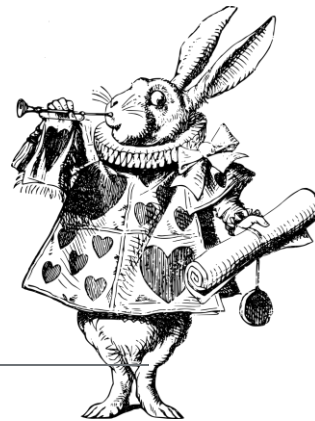


THE HARE

NEWSLETTER FOR THE VILLAGES OF
HEVENINGHAM, HUNTINGFIELD AND UBBESTON



Issue 115: April-May 2026

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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 £12 annual donation towards printing and postage. The Hare is financed through advertising - so please support our advertisers whenever you can.

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www.huntingfield.onesuffolk.net

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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.

We're blossoming..



It feels a bit chilly while we're putting this together but, judging by the hedgerows spring is upon us. It seems that the villages are waking up too... there are a variety of events to enjoy and/or participate in during the next couple of months.

The popular Millennium Green plant sale has come round again (p 1), with even more stock this year! There are a host of activities at St Mary's, Huntingfield: on Good Friday you can create an Easter garden (p 5) or enjoy a White Star tea and peruse the Titanic display on 18th April (p 5). The Bird Walk will also start from the Church (p 11). St Margaret's are hosting both a Quiz Night and a Coffee morning/table sale in May (p 14). Looking further ahead the Country Fair takes place in June (p 4) and the second HubFest in August (p 10). Both will be looking for volunteers so keep an eye out if you're interested in getting involved.

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PLANT SALE

Sunday 17th May

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In aid of Huntingfield Millennium Green A donation will also be made to
Charity Number: 1162597 East Anglia's Children's Hospices

Road Closure

The Country Fair returns this year along with the Monster Trucks and other exciting attractions. With the air displays we are required by the Civil Aviation Authority to close the road. Therefore, there will be a temporary road closure from the entrance to Heveningham Hall to the junction at Walpole on 27th and 28th June, from 3.30-4pm. We apologise in advance for any inconvenience this may cause.

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Sheep Talk...



How the time seems to fly by. It only seems like a blink of an eye since the rams were introduced to the ladies.

Here we are,

5 months later, and lambing is imminent. There are a few early arrivals dotted around, mainly at Yoxford and over at Sibton Hall. Unfortunately, as happens every year, we already have lambs that are unaccounted for: the local foxes are very quick to recognise the call of newborn lambs and even quicker to take advantage where they can. First time mums normally make for an easier target whereas the older, more experienced ladies can be violently protective of their young (as my dogs would tell you, if they could!). Once the lambs have a few days of age to them, they become less of an easy target.

It's also the time of year when the ladies are very prone to getting stuck on their backs, or even on their sides. It's something that can become fatal quite quickly if not corrected. Should you see a sheep on its back, please don't hesitate to let me know or just give them a push to help them to their feet. Sometimes they will run off like a racehorse, in a semicircle and flip over onto their back again. This is caused by numbness in their legs which will subside quite quickly once they're upright. They also tend to stop and glance back, almost as if they're thanking you!



You may have noticed that a lot of the ladies have colour-coded bottoms. This is a visual aid for me that allows quick identification of how many lambs each ewe is expecting. A green mark is for a single lamb, a blue mark for the first time mothers, no mark

for twins, a red mark for triplets and both red and green together represents quads.

You may also notice that the ewes start to show more cases of lameness as they get closer to lambing. This is due to the relaxation of ligaments in the run up to the birthing process. It also affects the feet, causing sore feet and limping. Any ewe who has a coloured mark on her shoulders has had treatment for "normal" lameness or other medical issues.



With a bit of luck, the clock change will bring us some better, more spring-like weather. The lambs would much prefer some warm, sunny days to greet their arrival into the world. Having said that, I too would like some warm sunny days over the next few weeks!

