

# HUNTINGFIELD HARE



Issue 83: December 2020 - January 2021

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*The Hare is always looking for ideas and articles to include in our publication. Whether this be something relevant to the 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.*

## December Cheer



On a positive note we can all join together (at a distance!) this December and bring some Christmas cheer to the village. From Sunday 13th December we would encourage you and your family to decorate a window, tree, hedge or fence with a winter or Christmas theme for everyone to see. Together we can light up the village and bring some brightness to the festive season.

**Each participating household will receive a gift from The Central England Co-operative in association with Kids Club.**

So come on..... let's start decorating!

What a difference a year makes! Looking back at the same issue of the Hare last year there were so many events in December – many of which have become annual “traditions” such as Carols on the Green and the Christmas Card Exchange. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 we have to accept that Christmas this year is going to be rather different from the usual.



## ..and January Joviality



On Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> January the MG Trustees are hoping to host the second **Huntingfield Wassail** following on from its very successful and enjoyable inauguration last year. If regulations allow do come along to the Millennium Green at 6.30pm.

If public gatherings are again restricted it is suggested that you “Adopt a Tree”. Pick a tree in the Orchard (or anywhere you feel comfortable) and have your own sing along around it, tie toast onto the tree and drink its health. Words to the Wassail Song can be found on page 2.

## Book Exchange

### Run out of books to read?

Halesworth Library, in association with Halesworth Volunteer Centre and Blyth Valley Team Ministry are running a Book Exchange at St Mary's Church Halesworth.

Saturdays and Wednesdays, 10.30-11.30am and Thursday, 9.30-10.30am

Come and collect up to 6 books which are quarantined on return for 72 hours. Social distancing and hand hygiene apply. All the books are from Halesworth Library stock that was withdrawn before lockdown.

## Mobile Library



The mobile library is still visiting Huntingfield although social distancing requires only one person at a time on the bus so you may have to queue. **The next visits will be 1<sup>st</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> December 2020 – outside the Hub from 3.10-3.30 pm.**

Information on our route (13) can be found at <https://www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/mobiles-home/saxmundham-mobile-library-route-13/>.

Come along and join if you're not already a library member. Books can be ordered and brought right to your doorstep.



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## Millennium Green 100 Club results

A big THANK YOU to everyone who subscribes to the 100 Club to raise funds for the Huntingfield Millennium Green CIO. As you'll have noticed, this year we have been unable to put on any fundraising events so this means that every penny of your £12 per number will work especially hard on the upkeep and maintenance of the Millennium Green and Wildlife Orchard.

### September

1st	David Blackmore	£30
2nd	Sue Tyler	£15
3rd	Sharon Coby	£5

### October

1st	Jackie Driver	£30
2nd	Natasha McCallum	£15
3rd	Linda Berry	£5

*Sue Brewer*

## The Wassailing Song

### First verse and chorus

Wassail, wassail all over the town  
Our toast it is white and our ale it is brown  
Our bowl it is made of the white maple tree  
With the wassailing bowl, we'll drink to thee  
So here is to Cherry and to his right cheek  
Pray God send our master a good piece of beef  
And a good piece of beef that may we all see  
With the wassailing bowl, we'll drink to thee  
And here is to Dobbin and to his right eye  
Pray God send our master a good Christmas pie  
A good Christmas pie that may we all see  
With the wassailing bowl, we'll drink to thee  
So here is to Broad Mary and to her broad horn  
May God send our master a good crop of corn  
And a good crop of corn that may we all see  
With the wassailing bowl, we'll drink to thee

And here is to Fillpail and to her left ear  
Pray God send our master a happy New Year  
And a happy New Year as e'er he did see  
With the wassailing bowl, we'll drink to thee  
And here is to Colly and to her long tail  
Pray God send our master he never may fail  
A bowl of strong beer! I pray you draw near  
And our jolly wassail it's then you shall hear  
Come butler, come fill us a bowl of the best  
Then we hope that your soul in heaven may rest  
But if you do draw us a bowl of the small  
Then down shall go butler, bowl and all  
Then here's to the maid in the lily white smock  
Who tripped to the door and slipped back the lock  
Who tripped to the door and pulled back the pin  
For to let these jolly wassailers in.

