

HUNTINGFIELD HARE



Issue 67—April/May 2018

The Great Full cast of
The Great Huntingfield Brain Robbery

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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 web-site (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.

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

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Brunch - Petanque - Theatre! Saturday 5th May

What a day this will be!

Brunch in the Hub at 11—12 noon

Followed by:-

The Huntingfield Hares are holding a 'Come and Have-A-Go' morning from 12:00 on the Millennium Green - there is no charge and equipment (boules) are provided for adults. *Richard Tyler* 798403 or huntingfieldharespetanque@btinternet.com for more information.

Then back to **The Hub at 7:30 for theatre!** (more details of this on the right)



with **The Hosepipe Band**

in The Hub on

Saturday 26th May 7:30 p.m.

So kick off your shoes and come on down for a night of fun and dancing.

£12 adults, £5 children includes light supper. BYO drinks. Soft drinks, tea, coffee, ice creams available

Limited numbers—get your tickets NOW! from thehub@huntingfield.org - 799130



The Hub Trustees are delighted to welcome back to

The Hub Eastern Angles Theatre Group.

These professional actors took The Hub by storm last time they appeared. We're delighted they love our venue and want to perform here again.

Tickets are on sale from The Hub - email thehub@huntingfield.org or leave a message on the ansaphone **01986 799130**

Tickets £10 - Concessions £9

Saturday 5th May at 7:30



A reminder that there is a colour copy of the Hare in the Huntingfield Arms, in The Hub and in St. Mary's Church or online at www.huntingfield.onesuffolk.net

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'Thelma and Louise'

Friday 6th April

7 p.m. for 7:30



Simultaneously funny, heartbreaking and peppered with action.
Perfect for a Friday night's entertainment!
£5 entry. Bring your own drinks and snacks.
We look forward to welcoming you.
Huntingfield Events Group

Summer Solstice 10km Charity Walk Thursday 21st June

Join us on the longest day to enjoy a summer evening walk around our beautiful countryside and the grounds of Heveningham Hall.

Raising funds for EACH - East Anglian Children's Hospice.

£10 registration fee

Starting at The Hub

More details in the next issue of the Hare.

Huntingfield Events Group

Heveningham Hall Country Fair 30th June & 1st July

More details to follow but attractions so far include:-
Dog Show, Stunt Horses, Bungee Jump, Wall of Death and Aerobatics.

Volunteers are essential to the successful running of the fair so I would be pleased to hear from anyone who would enjoy being involved.

Mike Stephens—798583 or email
foodie@hotmail.co.uk

All proceeds go to local charities/good causes

Suffolk Coastal District Council

From 1st May 2018 if you want to have your garden waste collected by the Council it will cost £43 a year. It is optional - but you do need to register and pay in advance to get the service.

It's quick and easy to join

Go online at: my.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/MyServices

You will need to register, or login to, your account then complete the form for garden waste.

Alternatively call Customer Services on 01394

383789



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Guess What?

This is the last 'Guess What' because we can't think of anything else!

The riddle was

'Too many to count'

Answer: Trees!

If you've got an idea for a new column please let us know

Celebrations

Congratulations to Esther Munns who will celebrate her ninetieth year on 3rd June.

Please let us know about any special birthdays or other celebratory events that we can share with our readers.

Celebration of Art and Gardens

Open Gardens and an exhibition of Art and Photography in The Hub will be held over the weekend of **June 9th and 10th from 12 noon until 5 p.m.**

St. Mary's Church in Huntingfield will also feature on the tour.

At present eight gardens will be open to visitors but any additional offers will be most welcome. In spite of this being a challenging year for gardeners so far, we hope to share our enthusiasms with our guests and get encouraging feedback!

Tea and cakes will be available in The Hub and at The Hawthorns. Donated cakes gratefully received.

Final details in the June issue of the Hare. In the meantime you can contact Helen re: Art & Photographs and Sheila re: Open Gardens. Their details are below.

Helen:- 799103, hcannon50@gmail.com

Sheila:- 798774, shenes@btinternet.com

NEW Yoga Class at The Hub

FREE Taster session on Wednesday 18th April 10.30am – 11.45am
followed by a weekly class, £6 per session or £42 for the 8 week block
Mats and equipment provided



A new Yoga class is starting at The Hub. Classes will be held in this lovely venue space with heated wooden floor.

