

HUNTINGFIELD HARE



Issue 77 December 2019/January 2020

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The Hare is delivered to all residents and businesses in Huntingfield free of charge. It is also available on the village website (see below). If you live outside Huntingfield and would like a hard-copy of the Hare then we request a £10 annual donation towards print and postage.

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

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

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Finally, the Huntingfield Hare is still on the lookout for a new editor. If you are looking for a new challenge/project please get in touch.

Festive Huntingfield



The Huntingfield Hare team would like to take this opportunity to wish both residents and distant readers a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year. Once again there are various events taking place around the village over the coming weeks some of which are listed below and also in the What's On.

Carols on the Green

There will be carols around the Oak tree on the village green this year as the decision has been made to put lights in this tree rather than purchase a Christmas tree, the funds for which have never made for an impressive display. Come along in full voice on Monday 16th at 6pm. Afterwards there will be mulled wine and mince pies at The Hub – along with the usual Christmas Card swap.

Christmas Brunch

Saturday 14th December will mark the last brunch of 2019 so the usual fare will take on a festive theme. There will also be a raffle for a Christmas hamper and chance to win your brunch while you partake with a festively themed quiz. Still only £5 each and half price for kids.

Villagers' Supper

As reported in the last Hare there will be a convivial Christmas supper open to everyone on Sunday 15th December in the Arms. Details on page 8.

Bingo

The first bingo night at The Hub was such a roaring success that a December session was agreed on the spot. Friday 13th December will, no doubt, be lucky for some! Details on page 7.

New Year's Eve

There is no "official" New Year party at The Hub as it has been booked by the Jive & Swing group who usually frequent the hall on Tuesday evenings. However, they have very kindly put out an open invitation to the three villages for anyone who would like to join them. There will be lots of dancing and music with no charge for entry... they only ask that you take a contribution to the food table.

January Blues?

Once the festive season is over and the last mince pie eaten it will be time to brighten up January. Treat yourself to a ticket for The Old Groynes Theatre Group's new production about the lady who painted our wonderful church ceiling - *Mildred, The Power of a Dream*. See page 8. Or join in the merriment and celebration of a traditional Wassailing in the Community Orchard. See page 4.

Budding Ideas



If I see another leaf I think I might scream... it seems to have taken forever for the leaves to fall this year. I'm sure it's no worse than

usual but, having finally got the leaf blower working, it has been a constant struggle to keep on top of clearing them. Then, when you think you've picked the last one off and you can take a breather, my next, least favourite, job - bulb planting...

It may seem a bit late but, in reality you can keep planting some bulbs e.g. tulips and some daffodils (provided there is no frost on the ground) right through December. Temperatures are usually cooler which helps kill off soil-borne fungal diseases. Dig a hole three times the depth of the bulb and, if you want to be really fussy, add some grit to the bottom of the hole before planting. Place the bulb with the pointy end facing upwards (sounds like something out of Game of Thrones....) and cover with soil.

If you have dug up your Dahlias to store over winter you need to regularly check that the tubers are not rotting. If, like me, you can't be bothered with the extra work just make sure you mulch them well. If your drainage is okay there should be no problem with them popping up again come the spring.

Your lawn work should really be minimal over the winter period but do try not to walk on the lawn if it's frosty as this really does damage and weakens the lawn structure. Also make sure you rake up the last of the leaves. Lawn repair work can be done at this time including re-cutting edges and installing a proper edge to retain shape. Metal is best as plastic doesn't last and is all too easily cut by the mower.

Fruit trees need pruning in the dormant period so early new year is the optimum time for apples and pears, outdoor grapes and figs. You will need to wait until April before stone fruits such as plums, cherries etc. can be pruned. This is also a good time to prune back soft fruit bushes, removing two or three of the oldest branches as close to the base as is possible. This will encourage new vigorous new shoots to take over.