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## Church Chat

At the Annual PCC meeting we welcomed Tony and Jane Morelli as the new Treasurers. We are undertaking our quinquennial inspection on 25<sup>th</sup> November: a mandatory 5-year check by qualified professionals to ensure the building is in good repair. It's about time too as it should have been done in 2011....oops! There are some issues we are already aware of and are in the process of fixing. We also discovered some lovely historic bibles in a rather damp chest in the vestry: we aim to have them restored.

Recently, I discovered that the organ was donated to the Church in 1921 by Lady Huntingfield, in memory of her mother. It was manufactured by the Positive Organ Co. and specifically designed for smaller churches. Also, we found that the altar was built to honour all those servicemen who died in the Great War: none of us had any idea what was under the altar cloth.



For Remembrance Day we un-covered it and laid a simple wreath and plain wooden cross. I would urge you to pop in and look at the altar when the Church is open on Wednesdays and Sundays

I will soon be starting my Zoom confirmation classes. Looking forward, we are holding a service at

6.30pm on 23<sup>rd</sup> December with music and readings. Hopefully we will be able to do more, we will just have to see what the new rules are when lockdown ends.

*Emma Ward*

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## Acting to Protect our Environment - Blyth Valley Environment Network

The Blyth Valley Team of Churches is establishing the 'Blyth Valley Environment Network', to explore and promote what is being done locally to address the global environmental challenges we are facing. We have agreed there are 3 ways in which we can usefully operate:

1. To provide a forum for different local groups to promote what they are doing and to link up with the knowledge and experience of other groups and initiatives.
2. To increase appreciation in our communities of the natural world and its many benefits for our lives. This includes work with young people and families.
3. To join in campaigns fighting for action on national and international levels to tackle the climate crisis.

Many of us are aware that without drastic action, parts of the world will become uninhabitable by the end of the century, leading to mass migration on a scale never before imagined. And it is the lifestyles of the wealthiest countries in the world that are damaging the viability of the poorest countries. Charities like Christian Aid are currently campaigning for Climate Justice, particularly as we begin to rebuild our economies after the pandemic.

**What can you do?** At the moment our work will mainly be via Zoom, but don't let this put you off. We can post campaign details to you.

**Join our network.** To do this contact me on 01502 478855/07584 414277, [alisonalder@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:alisonalder@hotmail.co.uk). Our next meeting will focus on "Living Sustainably".

**Join our campaigning group.** Contact Revd. Alison Alder or Revd. Linda Berry for more details.

**Become involved** in some of the church initiatives.

**Share** your own ideas.

We cannot change the current crisis on our own but we can take small steps to be part of the solution. I hope and pray you will support us.

*Revd. Alison Alder*

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## Hub News

In the last edition of The Hare we advertised for trustees and two part-time employees to cover the administration and caretaking of The Hub. We were delighted to have a number of applicants for all three roles. Following several days of interviewing we invited four successful applicants to join the board of trustees. A warm welcome to Sara Back and Jim Wardale from Huntingfield, Carolyne Blundell from Ubbeston and Mike Baker from Heveningham. It is great to have representatives from all three villages which the hall was built to serve. We also welcome Alex Dipple as our caretaker and Julie Collett as the administration officer. All contact details are on the back page.

We did manage to open The Hub briefly during October for a few classes including pilates and table tennis - all socially distanced of course! Unfortunately, the second lockdown arrived so the building is closed again. Our regenerated group of trustees look forward to meeting as soon as we possibly can to start planning a programme of events for 2021 and re-opening The Hub on a (hopefully) long-term basis next spring. Meanwhile, stay Safe everyone.

*The Hub Trustees*

## Emma's column

The November Parish Council meeting was held via zoom as we were unable to meet in person. Following on from the September meeting it was reported that the Village Green seat under the oak has been resealed and the hole by the steps will soon be filled. Thanks to David Blackmore and Guy for their input. Cllr. Burroughes was informed of the speeding issues and, following reports from other villages, he has advised that a traffic survey will be taking place.

The Council agreed a budget to light up the oak tree on the Green for Christmas so we should have some festive lighting to brighten up the village in December. A few issues with highways and footpaths were raised, such as the path behind the Church being overgrown. These are being addressed. One important item which raises our concerns is a report from some of the farm vehicle drivers regarding children playing in the road. The Clerk is writing to Bramfield School to highlight the issue but I would also ask parents to take note of their concerns.