Alice of River Yoga will be running the classes. Having trained at Yogaworks in Los Angeles she has studied with some of the best teachers in the world including Lisa Wolford, Jeanne Heinemann, Vinnie Marino and Jenny Aurthur. She has completed the Yoga Alliance accredited 500 hour training course.

Alice has been teaching in LA and London since 2013 and recently moved her classes to the Waveney Valley. Whilst running group classes she has also trained in private teaching, tailoring classes to fit specific physical and emotional needs of clients. The classes are for all levels, including those who have never tried Yoga before!

Alice describes her style of teach Hatha Yoga as, 'Aligning breath with fluid movement, to build strength and flexibility in our bodies, calm our minds, and improve health and wellbeing in our daily lives.'

For further details contact Alice Coulthard on 07400 333 492, or email her at alicecoulthard@icloud.com. Alice's website is www.riveryogapractice.co.uk. **Alternatively just turn up on the day!**



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Community Defibrillator Seminar

The Community Heartbeat Trust will be demonstrating the use of defibrillators and explaining how the equipment works and its benefits to the community in saving precious minutes in the treatment of sudden cardiac arrest on

**Wednesday 18th April at 7 p.m.
in The Hub, Huntingfield**

The more people who know how to use the portable defibrillator installed on the back wall of The Huntingfield Arms, the more chance there is of saving the life of a victim of sudden cardiac arrest.

Everybody is welcome, and no special skills are required, just your willingness to play an important role in the event of a medical emergency.

There is no charge for attending this session
Huntingfield & Heveningham Parish Councils

In the Garden - April 2018

Spring is finally here after what seems like one of the longest Winters we have seen for some years and very welcome it is too, bringing with it the delight of warming days, emerging citrus-hued buds, explosions of colour, the return of birdsong and the business-like hum of bees.

This is one of the most exciting times of the year but with so much going on, it can be a bit overwhelming. However, focus on key areas now and the garden will be a delight rather than a chore.

Whatever your garden style, layout, aspect or soil type, having an effective management regime in place is a must and what you do now in the garden is crucial to keep it going throughout the year and to ensure that you don't get overwhelmed by a constant battle against emerging weeds.

It might be a bit obvious but keeping weeds under control is a must; little and often will really pay off and stop them flowering, setting seed and producing the next generation of weeds; stopping this process early will really pay dividends.

Mulching after weeding might seem a waste of energy and you do need to do this fairly early on to really reap the full benefits, which, depending on what you use can be variable. There are various commercial products available but undoubtedly one of the most effective is Strulch which is organic based and works not only as a great mulch, suppressing a lot of new weed growth but also deters slugs/snails with the added benefit of working as a useful soil improver.

Fruit blossom should be well developed by now but keep an eye on the weather as right until almost the end of May there is the chance of a late frost and this would seriously knock back the blossom/fruit if not protected. (Apple blossom in picture on right →)

Lawn mowing should be well under way by now but lawns need assistance to thrive, particularly if they are to withstand our variable weather conditions - hard to believe but the chances of an approaching Summer drought are already well documented.

The application of a combination lawn feed and weed in April will give a much needed boost after the battering the lawn has taken over the Winter months. This will encourage the production of a good, healthy green lawn whilst treating broad leaf weeds and, more importantly, killing off moss which most lawns are struggling with. A further application might be needed and spiking your lawn to allow oxygen to the roots together with scarification goes a long way to achieving the bowling green type lawn we all dream of but it is a job you will have to continue doing annually as the lawn will quickly revert. It might sound like a lot of hard work but 'little and often' as the old saying goes and your good ongoing basic maintenance should ensure that you not only have a lovely space but that you have the time to sit back with a glass of wine and enjoy it!

Lori Kingsley-Adams - BUDDING IDEAS

Joan's Column

It looks like spring has finally arrived after all the recent severe weather.

The Parish Council has been proactive in dealing with the necessary housekeeping due at this time of the year, updating policies, registers etc. There are many new requirements involved with the Transparency Code and the new Data Protection Regulations, we are grateful to our Parish Clerk, Karen Forster for guiding us through these new procedures. You can view all this information on the website www.huntingfield.onesuffolk.net

A meeting is being arranged with several other local Parish Councils for Councillors and Clerks to discuss Highways issues including maintenance of roads, signs, hedges, verges and gulleys.

