



Issue 65—December 2017/January 2018

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The Hare is delivered to all residents and businesses in Huntingfield free of charge. It is also available on the village web-site (see below). If you live outside Huntingfield 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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New Year's Eve Tiaras & Candleabras' 9 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.

Canapes and a glass of bubbly on arrival - Two course sit-down supper 'Coq au Vin' (Veggie on request) - Selection of homemade desserts
Bring your own drinks - £12 per head (Children under 11 free)

Dress code - Posh frocks, Tiaras & Ties

You are invited to join in the fun competition of the 'Best Dressed' Candelabra - be as creative as you dare.

Candles can be part of the display but must NOT be lit. Tea lights can be lit if in a holder.

The winner of the Best Dressed Candelabra receives a Gift Voucher for a Champagne Cream Tea for 2 at The Westleton Crown (valid for 1 year)

Come along and welcome in the New Year with good food and music right on your doorstep. To reserve a ticket NOW phone Sally or David on 785348 or email

sally.clarke@live.com

Tickets on sale at The Candlelit Carol Service on Saturday 9th December in St Mary's Church, The Village Christmas Dinner on Saturday 16th December, Carol Singing on The Green on Monday 18th December.

THE DEADLINE FOR BUYING TICKETS IS FRIDAY 22ND DECEMBER

The Events Group

3 Villages Christmas Dinner

This year's Christmas dinner will be held on

Saturday 16th December in The Hub cooked by Tom & Mike

The cost is the same as last year at £12 a ticket for a 2 course meal.



Tickets are selling fast, don't miss out!

They are available from Sue Tyler on **01986 798403** or email

soo.tyler@btinternet.com

Carols at Christmas Candlelit Carol Service & Christingle

**St Mary's Church
Saturday 9th December at 3 p.m.**
(more details on page 5 inside)

Carols round the Tree Village Green

Monday 18th December at 6 p.m.
followed by mulled wine and nibbles in the Hub - contributions to Christmassy nibbles very welcome.



Huntingfield Parish Council Vacancy for a Councillor

There is a vacancy on the Parish Council caused by the resignation of Helen Cannon.

A by-election to fill the vacancy will be held if **ten electors** for the parish give notice in writing claiming such an election to the Returning Officer not later than **7th December**

The address of the Returning Officer is **Council Offices, East Suffolk House, Riduna Park, Station Road, Melton, Woodbridge IP12 1RT.**

If no such notice is given the Parish Council will fill the vacancy by co-option.

K. Forster—Clerk to the Parish Council

A reminder that there is a colour copy of the Hare on the notice-board in the Huntingfield Arms and in St. Mary's Church or online at www.huntingfield.org

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Good Neighbours

Margery Day, who lives in Holland Rise, and has lived in the village for 66 years is confined to her home with health issues.

Margery has said she would welcome more visitors to pass the time and chat with, so if anyone has some spare time and would like to make a difference then please give Margery a ring for a chat or to arrange a visit. Her phone number is 798458. *Tessa Foster*

(If you would like a visit or a lift somewhere please get in touch with the editors and we'll do our best to get some help for you. Editors)

***The Wednesday Club will meet on
6th December and 3rd January
from 2 p.m.—4 p.m.***

The usual Scrabble, Dominoes and other games will be enjoyed by those coming along.

This is the opportunity to enjoy tea, cakes, ice cream and a chat in convivial surroundings.

Take time out from your busy day and come along. You don't have to be 'a certain age' to enjoy this relaxed and friendly afternoon!

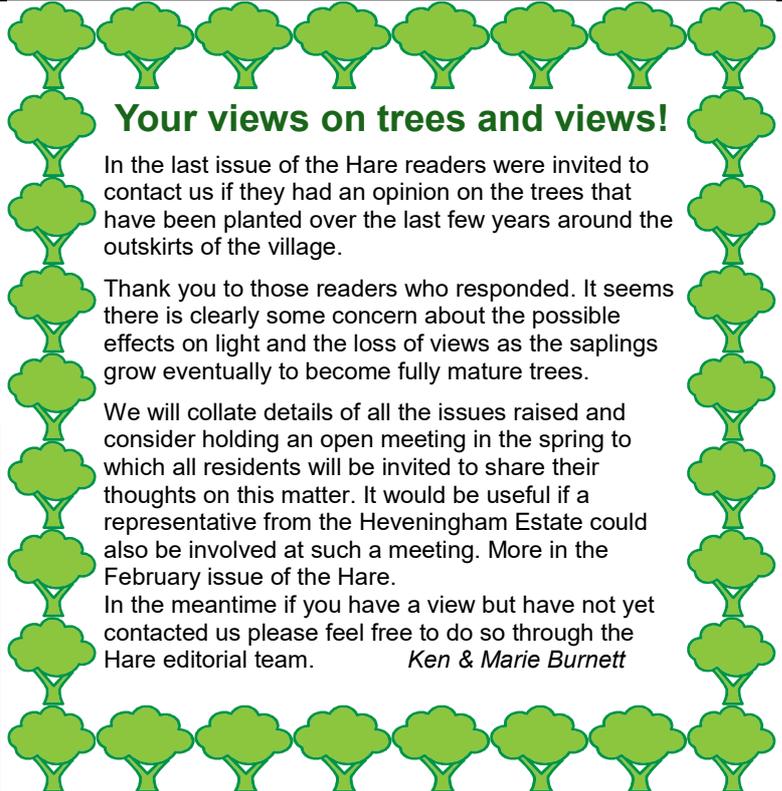
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Your views on trees and views!

