

HUNTINGFIELD HARE



Issue 79 April - May 2020

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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 website (see below). If you live outside Huntingfield and would like a hard-copy of the Hare then we request a £10 annual donation towards print and postage.

The Huntingfield Hare is financed through advertising - so please support our advertisers whenever you can.

A colour copy of the Hare is available in the Huntingfield Arms, in the Hub and at the Church.

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Finally, the Huntingfield Hare is still on the lookout for a new editor. If you are looking for a new challenge/project please get in touch.

COVID-19 and Huntingfield

As we put together the latest issue of the Hare the country has been put into "lockdown" so this issue will be pared down given that all the events and gatherings we usually cover have been cancelled until further notice. Also, we will not be distributing a paper copy for this issue - apologies to our subscribers.

Huntingfield Community Response Team

Under the auspices of the Parish Council the village has a Huntingfield Community Response Team who can provide help, support and information for anyone that needs it. Services such as shopping, pharmaceutical / parcel collections, dog-walking etc. can be arranged with a team of volunteers. Additionally, if you need someone to talk to please pick up the phone. You can contact the Team via phone or email:

Phone: 01986 799110

Email: community@huntingfield.uk

Communication

Obviously, at a time like this communication is very important especially when things are changing on a daily basis. As well as the response team we have two email distribution lists – one for the Huntingfield Hare subscribers and another for The Hub – these will be used if and when required to distribute essential information. If you would like to be added to either of these lists please email (huntingfieldhare@gmail.com and thehub@huntingfield.org). For those who use social media there is also a Facebook page for Huntingfield Community where we can share information about local supplies, services etc. Please feel free to post to this page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/huntingfieldcommunity/>.



In the meantime, we can at least appreciate the wonderful countryside in which to enjoy our daily exercise and be thankful that we don't have to pound the pavements of a more urban space.

Please do reach out to neighbours and friends in your community. Follow the latest advice and take care of yourselves.

Let's hope the June/July edition of the Hare will carry more favourable news.

The Hare Team

Petanque Club News



In this report I was hoping to be able to tell you that we had won our first game! Unfortunately, the Summer Petanque League has become another casualty of the dreaded COVID-19. We await the updates. However, we are not downhearted, well maybe a little bit, but we are going to continue in the true British way, chin up and carry

on. We will be ready when we can recommence the league!

Watch this space for the latest on the Huntingfield Hares Petanque team!
Julie Collett

Hub News

The Hub is currently closed until further notice with all events and classes cancelled. All current providers are promising to return once the COVID-19 crisis allows them to do so. Coastal Leisure Learning inform us that they are hoping to pick up again for the autumn term if possible.

In the meantime we will keep everything ticking over until some semblance of normality returns.

Best regards and take care
The Hub Trustees

Hundred Club Results

January

1st	Sam Collier	£30
2nd	Marta Camus	£15
3rd	Val Friend	£5

February

1st	Janet Murphy	£30
2nd	Ken Burnett	£15
3rd	Sarah Kingsley-Adams	£5

The 100 Club exists to raise money for the maintenance of our wonderful Millennium Green and Wildlife Meadow. For £12 a year you are entered in the monthly draw to win £30, £15 or £5, so if you'd like to be included please contact me on 798169
Sue Brewer



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Notes from the sheep pen..

Baa to you all,

Well, it's that time of year and we are popping out our babies again! All should be over by the end of April - a great relief all round. Old floppy hat came home from Oz in time to look after the Romney's at Heveningham. Meanwhile, Lucy, as in previous years, has had the triplets and quads in her care while the "mules" are lambing singles and twins at Henham under Paul's watchful eye. We are trying a slightly revised system this year and fostering one lamb from each set of triplets on to a single producing ewe.



To this end the team have bought another "adopter" (photo) which will allow up to eight of us to be restrained individually until we get used to the unexpected baby! It usually takes a couple of days at most to accept the surrogate lamb, although the odd crotchety so 'n so won't even accept

her own offspring and may have to spend some time in the adopter. It increases the work load in the short-term but in the long run the lambs perform best on surrogate 'mother's' milk and grass and need less attention.

All of last years lambs have been marketed just as the early Dorset's and Easy care's come on-stream, good timing, or what?