Councillor Lucas arranged with Highways to have the Give Way sign reinstated at the top of Brick Kiln Lane. He has also been proactive in speaking to Highways and Heveningham Hall regarding the flooding in the area. This is still an issue which we hope will soon be resolved.

The War Memorial has been given Grade 11 listed status and will now require permission to be cleaned and renovated. Quotations have already been sought for this work and Cllrs Lucas and Burrows will be seeking to obtain funding to pay for the work to be carried out.

Why not come along to the Annual Parish Meeting on **Wednesday 9th May at 7 p.m.**, meet the Councillors and the Parish Clerk. There will also be the opportunity to meet people from the village groups and see the classes and activities available in the village whilst enjoying a glass of wine. We will be inviting a representative from Heveningham Hall Estate to come along and give a presentation on future plans for building developments and tree planting schemes on the estate.

The scheduled dates for the coming year's Parish Council meetings are:-

9th May, 11th July, 19th September, 14th November, 9th January 2019 and 13th March 2019.

All meetings start at 7 p.m. and are held in The Hub.

Wishing everyone a Happy Easter.
Joan Baker - PC Chairman



Huntingfield Annual Parish Meeting Wednesday 9th May - 7 p.m. in The Hub

This is the opportunity for all residents in the village to find out what's been going on in the village over the last 12 months - so, whether your interest is St Mary's Church, the Garden Club, events and classes in The Hub, the Old Groynes, the natural world, the Huntingfield Arms, the Millennium Green, Film Nights, Petanque, Kids Club, Wednesday Group, Table Tennis, Carpet Bowls or Craft Club there will something there for you.

We look forward to seeing you there.
Huntingfield Parish Council



Just a reminder that there is a Food Bank box in the entrance foyer of The Hub. The food items

collected will be distributed to local people through the scheme.

Please provide any 'in date' packets, tins, pet food, or any treats - please no fresh foods though as it isn't possible to ensure they are distributed while still fresh!

If you have something to give but not sure when The Hub is open please phone or email one of the Trustees (phone no's on back page) [email: thehub@huntingfield.org](mailto:thehub@huntingfield.org)

Churchwarden's Chat



By the time you read this the snow and two important church season will have passed - Lent and Easter.

Three more are on the way: Ascension, Pentecost and Trinity. Ascension falls forty days after the resurrection and is the time when Jesus ascended into heaven. It signals the end of his earthly ministry.

Pentecost commemorates the time when the disciples received the Holy Spirit.

Trinity Sunday celebrates God the son, God the father and God the Holy Spirit. "Tri" meaning three and "Unity" meaning one, Tri+Unity = Trinity.

You may have noticed that Carla has been working hard digging a trench along the side of the church path. This is for cables to install CCTV. The church is locked at the moment due to repeated break-ins and vandalism. The PCC met recently and agreed that we should have this security measure (CCTV), following the advice of the diocese, police and the insurers.

There will be services at St. Mary's at 9:30 a.m. on:-

8th April, 13th May, 10th June

If you cannot get to church and would like church to come to you, please get in touch. You can receive communion at home if you would like....

Contact the churchwarden on 01986 798165 or by email to churchwarden@stmaryshuntingfield.org.uk

Warm (we hope) summer blessings to you and yours
Linda Berry - Churchwarden

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Guess Who?

Can you identify the next Mystery Guest from these clues?

- Wash, dry, fold
- Cider, Pommeau and Calvados
- Michael Douglas won the Oscar for best actor in Wall Street the year I was born.

Please let us know your ideas for a Mystery Guest

Hub Brunches

**Saturday 7th April and
Saturday 5th May
11 a.m.—12 noon**

Full English breakfast

At the usual price of £5 for food and as much tea/coffee as you can drink it's a bargain. Half price for children.

A truly convivial atmosphere to get us off to a great weekend!

64 people enjoyed the March Brunch, let's see if we can beat that!