In the last issue of the Hare readers were invited to contact us if they had an opinion on the trees that have been planted over the last few years around the outskirts of the village.

Thank you to those readers who responded. It seems there is clearly some concern about the possible effects on light and the loss of views as the saplings grow eventually to become fully mature trees.

We will collate details of all the issues raised and consider holding an open meeting in the spring to which all residents will be invited to share their thoughts on this matter. It would be useful if a representative from the Heveningham Estate could also be involved at such a meeting. More in the February issue of the Hare.

In the meantime if you have a view but have not yet contacted us please feel free to do so through the Hare editorial team. *Ken & Marie Burnett*

Guess What?

Did you guess the last object? The clue was 'From Bosch to Zanussi all are at home here!'

Answer—Laundry Lane

Now for the next one
'Stairway to Heaven'

So, what is being referred to here?

Celebrations

Congratulations to Margery Day who will celebrate her 89th birthday on 18th December.

Please let us know about any special birthdays or other celebratory events that we can share with our readers.

News from Huntingfield Millennium Green CIO



The Millennium Green is looking good at the moment, the short grass areas have been managed well this year and we have had several good comments from parents that their children have used the green more as the grass has been short enough to run around on.

The wildflower area has been a delight with lots of colourful flowers, butterflies flitting about and birds breeding in the hedges. We have had the tall grass area cut and baled by local farmers, this is the best management for a wildflower meadow as it reduces the soils nutrient level and the less vigorous plants can thrive. So next summer the flowers should be even better. We had a tidy-up day in the village in October and up on the MG this mainly involved clearing weeds and mulching around the orchard trees to give them the best chance to grow well. Thank you to the volunteers for their good work.

We have also employed a gardener to help in some of this work and intend to continue this next year to ensure that the MG is in peak condition with paths cut etc. for our residents and visitors to enjoy.

There are obviously costs associated with this and other maintenance work, insurances etc. so the Trustees of the MG have to raise funds through various fundraising means and events.

We have held two such events recently - the Race Night in the Hub and Apple Day.

Race Night was a brilliant event, extremely well organised by Stephen Harrison with able assistance from Mags and Caroline on the tellers desk and David organising the music and P/A.

This event involved the proven and much loved format of filmed horse and greyhound races enabling wagers to be put on and prizes for each winning 'owner' provided by very generous sponsors. Rolling a pound for the bottle of whisky also proved popular. In all a fantastic total of £512.30 was raised, so well done to all and many thanks for a highly entertaining evening must go to Stephen and his helpers for running the event, all the sponsors and, of course, the generous race goers!

The **Apple Day** held on 29th October was superbly organised by Marian and Patrick Cannell. It was our second holding of this event and the weather was again kind to us.

The day began with a planting ceremony on the MG with two trees being planted in memory of Ian Richardson whose inspiration it was to buy the land and create the Millennium Green, which is now enjoyed by so many. A Bird Cherry was planted on the MG by Gloria, Ian's wife, and members of his family planted a James Grieve apple tree to form part of our orchard.

We then had lots of visitors to the Hub who thoroughly enjoyed the apple themed competitions and activities, these included cooking apple cake and crumble, apple bobbing, peeling the longest peel, guessing the weight of a bag of apples, the largest apple etc. We also had a heavy duty juicer on hand, supplied and manned by Ross, producing delicious fresh juice from people's own apples. There was a brilliant Apple ID display by Paul from the Suffolk Traditional Orchard Group, a video on apple culture, a display from Suffolk bee keepers and tours of the MG orchard.

Entertainment and music was supplied by a local Morris dancing band and we even appeared live on BBC Radio Suffolk—what a day!

Many thanks must go to Marian and Patrick and all the helpers who made cakes, served teas, manned the stalls etc. The day had a great atmosphere and we raised an amazing £525, well done to everyone involved.

