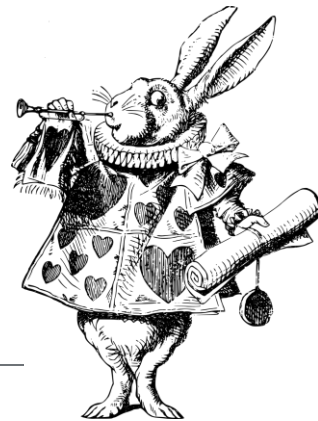


THE HARE

NEWSLETTER FOR THE VILLAGES OF
HEVENINGHAM, HUNTINGFIELD AND UBBESTON



Issue 109: April – May 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.

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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.

PLANT SALE
Sunday 18th May
10am - 1pm

Wide variety of plants available including:

- ✓ Annuals
- ✓ Perennials
- ✓ Vegetables

Card Payments Accepted
Refreshments available

Find us:
Huntingfield Hub, Brick Kiln Lane,
Huntingfield,
IP19 0QH
www.hub4all.org/millennium-green

Scan Me for info:

In aid of Huntingfield Millennium Green Charity Number: 1162597 A donation will also be made to East Anglia's Children's Hospices.

AGMs



The Hub and Millennium Green Trustees are pleased to announce that their AGMs will take place on the evening of Wednesday 11th June starting at 7:00pm in the Hub. The Millennium Green will be first, followed by the Hub AGM at approx. 7:30pm.

There will be a glass of wine and nibbles on offer. Please come along as we value your feedback and ideas.

Trustees of the Millennium Green & The Hub

Hubfest update!

Preparations are underway for Huntingfield's very first music festival on the 23rd August. This is going to be an exciting, action-packed event with some quality music from our local pool of musical talent. We can confirm that the following bands will be playing: Black Deek, The Blyth River Blues Band, The Backwoods Band, Halesworth Ukulele Band, Differential and Matt & Jon. In addition, we will be having an excellent display of dance from the Rumburgh Morris dancers.

There will be children's entertainment, various stalls, street food, café, barbecue, and the Huntingfield Arms will host a bar with some of Suffolk's finest real

ales. The event starts at 2.00pm and will finish around 10.00pm. If there is only one date that you will save this year make it this one. You won't regret it!

The HUBFEST team.

BOOK & TABLE TOP Sale

Sunday 6th April
10am - 2pm
Tea, Coffee & Bacon Rolls available

£5.00 per table
email: enquiries@hub4all.org
or call Julie: 01986 899719

ALL PROCEEDS TO THE HUB CHARITY NO. 1167467

Celebrating Holland Rise – 75 years old!

Quite often we think of Holland Rise as being the “newer” houses in Huntingfield but in actual fact, this year some of them are celebrating their 75th anniversary of construction with the bungalows not far behind on their 50th birthday!

The need for new housing in Huntingfield came about because the cottages in Bridge Street and The Street, which belonged to the Heveningham Hall Estate were being sold and the residents needed to be rehoused. So it was, that in 1950, Holland Rise was born. It was named after Mildred Holland, the vicar’s wife who painted the ceiling in St Mary’s Church.

I recently came across an old Hare article from 2014 in which Marjorie Day (quite a few of you will remember her) who lived there right from the beginning recollected the residents of that time. The first buildings to be constructed were numbers 1-6, those which face the road.

At No. 1 were Billy and Ethel Cutts and their eight children who moved over from Bridge Street. No. 2 housed Charlie and Hilda Mower. Charlie worked as a chauffeur at Heveningham Hall. According to Marjorie’s account, *“Charlie had a Cyclomaster which was like an early example of a moped, you pedalled like mad to get it started, then it ‘drove’ itself. He used to sit outside his house and puff on his pipe and be rather disagreeable to his neighbours.”*

Stanley and Vera Green lived at No. 3 with their two girls, Pamela and Sandra and next door at No. 4 were Margery and Eric Rayner with their son, Brian.

Jack Minter lived with his sister, Jessie Warren, at No. 5 together with his three children, Vera, Dennis and Bernard. Jack’s wife was in a psychiatric hospital where she eventually passed away. Jack was the ‘road man’ who swept the streets. According to Marjorie it was back in the day when you kept ‘cash money’ in the house rather than use a bank. Jack kept it in his grandfather clock and was often heard to say *“They’ve been and cleaned out the clock”*, meaning that the rent man had called!

At No. 6 was Alfred Day, father to Len Day, Marjorie’s husband. He moved from White Horse Farm in Huntingfield with his five boys, Alf, Charlie, John, Robert and Ian.

In 1951 a further 6 houses were built at the back of the site, two being 4-bedroomed for ‘larger’ families. The numbering continued with No. 7 which housed more ex-Bridge Street



residents, Ted and Sally Shaw. Stan Clover and his wife Iris lived at No. 8 with their children Colin and Angela. Stan later lived at the Gatehouse in Laundry Lane.

Marjorie and Len lived at No. 9 with their children, Sandra and Geoffrey. Marjorie lived there until she passed away in 2019.