The dormant period is also perfect for planting bare-root shrubs and trees provided conditions allow and

the ground is not too frozen or wet. It also allows for moving deciduous shrubs: be careful to excavate and remove a root ball that preserves the bulk of the root, aiming for at least twice the size of the above ground mass.

If all else fails, the wind is howling and the rain is torrential then batten down the hatches and pour over the plant and seed catalogues that have been landing on your doormat. Dream of spring and the potential planting the new season will bring.

Merry Christmas and a Happy 2020 to all.



PLANTS OF THE MONTH:

Helleborus Niger - Christmas Rose (above)
Sarcococca hookerianana var. digyna
Arum italicum 'Marmoratum'
Lori Kingsley-Adams



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Note from the sheep pen..

Baa to you all..



Polled Dorsets

I have been brought out of journalistic retirement primarily to explain what we are doing with lambs on the ground at this time of the year. No, we haven't missed Christmas and are going straight to Easter as one villager asked old floppy hat. That's not the case: big daddy with the white beard will still be calling as long as the chimney has been swept recently!

The explanation is a little more simple. When the old fella's son Edward married a few years back his wife, who came from a farming and meat retailing family, brought with her a small flock of Polled Dorset sheep. This breed has the ability to come into season at any

time of the year, unlike the rest of us who need shorter daylight hours to fall pregnant. Now you have to understand that the majority of people want to enjoy beautiful lamb at Easter and to achieve the perfect animal they need to be born in October and allowed to grow naturally on grass and mothers' milk. This particular group will be weaned in mid-February and will spend the last month prior to marketing on the "salt marshes" that the family has in Essex. The reason for salt marsh grazing is that high end restaurants in London are very keen for these lambs and are prepared to pay a significant premium.

The flock is relatively small (150 ewes). The Polled Dorset are not as prolific as our traditional girls so don't expect to see any increase in the years to come. Our main purpose is to make the best use of the grass that grows so well here - on some very difficult soils. From April onwards the temperature rises and the rate of grass growth takes off so we need lots of mouths to keep it in check - by which time those Easter lambs will have left us.

So, there you have the reason for the sudden lamb appearance.

We would also like to wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy new year from me (*ewe know who*) and the team.

Rural Coffee Caravan



Another good turnout in November for the monthly Rural Coffee Caravan visit to The Hub. Free tea and cake plus some games and craft activities were enjoyed along with the very sociable RCC team. They have now committed to regular monthly visits on the first Thursday of every month.

The next session will be **December 5th** between 10.30am and 12.30pm. We also have a New Year visit booked on **Thursday 9th January**.

The Rural Coffee Caravan delivers information and friendship across Suffolk. Knowing what's going on in our own communities isn't always easy. The RCC brings its project directly to rural communities, equipped with coffee, tea & homemade cakes, along with all sorts of information about organisations and the services they offer you.

They support a number of causes aimed at helping local communities and are currently running a Warm Homes project to help those struggling to meet their heating bills in the colder months.

Do come and join us - it's open and free to all. If you have any concerns or queries regarding anything from fitness to finance, scams to mobility difficulties, the team are there to try and help point you in the right direction.

The Rural Coffee Caravan team

Wassailing, Wassailing!

17th January, 6.00 pm.

Meet at the Huntingfield Arms

Come Young, Come Old, Come One, Come All



Come and celebrate the Old English twelfth night and join in our first ever Wassailing around the Community orchard trees on the Millennium Green. Then head back to the Arms for a warming (and free!) bowl of soup.

Millennium Green Trustees

CRAFT FAIR at the Hub

All proceeds in aid of Cancer Research UK

Come along and browse a variety of gifts and hand-crafted items.

Refreshment available

Sunday 1st December, 10am-2pm



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Horse Driving in Huntingfield

This is by way of an explanation to anyone who has wondered why, in the small village of Huntingfield and the surrounding country lanes, there are very often couples to be encountered driving their horses/ponies in fair weather and foul all year round. Roger and Jackie Driver and Chris Patrick and Jess Hine live in this quiet rural area and exercise their respective animals on the road, as they happen to share the same sphere of equine sport - horse carriage driving trials. This is famously the same sport which Prince Phillip conceived and developed and also took part in with his team of 4 horses and later 4 ponies.



