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

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

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The Hare is always looking for ideas and articles 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.

Mystery visitors...



The Hare team received reports that a new family had moved in on the Millennium Green just after the heavy snow shower earlier this month.

Our roving reporter managed to capture this image of the mystery family who, unfortunately, disappeared not long after this was taken. Strangely, all that remained at their place of residence a few days later were three carrots...??

A big thank you to those responsible as you certainly put a smile on the faces of those out on their daily lockdown walks.

Felicity Griffin

In December we received sad tidings of the death of Felicity Griffin. Many will remember her as a staunch supporter of St Mary's Church where her father was once Rector. She spent her final days in Cornwall but was still a regular subscriber to the Hare.

Felicity died peacefully on Wednesday 2nd December at Tregolls Manor Care Home in Truro, aged 97. A small funeral was held in St Mary's Aisle of Truro Cathedral where she worshipped. There will be a thanksgiving service and committal at St Mary's when possible. A tribute to her life can be found on page 4



Advertising in the Hare

As you may have noticed this issue of the Huntingfield Hare is only 8 pages rather than the usual 12: a result of the current lockdown and the effect on local business. The Huntingfield Hare is financed by our advertisers and subscribers (those who do not live in the village pay a small amount to receive a paper copy via mail).

We have found that some small businesses are struggling at the moment and unable to support us via advertising going forward: many thanks to all those who have given us their support over the years. If you run a business, or know someone who does and would be able to place an advert please contact the team. An advert for a year can cost as little as £35 so it's very good value!

Hub News

The trustees held their first meeting of the year via Zoom on 12th January. Ken Burnett took the chair and welcomed the new trustees to their first meeting. Ken also expressed gratitude and appreciation from all the trustees to Helen Cannon for the work done over the years. Although Helen has now formally resigned as a trustee, she is still supporting us in any way she can, for which the trustees are most grateful.

Unfortunately, the Hub is still closed due to Covid-19. However, we have been fortunate to receive another grant from East Suffolk District Council to assist with the ongoing running costs.

A separate group has been formed to think of ideas for future events and uses of the Hub. The trustees want to hit the ground running as soon as we are able to do so and to try and help return the villages to some sort of normality.

Full minutes of the meetings can be found on the Huntingfield website:
www.huntingfield.onesuffolk.net

The Hub Trustees



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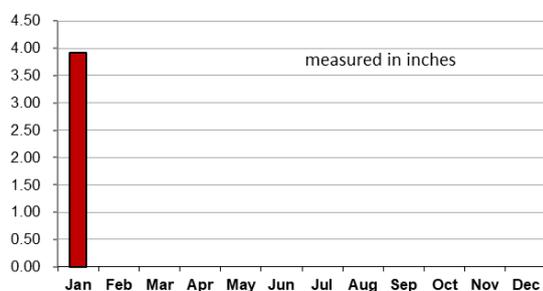


Tel: 01986 798334
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Weather report: December 20 - January 2021

In many ways January 2021 has commenced very much in line with December 2020. Having said that, we've been lucky in several respects: we've not had the heavy rainfall, snow, high winds and penetrating frosts that other areas have experienced this winter, although it has still been wet and a little more seasonable. I observe rainfall radar courtesy of WeatherQuest in Norwich and have noticed on many occasions that the rainfall dies out just before it arrives with us – it splits to the north and south of Huntingfield. I don't know why this would happen and can only assume it's something to do with the topography (geographical land features of this area).

Bearing this in mind, the lowest wind chill I recorded in the last 2 months was -7C, the highest wind speed gust 40 mph and the lowest air temperature was -3.2C. Another notable fact is that the number of "grey" days in both December and January this year is higher, judging by the lower than normal amount of electricity generated by our solar panels. So, in summary, it's been a "normal" winter so far.