The first of the larger properties, No. 10, housed James and Ethel Nicholls with their six children. One child, Rhoda, when she married lived on The Street with her husband Malcolm for many years. Next door were Ted and Elizabeth Griffiths with five children. Ted was a fisherman at Lowestoft. He would cycle to Halesworth and catch the train in to work. As he brought back fish for the neighbours he was very popular on the Rise: *“Plaiice bigger than you could fit in your pan”* recalled Marjorie. Previously, they lived at 6 The Street (now Woodside Cottage) and also Temple Cottage which was in the woods of the Heveningham Estate. At No 12 were Ron and Edna Clover with their two children.



There was a long gap before the bungalows were built in 1975. Interestingly, if you’re wondering what happened to No. 13, it was considered unlucky so was missed from the numbering!

No. 14 housed

Alice Rose who originally lived in Bridge Street with her husband Dudley. He was a staunch Labour supporter and attended Labour meetings that took place in the old ‘Hut’. According to Marjorie he got ‘very het up’ at one meeting and sadly died of a heart-attack when he got home.

Next to Alice was a widow, Clara Harvey with her two children, Victor and Bernadine. They had previously lived at Holly Cottage. At this point there was some local shifting round. No. 16 was occupied by Ted and Sally Shaw who moved from No. 7 and Charlie Mower moved into the last bungalow from his home at No. 2, freeing up two houses for new residents.

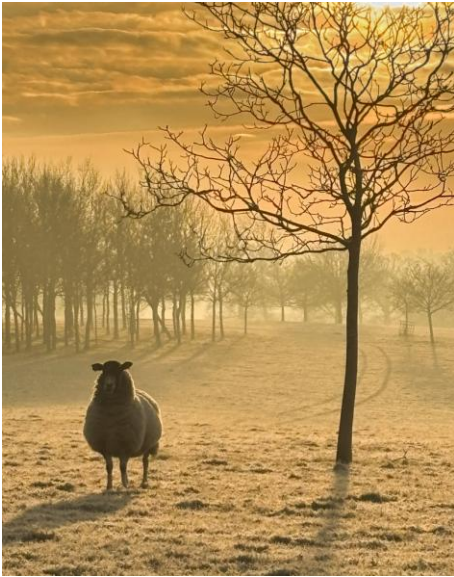


The last two houses to be added in the corner, 7A and 7B were built in the 1990s.

We hope you find this interesting. It has been difficult to source information and pictures of Holland Rise so if you have any recollections or pictures of events on

“The Rise” please share them with us for future issues.

Sheep Talk...



At long last things are starting to warm up and the sun is shining once again, although the frosty mornings have made for some spectacular sunrises over the last few weeks. All being well the grass will soon start to grow a little.

The lack of grazing for the ewes means that they are being given additional feed to see them over the last couple of weeks of pregnancy. This consists of sweet fodder beet and high energy molassed lick buckets. Fingers crossed this will also keep a condition known as "twin lamb disease" at bay. This occurs when the lambs inside the ewe are drawing more energy than the ewe can take in and is usually more common when multiple births are due. The ewes start to show signs of stargazing and being unsteady on their feet. In serious cases they become recumbent and can even die.



As you will have seen, there are quite a few early lambs running around. They were all accidental but have turned out very well. They are all down to a "lame" ram, affectionately known as Skinny Brian. Despite being under treatment for a very infected back foot, he managed to

successfully misbehave with a group of ladies he was with. The result- 86 ewes lambing ahead of schedule! Where there's a will, there's a way.....


The countdown is now on for the official start of lambing. Just another week and the ladies should start popping lambs out. They have all had their pre lambing bottom trim which allows easier identification of lambs

being born in the wrong position. A few ladies that escaped the shearing gang last year have had complete haircuts. They were carrying too much fleece to leave on until June, when the hairdressers arrive again. Fingers crossed for kind weather this next month as warm weather makes life much better for both the sheep and the shepherdess.








Unfortunately, there is no new addition to my team of dogs as I said last time. Jazz sadly reabsorbed her puppy at six weeks through her gestation. This is a very common occurrence, especially if there is problem with the puppy. Fingers crossed we will be more successful with a repeat mating to the same dog later on this year.

Lucy



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The Hub | Huntingfield

Author Brian M Stratton
will be signing copies of his latest book

'Crinkle Crankle Walls ...and other Suffolk Secrets'

Saturday 05 April 2025 | 10h00 - 15h00

For more details, and to reserve a copy, please contact Brian
on 07725 121 121 or email: brianmstratton@me.com

Instagram @crinkle_crankle_walls

Country Fair

The highly anticipated Heveningham Hall Country Fair is returning on 28th & 29th June 2025, promising a weekend full of spectacular attractions, exciting events, and family-friendly fun. Set in the grounds of the Heveningham Estate, this year's event will feature an exciting blend of thrilling performances, local produce, and activities—all in support of charity.

The main ring will be the event highlight, with jaw-dropping shows including the world-famous JCB Dancing Diggers, where these powerful machines show off their incredible precision and choreography. The Tractor Parade will showcase a range of vintage tractors, while visitors can look to the skies for an exciting Spitfire flyby, accompanied by the rare sight of a Blenheim bomber soaring overhead. And, of course, the action-packed HorsePower Hill will make a return.

