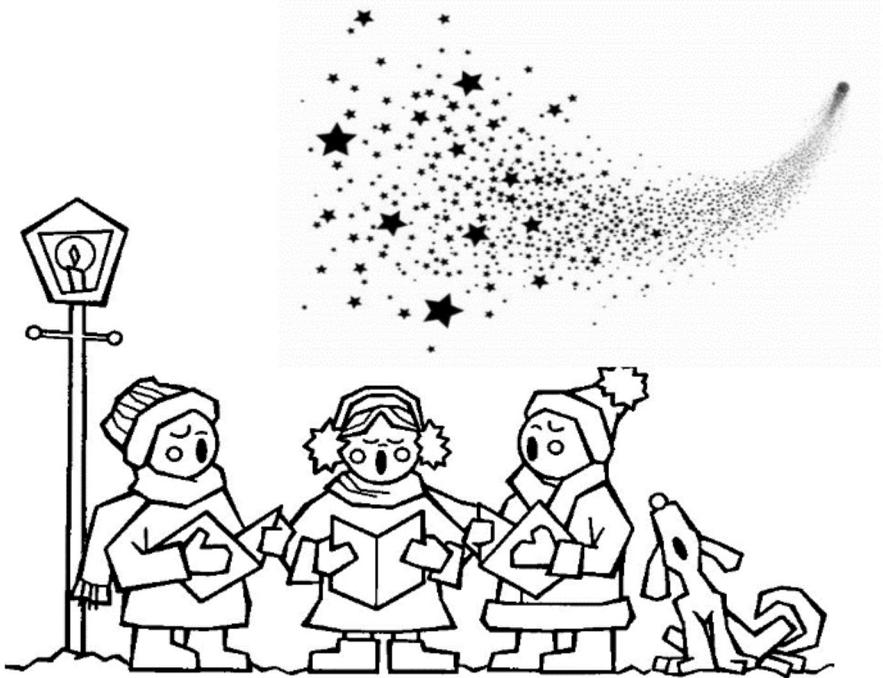


# **CRATFIELD NEWS**

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December 2018



**CAROL SINGING AROUND THE VILLAGE  
THURSDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 5.30PM  
CORNER COTTAGE  
COLLECTION IN AID OF THE YEMEN APPEAL**

## **WELCOME**

A very warm (if slightly belated) welcome to Mary Powell who has moved into Lark Cottage and is already enjoying all we have to offer in Cratfield. I'm sure she'll be very happy here.

### **BINS!**

#### **Did anyone know this?**

I recently asked an operative who was emptying my, now old, brown bin of garden waste, about obtaining a sticky label for the new green bin. His reply was to transfer the one from the old brown bin. I tried this, but the label disintegrated. After a 'phone call to the Council, which caused some amusement, I learnt that the new green bins have a chip which stores the appropriate information.

Colin Bain

### **CRATFIELD ACOUSTIC....**

made its debut with an excellent evening at the Village Hall on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November. The music was wonderfully varied; the evening started and ended with singer songwriters – Paul Marfleet opened the session and Tony Winn from Laxfield played us out with songs from his new CD, Push and Pull (highly recommended!). Stephen Frary from Shedlode (remember Shedlode from the Poacher's musical days?) performed a selection of country songs and was followed by some lovely a cappella songs from Chrissie Kitchen. The first half ended with The Cheeserom Collective singing a combination of pop and light Jazz. Great to have a double bass in your group.

After a suitable break for liquid refreshment, Graham, who had come all the way from Mildenhall gave us some pop-rock on his 12 string followed by Natalie Lloyd-Evans with some powerful singing accompanied by backing tracks – lovely songs which got everyone singing along. More Laxfield musicians after that – Paul and Julie Theaker with polished jazz, guitar and vocals. It's Julie who runs the Laxfield choir, by the way – why not join? Add to all that some great singing from the audience and – what an inaugural evening! Cratfield Acoustic 2 is going to make its mark in early spring next year so watch out for the posters!