All the best to everyone for a lovely Easter.
Lucy

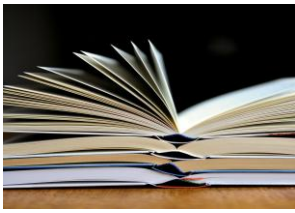
Huntingfield Village Cleanup



Please support our advertisers

You may notice we have recently had some new businesses advertising in The Hare. Their contribution allows us to provide a printed copy of the newsletter to all residents free of charge. Please support our advertisers when you can and allow us to maintain the same service. Also, if you know anyone who would be interested in advertising please see page 9 for further details.

Mobile Library



The monthly mobile library stops at Huntingfield Hub on Tuesdays at 15.00-15.20. Upcoming dates are 14th April

and 12th May. Details can also be found online: <https://www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/mobile-library-route/leiston-mobile-library-route-13>

Pilates at Huntingfield Hub Pilates Body Harmony



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pilatesbodyharmony@aol.co.uk

Heveningham Hall Country Fair

With only a couple of months to go preparations are well under way for the Country Fair. The dates for this year are 27th-28th June. The highlight this year is the popular Monster Trucks, and also, new this year, we have the Mini Monster Trucks for our younger visitors to have a go.

Emails will be sent asking for volunteers and the village reps will be in contact for cakes for the weekend. Any newcomers to the villages who would like to get involved please contact myself or your village rep. We would love to have you on board. The volunteers meeting, with the ever popular Drifters Fish & Chips will be Tuesday 23rd June at 6.30pm. Just to remind all those that help, you have free entry to the fair in return for a couple of hours of your time. I look forward to seeing many of you again and thank you for continued support. Our villages receive financial help from the Heveningham Country Fair Trust and a lot of this is down to your support.

Village Reps

Cookley: Catriona Chase, 07799 663841

Cratfield: Tim Ackerley, 07467 943828

Heveningham/Ubbeston: Simon Birkbeck, 07968 997372

Huntingfield: Julie Collett, 07766 654599

Laxfield: Sally Clarke, 07884 260895

Walpole: Anita Hill, 07717 503511

Badingham: Tish King, 01728 638259

Julie Collett, julie.collett@countryfair.co.uk



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The Hare is always looking for some new advertisers in order to keep our costs down and to allow us to continue to distribute the newsletter in printed format, free of charge to residents of the three villages. We have had very positive feedback from those who use us to reach out to the local community, as

evidenced by those who have been advertising here for many years. Thanks folks!

The cost for a full year (6 issues) is very reasonable:

Eighth page: £35

Quarter page: £60

Half page: £75

Full page: £100

Distribution includes 200 hard copies delivered to all residents of Heveningham, Huntingfield and Ubbeston, email distribution to a request list and online distribution to social media and village websites.

The Hare is free to local residents. However, If you would like to receive a hard copy by post we can send it to you for a charge of £12 per year.

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GOOD FRIDAY 3rd April from 2 - 3pm

At Huntingfield Church

Join in the fun of creating an Easter Garden to take home

All the materials, compost and seeds will be provided

This is a free, 'drop in' activity for all ages (so why not bring your Granny?)

Colouring activities and refreshments too!



Titanic Day



On Saturday 18th April (3-5pm)

we are holding a special event at Huntingfield Church to commemorate the life and death of Thomas Cupper Mudd who grew up in Huntingfield. He was among one of the youngest to perish in the sinking of the Titanic at only 16 years of age.

The afternoon will begin with a service of commemoration for the victims of Titanic. April 15th is National Titanic Remembrance Day, when services will take place to honour the 1,512 people who lost their lives on that day in 1912. This will be followed by the unveiling of a permanent memorial to Thomas in the church. Come along and learn more about Thomas' life here in Huntingfield and why he was heading to America. See copies of the postcards he wrote to his mother and other artifacts of the time. The afternoon will conclude with a 'White Star' Afternoon Tea at £5 per head.

We look forward to welcoming you to a very special afternoon at Huntingfield Church.