Now for the rainfall. For 2020 I recorded 26.42" or 670.94mm of rain, which is the average yearly rainfall since 1991. However, December 2020 was a wetter than in 2019 at 1.02" (25.4mm) more and January 2021 - at 3.92" (99.57mm) - to date is already 2.14" (54.35mm) wetter than in 2020. Cumulatively that makes it 3.16" (91.44mm) wetter during the last 2 months. Interestingly when it snowed (wet) on the 16th Jan, I recorded .5" (12.7mm) rain which equated to 6" of snow but it mostly melted on the ground.

With a little more rain/sleet/snow forecast for the 31st Jan, the totals will be up a little. Going forward, the forecasters suggest that the weather patterns will much the same in the short term. We will see!

Richard Tyler

Community Larder



The need for the Community Larder has proven to be even greater in these unprecedented times. In the month of November the number of users was up from 245 to 300.

The Community Larder welcomes everyone, donations of food, food exchanges or taking what you need. It is there for you.

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Library services



Although our libraries are closed and our mobile library has been put on hold there are wide variety of things you can do via Suffolk Libraries for FREE!

The latest eBooks, eAudiobooks and daily eNewspapers and eMagazines can all be downloaded. You can also stream music, indie cinema, documentaries and courses. All for free with your library card.

There are also livestreamed and video events online, from children's singalong sessions to author talks, courses and a monthly podcast.

Details at <https://www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/live>.

If you don't have a library card you can join online via this link

<https://suffolk.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/WPAC/JOIN>

Emma's Column

Our first 2021 meeting took place via Zoom on 13th January – it's becoming standard practice for most official meetings these days and looks like it may be set to continue for some time so we have decided to share the cost of providing this service with other parishes which are also administered by Julie, our Clerk.

Not surprisingly, there is little to report. Due to the pandemic the majority of outstanding issues are either on hold or taking time to resolve. The Christmas lights on the tree were installed and it was agreed to keep them on into February to provide evening cheer. Many thanks to Cllr. Stephen Burroughs for his financial contribution. Cllr

Burroughs also informed us that, following complaints, there will be a road speed survey taking place here later in the year which will be funded from his budget. Another traffic issue arose regarding the nomination of Cratfield Road in the quiet lanes scheme which we will investigate.

As the current situation is proving difficult for everyone we have decided that the precept for 20/21 will not be increased from last year – so some good news from us. The next meeting will be 10th March 2021. The agenda, zoom details and other documents can be viewed at <http://huntingfield.onesuffolk.net/huntingfield-parish-council/>

Emma Ward: Chair, Huntingfield Parish Council

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.

November

1st	Jenny Blackmore	£30
2nd	Mike Chapman	£15
3rd	Ken Burnett	£5

December

1st	Brian Seabon	£30
2nd	Tony Howe	£15
3rd	Janet Bentham	£5

Sue Brewer

Free stuff..

Sunlight Therapy Lamp



Helpful for those suffering from Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) which can be caused by lack of daylight.

Exercise Bike

Programmable workout exercise bike with readout.



Both are offered for free. For further details please contact Sue Tyler (798403).

Felicity Grace Griffin



“We are all formed by our early lives, our education and our home lives. Felicity Grace Griffin (née Dobson) – ‘Joy’ to her family - was no exception. She was the daughter of a

gentle, witty, high-church country Rector and a degreed teacher, whose own father had taken her out onto street corners as a child to seek converts to Primitive Methodism. Much of Felicity’s youth was spent in a large and rambling Rectory in the tiny village of Huntingfield in rural Suffolk. Christianity and a life of service were thus ingrained in her. Her best playmates were her two brothers. Despite her mother’s degree and teaching qualification, she took an unconventional approach to her own children’s education, initially home-schooling them before later sending them to local independent schools. Felicity’s education was curtailed by the outbreak of war when she was only 16. As soon as she was able to, she joined the WAAF as a driver, fetching and delivering officers and bomber crews all over East Anglia; many never returned.



Marriage came in 1946 when Paul returned from his army service in the Far East, and a daughter, Angela, followed soon afterwards. Paul went to Uppingham as a young master where they were joined by a second child, Jonathan. The biggest adventure of her life came when they travelled to Cyprus where Paul became the Headmaster of the large English School during the period of EOKA terrorism. She managed to provide a secure home and happy upbringing for her children and found time to become the Brownie

Commissioner for the island.