Roger and Jackie

Horse driving trials take place over 2 or 3 days at large country estates during the summer season, run by local carriage driving clubs and by British Carriagedriving who oversee the national competitions across the country. There are 3 phases to driving trials – dressage, precision driving through a cones course and a 12 to 16km marathon drive on country tracks. The marathon includes a set of 6 or 8 obstacles incorporating post and rail gateways, labelled A to F and driven through in sequence. There is often one obstacle where horses are driven through water.

During the winter there are monthly events run by the Indoor Carriage Driving club. These one day events take place in indoor arenas around the country towards a points league, which leads up to a national championship for the winners in each class. Indoor driving competitions have the same 3 phases but on a much smaller scale! The marathon is reduced to two quickly assembled obstacles driven twice. Penalty marks are accumulated across all 3 phases.

Roger has a pony called Maggie and Chris uses 2 of his horses, Bella and Louis, for competitions - a grey mare and a palomino. It is a time-consuming sport to train

and school horses and ponies to be fit enough to compete at these events. Drivers start at novice level and move up classes to intermediate, open and advanced levels as they gain experience and win competitions. Chris is an open horse driver and Roger drives as a veteran in the open pony class at events in East Anglia and the Midlands. In our area there are 2 national events run at Sandringham and at Ashfield's driving centre in Essex. Across the country there are horse driving trials on somewhere just about every week! Chris and Jess also manage to run and organise the Norfolk Indoor Driving events at Easton College during the winter season.

So, the level of fitness required is why both drivers are out so often on our roads to maintain their horses' condition. Plus, they both spend a lot of time schooling them at home and attending training sessions. This is a sport that requires two keen dedicated people, as every driver needs a competent groom! (The back-stepper is there to act as navigator, to shift the wheels sideways around posts and as ballast when going around corners at speed.)



Chris and Jess

Chris and Jess have enjoyed a very full summer season at both National and Club level peaking with winning the club championship with Bella in September in the open horse class that was run by the East Anglian Carriage Driving Group. Roger and I have managed a few smaller club events in order to continue Maggie's education.

If anyone is interested in going for a drive around Huntingfield with Roger he will be happy to take you. Please contact him on 01986 799135.

Jackie Driver

Photos courtesy of www.mikewatts.com

Petanque Club News

This is my last report as captain of the Hares as I did not seek re-election at the recent Hares AGM. This was held in the Huntingfield Arms on Sunday 17th November followed by a meal for those who attended.

After the business of the meeting, Steve Moorhouse, winner of the Hares Knockout competition, was presented with the Cliff Spencer memorial trophy and cup by Sue Brewer, our lifetime honorary member.



He took the crown from David Blackmore who was the holder for several years. Thanks went to the members for the lovely wine chiller and bottle of wine with which I was presented. Julie Collett was unanimously voted in as our new captain and David as vice-captain.

We look forward to meeting several new teams in Division 4 next year following our recently won promotion. There are no games to play until March though we hope to be on the piste before that for some practice. If anyone wishes to try their arm at Petanque please contact any one of us.

Richard Tyler

Thank you!

Apple Day this year raised just over £500.00 so thank you to all who attended and to all the stall holders.

A special thanks to all the volunteers who made our day go so well.

The Millennium Green Trustees

Hub News

After a quiet summer events picked up at The Hub with Apple Day proving very successful and a great turnout for the first of a monthly Bingo night. Kerry, a Huntingfield resident, has organised a Cancer Research fundraising Craft Fair on Sunday 1st December so please support such a good cause.

As you may have read on the front page the Jive and Swing dancers have extended an open invitation for New Year. There is no charge - just take a food contribution with you. Our thanks to them for their generosity.

