



**A Celebration of Life in Huntingfield
2015/2016**

**Reports & updates from village groups reflecting upon the past
year and looking forward to the future.**

**Annual Parish Meeting
Monday 18th April 2016**

WELCOME

Welcome to the report for the 2016 Annual Parish Meeting.

Once again this has been an incredibly active year in our village. In this report and meeting you will hear from a total of 11 groups and organisations active within Huntingfield.

If you would like to get involved within these groups please get in touch with the person who is named at the end of each report.

David Blackmore
Chair of Huntingfield Parish Council



Huntingfield Parish Council

The last twelve months have been the busiest that I can remember for the PC. Two big projects have dominated our discussions; the Magna Carta celebrations and the construction of the new village hall. Both proved to be extremely successful.

You only have to look around you to see what a fantastic building we have ended up with. The construction of this building is a huge success for the many, many people in Huntingfield, Heveningham and Ubbeston who put so much effort into bringing it to completion. We can look forward to many hugely enjoyable events in this lovely building.

The Magna Carta weekend was another huge success. Sally and her team went to incredible lengths to ensure that both we villagers and all the visitors had a really enjoyable weekend. Hopefully David's edited highlights will give an insight into what fun we all had. Again, another huge thank you to Sally and her team for organising such a great event.

Alongside these big items we have also got involved in more down to earth, but no less important issues such as street lighting, traffic calming and various planning issues.

At the Parish Councils request the Events Group has been resurrected and its first event will be the celebration of the Queens 90th birthday. Details are in The Hare, but please come along and bring your own lantern for the procession to the Millennium Green and the lighting of the beacon. The Group is also keen to start film nights here in The Hub, so look out for adverts of forthcoming films. If you have any ideas for films to show please let the group know.

The period ended on a sad note when Julie stepped down as Clerk to the Council. Anyone who has any involvement in village affairs knows full well how much time and effort Julie has put into Huntingfield parish matters, and basically making sure things get done. Hers will be a hard act to follow. Thank you Julie.

David Blackmore

HUNTINGFIELD HARE



The Huntingfield Hare continues to be published bi-monthly to inform the residents of Huntingfield through the sharing of stories and memories of times past as well as plans of events and opportunities to come. It is delivered to all houses and business in the village as well as being sent either by post or email to many folks who have connections with Huntingfield.

Although costs of printing have risen in the past year, by prudent management of the finances, including some new advertisers and the generosity of our donors, the Hare has continued to, not only work to budget, but to make a profit of £222.51 in the past year. The running total regarding profitability means that the Hare has donated £1,332.15 to the Huntingfield Parish Council coffers since its inception.

During the last year Mike Stephens, Maureen Cain, Nic Pike, Roe Steel, David Burrows and Caroline Shepherdson have been Mystery Guests. They provide a fascinating insight into the diversity of the population of our village and we thank them for sharing their lives with the readers of the Hare.

A focus on Town Pightle Cottage was much enjoyed by readers in the April/May issue, while the unveiling of the new Huntingfield Arms sign was highlighted in the June/July issue. Magna Carta was the focus of the August/September issue reminding us all of the fantastic weekend that we all enjoyed (despite the weather!), organised by the Magna Carta group.

October/November saw us preparing for the Heveningham Hall bonfire and fireworks together with a reminder about the use of the defibrillator. The Christmas issue highlighted Carol Singing, both on the village green and in St. Mary's Church, the Christmas village meal and the New Year Walk. The February/March issue reminded us of the need for people in the village to get involved in the community, by joining the Millennium Green Trustees, The Hub Committee or the Events Group. We are delighted to report that these requests have seen positive responses from many villagers - thank you on behalf of those groups. The progress of the construction of The Hub has been ongoing throughout the year and has been reported in all issues of the Hare.

We look ahead to what we hope will be another successful year for the Huntingfield Hare. It is the magazine for everyone in the village so please let us have your articles, ideas, suggestions for future issues.

Editorial team: Sue Lucas, Julie Watson, Sue Tyler



Huntingfield Millennium Green CIO

Huntingfield Millennium Green has now become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, taking the financial onus away from the Trustees! This was a very long process, taking over a year to complete.

Graham Irvin resigned due to moving away from the village, the trustees would like to thank Graham for the work he did in the short time he was a Trustee. We are glad to welcome 4 new Trustees, Marie Burnett, Marion Wishart, Sue Brewer & James Gordon.