Paul’s retirement from teaching led to a period running a language school in Cambridge before they settled in Southwold where they finally managed to establish their own group of local friends.



Felicity was a committed and excellent historian with a natural flair for the subject and would probably have studied it further if circumstances had been different. When in Cambridge for the second time, she qualified as a blue badge guide and enjoyed taking groups of tourists around the city, explaining the curious history of the colleges, kings and religious fights with the ease of an expert. She later organised and led historical tours around England & Wales. Her work for her childhood church of Huntingfield was remarkable. When they returned to Suffolk, she set about raising money for the church in which she had worshipped as a child, successfully getting grants and donations to repair the tower, roof and the wonderful painted ceiling. Her research on Mildred Holland, the artist of the ceiling, was exemplary and has contributed to the church being ‘noticed’ far and wide. She was fond of remarking that her guidebook to the church had sold more copies than any of Paul’s books of poetry or novels which showed that you did not necessarily have to have an education to be successful.

One big regret of her life was the limited opportunity for the use of her voice and acting ability. She had a lovely mellow speaking voice which she had used to good effect in tannoy announcements during the war. She toyed with applying to the BBC as an announcer but married life intruded and she contented herself with reading lessons in church and occasional play and poetry readings.

No mention of Felicity would be complete without a nod at the various dogs (and goat) that were her loyal companions through life. Bonny in Uppingham; Honey who joined the family in Cyprus and Dinny who arrived at Aldenham.

Both in Cyprus and latterly at Aldenham in Hertfordshire, Felicity threw herself into the task of being a headmaster’s wife, entertaining, steering and advising as needed. It was typical of Felicity’s attitude to service that, after the death of Paul, she kept an eye on her young brother, Mike, then also nearing his end. It was not until he had died that she felt her work was done - her two brothers and husband no longer needed her – and she moved to Truro to be close to some of her family. From here, she kept an eye on her young Dobson relations, standing in for their missing parents and grandparents. She also received a warm welcome from the cathedral community, never missing an opportunity to remind them of the unwisdom of women priests.

As an epitaph Christopher Wren’s ‘If you would seek his monument, look around you’ seems apt, for Huntingfield church will be watching over her in rest in ‘Dobson corner’ alongside her parents, husband and young brother.

We mourn the passing of a loving wife, devoted mother (to 2), grandmother (to 5), great grandmother (to 8), aunt (to 6), great-aunt (to 14), great-great-aunt ... a great cook and homemaker.”

Jonathan Griffin, December 2020

Notes from the sheep pen



Baa to you all!

My word, aren't you humans having a rum old time of it!

His nibs tells us all about it and, needless to say, it's in one ear and out the other. The team are very concerned and are keen to get their vaccinations sorted. We, on the other hand, are being vaccinated as I write this: firstly, for foot rot, then the usual one for clostridial diseases. We also have a booster injection of copper as a safeguard against 'sway-back': you know, the one that causes our lambs to fall over at about eight weeks of age and then do what we sheep love to do, - die!

Pregnancy ultrasound scanning is underway and we are colour coded as usual: green dots for singles, nothing for twins which are the majority, red for triplets and red and green for quads (never very many but these girls do need very special attention).

We will shortly be separated into our groups with triplets and quads going to Sibton under Lucy's close watch. They receive extra energy daily in the form of molassed sugar beet nuts as this significantly helps the survival rate. Our lambs are due from 23rd March. No doubt a few unfortunates will miscarry before that date - as does happen with a percentage of you human girls. The team's greatest fear at this time is worrying by dogs as this has a huge effect on the numbers that miscarry. Both floppy hat and Lucy can be contacted at anytime: if you see anything that doesn't look right please don't hesitate to tell them immediately. Due to the very wet period we are suffering, two thirds of our "flock mates" have been moved on to freer draining land as far afield as Hertfordshire and Middlesex. They will be back in time for lambing and the boss has also agreed to two vet students coming to help at that time provided your Covid-19 situation has improved.