There have been some beneficial changes for the team at Heveningham in the form of permanent electric fencing on North Park and traditional sheep netting closer to the village. With the new cattle grids we can now graze the whole area as one, including the footpath, yay! We implore any of you who walk your dogs on the path past the Queens Oak to please keep them on a lead. Last year one of our lambs was savaged in that area and had to be put down, which is always very distressing. Meanwhile, fingers crossed for a gentle spring.

Ewe know who...

.. and from Pat

Hello all of you, or even Moo to you!



It's been a pretty good winter and we have fared well.

All the silage

conserved last year has been consumed together with 1,000 tons of fodder beet – yummy! We have been giving birth since the 1st March and even produced the first set of triplets for 12 years - the team were on hand and all are fine. The rest of us should be done by mid-May.

Us autumn calving girls enjoyed our boyfriend's company and Lucy has finished the ultrasound pregnancy scanning. We will shortly be weaning our calves then heading for 3 months rest and recuperation back at Heveningham, hooray! The calves are storming along so they will probably be heading for the home farm in Essex pretty soon. Won't that be nice: there comes a time when it's great to see the kids leave home for pastures new!



Photo by Geronimo Giqueaux on Unsplash

Life on the grassland at this time of the year is always very busy for the team, with newborns eating their heads off and the need to juggle what is available with the need to conserve enough for the following winter. Why should we worry, that's old floppy hat's job..

So, for the moment, its carry on as usual and speak to you again soon.

Pat

Emma's Column

There is little to report from the latest PC meeting on 11th March. Year end admin was signed off and we have a healthy balance in the account. We discussed the kind offer of a living Christmas tree for the village green but eventually decided there wasn't a suitable position for it so we are looking into some nice lights for the oak tree instead. We also arranged dates for a village clean up and for the Annual Parish meeting but obviously these are now on hold, as are future meetings until further notice. Check the website at <http://huntingfield.onesuffolk.net/huntingfield-parish-council/>

Please note the details listed on the front page of the response team we have set up and don't hesitate to contact us if you need help or information. Please do heed the governments advice to keep both yourselves and our community safe.

Emma Ward.

Chair of Huntingfield Parish Council

Local Fundraising

There is currently a small team of residents who are taking part in the Cancer Research UK campaign to Walk All Over Cancer. You can find more details at

<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/team/huntingfield-hares>.

A big thank you to all who have sponsored them so far.

Also, two members of Sue Lucas' family, Kate and Alan, are taking part in a charity tandem free fall parachute jump in memory of Sue (something they had promised she could do for her 70th!). This will be on 13th April which is a year to the day since Sue sadly passed away. They are raising funds for Bloodwise. If you would like to sponsor them you can find details here: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/alan-smith82>



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Church Chat



We live in uncertain times and along with all places of worship, I'm afraid St Mary's Church is closed until further notice.

There are a couple of items to report around the Church. You many have noticed the dead tree that has been removed from near the church tower, however the large stump has been left as a wildlife habitat. The old notice board at the gate has been taken down and a new noticeboard has been ordered, but unfortunately, the team are unable to install it until the virus crisis is over.

"Mildred, the Power of a Dream" is still clear in my memory as I am sure it is for many of you. Just as the people of Huntingfield will pull together in the current crisis so the thespians amongst us did with their wonderful production.

If you would like somebody to pray for you, if you need help or somebody to talk to, please ring this number: 01986 799110 or, write to community@huntingfield.uk

Blessings to you and yours.

Rev'd Linda Berry

The logo for Katharine Ellen Designs Cloth Works features a stylized, black and white floral design with swirling lines and leaves. The text 'Katharine Ellen Designs' is written in a cursive font above 'Cloth Works', which is in a bold, sans-serif font. A small icon of a sewing needle and foot is positioned to the right of 'Works'.

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Budding Ideas

Well, this is fine old mess we're in at the moment. I am so thankful that we live in Huntingfield where, if anyone is going to be safe, we have as good a chance as any. We can only follow the advice given and hope to come out safely on the other side. There is some good news though: one of the few things we can do is get out in the fresh air and open spaces where we can keep a safe distance from others, which means we have no excuse other than to have immaculate gardens over the next few months... (I have to include myself in that as well... oh dear!).