Well, that's it for 2020. The Parish Council would like to wish all our parishioners Seasons Greetings and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

The next meeting will be 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Agendas, minutes and other documents relating to the Parish Council can be viewed at <http://huntingfield.onesuffolk.net/huntingfield-parish-council/>

Emma Ward

*Chair, Huntingfield Parish Council*



## ESTATE AGENTS

**9 Market Hill  
Framlingham  
Suffolk**

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01728 724566**

## Wedding at St Mary's



It was lovely to see the church decorated so beautifully for a wedding back in October. Many congratulations to James and Alexandra Campbell.



## Notes from the sheep pen

And so, the autumn has gone, and the worst couple of months for weather are with us. We have plenty of insulation, but for the team who watch over us it's a different story - long johns, thermal vests, woolly hats and waterproof mittens - what a bunch of softies!

The boyfriends have done their job and baby lambs are being incubated as I "baa". No doubt the ultrasound pregnancy scanning man will arrive soon and we will be separated into groups according to how many lambs we are expecting. Also, our body condition will be checked, e.g. thin ones and triplets getting the best grass while the fat ones and those having singles get a lot of fresh air and "toenail clippings".



*Spot the blue-bottomed girls*

You may notice a few of us sporting blue painted bottoms: we are the ones that have been served a second time by the boyfriends (the lads have a colour marker called a raddle applied to their chests to identify the girls that will lamb later). Later lambers will be separated into a special group away from the rest as they won't need much attention until mid-April. The boys are now recuperating after their efforts: many have gone lame due to the miles they walk during those four weeks of little rest! It will take some months for Lucy and the boss to get them right and some, unfortunately, won't ever repair completely.

As I said in the last issue, lamb prices have remained firm but, conversely, wool has not budged in price so last year's 'shear' is still in the barn - thank goodness the farm has a number of feral cats to control the rodent population that love to nest in between the wool sacks.

We have to say it is quite noticeable that the boss has missed socialising over lockdown. Oooh, he has got quite crotchety since he has not been able to get to the pub from time to time! We just say hey ho and stay safe.

*Baa to you all, Ewe (know who)!*

## .. and the cowshed



We ladies finished calving in the middle of November which was later than usual due to an oversight by the team. A poorly bull

was being treated and they decided the best place for him was with us girls. Little did they think he was capable of getting us in calf. Ha ha! He certainly fooled them: just goes to show where there's a will...there's a way! All turned out well, although we have produced a higher percentage of large babies. There were no caesareans but a larger number of assisted calvings. The boss will be pleased that the intensity of night observations has finally stopped until the spring.

You won't see many of us around until the land dries out and the grass starts to grow. Some of us are at Henham, on the sandy land just off the A12, while the yearlings are back at the home farm - luxuriating in large strawed yards and being waited on hand and hoof by you humans!

The replacement heifer calves have mostly been reared and will spend the next 18 months growing on, ready to become the next population of suckler cows. We girls



*My best side?*

have our first calves at two and a half years old, when we have reached maturity, and continue until we are ten or eleven. The end of our "working life" generally coincides with the onset of infertility and other ageing processes. Similarly, you'll notice old 'floppy hat' has resorted to a walking stick occasionally, but then he has been past his sell by date for some time!

As with you humans, we too suffer with new viruses that come along. You have your COVID-19 and we have Mycoplasma. In your case there are many people working on a vaccine but we are not so fortunate and the team are rigorous in keeping us socially distanced during the rearing period. We are fortunate that our virus tends to affect only the young, but, unfortunately, it is just as deadly.

On a happier note, enjoy your Christmas and New Year the best that you can in the current circumstances. We will be back to entertain you in the spring.

*Moo to you from Pat and the team*

## Community Larder



### HALESWORTH COMMUNITY LARDER PROJECT

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**PLENTY OF FOOD TO SHARE**

Did you find yourselves with a glut of fruit this year or too many courgettes? Why not donate your unwanted food and/or personal hygiene items to the Community Larder?

In these unprecedented times we need to look out for our neighbours and friends more and more.

The Community Larder is open to all to receive donations, to exchange or to take if you are in need with no questions asked. Drop by when you're in Halesworth for a warm welcome.



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## Petanque

Since the last edition of the Hare, as with everything at the moment, very little has happened in the world of the Huntingfield Hares. We have managed to complete one more game in our knock-out competition with Sue Tyler beating David Blackmore, a previous knock-out cup winner. Well done Sue and another lady into the semi-finals!