### **HELP**

**Could anyone bake a dozen mince pies for the Carol Service on 21<sup>st</sup> December. Please call or text Margaret 07906 509302 if you can help.**



# **ST MARY'S CHURCH CRATFIELD**

## **CANDLELIGHT CAROL SERVICE**

**FRIDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER**

**7.00PM**

**SEASONAL**



**REFRESHMENTS**



### **St. Martin's Housing Trust supports Homeless Rough Sleepers in Norwich .**

Every night they feed, shower, clothe and sleep 40 people. They are in desperate need of winter clothing.

So St. Mary's is asking everyone to bring along to the Carol Service at least 1 piece of good quality second-hand clothing; jacket, coat, trousers, jumper, shoes, boots or a blanket. If you want to leave the goods before the Carol Service please leave in the back of the Church.

We are so blessed in Cratfield, please look in your wardrobe and help someone vulnerable living on the streets only 1 hour away

## The Stitchery in St Mary's Church

This year our church was given the unique gift of a textile portrait of the old houses in Cratfield. Almost every old house is there – and there are over sixty of them. It stands to the left of the church on a lovely and entirely appropriate oak stand designed by Don Peacock. It is a modern addition with a timeless quality that gives the viewer the feeling that it is going to be there for a long time. During the recent Centenary Remembrance Day Service, the names of the men from Cratfield who had died in the two World Wars were read out. Members of the congregation could see the outlines of houses that would have been familiar to the boys who left their village to serve their country never to see them again.

It's not embroidery, it's not a tapestry, it's not really a hanging because it has two sides - it certainly uses the techniques of quilting but it's not a quilt. Sue Eade, who made it, likes to refer to it as a piece of stitchery.

The whole thing started when Sue retired from teaching and took up quilting as a hobby. She enjoyed quilting but said she felt there were only so many quilts that you could make for friends and family. She wanted to extend into something more ambitious. But what to do? Inspiration came when she saw a wall hanging in the Buckenham Gallery in Southwold made by a team of ladies led by Susie Yates who taught textiles at St Felix School. It was a hanging depicting Southwold High Street shop fronts. Sue realised she would like to do something like this, using techniques she picked up from quilting – but single-handedly and based on Cratfield. She decided to depict all the period properties in Cratfield – with the idea of donating it to the church.

The work grew organically. At the outset Sue had no idea how big it would be. She started with the houses in School Corner where she lives and just worked outwards. She had no idea of where it would all end. The design meant that all the houses had to be shown the same size – nine inches deep – this meant lots of complicated calculations so that all the houses could be perfectly reproduced and in proportion. This also meant that the houses could not be shown in the position where they stand in the village. The stitchery is not a map but a double-sided series of portraits of old houses.

The project took two years of work – it was begun in January 2016 and finished in January 2018. It did not take determination and will power to finish as you might expect. What kept Sue going right to the end was love of the work. A love that shows in the quality of the finished article. Every minute of its making was pure joy to Sue.

The houses are portrayed with great accuracy. Every house was done as a piece of appliqué work and then carefully attached to the backing. The name of each house was embroidered under each one. I was thrilled to see my own little cottage there, alongside all the others, luminous with carefully portrayed detail. If you live in an old property, have a close look and you will see how much care has been put into it. It was done from photographs and scaled to size. Sue was scrupulous, knocking on doors

when necessary, to ask for permission to photograph the houses. All but one owner gave this gladly.

Our piece of Cratfield stitchery belongs to a long and timeless tradition of textiles in churches. Sue sees this as a gorgeous heritage of precious things - such as hangings for pulpits and altars made in rich materials – silks, satins and gold thread. They serve a religious purpose, but Sue also sees them as objects that are beautiful in themselves. Next time you visit our church have a look at our lovely piece of Cratfield stitchery.

## **Nigel Cousins**

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### **CRATFIELD GARDENING CLUB**

We had our initial consultation meeting at Church Farm House on Wednesday 7th November and 9 people were in attendance. We decided that there was sufficient interest to proceed with the idea particularly as there had been support expressed by some other people who had been unable to attend that night.

The decisions we came to were as follows.

We would arrange a meeting every two months on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the calendar month, starting on February 6<sup>th</sup> at 7.00pm.