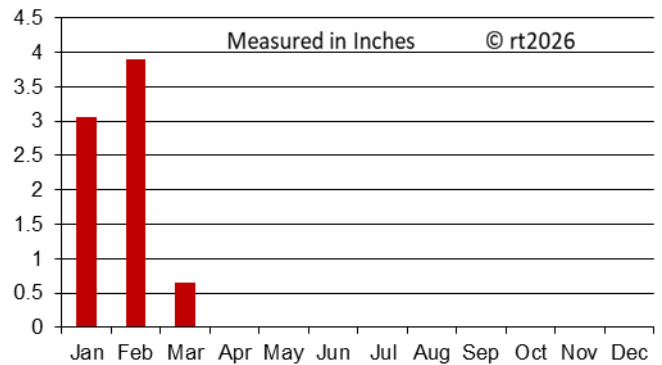
Sally Clarke

Weather report: February – March 2026

Spring has just about sprung, the clocks have moved forward and it's time for a little more rain this month. Suffice to say there hasn't been a great deal of it but, even so, there has been treble the amount we had in March 2025 when there was just 0.22" (5.58 mm). Comparatively, this year so far March has seen 0.65" (16.64mm).

There have been a number of ground frosts and a few air frosts too, so watch out with those bedding plants. It was a little windy at times in March but, weatherwise, pretty normal for this time of the year. As far as February goes this year there was 3.89" (98.8mm's) of rain compared with 1.84" (46.7mm) last year, so a wetter start this year. Cumulatively, 2026 to date has seen 7.59" (192.8 mm) of rain compared with the same period in 2025 – a difference of 4.72" (119.9mm) so 2.87" (72.8 mm). I hope this helps farmers and gardeners alike: my efforts were pretty abysmal to say the least in my light soil. So, will this

April see April showers and a return to some warmer weather? Who knows in these uncertain times but I'll let you know in a couple of months time.



	2025	2026	Diff Inches
February	1.84	3.89	2.05
March	0.22	0.65	0.43
Totals	2.06	4.54	2.48

Richard Tyler

Cookley Church needs you...

In order to offer church services, maintain the church and churchyard every parish church needs a PCC; comprising a Churchwarden, Treasurer, Secretary and PCC members. Happily, Huntingfield church has an active PCC of volunteers who take on these roles.

However, this isn't always the case. For instance, the PCC officers of St Michael and All Angels' Church, Cookley have been in post for some 25 years and the time has come for

them to hand over to others. Unless new officers can be found their church may be forced to close. Would you, or anyone you know be interested in taking on one of these roles? You don't have to be 'godly' or even a church goer. You may be interested in historical buildings and architecture – the medieval church is Grade 1 listed. You may be a book-keeper or would just like to be involved in a Community. If you feel you can help in any way and would like more information please contact Jane Evers, the current Churchwarden of Cookley, on 01986 785209 or janeeversj@gmail.com.

After some 1,000 years of its existence, the prospect of there being no more Cookley church is too horrendous to be contemplated.

Sally Clarke



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David's Column

We had a good turn out at the March Parish Council meeting. Thank you to all the villagers who attended. With a large amount of CIL money to allocate we are making some big decisions at the moment and it is really useful to have a broad view to ensure we make the correct choices.



I am happy to report that the work on the ditch/drain at the top of Brick Kiln Lane is now complete. Hopefully, it means the end of the torrent of water running down the road and flooding the Laundry Lane junction.

Two new dog waste bins are to be installed; one in the accessible car park at the top of the Millennium Green and one at the Barrells Hill end of the Carnser footpath. In conjunction with the work that The Hall are doing to the ride and the ditch that runs beside the Carnser, they have also cut back and tidied the footpath behind Malt Cottages which is now much more accessible.

We have accepted a quote to fell the old sycamore tree that leans over the road at the bottom of Brick Kiln Lane. The road will be temporarily closed for a few minutes while this is done. Please be patient.

One further proposal for the CIL fund is to install a footpath across the village green, to run from the path in front of the pub to the steps leading down to The Hub. Can you please let one of the Parish Councillors know your views. As this will be highly visible we will only proceed if a good majority of people are in agreement.

You will see elsewhere in this issue that there is a village cleanup on 12th April. Please try to make it. Many hands really do make light work!

The March PC meeting was the last that our County Councillor Stephen Borrourghs will be attending. Stephen has been a great friend and support to the PC and village for many years. We thank him for his work over the years and wish him well.

This meeting was also my last as both Chair and Councillor. I am officially retiring at the May meeting, but, as we will be away for that date, this meeting was effectively my last. Going forward, my two main village-focussed activities will be HubFest (for which I will soon be signing up volunteers) and I will also continue to do my bit to keep the church open as Vice Chair of the Parochial Church Council.