Thanks to Steve and Sara from "The Arms" who have had a collection box on their bar, this raised £9.07. So the Trustees hope that the MG is carrying on the work and inspiration that Ian Richardson started in 2000 - any thoughts or help is always welcomed. If anyone would like to join the Trustees we would again welcome them - the duties are not onerous and are always enjoyable.

Tony Howe—Chair of Trustees - 01986 785429



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Spicy Root & Lentil Casserole

Just the dish to ward off the cold! A 'goodfood' recipe to warm us up. Serves 4.

Ingredients:-

- 2 tbsp sunflower or vegetable oil
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- 700g potatoes, peeled and cut into chunks
- 4 carrots, thickly sliced
- 2 parsnips, thickly sliced
- 2 tbsp curry paste or powder
- 1 litre vegetable stock
- 100g red lentils
- A small bunch of fresh coriander roughly chopped
- Low-fat yogurt and naan bread, to serve



Method:-

- Heat the oil in a large pan and cook the onion and garlic over a medium heat for 3-4 minutes until softened, stirring occasionally. Tip in the potatoes, carrots and parsnips, turn up the heat and cook for 6-7 minutes, stirring, until the vegetables are golden.
- Stir in the curry paste or powder, pour in the stock and then bring to the boil. Reduce the heat, add the lentils, cover and simmer for 15-20 minutes until the lentils and vegetables are tender and the sauce has thickened.
- Stir in most of the coriander, season and heat for a minute or so. Top with yoghurt and the rest of the coriander. Serve with naan bread.

Joan's Column

A very constructive council meeting was held on 8th November mainly dealing with financial matters and the budget for the forthcoming year. It was felt that the **precept**, which has remained unchanged for the last few years, needed to be increased.

This is due to the rising costs of insurance, maintenance charges, subscription fees and the need to subscribe to a website to comply with the transparency code. The Council has requested a precept of £6,000 for the year 2018/19 which will result in an increase to a Band D property of £20.64 per year, or approximately 40 pence per week. Full details will be published on the website—www.huntingfield.onesuffolk.net

As the **audit fees** incurred in 2015/16 and 2016/17 were due to the monies held in the Parish Council account on behalf of The Hub it was resolved to ask the Hub Trustees to pay the agreed £1,300 for 2015/16 and a further £400 for 2016/17. At a Hub Trustees meeting held on 20th November the Trustees agreed to do this.

At the meeting it was announced that Councillor Helen Cannon had resigned. The Council extended their thanks to her for services to the Council and the community.

The vacancy has been posted on the village notice-board and the website as well as on page 1 of this newsletter. If you are interested in becoming a councillor please contact the Parish Clerk at huntingfieldclerk@gmail.com

On behalf of all the Councillors I should like to take this opportunity of wishing everyone a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year.

*Joan Baker - Chair
of the Parish
Council*



HEVENINGHAM HALL CHRISTMAS MARKET

Sunday 3rd December
10:00—2:00

Stalls will include Christmas goods, Book stall, Tombola, Raffle, Turkeys, Cakes, Refreshments and Mulled Wine.

Buy your Christmas tree and visit Santa's Grotto.

See the reindeer and Singing Elves.

For further details visit the website heveninghamchristmasmarket.co.uk

As usual there is the Santa Fun Run, entry and full details on the website runheveningham.co.uk

Free parking and entry with all proceeds going to support local charities.



Healthwatch Suffolk

Can you help Healthwatch Suffolk to shape and improve home care services? Healthwatch Suffolk is exploring people's experiences of accessing home care services (domiciliary care). It is an opportunity for you, your friends or family members to influence and improve these services now and for the future. The watchdog wants to hear from people who are currently using home care services, have used them in the past or those who may need help at home but have been unable to obtain support in the county.

Domiciliary care is provided in a person's home. Sometimes it is called home care or 'Support to Live at Home'. Home care can include support with things like helping people to get out of bed, washing, dressing, getting to work, cooking meals, eating, seeing friends, caring for families and being part of the community. Healthwatch Suffolk will use your feedback to help it understand the issues that people face when accessing care at home and what needs to be explored in detail as part of its developing project. As the health and care watchdog for Suffolk, it can use the things that people share to shape, influence and improve care to our county's most vulnerable residents.

Sharing your experiences couldn't be easier

If you are currently using a service, Healthwatch Suffolk is asking people to take part in a short survey. You can access it using the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/homecareinsuffolk>

If you are not currently accessing support or would prefer not to feedback online, please contact the Healthwatch Suffolk team on 0800 4488234 (Freephone) or by email to

info@healthwatchesuffolk.co.uk. Paper copies of the survey and other formats are available on request.

healthwatch
Suffolk

The Hub Kids Club

The next session will be on

Friday 8th December from 4—5:30 p.m.