Subsequent dates for 2019 will be: 6<sup>th</sup> April, 5<sup>th</sup> June, 7<sup>th</sup> August, 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 4<sup>th</sup> December

The meetings will usually be held in the Village Hall (which costs £7 per hour).

There will be an annual subscription of £30.00 payable at the first meeting.

Others are welcome to attend but we will ask £5 per person per meeting.

We plan to arrange speakers on various topics to include issues such as pruning, compost and mulching, water gardens, gravel gardens and garden design, initially there may be an additional cost for these events depending on the cost of the speaker.

We plan to share ideas, articles, arrange plant swaps and have plant sales.

We would also like to arrange visits to other gardens and garden events e.g. East Runton Vicarage Gardens, Beth Chatto Gardens, RHS Hyde Hall, Pensthorpe Gardens RHS flower show to mention a few!

I agreed to be the main point of contact and to ensure that the village magazine is kept informed of our events and activities. Graham Nixey agreed to act as the treasurer.

Caroline Marfleet

Church Farm House, Heveningham Road, Cratfield 01986 799 048

07969603509

marfleets@doctors.org.uk or carolinemarfleet@me.com

---

### **100 Club Draw held at NOVA**

**1<sup>st</sup> Molly Matthews no:10 £15.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tim Ackerley no: 52, £10.00, 3<sup>rd</sup> Jeremy Blackham no: 98 £5.00**

MICHAEL OLIVER

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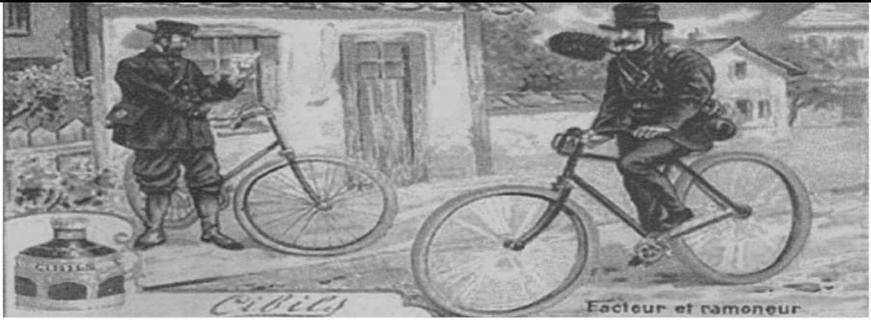
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**Poetry Day and the following little poem got Chrissie thinking!**

Dear Auntie, what a nice jumper  
I've always adored powder blue.  
And fancy you thinking of orange and pink for the stripes,  
How clever of you

Mike Gowar

**Receiving such a gift one Christmas from my mum, who worked in  
the rag-trade.**

**THE GYPSY SKIRT**

Dear Mum (never to be read)  
The parcel arrived, all brown paper and string,  
Your handwriting, the best thing.  
Secreted away, for the almost Christmas Day,  
With eager hands, the paper I ripped away,  
Yielding beneath the layers of last year's Xmas wrap  
(Ironed completely flat, name still intact)  
Contents exuded colourful confusion amongst the frills.  
Shaking with emotion, my heart almost still,  
The garment held high  
From waistband to thigh  
Undulations in the most exotic spectrum  
Hmmm  
Cascading with each tier  
Tipping softly, the velvet material spiralled  
Rose madder, Chinese white, violet, deep yellow and ultra-marine  
Edged in antique lace.  
My face  
A study  
For beneath the string in a different paper (birthday present).  
Oh no!  
A matching bolero

Dear Mum,  
I wore the two-piece when you visited.  
A work of art made with love, remnants from the factory floor. Pennies  
were short.

