THE HARE

NEWSLETTER FOR THE VILLAGES OF HEVENINGHAM, HUNTINGFIELD AND UBBESTON

Issue 97: April – May 2023



In this Issue

9 Arms Events Bake Off 9 **Budding Ideas** 5 Church Chat 11 Country Fair 2 9 David's Column 3 Garden Club 5 Halesworth Library 11 Help for the Hare Historical Huntingfield 5 10 **History Corner Hub News** 3 7 **Hundred Club** Huntingfield Clean Up 1 Kids Club 4 Local History Group 5 2 Millennium Green Mobile Library 12 **Nature Notes** 8 6 Notes from sheep pen/cowshed Petanque 4 St George's Day Tea 1 4 St Margaret's Church 8 Souper Saturday Weather report 6 What's On 12 Your Parish Council 11 Youth Club

The Hare is delivered to all residents and businesses in Huntingfield, Heveningham and Ubbeston free of charge. It is also available on the village website (see below). If you live outside the area 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.

Contact the Hare:

huntingfieldhare@gmail.com Find us online:

www.huntingfield.onesuffolk.net

Your editorial team is:

Helen Cannon

01986 799103 6 Bridge Street

Liz Forrester

01986 798912 The Coach House

Sue Tyler

01986 798403 The Firs

The Hare is always looking for ideas and articles. Whether this be something relevant to your 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.

Coronation Celebration

Time to delve into the wardrobe and find the perfect hat!

On **Sunday 7th May** we will be holding a Mad Hatters Tea Party to celebrate the Coronation. This event is **FREE** and open to all

– so if you have friends and family visiting, please bring them along. Similar to last year's Queens Jubilee, there will be vintage tractors and trailers bringing the children to The Hub from the Church, all in their costumes. And, of course, you



are asked to sport your own finest headgear! The timetable for the event is as follows:

2.30pm Children meet at the Church for trailer ride

 ${\bf 3.00pm}$ A fizzy toast and gifts for the children at The Hub

3.00pm – 4.00pm Tea party at The Hub/Green

4.00pm onwards Music at the Arms

We look forward to seeing hatted residents from all three villages to celebrate this auspicious occasion.

Watch the Coronation at The Hub

The Hub will be screening the Coronation on the morning of Saturday 6th May. Come along and join with friends and neighbours to watch the proceedings. Refreshments will be available. The actual time of the event hasn't yet been announced so keep an eye out for further details.

Huntingfield Clean-up



The country is being asked to join "The Big Help Out" in their local area as part of the King's celebrations. So, on Sunday 30th

April we will be cleaning up the village prior to the party. Pre-Covid, this was a regular event which was well supported and enjoyed by all who came to help.

We will meet at The Hub at 10.30am with a list of suggested tasks, of which you can take your pick. The usual jobs include litter picking, sign cleaning, strimming etc. Bring along some gloves and equipment if you have them but we will supply items as required so you can just turn up!

St George's Day Afternoon Tea with a Bring & Buy Sale

Sunday 23rd April 2 – 4 pm

St Mary's Churchyard,
Huntingfield
'Bottomless' cup
of tea or coffee £1
Cakes £1.50



Millennium Green

The Millennium Green Trustees would like to announce their public AGM to be held in the Hub on Monday 22nd May at 7pm.

The Millennium Green Trustees are very pleased to express their gratitude to the Heveningham Hall Country Fair Trust for a generous donation of £4,103. This will be a great help and allow the Trustees to carry out essential maintenance to the facilities and play equipment on the Green.

Voter ID



On Thursday 4th May there will be a local election for the ward of Kelsale and Yoxford. At this election, and those going forward, you **must have photo ID** to vote at the polling station.

The most common acceptable forms include: Passport, Driving licence (including provisional licences), Blue Badge, Older Person's Bus Pass, Disabled Person's Bus Pass, Freedom Pass, Identity card bearing the Proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram (a PASS card), Biometric immigration document, or Defence Identity Card.