With the potential pressures on food, etc. and if the thinking is correct that we may well be in for a long haul, no matter what size your garden is you can start growing your own vegetables to supplement what supplies we can access via delivery/shops.



Of course, this all takes time and it is not for nothing that April and May have traditionally been known as the 'hungry gap' -

when there is a real shortage of fresh vegetables and salad. We have become too reliant on the supplies imported from abroad which is not necessarily a good thing, as current events show. So, it's a good time to take stock of what space you have in the garden and how best to use it.

Prepare seedbeds, whatever the size, by raking to a fine tilth, adding compost if necessary and I often mix in a little fish/blood/bone. Check growing instructions and plant accordingly the likes of broccoli, cabbages and other brassicas. Onion sets and garlic should already have been planted. However, spring onions are a good alternative as they do have quite a long growing season and are ready much earlier. By planting a succession of rows spread out every ten days you will have a good supply for longer. Peas and broad beans can be sown outside but watch out for late frosts and protect with cloches if the weather continues to be cold.

April is also a good month to get ahead by sowing seeds indoors or outside in a greenhouse or cold frame. Tomatoes, summer cabbages, cauliflower, courgettes – it can become a very long list. If you have limited space think about the vegetables that you are most likely to use and concentrate on those.

Courgettes and runner beans tend to provide a glut of supply - I know as I am constantly trying to give these away, which this year is more relevant than ever.

Aside from food, your lawn has probably taken a bit of a battering over this wet autumn/winter (particularly if you have two young hounds using the lawn as a racetrack...). Your mowing regime should be well in place but the application of a combined weed/feed/moss killer will encourage the production of a good, healthy green lawn whilst treating any broad leaf weeds and killing off moss which after any mild damp period will be a problem.

Your garden will continue to need attention and it's a job that you will either love or endure: the fact is that right now we are all having to deal with a rather strange and limited way of life and it only remains to be said, corny as it is, KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON GARDENING!

Lori Kingsley-Adams

Amelanchier canadensis



A lovely tree that can reach 14ft or more but prunes well and a multi-stemmed smaller form is usual. Young coppery foliage, white flowers and red berries with leaves

turning a lovely yellow in autumn. Great for seasonal interest.

Camellia japonica

Fabulous glossy evergreen with very hardy, large showy blooms in a variety of colours from red to pink and whites through April/May. Cold winds and frost can do a huge amount of damage so grow in a sheltered spot or near a wall in light shade.



Abelia chinensis



A deciduous and uncommon shrub with an outstanding record for blooming for a long period. Fragrant flowers white flushed with pink. Is a little tender so needs full sun and a sheltered position.

Nature Notes

Spring is just around the corner and although understandably we all have a lot of concerns at the moment, warmer weather and longer days are not far off so that should be something to cheer us all.

Living in the country, as we do, has a lot of compensations in the strange situation we all find ourselves in with the imminent threat of the dreaded Coronavirus. We should definitely feel lucky that we can get out in the fresh air, into our gardens or along local footpaths to stretch our legs and feel some sun on our faces. Bumblebees are already visiting spring flowers that are in bloom such as Daffodils, Blackthorn and Primrose.



The Wild Primrose is a cheery splash of sunshine at bleak times of year and can flower as early as December. It's a hardy perennial and as well as

bees a small black beetle also helps pollination. As many as twelve of the creatures can be seen on a single flower: the seeds are spread by ants who carry them into their nests.

Soon birds from Rooks to Wrens will be starting to build their nests. Some species will already have laid eggs and male birds will be staking claim to territories by singing. One of our most delightful songsters, the Song Thrush is serenading me every morning from a nearby tree. Do get up early at least once between now and early May and listen to our brilliant dawn chorus it's free and very uplifting.

The wonderful sight of a Kingfisher zooming along the stream by the carnsar was spotted by Helen (Hare Editor): she saw the flash of electric blue of its rump and back - no doubt it was looking for some unsuspecting fish. When this exotic, almost tropical-coloured bird is hungry it fishes from a perch, although they can hover over the water, before diving headlong and grabbing a fish with its long black and orange bill. It will then bash it on a twig and, to make things easier, turn the fish and swallow it head first - a good idea, especially if it's a spiny stickleback!