At this time of the year we usually hold our AGM - yet another casualty of COVID-19. I must say my first year as captain has not been taxing, rather one of frustration! The team is looking forward to getting back on the piste next year. Meanwhile have a great Christmas, and a VERY healthy 2021 to everyone.



*Julie Collett (899719)*

## Huntingfield Apple Day 2020





On behalf of the Millennium Green Trustees a big Thank You to all who attended, all who donated raffle prizes and all stall holders who helped make Mini Apple Day a great success. **£360.00 was raised in support of the Millennium Green.**

The money raised, together with funds from the "MG 100 Club" nearly covers the annual maintenance cost of the wildflower meadow, children's play area, picnic site and community orchard. Perhaps more importantly it was so well supported by the village community who were able to mingle in the open air, say hello to each other, chat and catch up on events.

*The Millennium Green Trustees*



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# Budding Ideas



What a year! We had an amazingly warm spring and it has felt as though we

would never get into cold weather: roses have continued flowering through November, the grass is still growing and the leaves are hanging on for dear life. It may well be that coming into December you are feeling a bit behind with work that would usually have been done and dusted. Putting the garden to bed for the winter, never a phrase that I have felt means a great deal, particularly in these days of global warming seems to get later and later.

Of course, as we do enter the winter months much of what you might like to do in the garden is dictated by the weather but there are always jobs to be done regardless of the howling wind or torrential rain. Tidying your shed might seem a drag but is a great way of getting on top of forgotten or ignored jobs and to set you up for the spring season. Return items that have wandered from their allotted places and wash pots and trays then tidy away in size order so it is easy to find the right sized pot when you need it. Clean, sharpen and oil garden tools and, if you cannot do it yourself, book in your mower to be cleaned and serviced together with any other mechanical tools such as hedge trimmers, chainsaws, etc.



If you are lucky enough to have a greenhouse you will likely already have used it to protect and over-winter tender plants. Don't

forget about them though - they will still need watering, albeit sparingly, and it is worth removing any dead leaves or debris in order to protect from rot or prevent fungal disease from taking hold.

There are two schools of thought on using the winter months to overhaul your greenhouse. Firstly, the traditional approach is that it is the time to give your greenhouse a really good sort out. Clear out leaf debris from your gutters - I have a water butt attached to one gutter and it is amazing how full it always seems to be. *(As an aside, I'm planning a new chain drain water*

*feature off the other side of the greenhouse for next year but that's a whole other story...)*. Clean all the glass and surfaces inside and out and scrape between the panels using a weed scraper or other thin instrument to remove accumulated algae and mould which sticks between the glazed panels. Wash or sweep out debris from the floor and check greenhouse staging, mending shelves or installing new ones as required.

The second school of thought in these days of climate change concerns is that we should all do what we can



to encourage wildlife, insects and mini-ecosystems into our gardens and your greenhouse should be considered along these lines. This has been verified by the great professional horticulturist, Pippa Greenwood. Therefore, you do NOT have to tidy your greenhouse every year and can allow those little critters that would like a home to make it so... Those of you thinking, *"Huh, that's her excuse"* are probably 80%

right, but I do have a toad that lives in the greenhouse and I am sure he/she is doing an awful lot to keep down the creepies! It is also worth protecting outdoor taps - wrapping with a bit of bubble wrap is quite sufficient – and put away those neatly rolled hoses.

Finally, If the weather is really howling and we are six feet in snow, you can always put your feet up with a selection of seed catalogues and plan all the gardening possibilities that the coming year will bring... a glass of wine might help...

*Lorraine Kingsley-Adams*

## Plants of the month:

**Buxus (Box)** - great evergreen shrub, often used in topiary, providing year-round structure.



**Hamamelis species** - often scented flowers on tiered branches, flowering through the winter period.

**Cornus alba 'Sibirica'** - all the dogwoods are grown for winter stem colour and this one is particularly vibrant.

# A visit to the War Graves



*With the anniversary of the end of WW1 in 2018 Jenny Blackmore embarked on a journey to visit the war graves of our local men. This is an account of her trip. We couldn't fit in all the pictures of the graves and memorials she visited but they are available on the Hare website - <http://huntingfield.onesuffolk.net/huntingfield-hare/>*

**THE IDEA:** To visit and leave a poppy cross at the grave or memorial of all the men named on the war memorials in the United Benefice of Cookley, Heveningham with Ubbeston and Huntingfield to commemorate the centenary of the end of the First World War. The trip was funded by Cookley Church and the Heveningham Hall Trust with Poppy crosses donated by Alan Walpole.