The ID doesn't have to be in date – as long as it looks like you it is acceptable. If you don't have accepted photo ID, you can apply for a free voter ID document, known as a Voter Authority Certificate. You need to be registered to vote before applying for a VAC. Follow the link at https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/



- MOT
- Servicing
- Repairs
- Diagnostics
- All makes welcome
- Land Rover specialists

All mechanical work guaranteed for 12 months or 12,000 miles

Hillcrest Garage, Cratfield Road Huntingfield Tel: 01986 798668



Road Closure

We are so excited to see the return of the Country Fair this year with all the usual attractions and displays. With the air displays we are required to close the road for a short period. Therefore, there will be a temporary road closure from the driveway entrance at Heveningham Hall to the junction at Walpole on 8th and 9th July, from 3.30 to 4 pm. We apologise in advance for any inconvenience this may cause.

Heveningham Hall Country Fair Trust Charity 1095403
Online tickets on sale from 1st April 2023 www.countryfair.co.uk



- CLEAN & FRIENDLY SERVICE
- FULLY INSURED
- SMOKE TESTS
- INSURANCE CERTIFICATES
- CCTV INSPECTIONS
- COMPETITIVE RATES

PLEASE CALL 01986 799175



REGISTERED MEMBER OF THE INSTITUTE OF CHIMNEY SWEEPS

Hub News

It's been a busy few months at the Hub. The trustees would like to thank everyone who came along to the Public Meeting and showed their support. We have been working hard to implement as many of your suggestions as possible and are pleased to announce that an AGM has been scheduled for May 22nd.

Tai Chi classes have started on Mondays from 2-3pm with the brilliant Cindy Engels. No need to prebook, just turn up on the day. From May, Season's Art Classes will take place on Tuesdays, open



to beginners and improvers. Places are limited so please get in touch to book. Italian Improver classes begin on Wednesday after Easter – again, booking is advised. A villages calendar is in progress to collate upcoming events hosted by the Millennium Green, the Hub, the Churches and Huntingfield Arms which we hope to launch by the end of April.



It's been great to see the Warm Room being well used and we have decided to keep it open year-round. Rebranded the 'Social Space', the

room will be accessible from 8.30-8.30pm weekdays and from 10.30am at weekends. It can still be reserved for dedicated meetings so contact us to discuss your requirements.

Hub Food Events!

A big thank you to everyone who came along to the Pancake Day event. We were able to raise some farewell funds for the Rural Coffee Caravan on what was their last visit to the village.

The monthly Hub Brunch has risen in popularity and we have been pleased to introduce gluten free and vegetarian options. Brunch is on the fourth Saturday of the month from 10am. We are always looking for volunteers so let us know if you'd like to get involved. Monday pizza nights are also coming to the Hub soon. Watch out for further updates.

To enquire about any events or classes taking place at the Hub please contact Charlie, enquiries@hub4all.org or 07505 704 404.

Garden Club anyone?



Back in pre-Covid June of 2018 Huntingfield hosted a very successful Open Weekend centered around Open Gardens, with ten members of the Garden Club presenting their green spaces to the public. Although the Garden Club is still "in existence" it has laid fairly dormant in recent years!

It's spring, the gardens are starting to green and we feel it's time to spread the word and reinject some life into the Club. So, this is a call to arms (but not the pub variety) for anyone interested in joining our merry band. If you are a keen, or even not so keen, gardener and would like to join with like-minded individuals on a regular basis for the exchange of information, plants, visiting interesting places etc. then please let me know via email or phone. Although the club was previously for residents of Huntingfield we would like to open up membership to a wider audience, so you don't have to be a "local"!

Helen Cannon

<u>hcannon50@gmail.com</u> – 01986 799103

FITNESS WITH EILEEN

Presents:

THE HUB HUNTINGFIELD



Thursdays 11:00am Shake it at your own pace and book your place!

No experience necessary! Classes are usually taught term time only. Admission is £7. Zumba Gold is for ages 55+ or for anyone who enjoys a more relaxed lower impact fitness class.

Contact: Eileen 07813 854 255 zumba-eileen@hotmail.co.uk

St Margaret's Church, Heveningham with Ubbeston



Spring is definitely outside St. Margaret's Church, if not inside where churches tend to stay cool all year round. Myself and Jeanette Griffin have been busy thinking of ways to bring people in to our church. We have lots of ideas for the spring and summer and to start we have acquired two bookcases which we intend to fill with books and jigsaw puzzles. These are for anyone who cares to come and pick up a book or jigsaw and, hopefully, leave a donation if you can. Once you have finished, it would be great if you could bring them back and swap for another. We would also love any donations of spare books or jigsaws that you no longer need.