We currently have a budget from the Co-op for social events at The Hub and are now looking at options. Singing workshops have been suggested. Also, a Radio Play club which works like a book club but without needing to do the 'homework' bit of reading the book! A group listens to a pre-recorded radio play (with coffee and cake of course) and then sits and chats about it afterwards. A wet-felting workshop has also been mentioned. Or perhaps a visiting speaker? If any of these ideas appeal to you then please let us know. In the meantime, Seasons Greetings from *The Hub Trustees*.

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Emma's Column

At the latest meeting on 13th November the Parish Council agreed that there would be no change to the village precept. We had an enquiry from a relatively new resident about the concept of the precept. Basically, this is the amount of money that is collected through your Council Tax to meet the spending requirements of the PC. This includes our Parish Clerk's salary, village maintenance, insurance etc. – all those things that we are responsible for and help keep our village as it should be.

A few notable items are moving forward: firstly, the installation of a handrail on the steps from the village green opposite the Hub was approved. It was also agreed to further the joint purchase of a speed indicator device (SID) to be shared with Heveningham. We just need to get approval on the location for this, the requirements are rather specific! We are also funding the purchase of a litter bin and dog bin for the Millennium Green following complaints about dog mess and general litter.

Items that have been raised for the next meeting include the flooding which regularly occurs at the junction of Laundry Lane and Bridge Street. It was also suggested that we look into village celebrations for VE75: on Friday 8th May 2020; it will be 75 years since the end of war in Europe. It has been designated as a bank holiday so leaves us with a weekend free for commemoration and celebration. If you have any ideas as to how Huntingfield could mark this occasion please let us know.

That's all to report from the latest meeting. The next will take place on Wednesday 8th January, 7.30pm at The Hub. Please come along and support the meetings – they are open to the public. Details can be found on the website at

<http://huntingfield.onesuffolk.net/huntingfield-parish-council/> or on the parish notice board.

Emma Ward

Chair of Huntingfield Parish Council

Hundred Club results

September

1st	James Gordon	£30
2nd	Rosie Blackmore	£15
3rd	Ross Russell	£5

October

1st	Jack Lucas	£30
2nd	Jana Thompson	£15
3rd	Tom Mercer	£5

The village 100 Club exists to raise money for the upkeep and maintenance of our wonderful Millennium Green and wildlife orchard. Many thanks to everyone who has subscribed this year. *Sue Brewer*



**Back by popular demand:
Bingo at the Hub**

Friday 13th December

Doors Open: 7pm. Eyes Down: 7.15pm

Bring your own drinks or supplies from the Arms.
Nibbles provided.

Sheila Freeman, with help and support.

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something to protect the floor.

Refreshments provided.

No booking required

Liz Forrester (artish@live.com).

Craft Club

The Craft Club will be meeting on the
third Thursday of December and
January. We will combine our 1st
Thursday meeting with the Coffee
Caravan visits... they do great cake!
Details of times and dates on the back
page.

The Craft Club group are a friendly
bunch with a wide variety of skills and
are always will to teach and help.

Helen Cannon

Villagers' Supper

Sunday 15th December, 7pm

All welcome. Please book directly with
Steve and Sara at The Arms.

1 course £9.95

2 courses £13.95

3 courses £17.95

There is also an optional £2
donation to Cancer Research

MENU

Deep Fried Brie Wedges

Spicy Root & Lentil Soup

Traditional Roast Turkey & Trimmings

Braised Beef & Mushroom Stroganoff

Mushroom & Stilton Wellington

Lemon Tart with Blueberry Compote

Christmas Pudding

Suffolk Meadow Ice Cream

Nature Notes

At the time of writing nature is giving us a wonderful show of colour as, due to the mild wet autumn, many trees still have a good covering of leaves, glowing with vibrant golden yellow and red shades. The process of leaves turning to these colours is not just a case of the leaves dying, it involves sugars being broken down and then being absorbed back into the tree. This provides nutrients for the tree and if the weather is not frosty the process is prolonged leading to more and more colourful leaves for us to enjoy.