**THE PLAN:** After researching our men on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) website and finding Lance-Corporals Harry Parker of Huntingfield and William Moore of Ubbeston are commemorated on the memorials in Helles, Turkey and Peshawar, India I realised that I would have to leave their visits to a future trip. This left me with 15 graves to find and visit. I also planned to visit the graves of two men not on our local memorials but with family connections to the area: Pte. Christopher Gagen, Great-Uncle to David and Jeremy Blackmore and Sally Rothead and Pte. Stanley Bolam, listed as A. Peavot as he stole his cousins birth certificate to enlist underage, Uncle to Sheila Clifford of Vicarage Farm, Linstead. So, 17 graves at 14 locations. These were:

- Passchendaele - Pte. Foster
- The Menin Gate - Ptes. Girling, B Mower & Rackham
- Bailleul Communal Cemetery - Ptes. S Mower & Bolam
- Honnechy British Cemetery - Pte. Nunn
- Australian Memorial at Villers-Brettoneux - Pte. Oakley
- Aubigny British Cemetery - Pte. Gagen
- Bouzincourt Ridge Cemetery - Pte. Leathers
- The Theipval Memorial - L-Cpl Ransby
- Pozieres Cemetery - Pte. Green
- Cojeul British Cemetery - Pte. Page
- The Arras Memorial - Able Seaman Minter
- Duisans British Cemetery - Driver Keeble

My route for Saturday 7th October 2018 started at Passchendaele at dawn and ended at a motel in Arras, with 10 memorial sites visited. This left the Arras Memorial and Duisans British Cemetery in France to visit on Sunday 8th October, and then London City Cemetery and Walpole St Mary's on the way home.



**THE TRIP:** I had booked a 5am crossing but arrived early so was put on the 3am train. With the time

difference I arrived at 4.30am. I had an hours sleep at a petrol station on the way to Passchendaele and arrived at 5.50am, just before dawn.

The CWGC provides details of the section of cemetery, row and number of each grave which made finding most of our men relatively simple. For each gravestone I placed a poppy cross with the mans name on against the stone. For those commemorated on large memorials, the CWGC provided a panel number where the name of the individual can be found. These are usually listed by regiment, rank and alphabetically by surname. George Albert Girling and Bertie Mower, are listed on adjacent panels of the Menin Gate at Ypres. Russell Rackham is commemorated on another panel further along the arch.

Bailleul Communal Cemetery was easy to find but this was where I had the most difficulty finding the graves I was looking



for. The cemetery was a mixture of war graves and town cemetery and the CWGC directions weren't very accurate! I eventually found them and left a cross for Sidney Mower and a posy of flowers from Vicarage Farm for Stanley Bolam.

From Bailleul I drove to Honnechy to find the grave of James Nunn. This was the most remote of the memorials and is on the edge of the village. It is fairly small with only 4 rows of gravestones and was incredibly peaceful. In each cemetery there is a visitors book available to sign and indicate the grave visited: I didn't find them all but where found I left the message '*Remembering {our soldier} with gratitude from the people of {his village}*'.



From one of the smallest cemeteries my next stop was at one of the largest. The Australian Memorial at

Villers-Brettonneux to find the memorial to Thomas Oakley of Heveningham, who served with the Australian Imperial Force.

The next few cemeteries and memorials were only a few miles apart; the sheer number of graves and names in such a small area is staggering. Just a few miles from Villers-Brettonneux is the village of Aubigny. I have been here before to visit the grave of my great-great-uncle Chris Gagen. The cemetery is immaculately kept as are all I visited. It is opposite a field which had cattle grazing which seemed appropriate for a farm boy. Chris served in the Australian Imperial Force after emigrating as a £10 Pom. For those who remember my grandma Daphne, Chris was her father's brother.

My next stop was at Bazincourt Ridge. This is another one that isn't easy to find as you



have to drive up a small track to the ridge of the hill, it is a very windswept spot but you can see for miles.

From Bazincourt Ridge it is particularly important not to follow the directions given by Google maps to the Thiepval Memorial as this takes you through private land/field tracks to the back entrance to Thiepval... luckily, the CWGC staff are quite understanding!