Fundraising is always a concern for the Trustees, especially last year as the hut was out of commission therefore nowhere to hold the annual race night that gives us such a good income. We are therefore grateful for the Parish Council for stepping in and providing us with a grant of £450. Also gratefully received was a grant for £5000 from Heveningham Hall Country Fair Trust. This was on the condition it was used for specific projects. Firstly following the ROSPA report of the play equipment, it was identified that a lot of repair was required. This has now been completed, apart from replacing the swing seats, which will be done very shortly. All is safe for the youngsters to enjoy again. Secondly, the money was given to us for the updating of the steps and access to the Millennium Green. This is still being looked into at the moment.

We have held two successful clear up days during the last year. Thank you to everyone who lends a hand on these days.

The aim for the Trustees in the coming year is to raise funds to start replacing the picnic tables & chairs. The plaques on them will be re-sited. If anyone is interested in sponsoring a picnic table or bench please contact one of the Trustees.

Finally thank you to the Trustees for their ongoing help to keep this beautiful area accessible to all.

Julie Collett

01986 798258



Huntingfield Hares Petanque Club

Since the 2015 Parish Meeting, the Petanque Club has had a busy and enjoyable year in the Adnams Suffolk Coastal League. We were again in the Oyster Division (the nine divisions are named after Adnams beers) and our four opponents were from Aldeburgh, Kettleburgh, Aldringham and Middleton playing each one both home and away. It's a very enjoyable way of seeing other villages and towns and meeting many new people, so it's not just about playing a game to win, it's a social occasion as most of our opponents, like us, play primarily for the fun and pleasure. Of our eight matches we won none, drew one and lost seven, which was a little disappointing but does reflect a higher standard of play within the Suffolk Coastal League. Some of our members yet again entered as a team in the Adnams Knockout Cup and Plate competitions, the first round of the cup competition we lost, but did progress to the second round in the plate competition but lost.

Our annual club individual K.O. competition took place during the summer to find a club champion. This was won by Ray Ellmers in his umpteenth year as a member of the club and was presented with a trophy at the AGM which was held in November.

The coming season (March to October) we have opponents from Kettleburgh again but we have new opponents from Westleton, Framlingham and Thorpeness so we are looking forward to meeting old and new acquaintances.

We have no new members giving us a total of 14 members, the lowest it has been since the Petanque club was founded.

The Cliff Spencer memorial trophy in his honour was presented to our K.O. club champion Ray Ellmers this year.

Our fees are held at same level as in the previous five years at £5.00 joining fee (this is for the purchase and replacement of equipment) and £5.00 annual subscription which provides for match refreshments throughout the season also an additional £5 per member towards Millennium Green funds

Anyone who thinks they would like to try a game or two are more than welcome, with all equipment supplied by the club and we are certainly looking for new members due to dwindling numbers through some leaving the village and others leaving for other reasons.

Richard Tyler (Captain)

Tele: 798403



NOVA

In the past year we have listened to subjects ranging from Mozart to Ghost stories and had an Acupuncture demonstration. Another highlight was an evening of traditional French music. In July the annual evening Garden Party was held in the village and the Christmas dinner was at The Arms.

At the AGM in November the future of Nova in it's present form was discussed. Due to fewer members able to commit to the evening meetings with a speaker it was decided to hold monthly lunches at various venues around the district. These are proving popular with 10-12 members present. It is intended to continue the Garden Party, Christmas Dinner and visits to various 'Invitation to View' properties.

Any ladies in the village would be very welcome to join us for lunch. Please contact Sue Tyler on 798403 or soo.tyler@btinternet.com



St Mary's Church

2015 is remembered by both village and church as the 800th anniversary of our local lor, William, adding his seal to that of King John and others on the Magna Carta. St Mary's is the one building in existence in William's day that remains to the present (or at least the one Norman window above the later north nave-arcade)! The church was delighted to be part of the celebrations and for St Mary's to be used as a focus for visitors and a venue for the Sunday concert. We were equally pleased to be able to involve our Provincial Episcopal Visitor, Norman, Bishop of Richborough when the Diocese was without either a Diocesan or Suffragan Bishop.