Our next service is on Easter Sunday at 10am. Do bring your family along for some special treats. *Chris Baker*

Youth Club

Lots of work has been happening behind the scenes to get the 3 Villages Youth Club up and running and we are very pleased to announce that the club is aiming to launch its first regular sessions in May! The club will run every other Thursday from 6-9pm at the Hub and is open to all young people aged between 12 and 16. Watch out for further updates.



ESTATE AGENTS

9 Market Hill Framlingham Suffolk IP13 9AN 01728 724566

Kids Club



We hope that lots of you will join us and support our Kids Club children on the Coronation Bank Holiday Monday (8th May) when we will be performing an original **George and the Dragon** play at the Hub! The children are working hard, practising their lines and making costumes. We hope it will be a really fun afternoon's entertainment.

The show begins at 4pm and lasts approximately 1 hour. Tickets are free but we would welcome your donations to cover costs for additional hall hire for rehearsals, props and costumes.

Tuesday 11th April is our **Eco Warriors Nature Day** with a Bug Safari at the churchyard and afterwards a picnic at the Hub and some planting. The Eco Warriors meet once a month, on Saturday morning from 10.30am. For more information contact huntingfieldkidsclub@gmail.com.

Towards the end of April, we have a special Kids Club session to look forward to. We will be joined by officers from Halesworth Police Force's Rural Division who will be talking to the children about their role in our local area. They've promised flashing lights and a chance for the children to sit in the patrol vehicle,

Petanque

which we are all very excited about!

Sunday 26th March saw the start of the summer league with our game being postponed due to heavy rain! Typical British weather, after playing all our winter fixtures without a postponement. Our home piste has seen some renovations in the last few weeks, and is now playing quite differently. Thank you to everyone who helped with the work. Not much else to report as yet, but in a couple of months' time we will, hopefully, have some wins under our belt. I will update scores on the Facebook 'Huntingfield Community' page as and when we play. *Julie Collett - Captain Huntingfield Hares*.

Historical(!) Huntingfield



Recent discussions over a beer or two in the Huntingfield Arms raised a question about how long the building has

been a hostelry. Steve, the landlord, was led to believe that it was around 100 years, which seemed quite a short period and thus questionable. So, time to investigate! At the time of writing, I have been able to date it back to 1817 when, according to a newspaper article, an intrepid group of locals helped put out a rick fire at the Rectory and were rewarded for their efforts with a "barrel of ale from the Huntingfield Arms".

My investigations have led me up and down a variety of pathways. Did you know of the existence of Threadbare Hall? Or that Barrells Hill gets its name from Henry Barrell's windmill which stood at the top of the hill? One of many mills in the local area. I believe a number of local residents have also researched family or property in the local area which led me to consider pooling our resources as a local history group? If you have, or are interested in researching more about our local area, residents and buildings - which we could possibly share with our community at some point - then please get in touch.

Helen Cannon, <u>hcannon50@gmail.com</u>

MORPHEY PLASTERING

Experienced & reliable tradesmen you can trust

COVERING ALL ASPECTS OF PLASTERING FULLY INSURED WITH OVER 25 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

*SPECIALISTS IN COLOURED RENDER SYSTEMS

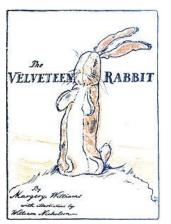
*TRADITIONAL LIME RENDER

Free no obligation quote CALL: 07760181940

·INTERNAL PLASTERING

E-mail: info@morphsplastering.co.uk Website: www.morphsplastering.co.uk

Events at Halesworth Library



For children 3 years plus Spinning Wheel Theatre presents a much-loved children's story, 'The Velveteen Rabbit' on Thursday 13th April at 2.15pm. This is a FREE event but booking is essential. Call 01986 875095 or reserve tickets at the Library.

Then, on Saturday 29th

April, **Buffalo Bill Comes to Town**. In September 1903 his Wild West show rolled into Ipswich, Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth. With a cast and crew of 800 people from 40 nations and with 500 horses they delivered two shows each day to the astonished audience. This piece of forgotten history is brought to life by the John Ward trio who will bring their powerful harmonies and instrumental skills to perform a selection of songs from the show, extracts from the book and a talk about the man and his visit to East Anglia.