The Hub Trustees

Points of View
Photography Exhibition
Friday 27th April
18:00—20:00
Pay Bar and Nice Nibbles
Saturday 28th April
10:30—17:00
Tea and Delicious Cakes
Cratfield Village Hall
FREE ENTRY
Donations in aid of
Halesworth Dementia Carers
& prostate Cancer UK

Coming to a Village Near You

Big Band sounds from the
40s and 50s
with Swing Machine
19th May 7 p.m.
Cratfield Church
Ticket hotline
07906 509302

Our Mystery Guest in this issue is Jim Rothead

Jim was born in Buckinghamshire in 1948 to an English mother and Scottish father and was the eldest of seven, having four brothers and two sisters. His enduring passion for all things agricultural started very early on and aged three he hooked up his toy tractor to a full size trailer, which was parked at the top of a hill. Jim set off pedalling and the trailer then overtook him and, gathering speed, travelled down the hill, destroying the barn at the bottom, fortunately throwing Jim clear of his tractor unharmed before impact.

Jim's family moved a lot for work reasons and when he started school he was not very keen and frequently ran home, assigning an older boy to cover for him as he escaped through the window of the boys' toilets. He would always make sure he'd had his school milk ration before leaving though!

He learned to drive tractors at age nine and earned two shillings an hour ploughing with crawlers.



(A very young Jim showing potential at an early age)

Aged 16 Jim went to Scotland to visit family and stayed for four years. He went to Agricultural College there and he and his cousins were also involved in the Young Farmers Club. The stories of the three of them driving eighty miles for an event and getting back at 5 a.m. in time to milk the cows are legendary. He was also involved in amateur dramatics and really enjoyed the pantomimes he was involved in.

Eventually Jim moved back to England and began working on the farm with his father and one brother. He met his future wife Sally Blackmore at a Young Farmers dance. On the day they became engaged Sally's father, Richard, accidentally cracked Jim over the head with a crowbar whilst they were both trying to open a jammed barn door. Fortunately, despite Sally's younger sister, Nicola, tearing into the farmhouse screaming, 'Dad's killed Jim, Dad's killed Jim', he was unhurt. They married in 1972 and Jim moved to work with the Blackmore family farm.

In 1975 Jim and Sally moved to High House Farm, Huntingfield where they still live. It was very run down and Jim camped in the house for several weeks to do the ploughing. On the first night he caught 20 mice in traps! In those early days he survived on fish and chips from the shop in Laxfield and on Fridays he'd have a kipper and a pint in the Low House. After the renovations had been completed Sally and Jim moved in on June 2nd 1975 with three inches of snow on the ground!!



(Jim and Sally enjoying time out)

Jim was involved in pantomimes in Laxfield and was captain of Dennington Cricket Club. He was also involved in Suffolk Farm Machinery Club and was County Chairman 1988/89, visiting several European Countries to look at different farming operations. Jim also enjoyed teaching tractor driving at Otley College. The first of four children arrived in 1976. In 1979 Sally's parents bought Low Farm, Huntingfield. Together the farms had arable, pigs and turkeys. In 1991 Sally's parents retired, then Jeremy took on the pigs and turkeys, Jim took on the arable and also undertook some farm contracting work and mole draining. In 1996 a close family friend had a very serious accident and Jim ran his farm for three years until he could become involved again, they still work together to this day.

During their school and university holidays Jim's three daughters worked on the farm, doing the harvest work and ploughing. They all have fond memories of this time, working closely with their Dad in the fields, although they do still chuckle together that Jim expected them to know telepathically his instructions to them and they had to very quickly become adept at translating his sometimes frantic hand signals to them in the harvest field!

Jim and Sally retired from farming in 2014, although Jim does continue to do some contracting and he has also enjoyed collecting some of the tractors he remembers from his youth including similar crawlers from his ploughing days and a grey Ferguson that one of the girls goes on Pink Lady Tractor runs with.

In 1988 the family started attending Laxfield Baptist Chapel. Jim was baptised in 1997 and is now a Deacon. Sally and Jim became foster carers for the Local Authority in 1991. Over the years they have fostered all ages of children from babies to teenagers, they say it is very rewarding and never boring! They still have a lot of contact with children who have lived with them and three of them have become part of their family. Jim and Sally now have five grandchildren whom they very much enjoy spending time with and who all love running around on the farm - the love of agriculture is clearly in their genes. They also enjoy seeing friends, their work with Laxfield Chapel and relaxing on cruising holidays. They have loved living in Huntingfield these last 43 years and counting....

Petanque Club News



Well here we are again and just about to commence as of the 25th March the 2018 Adnams Coastal League Petanque matches. There are now some 50 teams in this league, and around 500 players, it has become very popular in the eleven years since this particular league was founded.