The next Parish Council meeting will be Wednesday 13th May at 7pm in The Hub. This will also be the date of the Annual Parish Meeting and AGM.

David Blackmore

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19th Woodfire Cooking - Ember Edition

June:

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6th Woodfire Cooking - Ember Edition

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Halesworth Community Larder – Five Years On

This summer will mark the 5th anniversary of the opening of the Halesworth Community Larder. Set up at the height of the Covid pandemic by the Church and in partnership with Halesworth Volunteers, it provided a safe space for the most vulnerable members of our community to shop and find support. Initially, the shelves were stocked with the contents of donated government food boxes but as the financial impact of the lockdown became clear, we were generously supported by government grants, local businesses and individual financial donations.

Thankfully those dark days are behind us but the Larder remains a much-valued community facility and its core value of being a welcoming space for any member of the community still stands.

Our 'bring and share' ethos is still important to us and during the summer months we receive fantastic donations of fresh fruit and vegetables from local professional growers as well as the local gardening community. Each week the Halesworth Co-Op and the Tudor Bakehouse generously donate unsold bread and pastries and we also subscribe to FareShare, receiving regular supplies of surplus food for a small fee.



Over the last year we have focused on projects designed to help people struggling with food poverty to eat as healthily as possible. We held an Open Day

for families with a visit from the Norfolk mini therapy donkeys, a healthy picnic lunch and a delicious 'low cost' chilli prepared by one of our volunteers, demonstrating how to cook a nutritious meal on a budget. The same

volunteer has also produced a Larder recipe book, which is available in local shops and on Amazon. Having refurbished the hall kitchen, we are now looking to batch cook fresh meals and to offer further cookery demonstrations by local professional chefs.



Keeping the shelves stocked with the basics is always a challenge for us and we are very grateful for individual donations of tinned food, toiletries and household essentials. Although we ask our shoppers for a minimum donation of £3.00, we now have to buy in the majority of our stock. This is because most tinned and ambient food products no longer have a best before date and are not routinely donated by the supermarkets.



Donations can be dropped off at the Larder and at Halesworth Volunteers office at the Patrick Stead Centre., London Road, Halesworth. There are also donation boxes in Wenhaston, Bramfield

and Spexhall churches and on The Street in Rumburgh. Equally, we are looking for new volunteers either to serve our shoppers or to help with our food-based activities. The Larder is open every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday from 10–11.30am. You will be warmly welcome. For more information or to volunteer, please email us at larder@halesworthvolunteers.org.

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Petanque

The winter season has now finished. Well done to the Huntingfield Hares winter team who finished top of the division without losing a game. I think we can call that a successful season. The summer season is upon us, and the first game will have taken place by the time you read this report. A full season ahead of us with two triples teams entered into the tournament, ladies pairs and our club tournament. Lets hope the weather stays kind to us over the summer.

Julie Collett, Captain

Arms Events



We're on the run up to Easter at the moment so, as ever, pretty busy at the Arms. Our themed evenings continue with St George's Day buffet on 23rd

April and a Paella Night on 21st May. The former is sold out but we do get cancellations so always check.



The last quiz of the 'winter season' will be Tuesday April 7th – 7.30pm. Teams of 4 max, £2.50 per player and winner

takes all. Free chips for all quizzers.

The general conversation at the bar doesn't seem very upbeat just now, given the news seems to get grimmer by the day. However, the clocks have changed and summer is just around the corner... we hope! To bring the 'beat' up a notch or two we will get your toes tapping and put a smile on your face fairly soon as we'll be re-starting our popular Music on the Green.

From the beginning of May there will be live music most Sundays from 4-6pm with a host of local talent providing lazy Sunday afternoon entertainment. We have a number of favourites returning, together with

some new talent that we're sure you'll enjoy. There should be a musical genre to suit everyone!

The current list is below so put the dates in your diaries and come and support your favourite local musicians.