Tickets £12, available from Halesworth Book Shop (cash only) and the Library must be purchased in advance. Please bring your own drinks and nibbles. *Sheila Freeman*



LOCAL SECURE STORAGE WITH 24/7 ACCESS

07902 084722

enquiries@localselfstoragediss.co.uk www.localselfstoragediss.co.uk

Notes from the sheep pen

Hello all, what a wonderful February we had: mild and dry and thus perfect for the early lambers. The success rate was exceptional and our lambs are steaming ahead. They all did their thing outside at Sibton and were then moved to Henham, leaving the area close to the farm for the triplets and quads due from 1st April.

Needless to say, March has brought back a bit of reality with cold winds, frost and even some snow. Grass growth has slowed dramatically which necessitates frequent moves of us girls looking for



Yummy! Sugar beets

nibbles of grass.
Fortunately, junior
management found some
frosted sugar beet unfit
to be processed at the
Bury factory that are
filling the gap. It's quite
yummy, if a little

alcoholic, and has similar after effects seen in you humans!

We have seen the team putting together the lambing pens in preparation for next month's rush. It's all quite exciting as we are becoming very broody. The pens are precautionary as most of us lamb happily without any intervention: multiple births, such as triplets and quads, are often problematic and need a lot of "tlc".

The first timers also need close attention for a couple of days, so they are put into individual pens to bond with their little ones.



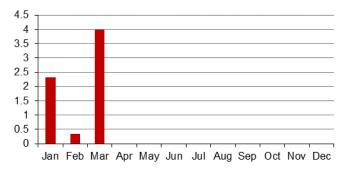
Old floppy hat has become very pessimistic about the future of sheep production in the current economic

climate which is quite worrying for us girls. With lamb prices at a 5-year low we can understand his dilemma. Our breeding cycle is long so once our numbers drop it will take 3 or 4 years to get back to where we are now, and can anyone tell him when the market will improve?

Healthwise, we've had all our vaccinations including foot rot, copper (to protect our unborn lambs from swayback) and the most important – to prevent clostridial diseases. Also, our bottoms have been clipped so that the team can see what's going on when birthing starts. So, it's all systems go and fingers crossed for a successful season!

Ewe, as in you know who.

Weather report: February - March 2023



True to form Mad March has more or less delivered on form with the weather. We've had a little snow, strong winds, warm and cold temperatures and not much sun with a continuous belt of cloud that stretched back to the Bahamas; at one point some 4,200 miles to the west - all courtesy of the jet stream. Great, but is it going stop raining? The forecasters are saying no in the short term. So how much have we had this year to date?

Well, January this year turned out to be wet with 2.31" (58.7mm) compared with just .90" (.23 mm) in 2022. February this year was dry, and not the February "fill-dyke" as one would have wished, with just .34" (8.64 mm) which, when it comes to replenishing the underground aquafers, was rather alarming, to say the least. Then, along comes March which, so far seems to be a cross between a February and a March. Rain this month so far is 3.99" (101.35mm) compared with 1.19" (30.23 mm) in March 2022. The total rainfall so far this year amounts to 6.65" (168.9 mm) compared with 4.95" (125.73 mm) in 2022. We are now 1.69" (42.9 mm) up on the same period last year.

A wet spring this year; so how will us gardeners fare? I haven't got my seeds in yet and the ground is cold, so let's hope for some sunshine! However, there is a bit more rain to come before the very end of March. *Richard Tyler*

Cow patter... a note to well-meaning folk

On this occasion I am writing as myself, David Hull, or, as some of you know me from my articles 'old floppy hat'. The reason relates to the four Old English Longhorns you may have seen grazing in front of Heveningham Hall which are destined for Cockfield Hall as company for Yoxman. They arrived pregnant: three have now calved and the last one is due shortly.

Just like humans, giving birth can often take up to 24 hours so they generally head off somewhere quiet to do so. Unfortunately, the first chose a spot next to the railings where she thought it was quiet but was, in fact, in full view of local traffic! A passer-by stopped me to say I had a cow 'prolapsing' - wrong! A while later a stockman from a local farm told me there was a cow giving birth to a dead calf, wrong! Half an hour later she delivered a perfectly normal calf and both were thriving.



It is worth mentioning that, particularly with rare breeds, cows can become aggressive post calving and should only ever be approached by those with experience. The horns have one purpose, to protect their babies, and will

impale any threat they may perceive. To a cow, humans are the biggest threat in those first few days.

