

# CRATFIELD NEWS

September 2023



## **St. Mary's Cratfield**

I have recently been interested in items in Cratfield News referring to the need for change in the church. This has been further aroused by Rev. Susan's letter mentioning Rev. David Mulrenan, a name, I suspect, very little known in Cratfield. Would it be possible for details of what she calls "the project" to be put to the village as a whole in order that these very vague allusions be understood, together with the implications for the church in Cratfield both as a body and a building.

St. Mary's Church and what it stands for have played a large part in the long lives of both my husband and myself. Age and serious disability prevent us from supporting it actively now, but we are still interested in what goes on. We have seen many changes during our 70 plus years of association with St. Mary's and agree that something needs to be done urgently to revive interest.

I feel that this revival is more likely if all parishioners have an opportunity to understand the thinking behind the current "project" and the attitude of the Church of England to village communities generally. I think it is sometimes forgotten that because they are small it does not mean that their members are any less committed Christians than those belonging to large town churches who can raise their Parish Share more easily!

That Cratfield has been able to manage to pay as much of its Parish Share as it has, has been latterly, I believe, largely due to Margaret Thompson and her loyal band, whose mammoth efforts at fundraising have only been equalled by her shining example of real Christianity in her work as a lay elder.

Perhaps now is the time for some openness as the parishes strive to improve a very unhappy situation.

Yours in hope,

S. M. Webster

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## History Corner

### HOW A TRAGIC HISTORIC EVENT TOUCHED OUR CORNER OF SUFFOLK

Everyone is familiar with the tragic story of RMS\* Titanic, a British passenger liner owned by the White Star Line and the largest ship afloat at that time, launched on 10<sup>th</sup> April 1912. As we know, it sank in the North Atlantic Ocean on 15<sup>th</sup> April after hitting an iceberg during her maiden voyage from Southampton to New York. There were well over 2000 passengers and crew on board and tragically more than 1500 died. One of that unfortunate group was a local lad, 16 years of age.

The ship was carrying some of the wealthiest people in the world as well as hundreds of emigrants, one of whom was Thomas C. Mudd from Huntingfield. Thomas was sailing to join his older brothers, George and James, who had already travelled to Pennsylvania to improve their lot.

Thomas left behind his father, also called Thomas, who was a General Carrier\*\* and his mother, Elizabeth. The couple had had thirteen children and ten had survived to reach adulthood.

The well-established Huntingfield family was living in The Street. Their connections with the village ranged back at least to Isaac Mudd, Thomas' great grandfather, who was born in 1785 in Rumburgh but came to live in Huntingfield. From then on, all the family lived in the heart of the village. Thomas' grandfather, James, was the blacksmith and later too was his uncle, Edwin. Grandfather, James, was listed as living *By County Bridge* in Huntingfield in 1881. In 1901 some of Thomas' relatives, the Coes, were living in the Old Malt Office Cottage.

Our ill-starred Thomas had the unusual middle name of Cupper, which can be traced back to another of his great grandfathers, Christopher Cupper, who lived nearby with his wife in the Street.

In 1912 Thomas Cupper Mudd, boot-repairer, paid the not inconsiderable amount of ten pounds and ten shillings to purchase a second-class ticket on the luxury liner, the Titanic. Maybe the money was gifted to him by his father, Thomas, who had inherited £157 from his father's will in 1894.

At Southampton Thomas boarded the *practically unsinkable*, 7-decked ship, with the first ever on-board swimming pool (albeit only for first class passengers) and entered a world of glamour. When the ship reached Queenstown in Ireland, Thomas sent this poignant message home to his mum in Huntingfield. It read: *Dear Mother, Arrived at Southampton safe. The Titanic is a splendid boat & you hardly know you are moving. Will write more fully later. Your loving son, Tom.*

What the well-appointed Titanic ship did not have was enough lifeboats for all its passengers and crew. Thomas Cupper Mudd, along with 814 of his fellow passengers and 688 crew members, died as the ship, equipped with only enough lifeboats for a third of the people on board, went down. The Titanic had already claimed the lives of eight workers during its construction.

\*RMS: The Titanic was a Royal Mail Ship as it carried post

\*\*General Carrier: carter

**Laxfield & District Museum is open for the 2023 season from 2-5pm every weekend and bank holiday until Sunday October 29<sup>th</sup>. We are also open on Saturday mornings from 10-1pm when Laxfield Community Market is held: Aug 5; Sep 2; Oct 7.**

MICHAEL OLIVER

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# Cratfield Parish Council

*Please help keep your village clean & tidy*

Cratfield Parish Council has litter picking equipment which can be borrowed anytime.