The league is split into 5 divisions with the top divisions having more teams than the lower. Our division consists of 5 teams, Huntingfield Hares, Eye Petanque Club, Meadlands Mavericks Stowmarket, Mendham & Withersdale and the Royal Oak Laxfield. We play each team at home and away making eight games in all for every team. The games all have to be played by mid September.

We recently had an informal Hares Club get together when we discussed our playing strategies for the season, piste etiquette, and having some player practice.

As a priority we will be enticing would-be boulistes to come and have-a-go (all light-hearted) as the Hares are seeking new players. (see additional item in this publication for details). The Club is able to provide equipment for newcomers to have-a-go. However, some of us who have been playing for a long time have recently purchased their own boules in order to enhance their game. Boules are very individual to the person though for many years we mostly played with cheap Leisure boules which are permissible at our level of play but not in 'real' competitions.



See you on the piste!

Richard Tyler (Captain)

Rainfall in 2018

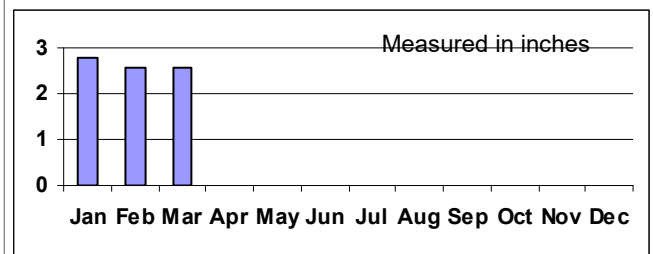
Sitting here writing my report looking out of the window on another grey day with a temperature at 7.7c tells me that Spring has not Sprung yet. Yesterday there were a number of Redwings in the garden, refugees from further North and East escaping harsh cold weather that we are all too well aware of. We've had the Beast from the East, the Pest from the West (storm Emma) and the Mini Beast from the East and for those who may remember I mentioned in my report two months ago that the upper atmosphere temperatures had increased dramatically and this would make the Jet Stream really start dictating our weather and dictate it certainly did. The first cold snap saw night temperatures drop as low as -6.7c (air temp not ground (always lower)) with a bitterly cold wind with a wind-chill as low as -13.7c and this would have been lower had not the air been as dry as it was. Then the Pest from the West threw buckets of water at us and finally the little beast came back giving us a little snow, bitter winds when the minimum wind-chill dropped to -10.6c and the daytime temperatures again managed to get below 0c. Weather forecasters at the moment are saying that it could be cold again over Easter but not as cold as the previous two cold events with snow just confined to the northern hills. Strangely enough, just after the first really cold snap, Huntingfield's resident beekeeper told me that her bees were flying though I guess they were performing ablutions rather than foraging expeditions. Rainfall (and snow) totals since the beginning of February until now and with 10 days of the month remaining total 5.15" (130.8mm) compared with 3.48" (88.3mm) for the same period in 2017. Year to date is 7.91" (200.9mm) and in 2017 for the same period the total was 5.35" (135.9mm). So a much damper start to this year than last, also colder and about 30% less sunshine this month compared with March 2017. Clocks change on Sunday, so I say, forget spring and let's get on with summer.

Richard Tyler

Huntingfield 100 Club

January winners:-	February winners:-
£30 82 Peter Bickersteth	£30 89 Christine Cooper
£15 18 Esther Munns	£15 79 Richard Tyler
£5 86 Jackie Driver	£5 69 Bob Pearse

The draw is held at the end of each month and winners will be notified within a few days. Sue Brewer 01986 798169



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Characters from East Anglia

Wednesday 16th May at 3 p.m. with Mark Mitchels in The Hub

Mark enthralled a receptive audience last year with his talk on Elizabeth Garrett Anderson. Now he's back!

The 'characters' that he will talk about include Margaret Catchpole (a Suffolk girl who ended up in Australia in 1801 - find out how and why!) and the Rector of Stiffkey (what was the scandal he was involved in that led to him being defrocked in 1932?)

With tickets at just £5 - book in advance or pay on the door - to include tea and cakes this should be a delightful afternoon.