This will be a **Christmas Party** for the young members of our community. All children between the ages of 5—12 are welcome.

4 year olds are welcome but must have a parent/adult in attendance.

The weekly sub is £1.50 to include a drink and biscuit as well as including the cost of all consumables.



Coffee/tea for adults is charged at 50p per cup.

For more information email us at thehub@huntingfield.com

The Kids Club Team (details on back page)

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Churchwarden's Chat



It's difficult to believe that this is the last column of 2017. It's been a good year for St Mary's with two family services and lots of visitors. On that subject, there will be a candle lit **Carol Service and Christingle on Saturday 9th December at 3 p.m.** You are all invited to this service of carols, readings and poems. Children are invited to write prayers or poems and read them, to dress as shepherds or shepherdesses and join in the service (we can provide costumes if needed). There will also be refreshments and it will, I am sure, be a lovely occasion.

Thanks to those of you who donated candles for this - we will make good use of them and there's still time to search those odd corners for some more!



The planned meeting about the future of the church had to be postponed and it will now take place on 5th December. Watch this space for updates....

As we reach the turn of the year, I'd like to thank the church 'team' who keep the wheels turning: all those who ring, who clean, mow, make decisions, sing, play, preach, greet and fix.

At St Mary's there will be services at 9:30 a.m. on **3rd December, 14th January and 4th February.** **Midnight Service is on 24th December at 11 p.m.**

May health, happiness and good times be with you this Christmas and every day of the New Year.

Blessings to you and yours. *Linda Berry - Churchwarden*

Guess Who?

Can you identify the next **Mystery Guest** from these clues?

- I am married to Keith
- I have lived in a number of countries including Ireland
- I am a qualified garden designer but not a practising one.

Please let us know your ideas for a **Mystery Guest**

Huntingfield Arms



Quiz every Tuesday evening

2 meals for £10 every Tuesday evening

**Pre Christmas lunch - Monday 27th November -
Friday 1st December—2 courses £12**

Burns Supper Thursday 25th January

Chinese New Year Supper Friday 16th February
For more details phone Steve or Sara on 798320

Our Mystery Guest in this issue is Tommy McGee

I was born in my parents' pub in the village of Stuntney just outside Ely. The family had the pub for fifty years, so very strange that I don't actually drink very much alcohol! At least one of my three sisters does keep up the drinking tradition though!

I sort of fell into catering as I couldn't decide what I really wanted to do as a career. My first job was cooking in the Tower Hospital, Ely in 1981. I then worked for Tesco as Staff Restaurant Manager until 1987 when the opportunity to work in the USA arose. Initially I was contracted to work as the Drama Teacher for New Jersey Y Camp as I have been in amateur dramatics since school, my first role being Grumpy in Snow White! Having arrived in the States, one of the camp cooks had broken an arm so I was asked, having refused three times, to take over from him. This led to me returning every year after as camp cook, arriving in May and staying through until October apart from a three year break when I worked for Simple Simon Pies. I received an unexpected phone call asking me to return to camp in 1994 which I did until 2002. Although camp is only 8 weeks, I became great friends with John, the Catering Manager, and his wife Sue who was the Nature Specialist and I would work for John in his catering business when camp finished.



Some of the best times were when I was helping with catering on chartered boats sailing on the Hudson around Manhattan. It was also brilliant to make friends with other camp workers from around the world, a number of whom I still keep in touch with. Being away for much of the year I was very grateful to a friend who would employ me in a local bookshop for the remaining time.

Through all this time I continued my am-dram through the winter months, mainly musicals such as 'Me and My Girl', 'Oklahoma', 'Calamity Jane', 'Kiss Me Kate', 'Gigi', 'Pyjama Game' and 'Sweeney Todd' to name but a few. Of course there has been a pantomime or two and even Shakespeare! My working abroad ended when I met Mike in 2002 but now we both go over to stay with our friends in New Jersey.



My work in the UK had been in Care Homes right up until last June when I became school cook at Bramfield House School. Since being with Mike we have lived in Bury St Edmunds, Brent Eleigh, Monks Eleigh and of course here where we arrived in 2014. Mike and I have done a fair bit of travelling, including going to the weddings of some of the camp workers which has taken us to Romania and Slovakia. Of course I should mention that we went to Los Angeles to marry, so Mike's daughter, Hannah, could give him away! I have to say that it has been better than we ever could have imagined coming to live here and we couldn't be happier which is down to all of you!

Huntingfield 100 Club

September winners:-

£30	83	Keith Dennis
£15	6	Ken Burnett
£5	48	Helen Cannon

October winners:-

£30	38	Sam Collier
£15	61	James McCredie
£5	58	George Smith

The draw is held at the end of each month and winners will be notified within a few days.