*Your help & support would be greatly appreciated!*

*If you would like to litter pick please contact:*

*Cllr Dan Elford Tel: 01986 798649 - Village collection*

*Cllr Richard Chivers Tel: 07900 187350 - Silverleys Green collection*



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## A Life on the Ocean Wave – And a Few Management Challenges<sup>1</sup>

In the autumn of 1983, HMS Hermes embarked a Royal Marine Commando and sailed to take part in NATO amphibious exercises in the Mediterranean. There are few military operations as complex as amphibious landings, which make huge demands on organisation, co-operation between different units and Services, logistics, communications and command systems and which combine air, sea and land forces. This deployment turned out to be particularly challenging and I learned a good deal about joint operations, military planning and agile management. 48 hours after sailing we ran into two new problems. The Supply Officer came to tell me that the Marines (who are incredibly fit, energetic and hungry) were eating nearly twice as much as our sailors and at that rate we would run out of food before our next planned replenishment! This set off a wave of replanning which was well under way when I became aware of another difficult argument. The Commander Air wanted to exercise and train the Commando Helicopter pilots regularly in day and night flying, while the Second in Command of the Marines needed to use the flight deck for physical training and small arms practice, and the First Lieutenant wanted the flight deck for the crew's recreation and exercise. This needed me to chair a difficult meeting to agree a broad schedule that met all their needs. Once I was sure that everyone was equally dis-satisfied, I felt I had the right answer! Whilst in Naples for the briefing on the planned NATO exercise in the Aegean Sea, we received the unsurprising but unwelcome news that Greece had pulled out of the exercise and so the islands ear-marked for the landings were no longer available. This was a frequent problem in NATO because of the long-standing antipathy between Greece and Turkey but it left us sailing from Naples with 700 hyped up marines and no exercise. So now there was a third Marine related problem! We had to replan our Mediterranean amphibious programme almost from scratch, and in a way which produced good training opportunities both for the ship and for the Royal Marines.

Some hectic diplomatic and military liaison and replanning followed and a week later we were anchored off the coast of Turkey in the Gulf of Saros, just north of the Dardanelles, preparing to carry out a demonstration amphibious landing which would be witnessed by a large number of senior NATO dignitaries. But, of course, that is how real crises occur – in unexpected places at unexpected times. The landing went impressively well and was followed by several days of “warfare” ashore, during which I dropped in by helicopter to watch and learn a bit about land warfare, which was fascinating and new to me. I was very impressed by the seriousness and realism with which the Marines approached this exercise and I learned a lot about their great professionalism. I confess, however, to one nervous moment, being flown by a RM pilot in a small Gazelle helicopter with its doors removed. I was held in simply by my straps and as the helicopter banked in turns made, I am sure, to test my nerve, I was looking vertically downwards from about 3000 ft, and I remembered why I had chosen to be a sailor and not an aviator! I was very glad to be on *terra firma* again.

Meanwhile, we were busily planning *ab initio* a further exercise for our RM Commando which was not in the original programme. This time we were going to land them on an exercise range in Cyprus, on the Akamas peninsula in West (Greek!) Cyprus, whilst we moved round to anchor off the British Sovereign base at Akrotiri to enjoy a more traditional naval visit with the RAF and Army bases there. All this required a lot of *ad hoc* arrangements and tested our flexibility, diplomatic skills and especially our sense of humour. Luckily our Captain was relaxed, wise and very knowledgeable.



But first we were to carry out a formal visit to Istanbul, partly as a gesture of gratitude to our Turkish military allies for their help in re-jigging a complicated programme.

## Jeremy Blackham

1. "A life on the Ocean Wave" is the Royal Marines Regimental March, with a second one drawn from the Boer War "Sarais Marais." Try <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6BjFTIIEWRk> for perfect military band drill and for Sarais Marais try <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vP0mpF72gv4>.

**Do try these links. You will love them!**

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### Cratfield Quiz Which County?

Can you identify the county where each of these places can be found?

Bournemouth  
Hunstanton  
Ipswich  
Buxton  
Torquay  
Basildon  
Epsom  
Tamworth  
Tonbridge  
Farnborough  
Grantchester  
Boston  
Stevenage  
Bognor Regis  
Hungerford  
Elsdon  
Blackpool  
Crewe  
Devizes  
Loughborough



"Sometimes you find yourself in the middle of nowhere, and sometimes in the middle of nowhere, you find yourself. Keep positive..."

"There is a purpose for everyone you meet. Some people come into your life to test you, some to teach you, and some to bring out the very best in you."