This is a time of optimism for the team and we hope not to disappoint. At least the days are drawing out, which everyone looks forward to.

So it's baa to you all until next time
From ewe (as in ewe know who!)

Coffee Caravan Befriending Chats



If you know of someone who might be struggling with isolation and loneliness during lockdown and could do with a chat to cheer them up, get them to give us a call. We can book in a regular catch up with them, which can take place via telephone or Zoom. Our cheerful and very friendly team members Diana, Annette & Elaine can signpost to any help and advice you might need, but also have a wealth of experience in tea, cake & biscuits, to sit and 'have a cuppa with you'!!

If you'd like to know how to use Zoom to be able to see a friendly face whilst you have your chat, or to help you start a regular virtual coffee morning with a handful of other friends in your neighbourhood, we can show you how to do that too!

Give them a call to book on:
Diana 07494 572 153
Elaine 07494 570 905
Annette 07957 779 623

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Budding Ideas



There are first signs that Spring is just around the corner; snowdrops already in bloom, buds on the Magnolia and

Wisteria are swelling with the promise of abundant flowers to come, and even early flowering plants such as Japanese Quince and Hellebores are well into their stride. Don't be fooled, however, our



notorious weather can often cast doubt on our hopes that Spring is creeping slowly over the garden. February can often be our coldest month, bringing harsh frosts and snowdrifts - how can we forget the Beast from the East? It's hard to believe that event is now three years behind us. At least I think so... in these ongoing strange times the months and years seem to roll into one and I fast lose track! One thing you can be sure of is that the garden will do what it will do which means we have to get on and do too!

There is currently a big fashion for NO DIG gardening. However, being a bit of a cynic, I feel that good old traditional ways are the best, with the odd tweak or two - you just have to get on out there and do the digging, weather permitting of course. But I am always game for an experiment so I have decided to try flattening and laying of old cardboard boxes (plenty of those around with the amount I have been ordering from Amazon - of course other companies are available for order and delivery..) and laying a thick layer of my compost over said boxes.



This should suppress weeds and build up a good layer of decent soil to use as a planting base without the heavy work involved in digging over, removing those particularly nasty perennial weeds, conditioning of soil, etc. It does have its appeal and, I think, would be particularly useful when it comes to raised beds. The verdict is out for the moment - I'll let you know what I think of the results in a couple of months.

Hopefully you have managed to stay off the grass during the winter months. Now is the time to deal with



wormcasts, molehills and all the other damage that the colder period has thrown at your lawn. Break up

wormcasts with a wire rake and spread over the lawn: it makes a nourishing top dressing (it is, after all, worm poo). Molehills can also be scooped up and used as a top dressing but not too thick or you will smother the grass.



IF it is dry enough, make the first cut of your lawn and you can then begin regular mowing. Ensure that you start with the mower on a high cut and then gradually reduce as

the grass gets into its growth stride. This is also a good time to look at re-cutting your lawn edges. I always maintain that you can get away with a multitude of sins as long as your lawn and its edges are cut cleanly and precise.

If you want to get a head start on the vegetable garden there is a lot you can do, particularly if you are lucky enough to have a



greenhouse. If you did not do an autumn planting you can, in March, start off cucumbers and broad beans and even some tomatoes. They need to be kept warm, ideally in a heated greenhouse, but a warm window ledge will do. It will really give you a head start on the new season. Equally, peppers and chilies need a long growing season to do really well so sowing now and leaving in a non-heated greenhouse or on a coolish window ledge will really improve your crop later in the year.

Take heart; Spring really is round the corner, but there is a lot you can do now to get ahead! Give it a go!

Lori Kingsley-Adams
BUDDING IDEAS

Nature Notes



At the moment if you listen outside after dark you may well hear the calls of owls. These are most likely to be Tawny Owls, calling to announce their territory and attract a mate. They are strictly nocturnal in habit

which means they are rarely seen in daylight. If you manage to catch a glimpse in your car headlights it is a medium sized-brown owl with dark eyes.