All welcome *The Hub Trustees*



The Great Huntingfield Brain Robbery

Even by the Huntingfield Hub's impressive standards last Friday and Saturday's performances of the village play *The Great Huntingfield Brain Robbery*, were in a class of their own. Remedial class, perhaps. But of their own, for sure.

With a cast of thousands (well, 25 players delivering 29 individual roles plus at least eight technical crew, support staff - not to forget the cat - that's almost a quarter of the village). In nine scenes and countless scenery changes the members of legendary local theatrical ensemble *The Old Groynes Theatre Company* set themselves an ambitious story to act out in just inside two hours, plus interval. The tale of terror, intrigue and derring-do that they presented had everyone on the edge of their seats, or rocking in the aisle with laughter, if not actually heading for the exits.

This was such fun - pantomime with a difference! A wacky script idea, brilliant audio-visuals, imaginative staging and a wonderfully inventive cast - I haven't laughed as much in ages! The atmosphere was wonderful...audience participation...every member of the cast gave their all and it was well worth giving. Well done Old Groynes. Whatever you do next, I want to be there! Congratulations to everyone involved - and thank you!

Liz, Ubbeston

What a great show! So complex it would even be difficult for a professional company of actors, the hooded man was really scary, etc. etc.

Sue, Huntingfield

Sumptuous entertainment - I loved it

Viv, Walpole

It was brilliant to come out for a couple of hours, laughing and participating - I'd no idea what to expect but it was really good. Stephen was a great narrator, working the audience and coping with unexpected things!

Tracey - Linstead

The show even featured a bottle of new, improved Huntingfield Hair - not as it happens, your favourite journal, but the diabolical scientists' wonder-concoction: hair restorer. Our picture shows village elders Old Walter (Nigel Jerrey) and Arthur (Brian Lucas). As you'd



expect, Brian's new barnet demonstrates just how very effective 'The Hair' is. The second image shows the exotic, evil Lord Lu (Tommy McGee), one of the (many) villains of our piece.

Some of the stars played more than one role. Some had bigger parts than others, some took on additional tasks and duties to make the show happen.

Everyone produced their own costumes, some chipped in to fund the early stages (Heveningham Hall Country Fair

Trust then stepped in to provide the serious funding we needed). But the big thing was, we all pulled together to make the event happen. The Huntingfield Arms played its part too, preparing savouries and sandwiches for the after-party.

Only one question remains. What will the Old Groynes tackle next?

Ideas on a postcard please to The Hare's editorial offices.

For more images from the play see

<http://www.kenburnett.com/GreatHuntingfieldBrainRobbery1/html>

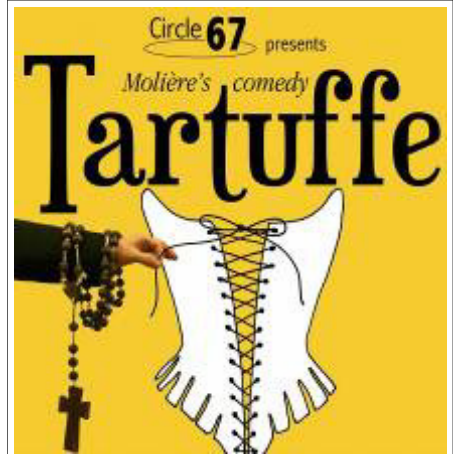


Notes from the Sheep Pen

David Hull



David has been rather busy recently! The photo shows a fairly new-born lamb suckling, taken beside the Halesworth Road. Hope you have a good rest after all the activity David and that everything has gone to plan. We look forward to your next article in the Huntingfield Hare.



Friday 20th April in The Hub

In 17th century Paris Orgon, an ageing, self-righteous, rich man is worrying about his place in heaven. He becomes besotted with Tartuffe, an imposter and religious hypocrite who worms his way into Orgon's household. Orgon behaves more and more irrationally, offering Tartuffe his money and his daughter - but Tartuffe fancies someone else... With his family in uproar, the scales finally fall from Orgon's eyes - but is it too late?

Tickets £9 - £8 concessions from www.circle67.co.uk

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Dancing at Lughnasa

by Brian Friel

performed by Open Space Theatre Company

Saturday 7th April in The Hub



Dancing at Lughnasa is set in Ireland's County Donegal in August 1936. It is a Memory play told from the point of view of the adult Michael Evans, the narrator. He recounts the summer in his aunts' cottage when he was seven years old.