Anyone with a similar story?  
Chrissie

## VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The annual AGM was held on November 15<sup>th</sup> with outgoing chair-person, Rebecca Sannick giving a round-up of the year's events and achievements. The first part of this meeting was an open one, during which the following committee members were elected:

Chair: Natalie Lloyd-Evans. Vice-Chair: Richard Turberville. Treasurer: Carolyn White. Minutes Secretary: Rebecca Sannick. Bookings Secretary: Jo Nunn  
Other committee members are: Nigel Cousins, Susannah Ellis, Heather Hargood, Robert King, Paul Marfleet, Dennis Rockall. We also welcomed Andy Barringer on to the committee. Once again, Linzi and Dan Elford and Derek Knight offered their help at events, without wishing to be formally elected. Everyone who gives their time is giving invaluable support to the village hall, which cannot run without continuous, voluntary effort. Thanks to everyone who steps forward in this way. Over the coming weeks, I will be asking people to volunteer as helpers, and temporary bar-staff etc. It's not onerous and can even be fun, so please don't dodge me if you see me on Bell Green or in the Street! If you'd like to put yourself forward for an event, I'm on 01986 798790.

As outgoing chair-person, Rebecca Sannick ends a six-year term in the job and during that time, the village hall has benefited enormously from her commitment and energy. The acquisition of a bar license, the monthly pop-up bars, improvements to infrastructure and facilities have all been achieved under her supervision. The upgrade of the hall's electrics are down to her pursuit of funding, as is the refurbished lobby which will streamline our pub nights, providing the bar with its own small kitchen complete with wine chiller and glass washer. Usage of the hall has changed and is still changing, as people's tastes and habits evolve and Rebecca has done much to keep the place welcoming and responsive. The whole committee is universal in its appreciation of her work and that of Robert Sannick who gives a lot of time and skill to maintaining the hall, keeping it warm, safe and open to all. Thanks Rebecca, you will be a hard act to follow.

### **Upcoming events.**

The next pop-up pub is on Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, opening at 6 pm. All welcome, and hot food will be served as usual.

Then there is the Christmas Fair on Sunday December 9<sup>th</sup>, which is a chance to meet your friends, buy stocking fillers and seasonal fair, as well as interesting and unusual gifts. Bacon butties and mulled wine will be served. Win your Christmas tree in our raffle. This is Cratfield's pre-Christmas get together so please come along and bring your families. It opens at 10 a.m. until 2 pm.

There is no New Year's Eve bash this year, but there will be a very jolly pop-up pub night on January 4<sup>th</sup> 2019, so please put that in your diary so we can welcome the new year en masse. What will 2019 bring? Interesting times, certainly, but in Cratfield there will be a programme of events and social evenings, including food nights and more music. A full diary will be put into the next issue of the Cratfield News. Meanwhile, on behalf of the Village Hall Committee, I'd like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a safe and prosperous new year.

Natalie L-E.



**CRATFIELD CHRISTMAS FAIR**  
**A festive family event**  
**Sunday DECEMBER 9<sup>th</sup> 2018**  
**10 am to 2 pm**  
**Cratfield Village Hall, Manse Lane**

**Coffee, mulled wine, bacon butties,**  
**mince pies, veggie option**  
**Stalls with local meat, gifts, festive**  
**food,**  
**cards & the Cratfield Calendar**

**\*\*\*Christmas tree raffle\*\*\***

**Come and meet your friends and support**  
**local stall-holders**

## SMART METERS – A Contradiction of Terms!

To my mind the Smart Meter was botched in concept and poorly implemented! Let me tell you why.

For many years we had the old type electro-mechanical electricity meter. Every 3 months the meter reading man would turn up, read the meter and 5 days later the bill would drop through the letterbox. Simple!

Now, as with all new homes, we have a Smart Meter like it or not. Initially our electricity supplier was British Gas. The Smart Meter provides remote meter reading so no need for a meter man. Also a monitor gave us a real-time display of electricity usage and cost. Great!

Once you have this technology you start to fiddle. Just how will this save money? You go round the house finding things to turn off in an attempt to get the lowest display reading. After a couple of weeks you give up this pointless exercise, nothing you do makes any difference. The reason is simple. It costs the same to boil a kettle of water or cook a meal whether you have a Smart Meter or not!

After a few months British Gas increased our electricity price so we decided to change suppliers. Now here's the rub! The Smart Meter will only work with your original electricity supplier which means the meter readings can't be taken remotely and the consumption display no longer works. Unbelievable!