As well as having amazing blue, white and orange feathers, Kingfishers have the most wonderful deep

orange/red feet with black claws on the end of their toes. Unlike many other birds two of their feet toes face forward and two backwards as they dig deep tunnels for their nests in steep waterside banks: they are truly amazing creatures. Kingfishers are a resident species who stay here and sit out the winter. In harsh winters their populations can suffer large losses. Other, you could say more sensible species, head south to warmer climes and some are already returning to the UK at the time of writing.

My perennial first sign of spring is the Chiffchaff, which seems to be back in good numbers. It's a small greenish bird that lives in trees - listen out for its monotonous squeaky wheelbarrow song "chiffchaffchiffchaffchiffchaff....."

Whilst gardening earlier this afternoon I watched a superb Red Kite making its way leisurely across the fields. It could well be a bird that bred nearby last year. They are about the same size as our local Buzzards but have narrower wings and a deeply forked red tail. Its flight is rather loose and floppy compared with the Buzzard. They feature in ancient myth, in Chaucer's Canterbury Tales and in Shakespeare's Winter's Tale where he alludes to the Kite's propensity for stealing clothes and warns that only "lesser linen" should be worn when the Kite builds its nest.

More summer migrant birds should soon be arriving especially from early April, so do when you go out for your daily walk keep an eye out and ear open for birds such as the Swallow, Whitethroat and Cuckoo.

Do all please keep safe and well in these testing times and do take some time to enjoy your gardens, our local countryside and its wildlife. At least it will take your mind off things for a while and being outside in the sun boosts vitamin D which is good for your immune system.

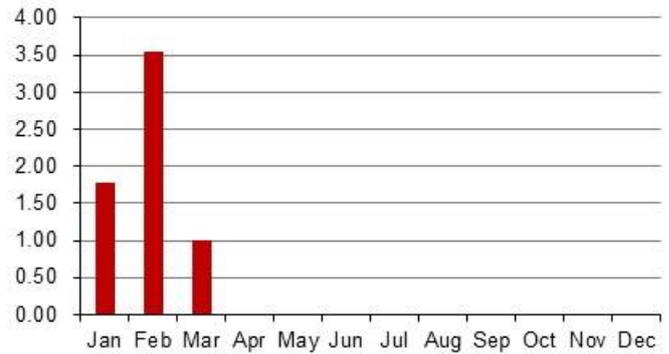
Tony Howe

Weather report: February - March 2020

Some may find my weather report interesting this time round considering all that is going on around us and if you don't, ok!

So, January was an uneventful month in the main except for a wind gust of 46 mph in the low of Huntingfield on the 14th. Rainfall total was 1.78" (45.2mm) compared with 1.03" (26.2mm) in Jan 2019. Rain total for Feb 2020 was 3.54" (89.92mm) compared with 1.11" (28.2mm) in Feb 2019, so February 2020 was more of a "February fill-dyke" scenario.

The first half of March started off on a wet note, but since then the month has become much drier and sunnier under the influence of an anticyclone which has introduced an easterly wind direction for the first time this winter. Cumulatively this year to date there has been 6.33" (160.8mm) of rain compared with 4.28" (108.7mm) for the same period in 2019. Also of note is that Feb 2020 was the windiest February for 30 years (*source: Met Office*), and the wettest here for 10 years (*Weatherquest - Norwich and my records*) though nationally it was the wettest on record according to the Met Office



A term I've not used before is ET (*no, he went home*), but EvapoTranspiration - the process by which water is transferred from the land to the atmosphere by evaporation from the soil and other surfaces and by transpiration from plants. In simple terms factors that affect evapotranspiration include a plant's growth stage or level of maturity, percentage of soil cover, solar radiation, humidity, temperature, and wind. This is why we have lost some 27mm of water from the soil surface already this month (up to the 23rd March) which is the reason the topsoil has become dry so quickly - and not a lot of people know that!

Richard Tyler



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Kids Corner

Congratulations to Bronwen and Tegan who jointly won our word search in the February/March issue. This time we will be putting all correct entries in a hat and drawing one winner. Please fill in the answers and deliver to 6 Bridge Street or email to huntingfieldhare@gmail.com. Good luck!

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