They feed mainly on small rodents but have a wide diet including frogs, worms, roosting small birds and have even been known to take hedgehogs. The male Tawny calls are mellow, woodwind-like, drawn out, whistled hoots which are spaced out by a few seconds sounding like "Hooo,o,o,o,o". The female call, often given in answer to the male, is a sharp "kee-WIT", this combined with the male call gives rise to our human interpretation of "Tweet 't' Whoooo".

Other owls that can be heard calling locally are the cat-like hiss of the Barn Owl - one has been hunting fields near my house recently. Also, you may hear a quite piercing, almost electronic, *ki-U* which is the call of the Little Owl, a small, brown, yellow-eyed owl (half the size of a Tawny) which can sometimes be seen at dusk sitting on telephone poles or wires.



I was recently told about another owl species that was spotted in a large willow in a local garden. The owner had seen two owls sitting in full view in her tree during the day and she

expressed concern that these may be escaped pets, as they seemed very tame. In fact, these were two Long-eared Owls that roost during the day in trees or

hedgerows: they can be quite approachable, thus giving the impression that they are tame. They are about the same size as Tawny owls, brown with two long feathery "ears" on their head and have bright orange eyes. Whilst they do breed in small numbers in the UK, this pair are most likely visitors from the north, probably Scandinavia.



Other local winter visitors from northern parts have included a female Goldeneye on the Hall lake and in fields, Golden Plovers and Lapwings. I have also seen flocks of thrushes and starlings

feeding in local grassy fields with up to three hundred in number. These include Fieldfare and Redwing that are edging their way north east in preparation for the flight over the North Sea back to their breeding grounds. By the next

issue of the Hare, they will be nesting somewhere far away whilst thankfully here we should be well into Spring ourselves with signs all around us of warming temperatures.



These signs such as more birdsong, bees buzzing and flowers blooming will be extremely welcome in our present troubled times. The

natural world, thankfully, doesn't know about lockdowns. Let's all look forward to that and, at some point, relief in some form from our present situation. We are extremely fortunate that we are surrounded by beautiful countryside with some very pleasant places to stroll.

Tony Howe 785429

Petanque



Unfortunately, I have nothing else to report! Since the last report the weather turned, and no more games have been completed.

At the time of writing, it is a beautiful sunny day, a few more of these and an ease up on lock down and, hopefully, the Hares will return to the Piste! Until then, stay safe.

Julie Collett (899719)

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) or phone Halesworth Volunteer Centre on 01986 875600.

Your Parish Councillors

Chair: Emma Ward	Newall Hall	785343
David Blackmore	Giffords	785348
David Burrows	The Old Post Office	798165
Jackie Driver	Katanning	799135
Guy Newton	Huntingfield Hall	
Clerk: Julie Collett	899719	
	huntingfieldclerk@gmail.com	

The Hub Contacts

Julie Collett (Admin Officer)	899719
Alex Dipple (Caretaker)	07792 143568

Trustees

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 and 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

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Vice Chair: James Gordon	3 Crutch Hall	785430
Secretary: Julie Collett	Bridge Cottage	899719
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The Kids Club Team

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

Parochial Church Council

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

Church Chat

Belated Happy New Year to you all!

Firstly, I would like to inform you that there are online church services available.

The Blyth Valley Team invite you to join them for Eucharist services on Sundays at 10.00am by Zoom.

ID: 892 3344 9437 Passcode: 253438

It was such a shame we had to cancel the Carol Service at the Church, which we had decorated beautifully for the occasion. However, having COVID-19 in the village left us with no choice. Let's hope things improve swiftly and we can organise some events at the Church later in the year.

Anyway, this year... Our new Treasurers, Jane and Tony, continue to battle on with the finances and Sally is working hard as secretary. We also continue to find lovely and interesting things about the building and its contents which we hope to share when we can.



Emma's confirmation

I was confirmed on the 20th December. It was a lovely experience, although strange having to wear the masks - my photos aren't very flattering!

I was also involved with the interviews for new Rector for which we have two very

capable candidates. So, fingers crossed we can hold services fairly soon.

Emma Ward, Churchwarden