Other attractions include the Dog Show, which will feature local canine talent competing in a variety of categories, as well as vibrant performances by the Samba Dancers, who will bring rhythm, colour, and energy to the event.

One of the most exciting additions this year is the 2 Magpies Tea Tent, set in the Walled Garden. The renowned local café will offer a wide selection of teas, cakes, and delicious treats, providing a relaxing spot to enjoy the atmosphere. In addition to this, an art exhibition will showcase works by both established and young local artists, giving visitors the chance to enjoy and purchase unique art pieces.

Speaking of local produce, the event will highlight the amazing offerings of local food and drink producers, where visitors can sample and purchase the finest regional delicacies, from fresh produce to homemade treats and craft beverages.

And it's all for a great cause—every penny raised at the Heveningham Country Fair goes to charity. Visitors can enjoy a fun-filled day out knowing that their support is helping local causes and initiatives in the community.

Tickets: Available online from April (further details on the Heveningham Country Fair website)

Bicycle Maintenance Station Teach-in



Don't forget we have a bike maintenance station outside The Hub which has everything you need to maintain your bike. If you're not sure how to use it or need advice there will be a short introductory course on basic bicycle maintenance at the Hub on Saturday 12th 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

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THE LOWESTOFT
LONGSHOREMEN

Shanties & Songs of the Sea

Saturday 7th June, 7pm
Huntingfield Church

£15 including refreshments and first drink
Proceeds to the Excelsior Trust which enables underprivileged children to experience the adventure of sailing a vintage drifter.



Prize Winning Local Artist

Congratulations go to Huntingfield village resident, Alex Dipple who is the proud recipient of the 2025 Royal Watercolour Society Exhibition Prize, sponsored by the Joan Williams Fund. As part of the award Alex will be showing her work at the RWS Whitcomb Street Gallery in London in January 2026.

Alex will also be opening her studio in Halesworth as part of Suffolk Open Studios over the weekends of 7-8th and 28-29th June.

More details can be found at [Alex Dipple – Suffolk Open Studios](#)

3 Village Calendar

Two photos from each of our villages, Heveningham, Huntingfield & Ubbeston will feature in a calendar for 2026. Other photos will be the pick of the rest and you get to choose!

Please deliver your photos by 31st July to the Hub post box (remember to include contact details) or email to enquiries@hub4all.org. The Community Partnership has offered to fund this for us and all proceeds will go towards the Hub that serves our 3 villages.

An event will be arranged for you to come along and vote for your favourite images.
The Hub Trustees.

SPRING AT

DATES FOR THE DIARY...

April:

- 25th & 26th: Woodfire Cooking Workshops
- 27th: Folk painting & Supper with Studio Sosenka, come and try some traditional folk painting!

May:

- 17th: Foray & Fire Cooking with Vivia (Sciapod Foray) come and try your hand at foraging and fire cooking.
- **24/25TH: SUMMER SUPPERS AND BRUNCH CAFE BEGIN**

June:

- 21st: Savouring Suffolk supper event - come and try some of the best food our county has to offer!



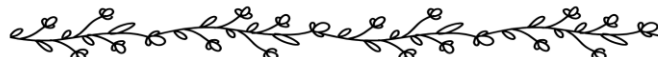
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WE OFFER VOUCHERS FOR ALL OF OUR WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS AS WELL AS SUMMER DINING & CAFE!

French Food and Fun Night or Moulin Rouge comes to the Hub!



Guests were welcomed with a complimentary drink on arrival in the Hub foyer then ushered into the world of the French bistro: low level lighting, checkered table

cloths, illuminated wine bottles and fresh spring flowers adorned tables with the tricolour flying at the back of the hall and a screen show of iconic Parisien landmarks accompanied by soft music projected at the front of the restaurant, creating an authentic French atmosphere for the delicious French meal prepared by Emma Ward – huge thank you to Emma!

The tempo was raised after desert with a rousing Can Can routine from the Moulin Rouge to joyful cheers and clapping along from the 60 guests.

Our very own “mystery DJ”, aka Jeanette Redway, then led guests bopping through time with her specially themed top hits play list through the years, ensuring something of appeal to every generation present. Thanks must also go to Jim Wardle for being “Mr Sound System”.

The raffle raised an amazing £305 bringing the total for the evening to a staggering £900! I thank everyone that came along and those who couldn't attend but generously donated to my fundraising page. I am truly humbled and very grateful to have exceeded my £2,000 fund raising target so quickly.

THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH

I need to call out the fantastic team of helpers without whom the evening would not have happened: Emma for her culinary expertise, Jim, Jeanette, Patrick, Paul, Helen and, all those who stayed behind and helped clear up at the end. Last, but by no means least, my long-suffering husband, Edward.



Now for the ‘easy bit’, or so my friends tell me! Getting challenge fit. So far, my training is on plan for the 4-day London to Paris

cycle ride departing June 11th. However, I do need to gain experience ‘drafting’ and group riding as a team to preserve energy for those long days ahead in the saddle. If there are any experienced group riders reading this who can average 13mph over 20–30 miles without a rest break, please be in touch to accompany me on one of my training rides.

