



A Celebration of Life in Huntingfield

2017/2018

Reports & updates from village groups reflecting upon the past year and looking forward to the future.



Annual Parish Meeting

Friday 19th May 2017

Welcome

Welcome to the report for the 2017 Annual Parish Meeting.

Once again this has been an incredibly active year in our village. In this report and meeting you will hear from a total of 11 groups and organisations active within Huntingfield.

If you would like to get involved within these groups please get in touch with the person who is named at the end of each report.

Joseph Thompson (Chair of Huntingfield Parish Council)

Huntingfield Parish Council

The last twelve months in Huntingfield has been very busy and also a period of change for the PC, we have a new chair and also new councillors that have joined us in the latter part of the year, and again as the new year for the council begins we are advertising councillor vacancies.

The physical infrastructure of the village is looking great with the steps replaced up to the millennium green which is fantastic news so many thanks to all of those involved for their fundraising efforts and should keep this area safely accessible.



Outside of the village centre with the construction of the new lakes @ Heveningham the landscape is again changing quite drastically and it's going to be interesting to see the visual impact and the wildlife this attracts in the future.

The number of events happening in and around the village over the past 12 months has been fantastic we are already well served as a village with the Fireworks (This was hugely successful this year) Country fair and the Pub, we now have had some great Theatre productions, fantastic cookery demonstrations and various clubs and other events as highlighted by all the different reports below.

That such a small village has so many people willing to get involved, give up their own time and help out really is testament to the character of the village and we are lucky that there is so much on offer for a parish of our size. I personally thank you all who give so much time and effort to these events, groups and committees.

The PC has maintained the village precept at its previous level with no increase which is great news and the overall budget although very small is manageable in the current year. Going forward with the withdrawal of local grant funding it is unlikely that this will be sustainable.

Following the Hacking of the village website we now have a new website up and running! Thanks to Helen and co for all their work on this, it is more up to date and should allow more material to be displayed.

As we move forward I believe we should all take time to think about what we want from the Parish Council and it's Councillors, we are here to represent your views as villagers the best we can, there are vacancy notices as mentioned currently advertised on the notice board and I would invite people to consider coming forward to apply.

Finally my thanks to David Blackmore for the role he has played as Chairman of the PC and to Councillor Back & Hunt who have resigned after serving on the Parish Council.



Joseph Thompson (Chair of Huntingfield Parish Council)

Huntingfield Hare

The latest issue of the Huntingfield Hare was numbered 61 - at 6 issues a year that means the Hare has been operational for ten years! I'm not sure we would have envisaged this ten years ago! It is now very much part of communication within the village and beyond.

Financially the Hare continues to make a profit for the Parish Council - in the last year this amounted to £118. The total figure raised for the PC over the 10 years is £1450.

During this last year Mystery Guests in the Hare have been Patrick Cannell, Rachel Ducker, Ken Burnett, Sally Russell, Jackie Driver and... The Ghost of Christmas Past. We thank them for sharing their lives with our readers. This column continues to show the diversity of people who live in Huntingfield.

We hope you're also enjoying our new item - Mystery Thing. We enjoy compiling it!

Sometimes it seems there isn't much happening in our sleepy village, but looking back through the last year of the Hare, there has been plenty!

These are just some of the items, which appeared in our village newsletter. Opening of The Hub, Huntingfield Paintress book, Queen's birthday celebrations, Julie's charity swim, David playing hockey for England, The Dog Show, Apple Day, Race Night, Film Nights, 3 different musical evenings, visits by three theatre companies, Bric-a-Brac sale, Edward's amazing charity bike ride, Craft Fayre, Christmas village dinner, Carols round the Tree, New Year's Eve party, Brunches in the Hub, Pantomime, Summer Solstice Walk, Cookery Masterclass, and, finally Jana and Caroline are at this moment halfway through a 200 mile bike ride, again for charity.



We look forward to another great year featuring many of the great things that happen in our community.