To further protect their young, they will choose spots to hide the calf based on the temperature, wind direction and safety. The first to calve chose a favourite spot right next to

the road. You would not believe the many phone calls we received over the next four days, most telling us we had a dead calf. Now, with our combined years of experience we would like to think that we are professionals at work. We do know what we're doing! Obviously, like any species, there are occasions when a calf will die but we would never leave a dead animal, especially in full view of the public, so please give us some credit.

New born babies, be it human, calf or lamb sleep for long periods at first, waking only to feed. The mothers hide their babies but will always come back for them. If someone moved them the mother would be distraught and become very dangerous or, even worse, abandon its newborn. For those of you who have children, once they were asleep would you not go off and recuperate whilst you had the chance? Surprise, surprise, animals are exactly the same! Equally, on your return you wouldn't poke the baby to see if it was alive, which is what one passer-by did to the calf!



After more than 20 phone calls I turned my phone off in exasperation and poor Lucy fielded more calls until she switched hers off too. There was, so I was told, some nonsense put on social media (I am not a contributor or follower)

which was, politely, ridiculous. So, my message to you is, please DON'T interfere as you are more likely to do harm than good. Let Mother Nature do what she does so well, and, rest assured, we do keep a very watchful eye on our animals even though you may not see us.

David Hull



Hundred Club

The 100 Club's aim is to raise £600 a year to help with the upkeep and maintenance of our lovely Millennium Green and Wild Flower Meadow. 100 people each pay £12 a year to enter the monthly draw of 3 numbers. The first prize is £30, second £15 and £5 third. Many thanks to all subscribers.

January

1st £30 Sam Sayer 2nd. £15 Camilla Costello 3rd £5 Jim Wardale

February

1st £30 Anne Oldham 2nd £15 Chris Biggins 3rd £5 Lizzie Elsley

Nature Notes

At the time of writing, we have had some cooler days with light overnight frosts but, thankfully, several signs of spring have been in evidence. These include



Brimstone, Peacock and Small Tortoiseshell butterflies and bumblebees flying. Lesser Celandine is in bloom and trees such as Ash are coming into leaf. There are ladybirds

crawling on vegetation and frogs and toads returning to

spawn in local ponds.

The dawn chorus of bird song is stepping up in volume and variety, with members of the thrush family -Blackbird, Robin, Song



and Mistle Thrushes leading the choir. Interestingly, large flocks of up to 500 winter visiting Fieldfare and Redwing, and also thrushes, are still around the area. Spring will not really have started in their breeding grounds in Scandinavia and even further east. They will be with us for a while until the weather warms and the days lengthen in the places where they will nest.

Of course, summer migrant birds which breed here are on their way back: locally, there are already several Chiffchaffs singing (the squeaky wheelbarrow song). Other Warblers, Swallows, Martins and Cuckoo will soon be gracing our skies and making us feel like spring is really here. Talking of cuckoos, a rare Great Spotted Cuckoo was seen briefly near Southwold a few days ago. A large bird, they usually breed in Spain and winter in Africa so this one overshot a bit. There has also been a UK record influx of another European summer migrant, the Alpine Swift. This is a large relative of the Swifts that breed in Huntingfield, screaming as they zoom around the village.



So, do keep an eye out for more signs of spring as the weather warms. Try and listen to the dawn chorus if you can. Just opening the bedroom window as

the dawn comes up can reveal quite an amazing sound. You will, most likely, also hear a Tawny Owl calling as they are well into their breeding season and some will even have young in their nest already.

Tony Howe



Also available at various times during the week

- Zoom and pre recorded classes
- Personal training

Spaces available. Pre booking is essential.

Please contact me on

07899 888 778 nikkihambling@gmail.com www.orchidfitness.co.uk

Souper Saturday

Thank you to everyone who came along and supported our Souper Saturday in March. There were 5 homemade soups on offer and many people tried different ones. It was held to raise awareness of The Halesworth Community Larder, on the basis of a cycle of giving and receiving. When donations were taken to the Larder the following letter of thanks was received: "Thank you from the visitors & volunteers of the Community Larder.... for both the £105 and many,

many bags of donations. A brilliant idea and very much part of the 'circle of the Community Larder'." For your information, the most popular soup was Leek & Potato and the least popular, Carrot & Coriander! Emma Ward & Sally Clarke



Party Time - Saturday 10th June



Sally & David are hosting an 'Open Garden Party' at Giffords from 5.30pm onwards to celebrate Life & Love. You are all invited to join in the fun: there will be music and food and time to chat.. Please bring a bottle. Sally Clarke

Arms Events

Spring has, apparently, arrived, Easter is looming and our hectic schedule is keeping us very busy. Pie making is on the agenda right now — by the time you read this our "Pie Night" will be over, but, don't get your pastry in a panic as pies will be available in the shop on Friday morning! We regularly change and add to the shop's stock so do drop by and check it out.