Sue Brewer 01986 798169

New Year Walk

David and Sally invite you to join them on their New Year's Walk on **SUNDAY 7th JANUARY** starting from The Hub at 11 a.m.

If you haven't been before, it is a circular walk stopping half way at 'Giffords' on the Linstead Road for refreshments.

Any non-walkers please join us from 1 p.m. at Giffords.

All welcome

Sally Clarke & David Blackmore



PETANQUE CLUB NEWS

The 2017 Petanque year for The Huntingfield Hares Club has just about finished. The 7th annual A.G.M. was held on Sunday 26th November in the Huntingfield Arms with 13 members attending. The Club Captain, Richard, thanked all members for their support. He welcomed new members Sally, Emma and Alistair into the fold with a hope that fresh faces may help us with our fortunes after a mediocre season which, nevertheless, was enjoyed by all.

The Club is still actively seeking new players living locally and from the surrounding area.

Richard presented the Cliff Spencer Memorial Trophy on behalf of Sue Brewer, who was unable to be with us, to David Blackmore who was the winner of the Huntingfield Hares Petanque Knockout Competition for 2017.

Our Club is looking to improve our game in 2018 with practice sessions from now on in a year where there will be expected changes to the format of the Adnams Coastal League. We play matches on Wednesday evening as well as our customary Sunday mornings.

Finally, after the A.G.M. we sat down to a lovely meal in the Huntingfield Arms. See you all on the piste next year.

Seasons greetings

Richard Tyler - 01986 798403



'Suddenly Last Summer' On Saturday 11th November Open Space Theatre Company enthralled with their production of the Tennessee Williams play. What a dark subject it was - if you don't know the storyline I'll leave you to Google it! The audience was spell-bound with, at the close of the play, stunned silence for a few moments. *Sue Lucas*

Carpet Bowls A reminder that Carpet Bowls is played in The Hub every **Friday afternoon from 2:00—3:30**.

Everyone is welcome to come and join in a relaxing, enjoyable session. Tea and coffee is available.

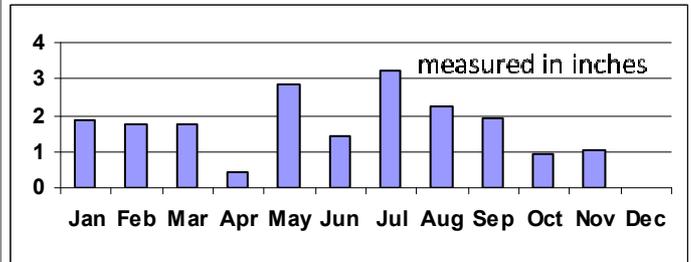
The fee to attend is £1 per session.



Rainfall in 2017

Sitting writing my weather report on a balmy late November afternoon with an outside shade temperature of 15.4C you may be thinking that I have lost the plot and have got my two months records wrong. Well, yet again it's all down to the jet stream, following its usual meandering pattern, we are on the south side of it in a very warm southerly air mass. To the north of us sits a cold front which is in turn causing a very strong air flow to pass over us in the east (strong gusts expected tonight, the 22nd), and as the jet stream moves south, so the cold air mass moves over us and normal average temperatures are set to return for the weekend of the 24/25th November. Of course, rain can be expected but how much, time will tell.

So how much rain have we had over the last 2 months, well, not a lot. In October I recorded 23.39mm (.92") and November 26.21mm (1.03") to date. Compare that with 2016 when 48.66mm (1.92") and 102.23mm (4.02") in the respective months. Rainfall cumulatively this year to date is 493mm (19.41") compared with 2016 when 703mm (27.69") had fallen. Though way behind last year's accumulation to date, this year won't be the driest I've recorded. In 2011 489mm (19.24") was the yearly total and we have already passed that figure. Finally, the autumn has been relatively mild. The first ground frost occurred in my garden on the 6th November and the first air frost on 17th (-.6C). Next report in 2018 so enjoy the seasonal festivities. *Richard Tyler*



Hub Brunch

The first Brunch of the New Year will be on Saturday 6th January - same time as usual, 11 a.m.—12 noon. This will be a 'full English' to be cooked by some of the Hub Trustees and friends. We look forward to seeing you there!

Hub Brunch

Saturday 2nd December
11 a.m.—12 noon

The next village brunch is a surprise as we don't know what is to be on the menu!

It will be prepared and cooked by **Daisy & Joel from Ubbeston**

At the usual price of £5 for food and as much tea/coffee as you can drink it's a bargain.