The Memorial Arch at Thiepval bears the names of over 72,000 men. Amongst them is John Ransby of Heveningham. All the light coloured stone is covered in lists of names. I put John's cross as close to the panel with his name as I could reach.



From John Ransby at Thiepval it isn't far to find another Heveningham man, William Green,

commemorated on the memorial at Pozieres.

My last stop on the Saturday was to the small town of Cojeul, not far from Arras. Cojeul British Cemetery is the last resting place of James Page of Huntingfield. James has a memorial by the wall of the graveyard as he is one of the Unknown Soldiers in this cemetery. James is in one of the plots whose headstone reads "A soldier of the Great War, Known To God".



**DAY 2:** Wet. First stop the Arras Memorial; this was being renovated but was still accessible if you slide the fence panel across slightly... I found Arthur Minter halfway up a panel down an "only-very-slightly shut off" corridor. The Arras memorial is the main memorial to the Royal Flying Corps (forerunners, or possibly forefliers, of the RAF).



*A lovely memorial from Snettisham Primary school for one of their soldiers; I would love to take some similar stones for our next time I visit.*

My last stop in France was at Duisans British Cemetery. There appears to have been

some confusion as Driver Keeble appears on both Cookley and Huntingfield War Memorials: possibly because his parents lived in Huntingfield while he, his wife and children lived in Cookley. His headstone reads "Goodbye Daddy, from Frank, Cora, Gladys and Gordon".

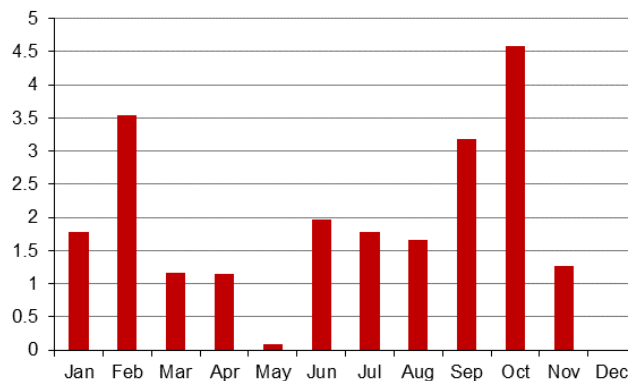
Two of our commemorated men came home injured and then died of their wounds so are commemorated on War Memorials in England. These are: L-Cpl Woods of Ubbeston and Pte. Dunnnett of Cookley.

*Jenny Blackmore*

## Weather report: October - November 2020

After all I said in my September report it proceeded to rain cats and dogs and, by the end, September was wetter this year than last. However, both October and November have been less wet than the deluge received in the same months of 2019. There was .75" (19.04mm) less rain in October this year but, nevertheless, we still had a total of 4.58" (166mm) which made it fairly wet all the same. In November we have had a lot less than in 2019 - in fact 2.16" (54.82mm) less. Please do accept that these figures may vary from point to point due to a lot of showers.

What is very noticeable is the number of days when I recorded rainfall. From the 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept. until 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov. (42 days) there were only 2 days without a raindrop! This ties up well with the Met Office records. Also, notably, I recorded the lowest amount of sunshine for October since I began keeping records: it was also the dullest month since February of this year.



Frosts have been a little more noticeable of late with 3 air frosts (lowest minus .9 C) and a few more ground frosts. Air temperatures have been a little above normal but are now about normal. Will there be snow? Nothing imminent... Keep well and safe, and please stick to the Covid rules.. you know it makes sense! Seasons Greetings to all.

*Richard Tyler*



### Stanley Clover



In the last Hare we said that Stan Clover would be celebrating his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on October 5th. He did indeed celebrate his big day although was quite poorly at the time and passed peacefully away 5 days later. He was determined to make his century! Stan's funeral

was held on October 28th at St Mary's Church, complete with RAF standard bearers. Stan's dates are interesting, he was born 5-10-1920 died 10-10-2020.

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## Nature Notes



At the time of writing we have had one or two overnight frosts but the weather is generally mild and local trees have plenty of leaf on them, showing off their wonderful autumn colour.

The colour only occurs in trees that

drop their leaves for the winter. It happens as photosynthesis (the process by which plants harvest energy from the sun) comes to an end and light stops being absorbed by the miraculous chemical that makes all plants appear green - chlorophyll. This phenomenon occurs in some trees and plants as autumn and early winter progress: they then re-absorb some of the sugars and nutrients contained in the leaf, while the remaining chemicals such as carotenoids and anthocyanins give rise to the amazing colour that we enjoy at this time of year.