May	3 rd	Gypsy Heart
	10 th	The Acronyms
	31 st	Underdog
June:	7 th	The Anyones
	14 th	Grace Brothers
	21 st	Zed Skiffelin
	28 th	The Lowestoft Longshoremen
August	9 th	Black Deek
Sept.:	6 th	Table 9

As ever, if you want to keep up to date with what's happening and check out the current offerings please ask to join our weekly email newsletter.

Sara & Steve

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Hubfest Update



Planning is underway for what will be an amazing event. Our very own music festival. Glastonbury started with a field, a cowshed and an idea and

morphed into one of the biggest and well known music festivals of our time. We may not emulate Glastonbury but Hubfest will be bigger and better this year and now with two stages!

We have some brilliant bands lined up with quality music drawn from our exceptional local talent. The following bands are currently confirmed:

Zig Zag Box Cars, Steve J Curtis, The Annex, Blyth River Blues band, Matt and John, The Halesworth Ukulele Band and Ain't Bitter and Twisted. We will also be hosting an (shortish) open mike session on the second stage to give the opportunity for up and coming musicians to perform. There will be even more food

stalls, and a wide variety of stalls selling crafts and artisan goods etc.

It all kicks off on Saturday the 1st August, 1-9pm on the Millennium Green in Huntingfield. Save the date and watch out for further editions of the Hare for updates. Tickets will remain at an incredibly cheap £10.00 on the gate or in advance at a discount from the Huntingfield Arms. This is a community based charity event, run by volunteers from the community for the community. All proceeds of ticket sales go to The Hub to keep this wonderful resource financed throughout the year.

If you have any queries you can contact the HUBFEST organisers as follows:

David Blackmore: 07540 484 717, Head of operations and volunteers

Peter Kelly: 07515 878 925, Head of stalls and site planning

Jeannette Redway: 07909 841 109, Stage management and bands.

You can email us on huntingfieldhubfest@gmail.com

Hub News

Dust away the winter cobwebs and enjoy a delicious brunch at the Hub on the fourth Saturday of each month, with a brief pause from May until September. A good opportunity to meet others and socialise over a hearty breakfast!

We now have a new second noticeboard on the front of the building to allow more information to be posted about events and classes. So, what do we have... We have regular weekly classes for pilates, tai-chi, yoga and Zumba. There is also a monthly relaxation class. Full details can be found on the back page.

We have installed a donation post in the car park. Car parking remains free, but we are inviting those who use it to make a donation either by scanning a QR code on the post and following the instructions or simply putting a coin(s) in the slot provided. This will help towards the finance the Hub.

Thursday Club at the Hub

This group takes place at 2-4pm every Thursday, other than a short break in the summer. It's a weekly space to come together for mutual benefit and enjoy various fun activities. It is open to everyone, so please feel free to come along and join us. Activities include pottery with Ginny, watercolour and acrylics with Jeanette (the other Jeanette), you can make some amazing gift cards with Jackie or you can just join in with various games. If you have a game, craft or similar you would like to share with others,

along with instruction on how to play or make, then please do so. If you don't want to participate in any particular activity, you are welcome to just drink tea and eat biscuits. It's fine. If you have any queries email either myself, Jeannette, at jredway.bfl@gmail.com or Sheila on sheilacfreeman38@yahoo.com.

Carpet Bowls (or Indoor Bowls)

Whatever the correct terminology, this group now runs on alternate Tuesdays from 7-9pm. It's great fun and no previous experience is necessary. I'm sure that the more experienced bowlers will give help with tips and training. Through April and May the group will run on Tuesdays on the following dates: April 7th and 21st, May 5th and 19th. If you want any more information about it you can get in touch with Sheila or myself as above.

Written by Jeannette Redway on behalf of the four J's and Alan making up the Hub team (Full and proper details on back page).

J. FELTON CHIMNEY SWEEP

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Hundred Club



Many thanks to all subscribers, old and new, for their £12 per entry. Your support has raised a valuable £600 to help with the upkeep and maintenance of our

Millennium Green, Wildflower Meadow, Community Orchard and recreation ground.

January

1st Jane Roe
2nd Craig Moloney
3rd Danny Stalley
Sue Brewer, 07885 541587,
susanmbrewer@mac.com

February

1st Alan Pike
2nd Richard Tyler
3rd Carla Kruger

BIRD WALK

Saturday 2nd May from Sam
Meet at St Mary's Churchyard, Huntingfield
Tea, coffee & bacon rolls available from Sam for a small donation.
Bird walk will commence 8.30am prompt.
Suitable footwear is advised

History Corner: Grayston Bros.