Julie Watson

Physiotherapy Clinics coming soon to Huntingfield Hub!

Physiotherapy can help with:

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Tel: 07821 055404



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Hub News



The trustees have been working extremely hard over the last few months to get the Hub 'back on track'. Firstly, we

Would you like to know about everything we're doing, including our financial situation? Come along to the joint Hub and Millennium Green AGM on 11th June. Wine and nibbles will be available.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support The Hub, your village hall

The Hub Trustees

have had to say goodbye to two of our trustees, Jane Moore and Lauren Maloney. We thank them for their work while serving as trustees. Both are willing to stay on as "Friends of the Hub" and help out where they can which is much appreciated. Lauren will also remain as our Social Media Whizz! Alex, our trusty cleaner, has also decided to finish as she concentrates on a new venture. Thanks go to Alex for all she has done over many years and we wish her well.

So what have we been doing? Firstly we have changed our booking system to a much more user-friendly version: even the trustees can manage it! This will go live on 1st April. All bookings have been transferred and users advised. Regular users will be able to set up their own login and password. Our website gives you all the details www.hub4all.org.

A fundraising group has offered to help set up a couple of events for us, the first being Music Bingo on 29th March. We thank them for organising this and hope it will be very successful. The Book Bonanza and Table Top sale will definitely happen on 6th April! Apologies for the date change, but we couldn't turn down an outside booking for the Hub.

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Mobile Library



The monthly mobile library stops at Huntingfield Hub on Tuesdays at 15.00-15.20. Upcoming dates are 15th April and 13th May.

Details can also be found online at:

<https://www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/mobile-library-route/leiston-mobile-library-route-13>

Sarene Creole Cuisine presents
MASCARENE STREET KITCHEN

a night of food and music at The Huntingfield Hub

Good Vibes and Fresh Flavours

Guest DJs event from 7pm

£18/head 12th April

contact: sarenecreolecuisine@gmail.com
tel:07841666071

Petanque



Winter season has now finished. Both the Huntingfield Hares and Hounds have had a good season. It's the first time we have entered two teams and both have ended 2nd in their respective divisions.

Well done to all, and let's hope we can repeat this. We have to wait to see if we are promoted!

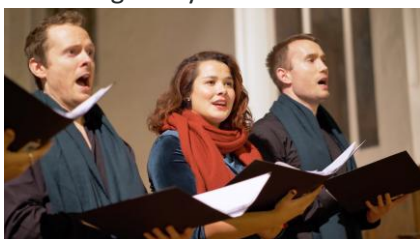
The summer officially starts on the 6th April. Our first game, on 13th April is a cup game against Thebs Plebs! The piste on the Millennium Green is open to anyone to have a go. Just let us know and we can supply some equipment for you to use.

Until the next edition, stay on the Piste!

Julie Collett, Captain

Arms Events

Following a very successful Jazz and dinner evening at The Hub we have



been making future plans. Believe it or not, we are taking bookings for autumn/winter events. On 11th October we are hosting Comedy Night at The Hub with 3 acts and a 2-course dinner. A fascinating evening of live entertainment with

Minty Spectre's Christmas Carol Dining Show is on 6th December. Check it out at <https://www.mintyspectre.co.uk/christmas-carol-dining-show>

These events are proving popular so make sure you put your name down soon if you are interested.

We've already arranged live music on the Green for the summer months with three performers booked for June and two for July, so far. Details will be in the next Hare.

The very popular March steak offer is coming to an end but April brings the Tas-Tea afternoon tea: finger sandwiches, sausage or sweet potato rolls, quiche, cream scones, a slice of 'Janet's cake of the day' plus a cup of tea for only £13.50. Available Tuesday - Saturday until 3.30pm.

Sara & Steve

orchid fitness



Nikki Hambling

Pilates classes

Thursday morning at Huntingfield HUB

- Mixed ability 9 to 9.40 and 9.50 to 10.30 am
- Beginner 10.45 to 11.25

Also available at various times during the week

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- Personal training

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Please contact me on

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David's Column

At our last Parish Council meeting I read out a letter from Charlie, who, as a tenant of Wilderness Reserve feels that the 'Wilderness Reserve not Welcome Here' campaign is targeting not only the WR development at Valley Farm (Blyth Barns) but also tenants and employees of WR. There followed a vigorous discussion ranging from the WR vs Blyth Barn issue to what signs people can put up on their own property. I think what was highlighted was, in our small community, the need to respect each other's opinions and, perhaps, to express our own in more moderate terms. There is no doubt that the opposition to the Valley Farm/Blyth Barns/Wilderness Reserve development will continue for the foreseeable future: there is the possibility that it may get more heated, so we must ensure that we always consider all members of our community.

Recently there has been a significant increase in the number of people attending our Parish Council meetings. Now that more people see what we do, it seems like a good time to remind parishioners that we do have vacancies for new councillors. If you are interested in joining us, please approach one of us to find out more about what is involved.

It's that time of year when we start looking for help at the Heveningham Hall Country Fair. This is a huge undertaking which raises many thousands for local charities. You can read more on p x. It's success not only relies upon the generosity of the Hunt family, but also on the huge number of local volunteers. Our villages have a reputation of providing the most volunteers, so let's try to do that again this year.