Remember to take care of yourself. Sometimes you get so busy helping others you forget that you're important too



### **The Scarlet Runners**

The Scarlet Runners had a fright  
So I was told the other night  
A wicked owlet in the trees  
Awoke them from their dreams of ease

‘Awake!’ cried he, ‘Turr-Wit-Twurr-Wool!  
A dreadful fate in store for you  
Run for your life while it is dark.’  
He only did it for a lark

The Scarlet Runners rose in fear  
They felt the warning, one each ear  
And then they bolted one and all  
And quickly climbed the garden wall

But where they went I’ve never heard  
I only know this wicked bird  
Said softly to himself, ‘What fun  
I’ve made those Scarlet Runners run.;

*A much loved poem of  
Baden Powell Chapman 1900-1991*

*Are you over-run with runner beans? This poem was often recited to Frank Chapman by his father during the runner bean season!*

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### 2023 Mobile Library Dates

Tuesdays

Silverleys Green 14.15 – 14.35 and The Poacher 14.45 – 14.55

**21<sup>st</sup> March, 18<sup>th</sup> April, 16<sup>th</sup> May, 13<sup>th</sup> June, 11<sup>th</sup> July, 8<sup>th</sup> August, 5<sup>th</sup> September, 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 31<sup>st</sup> October, 28<sup>th</sup> November** **No service in December**

### **Four Star Rated**

### **Whipple Tree Cottage**

### **Bell Green, Cratfield**

This carefully restored timbered former stable and hayloft includes 1 x double, 1 x twin bedroom (1 cot on request). 1 single bed downstairs.

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For bookings apply to:

Chris Kitchen tel. no. 01986 798 764, email: [chrissie.kitchen@yahoo.com](mailto:chrissie.kitchen@yahoo.com) or write to Bell Green Cottage, Cratfield, Halesworth, Suffolk, IP19 0BI

## VILLAGE HALL UPDATE – SEPTEMBER

### POP UP PUB – FRIDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER – VILLAGE HALL BBQ!

Back by popular demand for the second time this year with locally sourced Cratfield Beef Burgers and gigantic sausages from PJ Sands (Linstead) – cooked by Richard & Andy and served in a roll with salad and coleslaw on the side.

**Could you help...** we do really need some more volunteers to help man/ woman the two bar shifts as we keep relying on the same small number of volunteers each few months. If we continue to struggle, we will have to look at either shortening the opening hours or the frequency of the Pop Up Pub. E-mail Caroline on [caroline@wisbey-brown.co.uk](mailto:caroline@wisbey-brown.co.uk) to put your name on the e mail list to receive the rota if you would like to help.

### ONE MAN WENT TO MOW....

HUGE thanks to Dan Elford (and Linzi for lending him to us!) for keeping the village hall grass under control – it does take a huge amount of his time and we really appreciate it – many thanks again!

### CRATFIELD VILLAGE HALL 100 CLUB

Hopefully you have completed your entry form and dropped it off with your payment – **don't forget – you have to be in it to win it!** You can still join and for just £1 a month you can win either £15, £10 or £5 each month. If you have mislaid your form, spares are at the Pop-Up Pub or from Helen at Yew Trees on Bell Green. Congratulations to the below winners!

July - 1<sup>st</sup> prize (£15) number 58 – Andrew Barringer / 2<sup>nd</sup> prize (£10) number 7 - Heather Hargood / 3<sup>rd</sup> prize (£5) number 22 – Michael Hargood

August- 1<sup>st</sup> prize (£15) number 104 – Candy Blackman / 2<sup>nd</sup> prize (£10) number 30 – Nick Eade / 3<sup>rd</sup> prize (£5) number 49 – Robert Sannick

September - 1<sup>st</sup> prize (£15) number 47 – Sue Ackerley / 2<sup>nd</sup> prize (£10) number 61 – Bryan Leveratt / 3<sup>rd</sup> prize (£5) number 75 – Anne Bedford

### DAYTIME EVENTS

The majority of events at the Village Hall are weekend or evening events – purely down to the fact that most of the committee work full time during the week. If you would like to run a coffee morning, lunch club or other weekday social event/function during the day time you are more than welcome – you do not need to be on the committee! Please contact our Chair Natalie on 01986 798790 or Vice-Chair Andy on 01986 798346 to discuss further.

### PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION – SATURDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 7 - 9PM / BAR OPEN TOO

Entries are already rolling in thick and fast! Spare forms are at the back of the church and at the Pop Up Pub. It is only a£1 to enter a photo and Children can enter for free. Photos must be either 6"x 8" or 8"x 12"and all