Please remember though we can only write about things you tell us about - so please, give us some ideas/feedback about what you would like to see in the Huntingfield Hare.

Sue Lucas, Julie Watson, Sue Tyler (Editorial team)

Huntingfield Millennium Green CIO

The Trustees continue to maintain the Millennium Green for the enjoyment and benefit of Huntingfield residents and our visitors, my sincere thanks goes to the trustees and everyone else who has helped at events and in keeping the green in such good condition.

We welcome James Gordon as joint Secretary and Vice chair to the trustees and thank Esther Munns and Sheila Freeman for their outstanding efforts over the years they both remain as Trustees for which they are also thanked. Fundraising is as ever an important activity for the Trustees and has been really successful this year with several highly enjoyable events providing good income to help maintain the green as well as great fun for all who attended. Huntingfield's first ever dog show in July raised an amazing £765 and was very well attended, the weather was superb, with many different breeds competing in various classes, fastest recall, and a BBQ followed by the annual fun/sports day.

Our inaugural Apple Day took place in October this was a celebration of the Apple and included apple pie and other cooking and fun competitions, apple identification, apple show classes, apple juice making and tours of our own community orchard. Again it was well attended with many visitors from outside the village enjoying the ambience and heady aroma in the Hub, and we raised £340.

The Sixties meets Country music night held in the Hub in September was also superb fun with folk from many villages in the area taking part, this raised £467



and was universally praised, a similar event will definitely be staged in 2017. Our traditional Race Night was back on the calendar in November and the Hub was literally packed with once again many attendees coming from other villages. The excitement was at a high level especially when rolling a pound for the bottle of whisky was taking place. This event will be repeated as it raised £402 and is such great fun, start saving those pound coins now.

Many thanks to Sue Brewer, Marian and Patrick Wishart, Sheila Freeman and Stephen Harrison who led the organisation of the Dog Show, Apple Day, Sixties Music Night and Race Night respectively.

The Heveningham Hall Country Fair Trust has kindly granted £5000 to the MG , £1500 of which is to be used to repair the MG play equipment to ensure that it is safe to use, we have it inspected annually to check for any issues. The remaining £3500 is to go towards the cost of installing new steps from the village level up to the green; they should be completed by the time this report is published.

We have also received £495 from the Adnams Trust and £250 from the Huntingfield Town Estates this money is earmarked for new picnic benches for the green as the old ones are starting to rot, so thank you for those helpful grants.

Our other expenditures include things such as public liability insurance, maintaining equipment and paying contractors for tasks such as grass cutting, we plan to be using a new contractor this year and we will plan to keep the grass at a suitable height for ball games etc.

Other plans include hopefully, funds allowing, upgrading the Pétanque pitch as ours is not really up to the competition status required in the local league that our village team competes a basketball post is going to be added to the play equipment.

A tree will be planted in the autumn in memory of Ian Richardson without whom we would not have had this fantastic village facility for all of us to enjoy, so well done to him indeed.

Tony Howe (Chair)



Huntingfield Hares Petanque Club

Since the 2016 Parish Meeting, the Petanque Club has had a busy and enjoyable year in the Adnams Suffolk Coastal League. We were again in the Oyster Division (the nine divisions are named after Adnams beers) and our four opponents were from Thorpness, Kettleburgh, Framlingham and Westleton playing each one both home and away.

This year we are in the Solestar division. It's a very enjoyable way of seeing other villages and towns and meeting many new people, so it's not just about playing a game to win, it's a social occasion as most of our opponents, like us, play primarily for the fun and pleasure. Of our eight matches played, we won one, drew one and lost six, which was a little disappointing but does reflect a higher standard of play within the Suffolk Coastal League. The Hares didn't enter as a team in the Adnams Knockout Cup and Plate competitions for 2016 and we haven't entered for 2017.