We have two projects that we are investigating as potential uses for the Community Infrastructure Levy funds. The first is to erect 'gateways' on the outskirts of the village (where the 30 mph signs are), to welcome people to Huntingfield and to ask them to drive carefully. The second idea is to erect a bus shelter at the entrance to Holland Rise to cater for the increasing number of school children catching the bus there. If you have any other ideas, please let us know.

Earlier this month Edward Watson and I spoke at the planning hearing in Lowestoft concerning the retrospective planning application for the four Wilderness Reserve lodges. Although we did not expect to influence the outcome, we thought that it would be good to experience the process prior to the hearing for the Blyth Barns development.

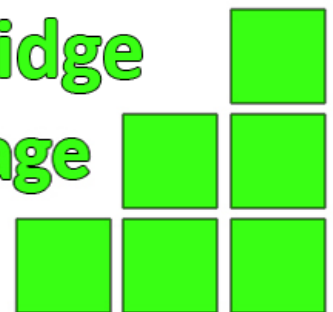
We had three objectives; firstly, to get a feel for the process and personalities involved and what we could and could not do and say; secondly, to give the members of the planning committee an idea of the context of the whole development, its history, its future direction, its scale and how we seem to have sometimes been misinformed of Wilderness Reserves intentions; and thirdly, how the use of retrospective planning applications seem to be used to reduce public scrutiny of the project.

The application was approved but we came away feeling satisfied that we achieved all of our objectives. We now have a much better idea of what our approach should be at the next hearing and the planning committee members were visibly annoyed at Wilderness Reserves tactics of using retrospective applications. A big thank you to the residents of Huntingfield and surrounding villages for their support on the day. It was much appreciated. (Well done, Edward).

Finally, please keep your eyes out for details of this year's village Spring Clean. It is amazing how much we can get done in 2-3 hours if we have enough people.

David Blackmore, Chair, Huntingfield Parish Council

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Children, Family and Youth Work



Did you know, The Blyth Valley Churches have a dedicated Children, Family and Youth Worker called Pauline Milstead who works across the 14 churches including Huntingfield and

Heveningham. She is keen to get to know you and your families.

With the Easter holidays looming Pauline has compiled numerous activities for you and your children to get involved in. For example, from Huntingfield Church or the Hub Foyer you can pick up a 'Huntingfield Kids Booklet' In there you will find; drawing activities, problem solving activities, quizzes, creative pages and a doodle page, check it out!

Pauline also has a number of 'resource bags' which are free to borrow, so if you are interested in finding out, for example, more about Lichens which are prevalent in our churchyards, why not drop her an email and see what else she can offer you. Contact her at pauline@growingtogetherearlyyears.co.uk

Sally Clarke

Country Fair volunteers needed



**Saturday 28th and
Sunday 29th June**

Volunteers are needed to help at Heveningham Hall Country Fair on one or both days.

All volunteers have FREE entrance to the Fair in return for an hour or two of your time. You can help by:

- Stewarding
- Scanning entrance tickets
- Programme selling
- Serving tea & cake in the courtyard tearoom
- Baking a cake or scones for one of the days
- Donating a Tombola prize

Huntingfield always comes up trumps by donating fantastic tombola prizes. They need to be unused, new and in-date. This year I will be round collecting your donations from Tuesday 6th through to Saturday 10th May. Last year's Fair was a huge success and as a result £97,000 was donated to Local Charities and Good Causes. The Pear Tree Fund which incorporates The Community Nurses Fund benefitted by £30,000 from the Fair, thus benefiting us all.

If you would like to be involved in, please contact Julie Collett at julie.collett@countryfair.co.uk.
Sally Clarke



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Nature Notes

Spring is a wonderful season as the winter chills fade, the days become longer and nature wakes up with boundless energy - vibrant colours, fresh smells and glorious birdsong. The weather has been quite changeable in the last few weeks, including some lovely warm days with southerly winds mixed in with several frosty nights and some cold northerly winds.

The natural world has mirrored these changeable conditions as Snowdrops and Daffodils were rapidly blossoming during the warm days only to be held up somewhat by the cold ones. At the time of writing Blackthorn is in full bloom, giving a wonderful show of white flowers along our local hedgerows whilst, supplying lots of early honey to insects such as honey bees.



Butterflies including Brimstone, Comma and Peacock have enjoyed the warming sun, flitting around my

garden gathering nectar from the early blooms. They then tuck themselves away during the colder days and nights.

Sunrise isn't too early so it's a great time of the year to listen to the building volume of the dawn chorus. Birds such as Blackbird, Song Thrush and Robin are the early risers and are often in full song just before daybreak followed by other species including Wood Pigeon, Wren, Dunnock, Goldfinch and the Great Tit, with its distinctive "teacher/teacher" call.

I can recommend the Merlin bird app which is free to download and identifies the singing birds. A local resident showed me a whole list that he was amazed by. Someone else asked me if a Goldcrest, recorded by the app as singing in their garden, is a possibility? Indeed there are quite a few pairs of our smallest breeding bird nesting locally, including in the churchyard: they favour evergreens such as Yew.