In the 1850s William Robert Grayston set up a blacksmith's business in Heveningham. By 1910 the firm had also opened up for trading in Laxfield at the far end of the High Street. The business soon extended to tinsmiths, agricultural and horticultural engineers and agents, motor engineers, plumbers and heating engineers, and private car hire operators.

They sold household appliances, gardening equipment and bulbs, animal feed, DIY and much, much more. Their motto was that no job was too big or too small. Compare the 6d charged to Mr Brynton of Heveningham in 1937 for charging a battery, with the sale of a large tractor in the same year to a client in Haddiscoe for a sum worth over £10,000 in today's money.

Grayston Bros, at one time Grayston & Sons, was managed by five generations of the family, the last being Neil Grayston who has recently retired and closed the business. Neil has gifted Laxfield Museum many receipts, invoices and ledgers, some of which are on display.

Graystons relied on the Mid Suffolk Light Railway, the Middy, to transport goods for their business from all over the country. Various receipts from the railway show goods coming from as far away as Birmingham and Liverpool. The railway began for goods in 1904 and then passengers in 1908. Graystons were using the railway as far back as 1906.

This receipt pictured was from 1907 and shows the final destination to be the original Heveningham branch of the business before Laxfield was opened. Some receipts show that the Cratfield stop for goods was also in use.

Lynne Ward

Laxfield & District Museum has many new displays ready for the season beginning on Good Friday.

MID-SUFFOLK LIGHT RAILWAY.													
Messrs Grayston Bros						Laxfield Station.							
Heveningham						Date day of January 1907							
Dr. to The Mid-Suffolk Light Railway Company.													
Date	From	From or to	Quantity	Species	Weight			Rate	Paid on	Total Amount			
					T	C	Q	Lbs		£	s	d	
Dec 21	93	Fromwich	1	Slade				14 1/11				7	
28	113	Birmingham	1	1/2 glass				20 1/2	1/8			22	
29	113	Weymouth	1	Machinst				20 1/2	1/8			45	
30	115	Birmingham	1	Parcel				1	1/8			15	
4	7	Earle's Bldg	1	Cutter				2 10	1/2			17	
3	8	Weymouth	1	1/2 Iron Tank				10 1/2	1/8			21	
5	15	"	1	1/2 Iron Tank				4 23	1/8			66	
11	31	"	1	1/2 Iron Tank				110				23	
16	41	Weymouth	1	1/2 Machinst				10	1/8			3	
17	46	Norwich	1	1/2 coil wire				206				24	
21	108	Spawick	1	Parcel								8	
9	28	Weymouth	1	"								10	
7	14	"	1	"								9	
14	12	Hitchfield	1	R/C								8	
22	1	Earle's Bldg	1	Parcel				4				9	
					Total					£	1	10	3
16	41	Weymouth	1	1/2 machinery								16	
					Grand Total					£	1	11	9

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Nature Notes

Spring officially started on 20th March when the equinox occurred, i.e. day and night were equal in length. At the time of writing it doesn't exactly feel like Spring as the weather has turned quite cool with cold North Westerly winds.

Despite the weather lots of nature's signs of spring are emerging: flowers are blooming, leaves are bursting on trees, frog spawn is appearing in local ponds, the aroma of wild garlic permeates woodland and, on warmer days, lots of birdsong can be heard. These songsters include the Robin, Skylark, Song Thrush, Wren and Goldcrest. Also, an early arrival from southern climes, that harbinger of Spring and the always welcome, first Chiffchaff.



Several species of bird including Rooks, Blackbirds and Blue Tits are already nest

building. Blackbirds and other passerines often build their nests in thick, prickly hedgerows as this habitat provides shelter from bad weather and predators alike.

Recently, a group of the Huntingfield Millennium Green trustees improved a section of the MG's hedges using the traditional craft of hedgelaying. The length we tackled was the hedge adjacent to the Laundry Lane entrance. This particular length was chosen as, although growing well in places, it also had a few gaps. Hedgelaying is an ancient craft dating back to the Romans. In fact, Julius Caesar's army were held up by thick woven hedges in Belgium around 2000 years ago. Although not a popular craft with that Roman Emperor, our present King Charles is a great supporter and exponent of this country skill.