Another upshot of the very wet weather is an extraordinary display of fungi in local fields, hedgerows and meadows.

The visible parts that appear above ground are the fruiting parts of the fungus, which



produce spores. Underground, long root like filaments called mycelium spread out for several feet or even metres around the mushrooms or toadstools that we can actually see. Recently several fairy rings have appeared on the Millennium Green. These are circles around 10-12 feet circumference of brown, fairly large toadstools. In France one such circle is 600 metres in circumference and is thought to be over 700 years old. I am not sure exactly which type of fungus ours are as many species can cause this phenomenon but please beware, as most are not edible!

Ash trees are one of Britain's commonest native trees. Along with Oak, Beech and other deciduous trees they make up much of our native woodland. Ash can grow up to fifty feet in height. its buds in winter are quite angular and black in colour and it has pointed leaves made up of 5-11 leaflets. Ash produces numerous



winged seeds which hang in distinctive bunches that look rather like keys. Ash timber is tough and flexible so is widely used for structural construction such as

bent wood furniture, tool handles and moving parts of mechanisms including church bell stays.

Sadly many of the UK's Ash trees, including local specimens, are suffering from the dreaded Ash die-

back, caused by a fungus brought to this country on horticultural trees imported from Asia. It's estimated that we could lose 70% of the UK's population (a loss of over 60mn trees) - a massive environmental, economic and visual loss.

The symptoms are all too evident: locally the most obvious is poor leaf cover, even in the height of summer when the foliage should be dense. The outlook for Ash has seemed very bleak. However, recently researchers have discovered naturally resistant saplings growing in 3,000+ sites in the UK, including some in East Anglia. Some trees are natural seedlings, whilst tens of thousands of young trees have been planted as part of the project. So, it looks as though we may be able to still have Ash trees growing in our countryside for all to appreciate in the future. In this time of general doom and gloom on the environmental front it is indeed really great news.

Christmas will soon be with us and two birds are a familiar sight in our houses (in very different contexts) at this time of year - the Turkey and the Robin.



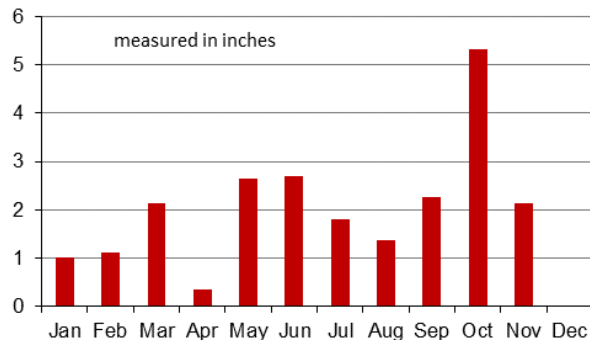
Turkeys originate from the Americas and as they don't fly too well, none have made the flight unaided to the UK. On the other hand, one would suppose that all the Robins we see locally are British in origin. Whilst the greater majority are locally born and bred, Britain does play host to many migrant Robins who move south to escape cold weather in Scandinavia and even further East. These birds are smaller, more olive green in colour and shyer than our own birds but it is difficult to separate them just by eye. So, you never know, some of the Robins hopping around your garden may, in fact, have travelled across the chilly North Sea, a very hazardous journey - unless they hitched a ride on Father Christmas' sleigh.

Seasons greeting to all
Tony Howe

Weather report: October-November

For those with a good memory, in my last report I said that we were some 4" (100mm) behind on rainfall year on year. Well, since then you may have noticed that it's been pretty wet. In October I recorded 5.33" (135.26mm) of rain. This monthly amount was only surpassed in Aug 2004 and Oct 2014 when I recorded 5.36" (136.02mm) on both occasions. At point of writing November has amounted to 2.14" (54.3mm's), bringing the total so far this year to 22.9" (581.77mm's). The same period in 2018 was 22.73" (577.34mm's) so we have seen a massive catchup. More rain is forecasted to fall before the end of the month but predicted amounts are minimal.