Their song is quite high pitched so the Merlin app will definitely tell you that one of these diminutive songsters is nearby. The Goldcrest is smaller than a Wren and is green with an amazingly bright orange "parting" on its head. Another small bird, the summer visiting Chiffchaff, is also in song locally (it sounds like a squeaky wheelbarrow). In fact, I heard one in the

village on 4th March, during a really warm few days. I think it is the earliest that I have ever heard one singing in Suffolk. Other summer visitors such as Blackcap, Whitethroat and Nightingale should soon be here to add their warbling notes to the dawn chorus so do keep an ear out.

Whilst these summer visitors are wending their way to us we still have several winter migrants including thrushes such as Redwing and Fieldfare which are around in quite large flocks well into spring.



Another winter visitor that will be here for a few more weeks is the Woodcock. This large brown wading bird is much harder to spot than a

thrush as it spends the days hiding in leaf litter amongst trees and bushes. Its mottled plumage provides great camouflage, making it virtually impossible to see unless it is spooked, when it will rapidly rise and fly away. It feeds after dark on damp woodland rides and damp meadows using its long, strong bill to probe for worms and insects. I recently spent an enjoyable evening out on the estate with the Wilderness Reserve ecologist, Harry Read, ringing these enigmatic birds. Ringing data from recoveries has shown that birds which are present in the UK in winter breed in forests as far away as Finland and Russia. Some pairs do breed in Suffolk, mainly in the Brecks, with a very few pairs in the east of the county.



Helen recently spotted a much more colourful pair of birds on the stream near the bridge in Huntingfield, the beautiful Grey Wagtail.

These birds breed along stony streams, with the bulk of the breeding population being found in more hilly areas further north and west in the UK. A few pairs nest in Suffolk annually, including in central Halesworth, so Helen's birds could be local, or could have been refuelling on their way north.

Tony Howe

History Corner: How did our villages look after their poor?

Benefits are very much in the news at present but well before the post WWII welfare state was introduced, people in the nineteenth century and earlier relied heavily on their parishes or bequests in people's wills to support them financially. There had always been some sort of support for the poor from the medieval monks onwards but that ended with the Dissolution of the Monasteries by Henry VIII.

The responsibility for looking after the poor shifted to the villages and towns. At the time of the 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act, a centralised Poor Law Commission, with boards of guardians and the type of workhouse we associate with Dickens' *Oliver Twist*, was established. In Blything, the report *An Official Account of the Parochial Charities in the Blything Union* was published in 1838 in Halesworth and is a fascinating insight into our local village charities that provided benefits for the poor.



Above is a 1930s photograph from the *Yeoman*, a magazine published by the EADT. It shows a cottage called Horseshoes, one of the two parish cottages, which stood on the B1117 in Ubbeston and was pieces copyhold to the manor of Ubbeston. The rent was £9 per annum. The other cottage, next door, was a 'small copyhold tenement' which was gifted to the parish with a rent of £3.3s per annum. The rents from the 'poors estate' were for the poor of the parish but they were not always spent in the way intended in their

entirety. They could also be applied to repairs for the church, the payment of the clerk's salary' etc. At one point this cottage was 'occupied by poor persons' and no rent was applied. Huntingfield Parish had "Four of land and two cottages, situate near Huntingfield Church... Also, four pieces of meadow land, called Bell Fenn Pightle...situate in the parishes of Heveningham and Ubbeston, Also, a piece of copyhold land, called Abbott's Land, situate in the parish of Heveningham." The lands in Heveningham and Ubbeston raised £15 a year and were originally purchased in 1629/30 for this purpose at a cost of £140. One of the purchasers was Sir Edward Coke, a highly influential judge, with close links to the Howard family, the Dukes of Norfolk. He erected a monument in Huntingfield Church to his mother-in-law, Anne Moulton, of Huntingfield Hall.

In 1553 the parish of Heveningham was gifted £63 per annum in rent from Trust Farm in Badingham. The original deed not only directed payments 'to the relief and maintenance of the poor of the said town' but, in addition, to maintain the King's Highway. It was also used to repair the church and pay the master of the Sunday School 'for educating poor children'. Other sources of income were from 'a piece of 'Trust Land' in Heveningham, which raised a rent of £5 per annum; a 'Town House occupied by five cottagers yielding a rent of £9.9s. per annum', the gift dating from 1622; 'Ground Rent of 10s.' charged on land' let to a James Cullingford of Halesworth for 70 years from 1828. The land was part of the Town House garden. At some point Heveningham parishioners purchased Trust Farm and the piece of Trust Land.

Cratfield's income for the poor, parish repairs and other expenses, including those of the constables, came from the large estate called *Town Farm* in the village, which yielded £100 per annum in rent. The original gift granted by the lord of the manor in 1567 'in consideration of £70, being the money of the inhabitants'. There was also another *Town Farm* estate in Horham, gifted in 1710 and yielding an

annual rent of £20. An interesting footnote in this section of the report in the light of the modern-day, national controversy about the winter fuel allowance: 'it has been usual of late to expend about £30 a year in the purchase of coals, which are partly given, and partly sold at a reduced price, to poor persons of the parish.'