The coming season (March to October) we have opponents from Diss, Shotford, Laxfield and Mendham & Withersdale. We are looking forward to meeting old and new acquaintances. We have no new members giving us a total of 13 members, the lowest it has been since the Petanque club was founded but have two prospective members both of whom have played a league game for the Hares and we hope they will become full time members soon. Anyone who thinks they would like to try a game or two are more than welcome, with all equipment supplied by the club.

New members are actively sought and can visit our webpage: - <https://huntingfield-queens-oak.co.uk/huntingfield-hares-petanque-club/> where there is an online enquiry form or speak to any of our club members. Our annual club individual K.O. competition took place during the summer to find a club champion. This was won by David Blackmore and a convincing winner he's been. The Cliff Spencer memorial trophy awarded in his honour, was presented to our K.O. Champion club member David Blackmore at our annual AGM by Sue Brewer our honorary member.



Our fees are held at same level as in the previous six years at £5.00 joining fee (this is for the purchase and replacement of equipment) and £5.00 annual subscription, which provides for match refreshments throughout the season.

Richard Tyler (Captain) Tel: 01986 798403

St Mary the Virgin Huntingfield

It has been a year of change for St Mary's. We said a fond farewell to Rev. Tony Norton on New Year's Day after 8 years of ministry. He was sent on his way with a special service.

The future of the benefice remains uncertain, but it is unlikely that we will ever again have a priest exclusively for the three churches. There is ongoing discussion with the Blythe Valley Team Ministry about some kind of alliance with them and at present they are sending ministers to officiate at Huntingfield.

Another change has seen the first family service to be held in the church for many years – on Mothering Sunday. It was lovely to see so many people and very special to have local children participating.

Our local church is a tourist destination, because of the painted ceiling. Numbers of visitors have increased as a result of a new novel, called "The Huntingfield Paintress", which was launched in the church last April.

Linda Berry (Churchwarden)
churchwarden@stmaryshuntingfield.org.uk

The Bell Ringers of Huntingfield

March 2016 saw the funeral of Michael Bryanton who had sadly passed away and we managed to garner a full band of 5 to mark this solemn occasion. On a



lighter note in June we were pleased to ring for Marjorie's granddaughter's wedding gathering extra help as I was unavailable on that day.

On Saturday 10 September, The Ladies Guild visited for their outing and it was fantastic for me to meet up with old friends! The kitchen & loo facilities came into their own & thanks to the PCC for letting us use these. I rang things I had not rung for some time and everyone enjoyed themselves. Those who had not been before marvelled at the beautiful ceiling.

(I bought a copy of the book "The Huntingfield Paintress" about the painter of the ceiling and thoroughly enjoyed it).

We rang for Rev Tony Norton's last service before he retired officially on Sunday 1 January & the church was absolutely packed. We are now absorbed into the Blyth Valley Ministry.

On Monday 13 March a special practice was held when we welcomed approximately 30 people on behalf of the Suffolk Guild of ringers from various parts of the county for "listening to your bell for better ringing". This was a great success & I'm pleased to say we had a full turnout from the local ringers who benefited greatly.

We continue to practice on Mondays from 6 to 7pm (apart from a Monday following a Sunday service). Rounds and call changes are our forte with excursions into plain hunt when the fancy takes us.

We would hope to provide ringing for any weddings, funerals etc as required maybe with the help of other local ringers if our band is diminished by holidays or illness.

The bells are not easy & as a ground floor ring we have issues with how the ropes are guided. A loud "growling" noise coming from the fourth was indeed a loose pulley, we tightened one of its bolts, which had worked loose & greased the bearings.

I am most grateful to my regular band of home bred ringers: Sue Tyler, Sue Lucas, Tony Howe, Jana Thompson and Mike Stephens and we welcome Keith



having been “fast tracked” by Hugh Spink (as was Jana & Mike), he is now ringing confidently and competently as a regular member.