So what happens next! We now have to take our own electricity readings 12 times a year and send them via the Internet to the new supplier. Is that SMART?

It gets worse! You may notice on your electricity bill a Standing Charge which is about 25p a day. According to uSwitch this charge includes "carrying out meter readings" so now we're paying for the privilege of providing meter readings to our supplier! Icing on the cake, plus 5% VAT!

The government and electricity industry has lumbered consumers with an ill conceived and poorly specified system for which we're all paying. From a consumer's point of view the Smart Meter should be a benefit. A **METER** which records monthly consumption then finds you the cheapest supplier would be really **SMART** (but obviously beyond the comprehension of the government and definitely not in the interest of the industry).

Old Grumpy, Cratfield

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## 2018 MOBILE LIBRARY DATES

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## The Annual Christmas Quiz



- 1 Christians have been celebrating Jesus' birth on December 25 since which century?
- 2 What is Weinachtenbaum,? It was imported into England in 1834
- 3 In Italy he is Babbo Natale who is he in England.
- 4 The French word "Noel" is often used around Christmas, but what was its original meaning in Latin?
- 5 In which century was Christmas first written as Xmas and why?
- 6 What was the poem "Twas the Night Before Christmas" originally titled?
- 7 Who did the German Nazi Regime replace Santa Claus with?
- 8 In what country did Silent Night originate?
- 9 Tinkle Bells was the original name of a popular Christmas song until the wife of one of the authors pointed out Tinkle could also mean to pee. What was it changed to?
- 10 What country is the Poinsettia, with its red and green foliage, native to?
- 11 How many wise men / Magi / kings does the bible say visited the baby Jesus?
- 12 In what European country are children given gifts by St. Basil on January 1st instead of Santa on December 25th?
- 13 Who invented the Christmas Cracker in 1847?
- 14 Which kissing plant was named after the Anglo-Saxon word that means "little dung twig" because the plant spreads through bird droppings.
- 15 What is a 'bûche de Noël'?
- 16 Charles Dickens' initial choice was "Bah Christmas.", what did he change it to?
- 17 The bestselling Christmas single ever is?
- 18 In White Christmas, the part of Betty is played by Rosemary Clooney, what is her relationship to George Clooney?
- 19 What was originally a soup made with raisins and wine.
- 20 What and where was prophesied in Micah 5:2?



Prize of a Chocolate bar for the winner answers in by end January

*Laxfield Produce, Craft and Flea Market  
Saturday 1st December 10am -12.30pm*

*your friendly community market  
held in and around All Saint's Church & the Royal Oak  
and outside on Church Plain*

As would be expected from the busy Laxfield Market, the December 1<sup>st</sup> event will include a huge number of stalls (35+ including a long waiting list) so it will be choc full of goodies, to include everyday needs plus the opportunity to tick off all the gifts on your Christmas List in one happy morning visit.

Choose from quality items such as Suffolk candles, turned wood, Pyro Jack engraved wood, really lovely Christmas wreaths - a wide choice from beautiful traditional pine versions to fabric and more unusual feather ones which went down really well last month.

Also available – cakes, jewellery, scented sachets, bird-themed items, hats, glass creations, cards and wrapping papers, locally-made soaps, delicious fruit cordials, crafts, vintage and pre-loved items. Some stalls quietly raise funds for charities, so do come and support them all. Meats include lamb, grass-fed beef, and pork, all very local and available in a variety of cuts.

Last month the Ox Blood Molly Dancers in their black and red costumes, provided seasonal entertainment, many in their audience enjoying hot bacon rolls and real hot-dogs to keep out the November chill. This month we look forward to live music from 'Tanglethread', a local folk music duo.

So we invite you to a busy December Produce Craft and Flea Market, and are already making plans for lots of interesting stalls during 2019. This Market is a truly local, co-operative and friendly Market, resulting in the happy ambience and happy customers!

Please contact Catherine Cawood on 01986 798852 for info on pitch spaces.