Lynne Ward

25th April at 7.30pm in Laxfield Village Hall, Paul Taylor will be giving a talk with the latest wildlife photos, videos and tales from his Cratfield farm. Admission by donation in aid of Laxfield & District Museum. Bar available.

J. FELTON
CHIMNEY SWEEP

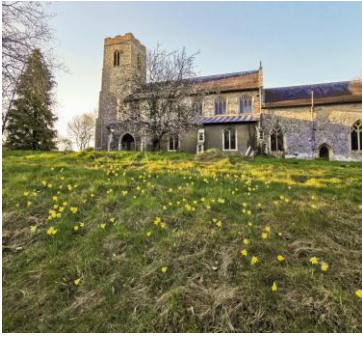
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St Margaret's Church, Heveningham with Ubbeston



It's hard to believe that another couple of months have passed and we are creeping into April, but haven't we had some lovely weather in March. As usual the church has been in full bloom and

surrounded by a carpet of daffodils. This also means that preparation needs to be done for clearing the churchyard and making it ready for the summer.

Last month, Sam Fairs and his team cleared a large patch of brambles from the far corner of the Glebe. These had gradually taken over and started to reduce light to the neighbouring houses. Hopefully we can look at replanting flowers and a few shrubs here. Thank you to Sam Fairs for arranging this for us.

I would also like to extend my thanks to Lois Hunt, who has arranged for her groundsmen to come along and cut the Glebe for us throughout the year. This will free up resources that can be used to maintain the churchyard. Myself and the PCC are extremely thankful for all this support. It is quite a hard task to maintain these areas: this will prove to be a huge benefit to the church and the villages by making this an enjoyable area for all to use.

This month we welcomed back our coffee mornings which are always a good chance to come along, meet neighbours and friends and enjoy a chat. We will not be holding a coffee morning in April due to conflicting dates but we will be welcoming the Stations of the Cross procession on 12th April. They will be due at St Margaret's around 12.30pm and there will be light refreshments available.

There are occasions where I work at Halesworth Library on a Sunday and these dates sometimes clash with our services. Therefore, I am looking for volunteers who can help with meeting & greeting and refreshments on these occasions. At the moment, dates needed are services on 13th April and 11th May. If you are able to lend a hand, please contact me. I am planning to hold another Craft Fair around May/June time. Dates to be confirmed. If you would like to register your interest in having a table, please get in touch.

Dates for your diary

12th April. Stations of the Cross

13th April. Traditional Communion

7th May. APCM and PCC Meeting: All are welcome at our AGM. Join us for a glass of wine and come and find out about previous and current plans.

Thank you as always for your support.

Jeanette

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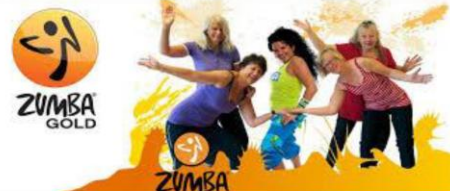
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Your Parish Council

Ubbeston Parish Council



The most recent meeting of the Parish Council took place on 10th March 2025. Draft minutes from the meeting can be viewed on the PC website. District Councillor Ewart attended the meeting and provided updates on devolution and additional bins which will be allocated for food waste. Her full report along with that of Suffolk County Cllr Burroughes' are on the website.

Thanks went to Cllr Ewart and East Suffolk Council for their support in funding the purchase of a community bench for the village, designated as a 'Happy to Chat' bench. More information to follow in due course.

Information has been given to the Parish Council from East Suffolk Council highlighting a new 'Community Health Ambassadors' scheme. For more information, please contact community.ambassadors@snee.nhs.uk.

A 'Cake Off', held at The Hub in January was enjoyed by many local councillors and clerks. It was attended by Caroline Topping, leader of East Suffolk Council, and representatives providing information from the following: The Rural Coffee Caravan; The Green Print Forum; 20's Plenty; The Coastal Accessible Transport Service and East Suffolk Council Communities team. The next meeting will be the Annual meeting of the Parish Council due to take place on Monday 12th May 2025 following the Annual Parish Meeting which commences at 7pm in The Hub, Huntingfield. All residents are welcome to attend both meetings. Angela Colbridge, ubbestonclerk@gmail.com

Heveningham Parish Council



The most recent meeting of the Parish Council, due to take place on Wednesday 19th March 2025, was unfortunately postponed. A revised date will be circulated and is likely to be in April. Reports have been received from District Councillor Ewart and County Councillor Burroughes: both reports can be viewed in full on the Parish Council website.

Information has been given to the Parish Council from East Suffolk Council highlighting a new 'Community Health Ambassadors' scheme. For more information, please contact community.ambassadors@snee.nhs.uk. A 'Cake Off', held at The Hub in January was enjoyed by many local councillors and clerks. It was attended by Caroline Topping, leader of East Suffolk Council, and

representatives providing information from the following: The Rural Coffee Caravan; The Green Print Forum; 20's Plenty; The Coastal Accessible Transport Service and East Suffolk Council Communities team.