Basically these thick woven hedges were used before the age of barbed wire and electric fences to keep livestock enclosed. The process involves selecting long fairly straight stems of the hedge and trimming off any horizontal side shoots, a process known as "siding up". These long stems are then carefully sliced through with a sharp bill hook at a steep angle to leave about a quarter of the base still attached. This attached strand is made up of sapwood and bark and continues to supply water and nutrients to the stem.

These long stems are called Pleachers and are laid over at an angle to form a low thick barrier. This cutting and bending over is known as Pleaching.

The remaining low cut stem attached to the roots, is called a stool and it is from this that new thick 'coppiced' growth will shoot to form a new bed of thick hedge. The pleacher itself will grow upright shoots but strong growth from the stool will, over the next few years become dominant and the pleacher will slowly die off. The pleachers are secured with stakes and with our method (Midland/Southern England) Hazel fronds are twisted and woven between the stakes to hold everything firmly in place. The hedge is then allowed to grow into a really thick barrier forming a natural fence whilst providing shelter and food for a wide variety of wildlife.



Please do go and have a look at our handiwork. We thoroughly enjoyed helping to preserve this ancient craft. Hedgelaying was once a major

activity which would have been seen on our local farms for many centuries.

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St Margaret's Church, Heveningham with Ubbeston

March has been a very busy month. We were fortunate to hold two services, and alongside preparations for our open day, the church has felt particularly lively and full of activity. As well as our Traditional Communion service we welcomed Edmund and Charlotte who brought their service of Peace and Light to St Margaret's. A contemporary service of music and readings and a joy to be part of. The church looked beautiful, lit up with glow sticks and candles, the choir sounded amazing and the service really was something special. If you ever get the chance to attend one of these services, it is a refreshing and meaningful change from the usual.

As you can imagine, a great deal of effort went into preparing for the open day. The church was given a thorough clean, ready for the return of the embroidery hangings. These always brighten the space. If you haven't seen them yet, they are well worth a visit — the intricate needlework is quite remarkable. The open day itself was a great success, with around 50 visitors. The morning saw people coming to view the tapestries and take a tour of the church. At lunchtime, we welcomed the Pilgrimage — a much-valued annual event where Rev'd Dominic visits each church in the Benefice in the lead-up to Easter.



Our afternoon was spent learning the ropes, literally, by learning the bell ropes. With thanks to Philip Garrod and his bell ringing team, we were able to have a go, with some showing some real potential to take this up as a hobby. The bell ringers are calling out for new ringers as the band is getting older and smaller, so they are keen to welcome new members. If you've ever been curious, do consider giving it a go — it could be the start of a new hobby and we can keep our local bells ringing. All in all, it was a thoroughly enjoyable day. There were plenty of homemade cakes. It was especially lovely to welcome a new family, with the children enjoying the activities on offer.

The open day was also an opportunity to raise awareness of the Blyth Valley Churches. We now have a suggestions book in the church for future events ideas, as well as a sign-up page for anyone who would like to help with services — either through readings, flowers, or general support. If you would like to get involved, please do pop into the church or get in touch via email.

We have also launched a 100 Club to maintain the churchyard and surrounding areas. Forms are available in the church, or you can email for more details. It's a simple way to support the church while also having the chance to win a prize.

On 21st April at 7pm please join us for our APCM at St Margaret's. Have the chance to find out more about the church, our services, fundraising and expenditure. Meet the PCC and enjoy a glass of wine and nibbles.

Dates for your diary:

- Church Services:** 12th April – Family Communion
10th May – Traditional Communion
- Events:** 8th May – Quiz Night, 7pm (teams of 4, £10 per team)
23rd May – Coffee Morning and Table Sale, 10am

With thanks, as always, for your continued support.

Jeanette, stmargaretchurch11@gmail.com

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Your Parish Council

Heveningham Parish Council



The most recent meeting of the Parish Council took place on Wednesday 18th March 2026 at the Hub in Huntingfield. Draft minutes from the meeting will be available on the Parish Council website.