Of course, we must mention Hugh who keeps us focussed and pushes us on. It is a pleasure to ring with them all, they do put in a lot of hard work and they are brilliant at answering my emails as, although not living in the midst of things in Huntingfield, I find ringing can be organised from afar!

**Tracey Abell (Tower Captain/Correspondent) – email:
traceyeabell@gmail.com - mob 07718 743513**

Huntingfield Town Estates

Many local communities in the past established their own charities to meet local needs. Huntingfield has one registered with the Charity Commission in March 1915.

There are two parts of it: one is available to meet particular financial needs of individuals living in the parish of Huntingfield, the other has an educational purpose.

For example this year we have been able to offer assistance with heating bills and following a request from the youth group we were able to fund the purchase of books for the young children attending the Christmas party they had organised in The Hub.

As you are aware the Reverend Tony Norton, Chair of the Trustees, retired at the end of last year.

However, requests for assistance in either of the categories may be made through the remaining trustees.



They are: **Sheila Freeman** (01986 798774) **Sue Brewer** 01986 798169 and **Brian Lucas** 01986 798000.

All applications must be submitted in writing and will be treated in confidence.

The Hub
Heveningham, Huntingfield & Ubbeston Village Hall

This time last year had just seen the official opening of The Hub, open to residents of all three villages. This was followed by a Business Launch in which we were delighted to welcome many people from various organisations who wanted to view The Hub and find out more about hiring it.

The landscaping is now complete including the new steps to the Millennium Green and planting on either side of the steps.

Now, a year on, The Hub's 1st Birthday Celebrations have been held and it is well established in the communities, which it serves.

The Trustees naively thought that once The Hub was built and opened to the public the workload would decrease somewhat - not so! It was important that the needs of the community were met by organising classes, courses, events and social occasions. We were pleased to host events organised by the Millennium Green Trust and the Huntingfield Events Group as well as putting on many activities ourselves. It is a sign of how well the different groups in the village have pulled together that these activities have, by and large, been very successful.

So, what happens in The Hub - Pilates, Yoga, Jive & Swing, Zumba Gold, Bridge, Carpet Bowls, Wednesday Club, Youth Club, Table Tennis Club are all regular events and are interspersed with many different day courses, musical and theatre events, Apple Day, Race Night, Craft Fayre, Film Nights, Children's Xmas and Halloween Parties and so on. As well as these organised events The



Hub has hosted many private parties and a wedding reception - our second one has just been booked!

There are still a couple of outstanding issues with the building itself which our contractors are working with us on but generally we are delighted with the standard of workmanship which has ensured a sound, aesthetically pleasing and economical building for the 21st Century.

Financially, it is very pleasing to be able to report not only 'breaking even' during the first year of operation but actually making a small profit, (unheard of in the first year of operation for most organisations!). This is due in no small part to the hard work of the Trustees in ensuring the hall is used to its full extent. We have been able to offer village groups, as well as individual villagers from all three communities, very reasonable hire rates to ensure its usage.

Having summarised the usage and finances it has to be said the Trustees are not complacent. We appreciate that with the diverse range of residents in the villages we are probably not servicing everyone, as we would wish to do.

We do implore people to LET US KNOW what you would like to see happening in The Hub. We are thinking of Bingo Nights, talks on various subjects, craft workshops as some possibilities. Please let us know what you would like to do in The Hub and we will do our best to accommodate it. This is very important, as we are shortly to lose the Yoga Saturday morning sessions as they have not been well attended, as with the Children's Dance Class which went the same way some months ago. So get in touch with any of the Trustees by leaving a message on the answer phone in The Hub 01986 799130, or email us on thehub@huntingfield.org.

Sue Lucas (Chair of The Hub CIO Trustees)

Heveningham Hall Country Fair Trust

Last year the country fair celebrated its 20th anniversary. Over the past years, the Trust has donated over £500,000 in various grants around the community.