These activities emphasised the importance of visitors to the local church: their contribution to the church finances is greater than the giving of the congregation. 2015 therefore has seen a Third revised Edition of Felicity Griffin's guide to the church (with classic illustrations by David Gentleman), with a new set of postcards and a tea-towel designed by Audrey Hanslip.

The maintenance of the fabric of St Mary's remains a priority of the Church Council, though this fact needs to be seen against the background of what I have written in the recent edition of the Hare. Dampness in a medieval church tower with Victorian internal plastering cannot be easily remedied and the Church council decided not to deal with it by what would be very expensive means. However, following thefts of church lead in the neighbourhood and electronic alarm has been fitted to the tower.

The cutting of churchyard grass continues to be a problem for the Church Council – specifically the engaging of grass cutters. With the Parish Council's grant there is no lack of finance and I hope that a resolution to this has now been found.

It is my present intention to retire at the end of this year after nine years involvement in the life of the Heveningham Benefice. I cannot tell you in detail what the future may hold for its three parishes. Discussions continue with the Blyth Valley Team Ministry and to further these I intend to invite the three Church Councils to reconsider their maintaining of the resolutions concerning women priests before they anyway lapse in November 2016.

Tony Norton



The Bell Ringers of Huntingfield

The high point of the year must have been practising and ringing for the Magna Carta celebrations in June.

We all put in some hard work and with the help of Hugh Spink, our teacher, the band managed to master "plain hunt" which is the first step to proper change ringing. This is where the ringers remember a pattern and ring it all themselves rather than being told where to ring by "call changes". We can now reproduce this for other occasions.

It was a sad evening on 16 November when Bud rang for his last Monday practice (a good piece of plain hunt) but we sent him off in good style with some bubbly afterwards and presented him with an engraved glass bell from all the ringers.

Fortunately, Mike Stephens has stepped into the breach and proved himself an invaluable member of the band. Having been “fast tracked” by Hugh (as was Jana) he is now ringing confidently and competently as a regular member.

We continue to practice on Mondays from 6 to 7pm (apart from a Monday following a Sunday service). We also rang for the Christmas Carol Service in December and enjoyed the service.

We would hope to provide ringing for any weddings, funerals etc as required maybe with the help of local ringers if our band is diminished by holidays or illness.

An established ringer, Hilary Stearn has recently moved into Cratfield and she has joined us when available. It is always useful to welcome experienced ringers who can lend a hand.

From being Tower Captain I seem to have become Tower Correspondent also with Bud's move, and although not living in the midst of things in Huntingfield, in these days of email hopefully ringing can be organised from afar!

I am most grateful to my regular band of home bred ringers: Sue Tyler, Sue Lucas, Tony Howe, Jana Thompson and Mike Stephens with help from Stephen, Hilary & Patrick and of course not forgetting Hugh who keeps us focussed. It is a pleasure to ring with them all, they do put in a lot of hard work and they are brilliant at answering my emails. New recruits would be very welcome – come along & see what we do.

For the future we aim to continue to enjoy practices in the first instance, but also to provide the call to worship to an acceptable standard that is the creed of every ringer, together with other requests for bells. In this way the very English sound of church bells can continue to ring out proudly from Huntingfield.

Tracey Abell – email: traceyeabell@gmail.com



Huntingfield Town Estates

It's one of the duties of Huntingfield's parish priest to be Chairman of the Huntingfield Town Estates and through the years it's been a privilege to act as such, though of course the real work of the Trustees has been carried out by our clerk, Sheila Freeman. When it comes to sermonising, clergy are expected to repeat themselves and I'm going to do so now, quite unblushingly.

A problem for the trustees is what we find it difficult to spend our Charity's income, so I'm simply going to repeat what I've written before – in the hope that things might change:

“The town Estates, our village Charity, was established in the 19th century, since when it has a link between the parish church and the local community...The Charity's annual income is from rent and investments and the Trustees meet twice a year in an endeavour to distribute some of this income according to the founding purposes of the Charity. These are twofold: one, to meet particular financial needs; and two, to assist education in its broadest sense. In the first category help has been given towards unexpected expenses, like car repairs. The second element is interpreted widely, ranging from assistance to school children for music lessons to grants to adults towards course expenses...But the Town Estates still has money and the Trustees always welcome enquiries from Huntingfield residents. Our advice is: if your needs fall within the Charity's terms, you should ask – and the Trustees will do all they can to help...”