Again the Jetstream position has played a significant part in the rainfall. It settled itself in the main to the south of the UK, allowing a series of low-pressure systems to plough into the British Isles and deposit a lot of rain, also driving the temperatures downwards to a below average level for much of late October and November. At the moment the meteorologists'



weather models are showing the weather on a knife-edge between quite cold and quite mild. Only time will tell. A white Christmas? The book is still firmly closed at the moment!

Seasons Greetings to one and all.

Richard Tyler

PS: since writing there has been another 27mm rain in November – so much for predicted amounts being minimal!



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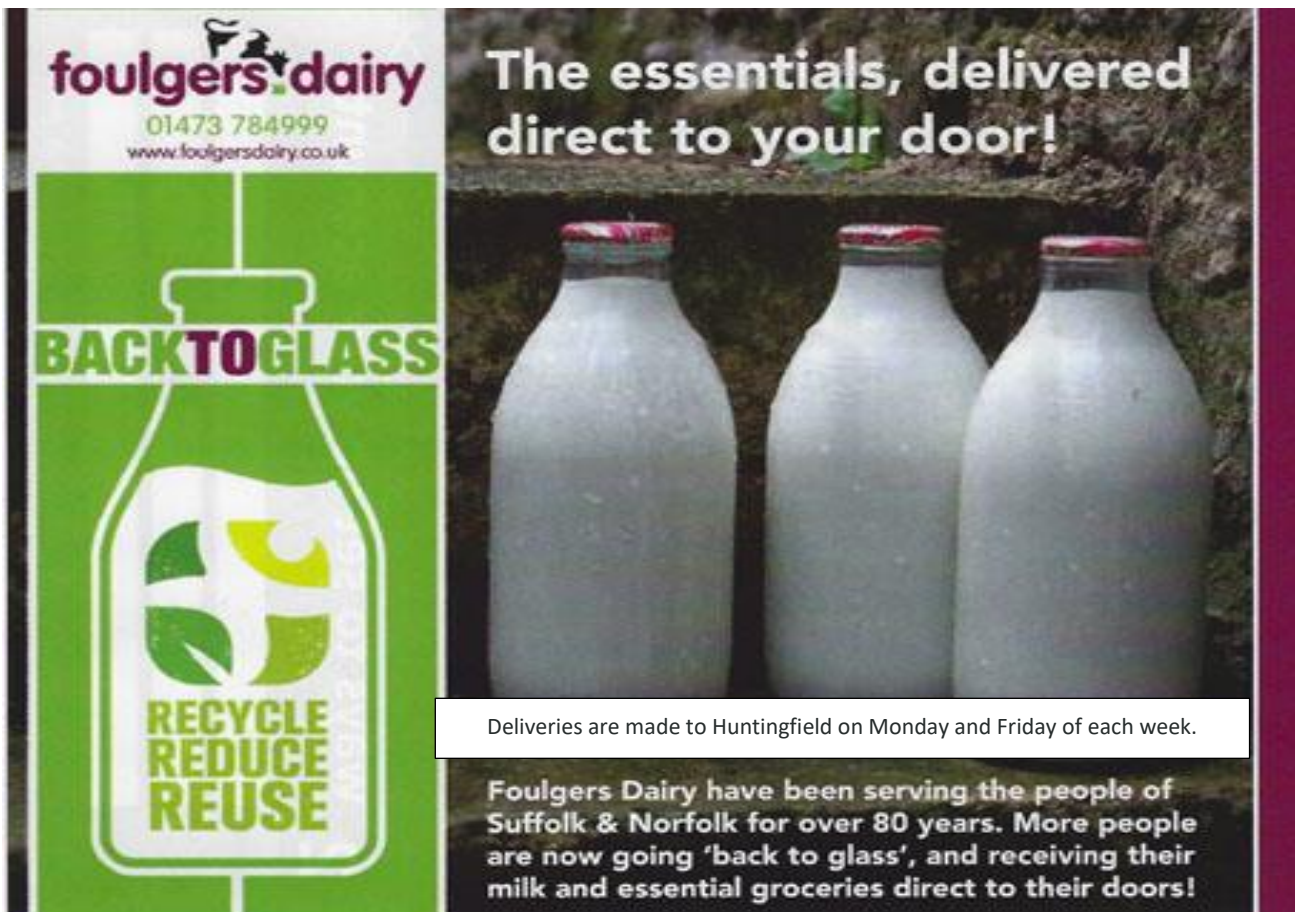
Kids Corner