A truly convivial atmosphere to get you off to a great weekend!
The Hub Trustees



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Garden Club

At this time of year, Garden Club decants to The Arms where we are kindly given the use of the dining room. At our October meeting we were delighted to have Marian Cannell talk to us about the art of bee-keeping. We were informed about the working of the hive and the life of the bees through the use of a model of a hive. The talk ended with honey tasting to see if we could identify the flower or nectar source. It was amazing to see the difference in colour and taste and I think we all had a different favourite! Our thanks again to Marian for a wonderful evening.

In November we enjoyed a fun quiz to test our knowledge of plants, gardens and gardening. Congratulations to Sue Tyler who achieved the highest score (not winner as there was no prize!)

Our next meeting is on **Monday 11th December at 7 p.m.** when we shall be making Christmas wreaths, table decorations etc. so why not come along and join in. You will need to bring your own greenery, oasis etc. and Sara has offered to make some finger food to keep us going at just £3 per head. Looking forward to next year, we are planning a visit to Bressingham Gardens, watch this space. New members are always welcome, so don't be shy, most of us are novices, just turn up at the pub. *Mike Stephens*



Very many thanks to all who have contributed to the foodbank through St Mary's Church Huntingfield and The Hub.

The Hub is pleased to continue to support this essential cause by providing a Neighbourhood Food Collection point.

Items needed are:-

Milk (UHT or powdered)	Fruit Juice (long life)
Tinned meat/fish	Sugar
Cereals	Tinned vegetables
Tinned sponge pudding	Instant mash potato
Tinned tomatoes	Pasta sauces
Tinned rice pudding	Jam
Biscuits or snack bars	Tea bags
Instant coffee	Tinned fruit

Please note that the foodbank cannot accept fresh fruit, vegetables, meat etc.

Toiletries, pet food and small gifts for Christmas are also welcome additions to the list of goods needed.

Please give generously by placing your donations in the box in the **entrance foyer of The Hub.**

Thank you

The Hub Trustees

Hub Crafters' Group
Monday 8th January - 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Firstly, apologies that I had to cancel the inaugural meeting of the craft group back in September due to a family illness.

Let's start 2018 with a new group of like-minded crafters. The first meeting will be on Monday 8th January in The Hub.

Come along and join us for an afternoon of crafting of your own choice, see what others are doing or try something new. If you have any interesting projects or items of interest please bring them along.

Tea and coffee, together with cakes and friendly chat in good supply.

Any questions please contact
Helen on 01986 799103

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Notes from the Cow Shed

Moo to everyone and hello again!

Autumn/winter is with us and although it remains unusually dry, grass growth has virtually stopped. We are now being fed hay and silage conserved during the summer. Some of us lucky ones, mainly the in-calf heifers are also receiving an amount of fodder beet, which is much like sugar beet but not as sweet and a little higher in protein. These we eat whole by crunching them up, very occasionally parts will get stuck in our throats that require some assistance from the team fairly rapidly, otherwise the gas in our stomachs builds up and will cause our rumen (1st stomach) to become distended which puts pressure on the heart and without prompt action we will die of a heart attack. Fortunately this is fairly rare but constant vigilance is necessary.

We are now all safely in calf although as yet we have not been scanned. This year Lucy has been trained in this technique which will make life easier for organising the work load.

Previously a contractor has been used but that involved gathering together larger numbers to make it less costly. Nothing is left to chance if at all possible, consequently we are wormed regularly and vaccinated for a number of diseases. This year, a new (for us) soil-born bacterial disease called 'Black Leg' has appeared, probably due to changes in climatic conditions and the disturbance to the soil by high levels of mole activity. Initially, this is very distressing with mortalities and quite dramatic symptoms - from the first signs of infection to death within 12 hours and no remedial treatment available. There is a double vaccination programme which we have introduced with annual boosters, fingers crossed this will give us some protection.

TB testing has become a very onerous and time-consuming practice on the farm. I'm sure you will be surprised to learn that all bovines arriving from outside of our area are subjected to pre-movement testing. Once on the farm they are then post-movement tested between 60 and 120 days after arrival. During that time they are not allowed to be moved to another holding. The testing involves two visits from our veterinary surgeon, who clips the hair in two places on the neck, the skin thickness is measured and recorded with their individual ear number and then injected with two strains of TB - 72 hours later these animals are inspected again individually by the vet and the reaction to the injections is measured and recorded again. If there is a severe reaction then that animal is put down and we are not allowed to move any stock until the whole herd has been retested 60 days later. This process continues until we have a clear test. Is it any wonder that we become frustrated at the lack of common sense surrounding the control and spread of the disease? It is like defending oneself from intruders with no locks on our doors and our hands tied behind our backs. To think it was less than 40 years ago when we had eradicated TB in our livestock - now we live in constant fear on a weekly basis of a breakout.