Tickets are on sale now from thehub@huntingfield.org or 799130
£11 each Concessions £9

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From *Therese Coffey*—our MP

I gave up something slightly different for Lent this year - and joined a group of MPs in Parliament giving up single use plastics. I started by carrying around my reusable water bottle, which fits into my handbag, so I can make sure I don't buy any unnecessary drinks in plastic bottles. As Environment Minister I have been working with a number of organisations to try to increase the number of places where you can fill up your water bottle. Most coffee shops will do it for you if you ask. We all know from watching Blue Planet 2 what damage single use plastics can do to our environment and it is my aim to reduce their use as part of the 25 year Environment Plan.

I summoned the Chair, Chief Executive and other Directors of the East of England ambulance service to Parliament recently, following the recent winter period and the alarming reports about response time delays. Last month, the Health Minister ordered a Risk Summit to review the performance of the service - and the CEO Robert Morton set out his Action Plan in response to that. This included an additional 24 ambulances and plans to recruit more paramedics. NHS has also worked for more funding to be put into the ambulance service locally.



There are still major issues with the hospital handover delays which need to be significantly improved. This is why I specifically invited NHS Improvement to the meeting so they could hear first-hand the issues that the ambulance service is facing in trying to get crews back out on the road. MPs agreed to ask the NHS Director responsible for the East of England, Paul Watson and Health Minister, Steve Barclay, to meet us so we can accelerate solutions to issues that we know have been around for some time. Fundamentally though, we need more improvement more quickly and the very top level of the NHS involved in making that happen.

Dr Thérèse Coffey MP



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Nature Notes - April 2018

In my last article I mentioned some early signs of spring and also that winter wasn't over. Well, since then we have certainly been in an icy and very wintry blast. The Beast from the East really gave us humans something to think about with bitterly cold easterly winds and deep snow drifts.

So what effect has this freezing weather had on our local wildlife? Thankfully, although it was really cold, the sub zero temperatures did not last for too long. So hopefully our local residents such as birds and plants will have survived by using strategies evolved over millennia to cope.



(female Goosander)

and search for their prey in grassy meadows or stubble fields, so this unusual influx would have come in from colder eastern countries that suffered from the "beast" before it hit the UK. Other species seen in larger numbers than normal included Snipe, Woodcock and Siskin.

Some of these birds fleeing this cold front sadly did not make it across the North Sea, some hundreds of corpses of Lapwings, Snipe and Woodcock were washed up on Suffolk and Essex beaches. The cold temperatures even caused sea temperatures to plunge to around three degrees centigrade, this affected sea creatures such as Starfish and Crabs in some areas killing many thousands, the dead animals were then washed up again on local

Some plants such as deciduous trees shed their leaves or even die right back to ground level in the autumn and spend the winter in a dormant state whilst evergreens like Holly have specially adapted waxy leaves that prevent freezing.

Some animals, for example Hedgehogs, also spend the cold months in a dormant state known as hibernation. However, most animals don't hibernate so they remain active and to do that they must be able to feed. Some species change their diet feeding on berries and nuts instead of invertebrates, others usually birds, move to warmer climates where feeding is easier than in freezing or snowy weather.

Locally during the days just before the snow arrived on the cold wind there were some large flocks numbering in the hundreds of Lapwings which are attractive wading birds with a noticeable crest. They feed on earthworms, beetles and other insects



(Pink footed Goose)

beaches. Although this was quite catastrophic, with nature showing just how cruel it can be, recovery from natural events such as this are usually quite rapid so hopefully numbers of affected species will recover fairly soon.

Other birds arrived with the cold blast, these included a Goosander - a type of duck known as a sawbill, it has a long rough-edged bill with which it catches fish. Also using the Heveningham Hall lake was a Pink Footed Goose which is a small grey and brown goose with, you've guessed it, pink feet and legs. They breed in Iceland and Greenland and winter in the UK and the Netherlands, the local bird, which is I think the first recorded in our parish was most likely blown here across the North Sea.

It's amazing to think that this bird, having used our area to recover, will soon be on its way to the Arctic to breed as other bird species arrive here from southern warm countries including South Africa where they have spent our winter. Hopefully the cold weather has now left us and spring can really start, some welcome signs of that have already happened. Already a Chiffchaff has been singing in my garden and a Green Sandpiper was spotted feeding on the recently excavated marshy area near Huntingfield. This is a small green and white wading bird with a long bill that bobs its tail as it feeds, it has a loud piping three syllable call hence the name. they spend the winter in tropical Africa.