The installation of a pétanque court at Bell Meadow is now complete and the court is open for residents of all ages to enjoy. Equipment is available to borrow and can be accessed by contacting the Clerk via email or telephone. It is hoped that this will prove to be an exciting new amenity for residents. This project was supported by funding from The National Lottery and sincere thanks are extended to them.

Notification of a road closure has been received from the Heveningham Hall Country Fair Trust. Details on page 4.

The Parish Council has now moved to a new gov.uk domain, which includes an updated clerk's email address and a refreshed website. During a short transition period, both the old and new email addresses and website domains will continue to run so that residents can still reach us without interruption. Details of the new Parish Council email address and website can be found below.

Following the elections scheduled for 7th May 2026, Councillor Burroughes will no longer serve as Suffolk County Councillor for Heveningham Parish Council due to divisional changes. The Parish Council extends its sincere thanks to Councillor Burroughes for his support and guidance over the years and wishes him well for the future.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and is due to take place on Wednesday May 20th at The Hub, Huntingfield. The meeting will immediately follow the Annual Parish meeting of the same evening which commences at 7pm. All residents are warmly invited to attend.

Angela Colbridge, Tel: 07584 136402
Email: clerk@heveninghamparishcouncil.gov.uk
Website: www.heveninghamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Ubbeston Parish Council



The most recent meeting of the Parish Council took place on Monday 9th March 2026 at the Hub in Huntingfield. Draft minutes from the meeting will be available on the Parish Council website.

The Parish Council has now moved to a new gov.uk domain, which includes an updated clerk's email address and website domain name. During a short transition period, both the old and new email addresses and website domains will continue to run so that residents can reach us without interruption. Details of the new Parish Council email address and website can be found below.

Following the elections scheduled for 7th May 2026, Councillor Burroughes will no longer serve as Suffolk County Councillor for Ubbeston Parish Council due to divisional changes. The Parish Council extends its sincere thanks to Councillor Burroughes for his support and guidance over the years and wishes him well for the future.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and is due to take place on Monday 11th May at The Hub in Huntingfield. The meeting will immediately follow the Annual Parish Meeting of the same evening which commences at 7pm. All residents are warmly invited to attend.

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What's on – dates for your diary

April

3rd Create an Easter Garden, St Mary's, p 5
 12th Huntingfield Village Cleanup, p 3
 12th Family Communion, St Margaret's, p 14
 14th Mobile Library, p 4
 18th Titanic History Day, St Mary's, p 5
 21st APCM, St Margaret's, p 14
 23rd St George's Day Buffet, The Arms, p 9
 25th Hub Brunch, p 11

May

2nd Bird Walk, St Mary's p 11
 3rd Gypsy Heart, The Arms, p 9
 8th Quiz Night, St Margaret's, p14
 10th Traditional Communion, St Margaret's, p 14
 10th The Acronyms, The Arms, p 9
 11th Ubbeston PC - APM & AM , The Hub, 7pm
 12th Mobile Library, p 4
 13th Huntingfield PC APM & AM, The Hub, 7pm
 17th Huntingfield MG Plant Sale, p 1
 21st Paella Night, The Arms, p 9
 20th Heveningham PC APM & AM, The Hub, 7pm
 23rd Coffee Morning/ Table Sale, St Margaret's, p 14
 31st Underdog, The Arms, p 9

Regular events at The Hub

Thursday Club – every Thursday, 2-4pm (p 11)
Carpet Bowls – every other Tuesday, 7-9pm,
 April 7th and 21st, May 5th and 19th
Orchid Fitness Pilates: Thursday a.m. (see ad p 7)
Pilates Body Harmony: Monday 6-7pm,
 (see ad p 4)
Tai Chi: Monday, 2-3pm (contact Cindy Engel,
cindywildhealth@gmail.com)
Zumba: Every Thursday, 11am-noon, £7 per PAYG
 session (see ad p 14)
Relaxation Class with SarahLou: Third Monday of
 the month, £15 pay as you go. £50 for 4 sessions.

Upcoming Events

Saturday 1st August, Hubfest, p 10
 27-28 June, Heveningham Hall Country Fair

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* Unless specified phone numbers are prefixed 01986