Congratulations to Jack Fairs who received a £10 book token for completing our October/November anagram competition.

Christmas tree related word search this time. Please fill in the answers and deliver to 6 Bridge Street or email to huntingfieldhare@gmail.com. The first correct entry to drop through the letterbox/inbox wins. Good luck!

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What's on – dates for your diary

December

3rd Mobile library, 3.10pm (page 12)
 5th Rural Coffee Caravan, The Hub, 10.30am-12.30pm (p. 3)
 8th Service at St Mary's, 9.30am
 13th Life Drawing, 2-5pm, The Hub (page 8)
 13th Bingo, 7pm, The Hub (page 7)
 14th Hub Christmas Brunch, 10.30-11.30am (page 1)
 15th Villagers Christmas Supper, The Arms, 7pm (page 8)
 16th Carols on the Green, 6pm (page 1)
 19th Craft Club, The Hub, 1-3pm (page 8)
 31st New Year Jive & Swing at the Hub (page 1)

January

7th Mobile library, 3.10pm (page 12)
 9th Rural Coffee Caravan, The Hub, 10.30am-12.30pm (p. 3)
 10th Kids Club, 4-5.30pm
 11th Hub Brunch, 10.30-11.30am
 11th & 12th Mildred, The Power of a Dream. St Mary's (p. 8)
 12th Service at St Mary's, 9.30am
 16th Craft Club (page 8)
 17th Life Drawing, 2-5pm, The Hub (page 8)
 17th Wassailing - meet at The Arms, 6pm (page 4)
 24th Kids Club, 4-5.30pm
 25th Burns Night in the Arms. Booking required.

Regular events at The Hub

Zumba	Monday	11 am-noon
Pilates	Tuesday	10-11 am
	Thursday	9-10 am
Jive & Swing Dance	Tuesday	7.30-9.30 pm
Stretch & Strengthen	Wednesday	10-11 am
Italian (Year 2)	Tuesday	2-4 pm (book via Coastal Leisure Learning - see page 4)
Painting & Drawing	Friday	2-4 pm (book via Coastal Leisure Learning - see page 4)
Table Tennis	Thursday	7.30-9.30 pm
Kids Club	Friday fortnightly	4-5.30 pm
Craft Club	3 rd Thursday of the month	1-3 pm (see page 8)

Mobile Library



The mobile library will be in Huntingfield on **3rd December & 7th January – outside the Hub from 3.10-3.30 pm**. Information on our route (13) can be found at <https://www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/mobiles-home/saxmundham-mobile-library-route-13/>.

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

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David Burrows	The Old Post Office	798165
Jackie Driver	Katanning	799135
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Karen Forster (Clerk)	parishclerk@huntingfield.org	

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Esther Munns	The Longhouse	798774

The Kids Club Team

Marta Camus, Linda Burrows, Jackie Driver, Carla Kruger, Sally Clarke

Events Group

David Blackmore 785348	Carolina Hare
Sally Clarke 785348	Linda Berry 798165

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Churchwarden:
Emma Ward, Huntingfield

PCC Members:
Linda Berry, Huntingfield
David Burrows, Huntingfield
Sally Clarke, Huntingfield
Jackie Driver, Huntingfield
Sue Tyler, Huntingfield

The Hub Committee

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