It isn't all bad news though—the vote to leave the EU has been a great help already and is filling us with hope that the levels of bureaucracy that has built up over many years and our national tendency to 'gold-plate' all regulations will also reduce and we

look forward with optimism towards the future. You will have noticed from these notes that started from Pat have moo-ved onto me 'old floppy hat'! My excuse is that she and many others are oblivious to much that goes on behind the scenes keeping that glorious, pastoral look to our countryside.

Merry Christmas from the team and a big thank you to all who show us tolerance throughout the year when we inadvertently happen to hold you up.

Pat, Ewe, Lucy, Paul,
Robbie and David



(fodder beet)

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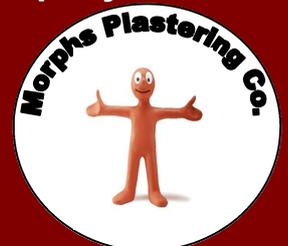


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Events Group Charity Fund Raising

As 2017 draws to a close it is always good to reflect on the past year. The Events Group is particularly pleased with the charity fund raising that has taken place in the village and would once again like to thank those who have contributed in a variety of ways by - walking, baking, donating raffle prizes and bric-a-brac and giving of their time. On your behalf as a village we have donated just under £400 in total to the East Anglian Charity, EACH, which supports children with life limiting conditions, and the national charity Macmillan Cancer. We intend to do more charity fund raising in 2018 and look forward to your continued support. *Sally Clarke*

Elizabeth Garrett Anderson

The Hub was packed for the interesting and informative talk given by Mark Mitchels about the life and work of Elizabeth Garrett Anderson - a local girl from Aldeburgh who was related to the Garretts of Leiston who owned the engineering works there. Look out for the next talk by Mark - such an excellent speaker! *Sue Lucas*



*Katharine Ellen
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Nature Notes - December 2017

Christmas is almost upon us and greenery such as Holly and Ivy will soon be gathered to brighten our homes at this darkest time of year. The evergreen nature of these plants lift the spirits and remind us that spring will assuredly come around quite soon. One other plant that many of us bring indoors over the festive season is the enigmatic Mistletoe.

Mistletoe is a parasitic plant that grows on the bark of tree branches, it does not have proper roots like most plants, instead it relies on the host plant to supply it with food, minerals and water. It's most common host is Apple but it will grow on many types of tree including Lime, Hawthorn and Poplar. Mistletoe is special to see at this time of year, large orbs of greenery hanging high up in trees seemingly defying gravity is quite amazing. It is understandable how the plant, green and healthy in the harshest winter, seemingly without roots was seen as other worldly, mysterious gave rise to myths and legend.

The Druids saw Mistletoe as a gift from heaven, they were described by the Romans as ritually harvesting the plant with a golden sickle. In Scandinavian legends the Norse god Baldur is killed by a spear tipped with Mistletoe.

From Victorian times the tradition of kissing under the Mistletoe became popular and still is today, a berry should be removed for each kiss, but don't be tempted to taste the berry, they are poisonous to humans! The seed inside the jelly like outer is covered with a sticky substance viscin that enables the seed to stick to a branch. This is either after it has passed through a bird, the speed of a bird's digestion means that they are not poisoned, or when a bird wipes the troublesome sticky seed off its bill after it has eaten the outer nutritious layer on the berry.

The name originates from the old German language where mash or mistle means 'sticky' and the Old English meaning a 'twig'. One of our local garden birds the Mistle Thrush gets its name from its liking for the plant's berries and a pair will defend a tree with large infestations of Mistletoe against other hungry birds. Their angry dry rattling "rrrrr" calls can be heard as they chase off flocks of Redwings and Fieldfares, migrant thrushes from Eastern Europe which spend the winter in the UK.

Another visitor from the east, (not one of the Three Kings!) has been making the news in bird-watching circles. Britain is experiencing the largest influx of our largest finch, the Hawfinch, in living memory. There are around 800 pairs of these unmistakable large almost Thrush size bird that breed in the UK but at the moment thousands have in the last few weeks been seen in every British county. They are chunky brown grey birds with a white wing bar but if you get a good look their most striking feature is the large dark lead-grey bill. It is conical in shape and is so powerful it can crack seeds that no other bird can, they eat Hornbeam seeds and can even split Cherry stones.

The reasons for the invasion are not entirely clear but a good breeding season, in Scandinavia or even as far east as Russia, followed by a subsequent food shortage and even storm Ophelia may be responsible. Whatever the cause this winter provides the best chance ever to catch a glimpse of this truly stunning bird, so do keep an eye and ear out whilst walking through woodland, the Carnser could be good as it has lots of Hornbeams. They often sit up high on treetops or could be seen on the ground feeding, they may also come to bird baths as their food is quite dry, they call quite readily with an explosive high pitched "zik".