Of course, not all plants or trees lose their leaves in winter: those that retain them we call evergreen and they form an important food source and shelter for a wide variety of animals that endure the winter months in the cooler parts of our planet. We also appreciate these evergreens during the drearier months of the year as they are a sign of life and, traditionally, we bring evergreens into our homes during the Christmas period. The Holly, Ivy, Spruce and Fir can really lift our spirits - where would we be without a few sprigs or a tree in our houses at Christmas-tide.



We are also looking forward to Father Christmas flying down from the north and just today I saw and heard what

could well have been some of Santa's forerunners in the form of six Bewick Swans. These are very large white birds which were flying high, heading south over fields near my house. They migrate here from as far as Russia, - not too far from the North Pole. They spend the winter at wetland habitats such as Welney, near Ely, and Slimbridge, near Bristol.



Recently I also saw a male otter fishing in the new lake near Valley Farm at Huntingfield. It was diving regularly and may well have been catching crayfish. American Crayfish are now found

widely throughout the UK after escaping from fish farms where they are bred for the restaurant trade. Unlike our native species, which is smaller and lives in running water (streams rivers etc.), this invader will live and thrive in any waterway, pond or lake and can cause huge problems as they excavate banks, leading to issues with flooding. Thankfully, otters are now making a comeback in the UK. Both pollution and persecution led to numbers being incredibly low so it was a wonderful treat to see one so close to home.

Do keep an eye out for winter visitors including birds of the thrush family such as Redwings and Fieldfares that are arriving from the east. Blackbirds, another type of thrush, come along with them. So, if you see more than usual in your garden, gorging on any berries they can grab, they could well be long distance fliers too. The same goes for that most seasonal bird, the Robin.



Wishing everyone in these most difficult times a truly happy Christmas and, especially, a Healthy 2021.

*Tony Howe*



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## Huntingfield Community Response

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 during the COVID-19 crisis. 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 email ([community@huntingfield.uk](mailto:community@huntingfield.uk)) or phone Halesworth Volunteer Centre on 01986 875600.

### Your Parish Councillors

Emma Ward (Chair)	Newall Hall	785343
David Blackmore	Giffords	785348
David Burrows	The Old Post Office	798165
Jackie Driver	Katanning	799135
Guy Newton	Huntingfield Hall	
Julie Collett (Clerk)	899719	
	<a href="mailto:huntingfieldclerk@gmail.com">huntingfieldclerk@gmail.com</a>	

### The Hub Contacts

Julie Collett (Admin Officer)	899719
Alex Dipple (Caretaker)	07792 143568
Helen Cannon (Chair)	799103
Sara Back	798320
Mike Baker	07836 333444 (Heveningham)
Carolyn Blundell	07967 975856 (Ubbeston)
Ken Burnett	798177
David Burrows	798165
Tony Howe	785429
Steve Moorhouse	798079 (Ubbeston)
Allen Pike	798227 (Ubbeston)
Jim Wardale	798393

## Communication

As well as the response team we have two email distribution lists – one for the Huntingfield Hare subscribers and another for The Hub. If you would like to be added to either of these lists please email ([huntingfieldhare@gmail.com](mailto:huntingfieldhare@gmail.com) and [thehub@huntingfield.org](mailto:thehub@huntingfield.org)). For social media users 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/>

### Millennium Green Trustees

Tony Howe (Chair)	1 Crutch Hall	785429
James Gordon (Vice Chair)	3 Crutch Hall	785430
Julie Collett (Secretary)	Bridge Cottage	899719
Marian Cannell	Hill Farm Barn	798633
Sheila Freeman	The Longhouse	798774
Jim Wardale	Burin Barn	798393

### The Kids Club Team

Sally Clarke, Jos Bailey, Linda Burrows, Jackie Driver, Carla Kruger, Charlotte Yule

### Parochial Church Council

#### Assistant Churchwarden:

Emma Ward, Huntingfield

#### PCC Members:

David Blackmore (Huntingfield)  
Sally Clarke (Secretary), Huntingfield  
Jackie Driver, Huntingfield  
Jane & Tony Morelli (Joint Treasurers), Huntingfield  
Sue Tyler, Huntingfield



## CONTACT US

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