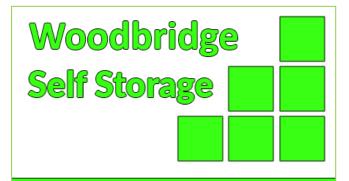


On Easter Sunday (9th April) make sure you have a walk round the village and look out for our cunningly concealed plastic eggs. Bring

one to the pub from 11am and exchange it for a chocolate version. Limited to one egg per person and available only as long as our stocks last!

The next themed food evening will be on Thursday 20th April with 'Starters and Puddings', another one not to be missed. These evenings sell out fast so booking is always advised. At the moment we also have a regular midweek special - Curry and a Pint for £10, available every Wednesday. Finally, our "summer season" monthly music events kick of with the Underdog Duo on Sunday 7th May at 4pm. Come along and enjoy some live entertainment!

Sara & Steve



LOCAL SECURE STORAGE WITH 24/7 ACCESS

07902 084722

enquiries@woodbridgeselfstorage.co.uk www.woodbridgeselfstorage.co.uk

David's Column

Despite a very wintry evening, our last Parish Council meeting was well attended. We were pleased to welcome two new councillors; Carla Kruger and Clive Clarke-Watson who were co-opted to the Council. We were also sad to say goodbye to Jackie Driver who has decided not to continue. We thank her for her contribution over the past years and wish her well.

During the 'open' session our attention was once more drawn to the overgrown hedgerows which continue to hold up traffic and put pedestrians at danger. Suffolk Highways Dept will be contacted to see if anything can be done about this. I was happy to report that the recent coffee morning held in support of the DEC earthquake appeal raised an amazing £900 plus. Together with the money donated from the latest quiz in The Arms our village has donated over £1000! What a fantastic effort. The PC had received a letter from Charlie Yule asking for financial support to help reestablish a youth club in the village. We were only too pleased to offer our support and wish the venture well.



Hopefully you will all have noticed the Quiet Lane signs that have been erected. The scheme is intended to make drivers aware that they are in a narrow lane which is also used by walkers, cyclists and equestrians, and that they should take extra care.

Finally a reminder to everyone that in future we will need photo id when we vote. Details on page 2. The next meeting will be 17th May at 19.00 at The Hub and will also include the AGM and Annual Parish Meeting. David Blackmore, Chair, Huntingfield Parish Council

Community Bake Off



This year we have decided to have a Community Bake Off on 6th July at The Hub to provide for the tearooms at the Heveningham Country Fair.

As always you can donate homemade cakes but, if you fancy getting together for an afternoon of baking, coffee & chat, do come along at midday. You can bring any ingredients you might have to hand, plus mixing bowls and hand mixers and definitely cake tins please! If you just want to come and wash up or make coffee, that's fine too... let's just get involved! Sally Clarke

History Corner

This year the Museum was gifted a rather unusual Wedgewood plate with a picture of Heveningham Hall and a French inscription. The donor, who had 3 copies, contacted Wedgewood who indicated it was theirs but they had no record in their catalogue. This made us ponder: one of the suggestions was perhaps the plate was a private commission, maybe made by the French visitors in 1784, who were very taken with the, then, new version of Heveningham Hall. These visitors were two young noblemen, Francois and Alexandre de La Rochefoucauld, who spent a year touring Suffolk.



Francois' obvious delight with the building must have echoed general appreciation at the time. Designed in 1777 for Sir Gerard Vanneck, the Hall was described as 'magnificent, built in the grand manner, and makes a great impression'. Maps of Suffolk, such as those by Thomas Moule, would have two buildings predominantly featured: Euston Hall, seat of the Dukes of Grafton and Heveningham Hall. The enthusiasm of young Francois is shown in his account of their visit. He notes that the former hall, built c1710, was used as the centre of the present 'handsome modern building'. The resulting central hall he describes as 'extremely noble, magnificent, all clad in the finest stucco...'.