I have spotted one recently at nearby Sibton Park, so please do keep an eye out and let me know if you see any, it would be a great Christmas present for me to see some in Huntingfield.

Merry Christmas to all. Tony Howe 01986 785429



(Mistletoe)

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(Hawfinch)

Dates for your Diary

Library Van—page 10, Church Services—page 5, All events are in The Hub unless otherwise stated

★ Saturday 2nd December	★ Hub Brunch - page 7
★ Sunday 3rd December	★ Heveningham Hall Christmas Market - Heveningham Hall - page 4
★ Wednesday 6th December	★ The Wednesday Club - page 2
★ Friday 8th December	★ Kids Club Christmas Party - page 3
★ Saturday 9th December	★ Carols at Christmas & Christingle - St Mary's Church - page 1
★ Monday 11th December	★ Garden Club - page 8
★ Saturday 16th December	★ Three Villages Christmas Dinner - page 1
★ Monday 18th December	★ Carols Round the Tree - page 1
★ Sunday 24th December	★ Midnight Service - St Mary's Church - page 5
★ Sunday 31st December	★ New Year's Eve Supper - page 1
★ Wednesday 3rd January	★ The Wednesday Club - page 2
★ Sunday 7th January	★ New Year Walk - page 6
★ Monday 8th January	★ Hub Crafters' Group - page 8
★ Wednesday 10th January	★ Parish Council Meeting - 7:30
★ Thursday 25th January	★ Burns Supper - The Arms - page 5

Regular events at The Hub below:

★ Zumba - Monday mornings 11.00—12.00	★ Hub details below
★ Pilates - Tuesday mornings 9:30—10:30 Intermediate, 10:35—11:35 Beginners	★ Email: thehub@huntingfield.org
★ Bridge - Tuesday afternoons 2—4 p.m.	★ www.huntingfield.org/the-hub
★ Live and Swing Dance - Tuesdays 7.30 p.m.—8.30 p.m.	★ Phone: 01986 799130
★ Table Tennis - Thursdays at 7.30 p.m.	★ Ukulele - Tuesday afternoons - 4:30—6:00 p.m.
★ Wednesday Club - First Wed. in each month - 2—4 p.m.	★ Carpet Bowls - Fridays 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.
★ Kids Club - Fridays - 4—5:30 p.m. starting 13th October - once a fortnight	

★ Copy for next issue by **20th January** please to editor@huntingfield.org. Sue Lucas 3 The Street— 798000



As the year once again draws to a close it is time to reflect on the past twelve months. Looking back The Hub has hosted numerous event and activities for the inhabitants of our three local villages - Huntingfield, Heveningham & Ubbeston. Here are just a few:- Greta & Steve music, Village Panto, The Hub 1st anniversary celebrations, Eastern Angles production, Cookery Masterclass, RoughCast Theatre Co., Tea Dances, Craft Fayre, Screen printing, Bingo, Apple Day, Race Night, as well as all the regular events listed above and Hub Brunches. Kids Club has been spectacularly successful thanks to all the organisers and mums and dads - thanks to them all. The Trustees have organised lighting on the steps to the Millennium Green. This will only be switched on when there is an event involving the Hub and the MG. The Trustees have also purchased 5 ft diameter round tables for that 'special' event. Looking ahead we have three theatre companies to entertain us in the spring and many other events planned. Please let us know if there is something you would like to see happening in the Hub, if you don't tell us we don't know! Finances are healthy due to the hard work and constant efforts made by the Hub Trustees. We hope to see everyone enjoying events, classes and other activities at the Hub in 2018 and wish everyone all the best for the festive season. *Sue Lucas*

Your Parish Councillors

Joan Baker (Chair)	New House	798363
Brian Lucas (Vice Chair)	3 The Street	798000
Joe Thompson	11 Holland Rise	798112
David Burrows	The Old Post Office	798165
Jackie Driver	Katanning	798075
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Karen Forster	parish.clerk@huntingfield.org	

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The Meeting Place Team

Liz Forrester, Carla Kruger, Sue Lucas, Jackie Driver

The Kids Club Team

Marta Camus, Sue Lucas, Linda Burrows, Jackie Driver, Carla Kruger

Events Group

David Blackmore	785348	Kate Liddiard	07964047890
Sally Clarke	785348	Caroline Hare	
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Parochial Church Council

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churchwarden@stmaryshuntingfield.org.uk
 Jenny Blackmore - 07908 341249

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davidburrows@stmaryshuntingfield.org.uk

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Members can be contacted through the Churchwardens.

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