month, £15 pay as you go. £50 for the 4 sessions

## Upcoming Events

4<sup>th</sup> April, Easter Egg Hunt for Kids Club & Youth Club  
12<sup>th</sup> April, Bike Maintenance Course, p 12  
18<sup>th</sup> May, Annual Plant Sale, p 4  
11<sup>th</sup> June, Joint AGM for The Hub and Millennium Green, p 13  
19<sup>th</sup> July, Millennium Green 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, p 12  
23<sup>rd</sup> August, Hubfest, p 1

## Parish Councils \*

### Heveningham

Chair: Cllr. Sam Fairs  
Clerk: Angela Colbridge [heveninghamclerk@gmail.com](mailto:heveninghamclerk@gmail.com)

### Huntingfield

Chair: Cllr. David Blackmore  
Clerk: Carol Hume [huntingfieldclerk@gmail.com](mailto:huntingfieldclerk@gmail.com)

### Ubbeston

Chair: Cllr. Carl Walker  
Clerk: Angela Colbridge [ubbestonclerk@outlook.com](mailto:ubbestonclerk@outlook.com)

## Parochial Church Council

### Churchwarden:

Emma Ward, Huntingfield

### PCC Members:

David Blackmore, Huntingfield  
Sally Clarke (Secretary), Huntingfield  
Tony Morelli (Treasurer), Huntingfield

## Three Villages Youth Project Committee (3VYP):

Charlie Yule (Rep. Young Writers & Youth Club)  
Mark Hitchings (Rep. Kids Club)  
Kat Bailey (Rep. Baby & Toddler Group)  
Louise Ferrario (Rep. Eco Warriors).  
Linda Hitchings - 3VYP Treasurer.

## Millennium Green Trustees\*

### Acting Chair:

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### Treasurer & Secretary:

Jim Wardale Burin Barn 798393  
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Sally-Jane Ellis Manor Farm  
Sheila Freeman The Longhouse 798774  
Christopher Jenkins Towranna Farm  
Dunstan Moore Hill Farm Barn 798962

## The Hub \*

Web: [www.hub4all.org](http://www.hub4all.org).

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Phone: 07944 056923

### Trustees

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\* Unless specified phone numbers are prefixed 01986.