In 2024 a grant was received from The National Lottery Community Fund towards two new pieces of equipment for Bell Meadow. A shelter with seating has been ordered which should be installed in the spring. The Parish Council offers extensive thanks to The National Lottery Community Fund for their fantastic support of this community project.

The next meeting will be the Annual meeting of the Parish Council due to take place on Monday 21st May 2025 following the Annual Parish Meeting which commences at 7pm in The Hub, Huntingfield. All residents are welcome to attend both meetings. Angela Colbridge, heveninghamclerk@gmail.com

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.

January

1st Brian Seabon
2nd Carol Lofthouse
3rd Nigel Jerry

February

1st Joan Baker
2nd Kate Lucas
3rd Allan Barnes

Sue Brewer, 07885 541587 susanmbrewer@mac.com

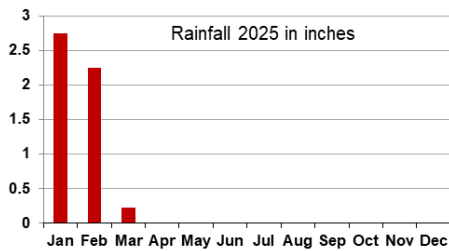
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Contact Emma 07914535448
pilatesbodyharmony@aol.co.uk

Weather report: Feb. – March 2025

Well, another two months have passed with no weather 'drama' in either. February this year was not the "February fill-dyke" that we had last year when there was 4.81" (121.9 mm) of rain. This year we saw 2.20" (55.9 mm) - 2.61" (66.3mm) less.

Following this, March can typically be a dry month, which it was last year with just 1.5" (38.1 mm). This year, with just a few days until month-end, there has been only .22" (5.4mm) which leaves us 3.85" (97.7 mm) down on rainfall for February/March 2025. There may be a little more rain to come this month but it's starting to look ominously dry for gardeners and



farmers alike.

So, what's going on weather-wise? Across the world,

we are still seeing extreme weather events and these are certainly going to continue in the short term. Here, we have recently seen a couple of blocking areas of high pressure which, in turn, have prevented Atlantic low-pressure areas from reaching our shores and producing rainfall. This too has increased the number of long sunny days - welcomed by most after all of those painfully dull days. I'm sure you will have noticed the increase in sharp frosty nights and some very cold days (for the UK at least), all of which are associated with the weather trends we have been experiencing.

In summary, we do need some rain soon and of course some nice warm sunshine. Will it happen? We'll see!
Richard Tyler

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.

Huntingfield Archive?

I currently have a few old photos of Huntingfield stored digitally but I'm sure there must be a lot more out there. If you have any old pictures or general information about Huntingfield please get in touch. I can scan original images and return them to you. It would be great to have an archive of information.

Helen Cannon, hcannon50@gmail.com



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What's on – dates for your diary

April

5th Book Signing, The Hub, p 4
6th Book Bonanza and Table Top Sale, The Hub p 1
12th April, Bike Maintenance Course, p 4
12th Stations of the Cross, St Margarets, p 13
12th Mascarene Street Kitchen, The Hub, p 7
13th Traditional Communion, St Margarets, p 13
15th Mobile Library, p 7
19th Shop on The Green plus Easter Egg Hunt p 8
26th Brunch at The Hub, 10-11am

May

1st Scandinavian Night, The Arms, p 8
7th APCM & PCC Meetings, St Margarets, p 13
18th Annual Plant Sale, p 1
12th Ubbeston APM & AGM, The Hub, 7pm
14th Huntingfield APM & AGM, The Hub, 7pm
21st Heveningham APM & AGM, The Hub, 7pm
13th Mobile Library, p 7
24th Brunch at The Hub 10-11am

Regular events at The Hub

Kids Club & Youth Club For dates and further details please check <https://3vypsuffolk.wordpress.com/>
Orchid Fitness Pilates Thursday a.m. (see advert on p 8)
Pilates Body Harmony Monday 6-7pm & Friday 6-6.45pm, The Hub (see advert on p 14)
Yoga Tuesday, 6.30-7.30pm, £7 per class. (Contact Hayley 07776 184943)
Tai Chi Monday, 2-3pm (contact Cindy Engel, 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

7th June, The Lowestoft Longshoremen, St Mary's, p 5
11th June, Joint AGM for The Hub and Millennium Green, p 13
28th & 29th June, Heveningham Hall Country Fair
19th July, Millennium Green 25th Anniversary Celebration, p 8
23rd August, Hubfest, p 1
11th October, Comedy Night, p 8
6th December, Minty Spectre Christmas Carol Dining Show, p 8

Parish Councils *

Heveningham

Chair: Cllr. Sam Fairs
Clerk: Angela Colbridge heveninghamclerk@gmail.com

Huntingfield

Chair: Cllr. David Blackmore
Clerk: Carol Hume huntingfieldclerk@gmail.com

Ubbeston

Chair: Cllr. Carl Walker
Clerk: Angela Colbridge 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):

Email: threevillagesyouthproject@outlook.com

Millennium Green Trustees*

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Treasurer:

Jim Wardale Burin Barn 798393

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* Unless specified phone numbers are prefixed 01986.