Tony Howe 785429

(A greater spotted woodpecker has been serenading the centre of the village with its tap, tap tapping during the last few weeks. - Editor)

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Dates for your Diary

Library Van—page 10, Church Services—page 5, **All events are in The Hub unless otherwise stated**

★ Friday 6th April	Film Night—'Thelma & Louise' - 7 for 7:30 start - page 2
★ Saturday 7th April	Brunch - 11 a.m.—12 noon - page 5
★ Saturday 7th April	Open Space Theatre—'Dancing at Lughnasa' - page 9
★ Wednesday 18th April	NEW Yoga classes - 10:30—11:45 - page 3
★ Wednesday 18th April	Defibrillator Seminar - 7 p.m. - page 3
★ Friday 20th April	Circle 67 - Molière's comedy - 'Tartuffe' - page 9
★ Saturday 5th May	Brunch—11 a.m.—12 noon - page 1
★ Saturday 5th May	Open Invitation to 'Have a Go' at Petanque—12 noon onwards on the MG - page 1
★ Saturday 5th May	Eastern Angles - 'Guesthouse' - page 1
★ Wednesday 9th May	Annual Parish Meeting/Parish Council AGM/Parish Council Meeting - 7 p.m. - page 5
★ Wednesday 16th May	Mark Mitchels talk on 'Characters of East Anglia' - 3 p.m. - page 7
★ Saturday 26th May	Ceilidh with The Hosepipe Band - page 1

Coming Up!

Celebration of Art & Gardens - 9th & 10th June, Summer Solstice Walk - 21st June, Italian evening - 23rd June

Regular events at The Hub below:

- ★ **Zumba** - Monday mornings 11.00—12.00
- ★ **Pilates** - Tuesday mornings 9:30—10:30 Intermediate, 10:35—11:35 Beginners
- ★ **Bridge** - Tuesday afternoons 2—4 p.m.
- ★ **Jive and Swing Dance** - Tuesday evenings - 7.30 p.m.—10.00 p.m.
- ★ **Ukulele** - Tuesday afternoons - 4:30—6:00 p.m.
- ★ **Table Tennis** - Thursday evenings - 7.30—9:30 p.m.
- ★ **Carpet Bowls** - Friday afternoons - 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.
- ★ **Wednesday Club** - First Wed. in each month—4th April, 2nd May - 2—4 p.m.
- ★ **Kids Club** - Friday afternoons - once a fortnight - 13th & 27th April, 11th & 25th May - 4—5:30 p.m.
- ★ **Craft Club** - Monday afternoons - 1st and 3rd in each month - 1 p.m.—3 p.m.
- ★ **Yoga** - Wednesday mornings 10:30—11:45

Hub details below

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 Phone: 01986 799130

Copy for next issue by **20th May** please to editor@huntingfield.org. Sue Lucas 3 The Street— 798000



The Hub has had a fantastic winter with so many interesting things going on - hopefully something for everyone. Now the spring programme is well underway with four different theatre groups vying for the privilege of playing in our fantastic venue. They are being well supported - as indeed they should be for they are all excellent. Looking ahead to later in the year a group of people (from the Events Group, the Hub and St Mary's Church) is working together to create a weekend of events to commemorate the ending of the first World War in November 1918.

Look out for information in the next Hare about an Italian evening planned as well as a '3 V Festival'

in the summer. All of these events are planned by people from Huntingfield for the residents of the village as well as surrounding villages. As always, if there is anything you would like to see happening at The Hub please let us know - it may be that we are missing a trick and leaving great gaps in provision but if you don't tell us we won't know. In the last Hare we asked for anyone who was interested in becoming a Trustee of The Hub to get in touch with us. That offer is still very much open - we would love to hear from you. Sue Lucas—Chair of The Hub Trustees

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Joan Baker (Chair)	New House	798363
Brian Lucas (Vice Chair)	3 The Street	798000
Joe Thompson	11 Holland Rise	798112
David Burrows	The Old Post Office	798 165
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Sally Clarke	785348	Caroline Hare	
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Parochial Church Council

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Members can be contacted through the Churchwardens.

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