Perhaps some new blood might make a difference. Both the Church Council and the Parish Council need to make appointments to the Town Estates and the Chairmanship will soon become vacant. Whoever they might be, I wish them well in this most positive activity.

Tony Norton



Magna Carta Group

The Magna Carta group hope everyone enjoyed all the celebrations that took place during 2015 especially the weekend of June 13/14/15. Much of the planning and events have been captured on film and the full version will soon be available for us to see. Some of the happenings you will have seen during the Annual Parish Meeting.

This was never started as a money maker, but more so the group were desperate to ensure they covered the costs! However we are delighted to report that the group managed to make a profit of £1,222-92. £1000 of this was given to the Village Hall project to go towards the play equipment and the balance was given to the Millennium Green, as this is where a lot of the activities took place.

In the next few weeks I will receive copies of the Magna Carta book. If you would like to purchase one of these, please let me know.

Julie Collett



The Hub Heveningham, Huntingfield & Ubbeston Village Hall

Looking back at the report for the Annual Parish Meeting of 2015 I note that the project had been allocated grants from the Big Lottery and Viridor. Construction hadn't yet begun and the old Hut was still standing (just!)

Unfortunately tendering for the project saw costs escalate very considerably, making the project seemingly unaffordable. Value-engineering was carried out to bring the costs down to a level that could be afforded. At the same time the committee worked very hard

completing bids to many organisation to gain more funds. We were fortunate in gaining a further grant from Viridor as well as several small amounts from other funders. This has allowed the project to push ahead to completion.

The architect, Lucy Mobbs, very kindly project managed the construction for us at no additional cost, for which we are very grateful. The main contractor, SEH French has done a great job, along with their many sub-contractors, in completing the build on time and only a little over budget. Several items have been upgraded following the additional funds the committee secured - i.e. the lawn mower shed, the kitchen, the main hall flooring and the car park and the playground. These upgrades means The Hub should be good for many years to come.

Landscaping still has to be completed at the time of writing, in particular the safety surfacing for the playground, turfing the area and installing a new access to the Millennium Green.

The 'official' opening for the new hall will be on **Saturday 23rd April from 2 - 5 p.m.** to which all residents in the three villages of Huntingfield, Heveningham & Ubbeston are invited. Music will be by the Sole Bay Jazz Band, the Huntingfield Arms is doing the catering and we thank the Co-op in Halesworth for providing the wine.

A 'Business Launch' has been organised for **Thursday 12th May from 12 - 2 p.m.** at which a wide variety of potential users will be invited. It is important that now we have the new village hall it is used effectively to ensure its future viability. Therefore, we need to ensure as many people as possible know it is here and have the opportunity to use it.

The old Hut is now in its new home, though not as yet open to the public. It is at the 1st World War Museum in Hawstead near Bury St Edmunds. We hope it enjoys many more years of service in Suffolk.

The first event at The Hub was held on Thursday 24th March when a group of about 25 people gathered to play Carpet Bowls. It was lovely to see the hall being used after all the work that has gone into making it happen! We look forward to many more events throughout the years.

Finally I should like to express my very grateful thanks to The Hub Committee, the members of which have worked unstintingly to bring us to the place the villages are now in - we have a new village hall which we can all enjoy for many years to come.

Sue Lucas - Chair of The Hub - Huntingfield, Heveningham & Ubbeston Village Hall



Heveningham Hall Country Fair Trust

The theme for last year was The Magna Carta, keeping in the theme for the 800th anniversary. The main ring saw jousting from the Knights of Nottingham, and a medieval village took up residence at the bottom of the ring. Despite mixed weather

conditions, it was another successful year. The Parish Council received a grant from the Trust on behalf of the Millennium Green of £5000, and the PCC also benefited too. The fair does rely on the help of the 6 villages involved and we can never have too much help. If you would like to get involved this year, please let me know. We receive such a lot of financial help from the Trust, it would take many events in our village to replace it!

This year's fair takes place on 2nd & 3rd July. Please put the date in your diary. If you are unable to help on the day, we are in need of many tombola prizes, and also your support over the weekend to come as a visitor to the fair. It will be another great weekend.

Julie Collett 01986 798258, 07766654599 j.collett5@btinternet.com