The breakfast room was 'oblong, of the finest proportions, large and hung with beautiful pictures; it is covered in a light blue paper, simple but elegant: the mantlepiece is of very well-carved white marble.' He also enthused of the dining room: 'I should still think it impossible to contemplate a more beautiful room if we had not immediately entered the library, which wiped it at once from my sight. This room is the masterpiece of taste.' He was also impressed with the kitchen: 'I even went to see the kitchen which is very fine, cleanliness supreme, and running water on all sides.'

The exterior of the 'superb' house also evoked exclamations about the grandness, even mentioning the stables which 'also form a considerable block.' He did have some negative comments about the position of the hall and an 'ugly' and 'unsuitable' flowerbed by the house but overall his descriptions are peppered with words such as 'delightful' and 'noble'. We are treated to a personal 18th century view of a hall that is familiar to us all today.

The most endearing parts of the account are the personal responses to the weather and the young men's unfamiliarity with English customs. The visit to Heveningham starts with reference to the rain: 'The day... was not fine: we had a little fine rain from time to time — although the English called it mist — and it allowed us to see nothing through it.' They arrived at the Hall at 9am with a letter of introduction. Sir Gerald Vanneck's sister was at breakfast and Sir Gerald obviously met them on his way out, wearing his hat, and asked them in. They assumed this was the "done" thing and immediately 'we withdrew to put on our own hats, then we entered.' They then had tea at the breakfast table, presumably in their hats!

Most of the information in this article is from 'A Frenchman's Year in Suffolk, 1784' by Francois de La Rochefoucauld and translated by Norman Scarfe.

Laxfield & District Museum will open its doors for the 2023 season on Good Friday from 2-5pm and then every weekend and bank holiday until Sunday 29th October. We are also open on Saturday, 10am-1pm, when Laxfield Community Market is held: May 6; Jun 3; Jul 1; Aug 5; Sep 2; Oct 7. Lynne Ward



Help The Hare?

The Hare started life in 2007 for Huntingfield residents and very soon will be reaching its 100th edition! When plans were afoot for the Queen's Jubilee celebrations last year, a decision was made to produce copies for Heveningham and Ubbeston so that all three villages connected with The Hub were fully informed.



Once over, we received such positive feedback from the new recipients that the decision was made to continue delivering to a wider audience.

Previously, the Hare has been wholly funded by income from advertisers and subscribers. However, this does not quite cover the print costs for the increased distribution. As a team, we don't want to fill the pages with advertising at the expense of editorial content and are looking to maintain an acceptable balance of the two. The last few issues have kindly been subsidised by the Parish Councils, who are happy to do so going forward.

However, a number of people have offered to help pay for their copies so, if you would like to make a contribution towards The Hare, please contact us and we will advise how to do so. Your donations would be most welcome so we can continue providing what, we hope, is an informative and entertaining source of information for your *very local* area. *The Hare Team*

huntingfieldhare@gmail.com

Church Chat

There's not a great deal to report from the last couple of months at the Church. We had a funeral for Benjamin Henry, a member of the Henry family who lived at Hill House Farm up to the mid 1960's. The sons of the family sung in the choir and helped Canon Dobson who was rector at the time. Benjamin was also village clerk. Apparently, he loved the farm but his parents wanted to retire so they moved to Norwich. Poor Ben also left behind a sweetheart so it all seems rather sad. At least he's home now.

Unfortunately, we were unable to hold any services due to both illness and the cold. We do have a service on Easter Sunday with Vic the Vicar and I will make sure there's plenty of eggs available so do come along with your children.



With the green shoots of Spring appearing, I'm delighted to say that the Millennium Green Trust have kindly given us a mower - much to the delight of Brian, Jeff and David, our trusty maintainers. Thank you, we are very grateful! Kids Club are holding a Bug Safari in the churchyard on

11th April (p 4). It will be really interesting to see what we find as it is full of bird and insect life. (*I've seen slow worms hiding in the stones – ed*)

Don't forget the Afternoon Tea and a Tabletop Sale on St George's Day (see p 1). Also, the bells will be rung in the run up to the Coronation along with the other celebratory events in the village.

Emma Ward, Churchwarden

Your Parish Council

Ubbeston & Heveningham Parish Councils

Both Parish Councils have held their final meetings of the current financial year. I am pleased to report for both that spending was kept within budget which is a good start to the new financial year.