*Breakfasts, bacon rolls, tea, coffee and cake and lunches and beer all available – come and make a sociable morning of it!*

*The Laxfield Produce, Craft and Flea Market welcomes you on the first Saturday morning of every month*

Crane Lodge, Bickers Hill, Laxfield, IP13 8DP

Telephone: 01986-798901 -

December 2018

Dear Friends,

It's that time of year again. December has come and with it all the joys of Christmas. But what is the real meaning of Christmas? Is it the gifts under the tree, the lights in the windows, the cards in the post, roast turkey dinners with family and friends, and saying "Merry Christmas" to those who we meet? Is this really Christmas?

For many people, Christmas is a time of sadness. They don't have the money to buy presents for their children, family, and friends. Many are saddened at Christmas time when they think of their loved ones who will not be able to come home for various reasons, or perhaps it is their first Christmas without a loved one who died in the last year. For some, roast turkey may be only a wish and not a reality.

Yet, Christmas can be a season of great joy. It is a time of God showing His great love for us. It can be a time of healing and renewed strength. Christmas is when we celebrate the birth of the Christ child. God sent His son, Jesus, into the world to be born. His birth brought great joy to the world. Shepherds, wise men, and angels all shared in the excitement of knowing about this great event. They knew this was no ordinary baby. The prophets had told of His coming hundreds of years before. The star stopped over Bethlehem just to mark the way for those who were looking for this special child.

At the time of writing this it seems that every other word on Radio 4 is 'Brexit'. If not that then it is global warming. One thing I am looking forward to at Christmas is the world taking a few days out from gloom and arguing, in order to celebrate and be joyful and to consider the big picture, the promise of salvation brought to us by God's own son.

Perhaps in a way we can look on those few days as a glimpse of what is in store for us in heaven, where worries and concerns are left behind, and we can live a life of eternal joy.

After all, I understand that the economy in heaven is doing quite well, and the weather is as it always has been!

I wish you all a wonderful and joyful Christmas,  
With my prayers and best wishes for a happy new year,

Ron

## St. Mary's Church Services – December 2018

Sunday 9th	Friday 21st	Christmas Day
6.30pm Evensong DB	7.00pm Carol Service DB	Family Service with Holy Communion DB
Sidesperson D. Peacock	Sidesperson A. Edmonds	Sidesperson A. Edmonds
Reader Liz Dix	Reader TBA	Reader P. Baker
Malachi 3:1-4 Phillipians 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6	TBA	TBA

Thank you to everyone that came along to support the village Remembrance Service Event.

Please read our full page advert for the Carol Service and how you can help the Homeless in Norwich.

You and our family would be very welcome to come along on Christmas morning and join us for our Family Service.

### HELP

**Could anyone bake a dozen mince pies for the Carol Service on 21<sup>st</sup> December.**

**Please call or text 07906 509302 if you can help.**



# DIRECTORY:

Doctor's Surgery	Fressingfield	01379 586 227
	Stradbroke	01379 384 220

## Local officers:

Church Rev. David Burrell		01986 798 136
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'The Vicarage, Noyes Avenue, Laxfield

[theparsnips@googlemail.com](mailto:theparsnips@googlemail.com)

## Church Wardens:

Andy Edmunds		01986 798523
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Lay Elder for Cratfield - Margaret Thompson		07906 509302
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Parish Council - Lotty Barbour		01986 798099
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PC Clerk Sally Chapman		01379 855486
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PC Website	<a href="http://www.cratfield.onesuffolk.net">www.cratfield.onesuffolk.net</a>	
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Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator - Nick Eade		01986 798725
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## Village Hall:

Chair Person - Rebecca Sannick		01986 799006
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Vice Chair - Richard Turberville		01986 798346
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Bookings - Jo Nunn		01986 799181
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Painting Club - Mick Chave		01986 798771
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Laxfield School Head of School- Mrs Hammond		01986 798344
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Nova Group - Heather Hargood		01986 798180
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All information must arrive by 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Advertising rates p/a: Full page £60; half page £30; quarter £20; eighth £10; directory £8; flyer £10.

Please contact Sue, Geoff, Molly or Peter for more information