2016 was another successful year incorporating an inaugural Concours d'Elegance in association with auctioneers Bonhams. Bonhams also ran an 'Antiques Road Show'. Last year also saw the welcome return of the Monster Trucks in the main ring. Once again, the village has received various grants, to assist in various projects from the proceeds of last year's fair.

This year's fair is looking to be every bit as good as previous years. The website is being updated constantly, take a look and see what we have planned. You can also purchase advance tickets, saving you money. Just go to www.countryfair.co.uk

The fair does rely on volunteers from the 6 villages involved; we can never have too much help. If you would like to get involved this year, please let me know or you can contact our village rep Sally Clarke. We receive such a lot of financial help from the Trust, it would take many events in our village to replace it!

This year's fair takes place on 8th & 9th July. Please put the date in your diary. If you are unable to help on the day, we are in need of many tombola prizes, and also your support over the weekend to come as a visitor to the fair. It will be another great weekend.

Julie Collett - 01986 798258, 07766654599, j.collett5@btinternet.com

Youth Club

On September 3rd the Huntingfield Youth Club re-launched in our wonderful new venue, the Hub.

It was a real shame that we had to have that break as the Youngsters so enjoyed their Wednesday night sessions in the old hut- but the Winters were perishing. Often, gloves and coats would stay on the whole evening which rather affect game play when you are trying to win at table tennis!



We were only a small group but when we started up again we had lot several members who had moved out of the village. We did wonder whether we should continue but we were still providing a much-enjoyed service and decided that for as long as they wanted to come we would too!

We had expanded the team so that we could ensure each weekly session took place and Liz Forrester, Jackie Driver and Carla Kruger came on board.

As my personal circumstances have changed and I will be moving out the village Sue Lucas has kindly agreed to take my place as Youthclub co-ordinator.

Frances Doyle

Events Group

Hi everyone, we have been asked to submit a report at the next annual general village meeting. I have drafted this, if you have time could you read it before tonight's meeting. Many thanks Sally

In the spring of 2016 the Events group was formed to primarily organise and put on a "Birthday Party" in celebration of the Queens's 90th birthday. Communities across the land were being encouraged to play their part and Huntingfield were determined not to be left out.

Linda Berry, Carolina Hare, Kate Liddiard, Sally Clarke and David Blackmore all volunteered for the group, and on Sat 11th June 2016 their first event "The Royal Party" took place. With music from the decades being played in The Hub, people enjoying their picnics the Beacon on the MG was lit as the strains of "Happy Birthday Dear Queen" drifted across the fields and a loyal toast was drank.

The next task of the group was to launch a regular Film Night in The Hub. After a lot of research on licensing laws the first film was shown in Sept and since then 4 more. To stage Film nights you need to be guaranteed a good audience as the overheads for each film are approx £100. Film nights are taking a summer break but will be back in the autumn.



On NY Eve the 3 villages that make up The Hub were all invited to a free party. Music was provided by a young talented DJ - DJ Will and we thank him for helping the party go with a swing. Everyone that came brought a plate of food, which added up to, be a very impressive buffet. The New Year was counted in with a live streaming from BIG Ben thanks to our superb audio/visual equipment and to Kate who was operating it in the Hub.

On the 18th March we held our first fund-raising event "A Bring and Buy" sale.

This was well supported with people generously donating goods for sale and others turning out to support it. There was a lovely atmosphere in the hall as folk searched for bargains, drank tea waited for the raffle and caught up with others. A fantastic total of £275 was raised which will go towards future events in the village.

David Blackmore - david.blackmore@live.fr

Table Tennis Club

We play regularly on Thursday nights from around 7.30pm to 9pm, Thanks to a recent grant from Heveningham Hall Country Fair trust we now have a fantastic new table as well, which means when required we can have three tables in use at once.

We are always open to new players whether residents, visitors or friends it's great fun a good way to keep fit and healthy. In the future we may consider a Sunday afternoon session if this was more accessible for the residents in the village. Keep me posted.

Joseph Thompson