May 4th is Election Day for Parish and District Councillors. Our current District Councillor, Stephen Burroughes, is standing down. I would like to thank him for his help and support over the past years. All councillors stand down and have to be nominated for the new term. Ubbeston have already submitted 5 nomination papers, whilst Heveningham have 7 papers. If no one else stands for election these Councillors will automatically be elected: if other residents decide to stand it will then trigger a vote. Currently, we are only aware of one candidate at District level. However, check noticeboards and websites closer to polling day. Also, on the day please make sure you take some form of photo ID (see p 2).





Ubbeston have now purchased village gateways that will be put into place very soon. Heveningham recently have seen two signs installed to try and stop the HGVs using The Street.

Ubbeston & Heveningham Councils have been asked if they would be interested in first aid and defibrillator training. This is a great idea and something that we all could use. Keep an eye out for further details. If you already have any form of first aid training, perhaps you could let me know.

Please check our websites and noticeboards for information on your meetings and election details.

Julie Collett. Clerk, 01986 899719 <u>ubbestonclerk@outlook.com</u> heveninghamclerk@gmail.com

What's on – dates for your diary

April

9th Easter Service, St Margarets, 10am (p 4) 9th Easter Service, St Mary's, 10am (p 11) 11th Bug Safari, St Mary's Church, (p 4)

14th Kids Club (p 4)

18th Mobile Library (p 12)

20th Starters and Puds, The Arms (p 9) 22nd Brunch at The Hub, 10-11am (p 3)

23rd Afternoon Tea, Tabletop Sale, St Mary's (p 1)

28th Kids Club (p 4)

30th Huntingfield Clean-up. 10.30am (p 1)

May

5th Kids Club, The Hub, 4pm, (p 4)

6th & 7th Coronation Celebration, The Hub (p 1)

8th George & the Dragon, The Hub, (p 4)

11th Youth Club (p 4) 12th Kids Club (p 4)

15th Ubbeston PC APM & AGM, The Hub, 7pm 17th Huntingfield PC, APM & AGM The Hub, 7pm

18th Heveningham PC APM & AGM, The Hub, 7pm

19th Kids Club (p 4)

16th Mobile Library (p 12)

22nd Hub & Millennium Green Joint AGM, The Hub, 7pm

25th Youth Club (p 4) 26th Kids Club (p 4)

27th Brunch at The Hub, 10-11am (p 3)

Regular events at The Hub

Pilates Thursday a.m. (contact Orchid Fitness for details 07899 888778, nikkihambling@gmail.com)

Yoga Tuesday, 6.30-7.30pm, £7 per class. (Contact Hayley 07776184943)

Tai Chi Monday, 2-3pm (contact Cindy Engel, cindywildhealth@gmail.com), £10 per PAYG session

Zumba Every Thursday, 11am-noon. £7 per PAYG session

Parish Councils *

Heveningham

Chair: Cllr Sam Fairs

Clerk: heveninghamclerk@gmail.com

(Tel 899719)

Huntingfield

Chair: Cllr. David Blackmore

Clerk: Carol Hume huntingfieldclerk@gmail.com

Ubbeston

Chair: Cllr. Carl Walker

Clerk: ubbestonclerk@outlook.com (Tel 899719)

Millennium Green Trustees*

Acting Chair:

Tony Howe 1 Crutch Hall 785429

Treasurer & Secretary:

Jim Wardale Burin Barn 798393 Sheila Freeman The Longhouse 798774 Alex Dipple 10a Holland Rise 798481 Christopher Jenkins Towranna Farm

Associate Members: Danny Feeney, Ryan Jordan, Lori Kingsley Adams, Carla Kruger,

Lauren Moloney.

* Unless specified phone numbers are prefixed 01986.

The Hub *

Web: www.hub4all.org. Email: enquiries@hub4all.org.

Phone: 799130

Admin, Marketing & Finance Manager

Charlie Yule 07505 704404 Alex Dipple 798481

Trustees

Caretaker

Sara Back 798320 Ken Burnett 798177 Julie Collett 899719 Allen Pike (Ubbeston) 798227 Jim Wardale 798393

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

The Kids Club Team

Charlotte Yule, Jos Bailey, Kat Bailey, Mark Hitchings,

Sally Clarke

Mobile Library



The monthly mobile library visits are on Tuesday 18th April and 16th May at the following locations:

Forge House, Heveningham at 10.30am

The Hub, Huntingfield at 3.10pm

You can also check online at:

https://www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/visit/mobile-libraries/saxmundham-mobile-library-route-13/