

CRATFIELD NEWS

February 2020



**COMMUNITY COFFEE BREAK
THURSDAY 20TH FEBRUARY
10.30 - 12.30
VILLAGE HALL**

THANK YOU

Jackie Steward and her son Spence would like to thank everyone for their cards and good wishes. They have been overwhelmed by the warm welcome they have received and look forward to spending many happy years in their new home "Clear View", Silverleys Green, Cratfield.



VILLAGE WALK

Sunday 12th January did not seem the most auspicious of days for a walk across the fields of Cratfield, it was rather dull and dampish, not too cold though. However 28 hardy folk, suitably booted, and 9 dogs mustered at the church. Clive, who had organised the route, led the way along the footpaths for those who didn't mind floundering through the mud, Brian did the same, for those who preferred not to flounder, along the road. In fact it transpired there was only one little bit of floundering, through the field gateway beside Baltic Farm. Everyone enjoyed the camaraderie, with plenty of time to chat to friends and neighbours whom one doesn't see so often at this time of year. (Jackie and Spence found it a great way to get to know some more members of our village.) The dogs had a whale of a time, hurtling around the fields chasing one other, no worries about mud for them!

On our return to the church Andy and Don had lit the bonfire and Margaret and Jean had organised the tea, coffee, toasted tea-cakes and chocolate crunch. Many thanks to them and to Mary for baking the chocolate crunch.

It was one of those dull January days when it would have been so easy to huddle down at home by the fire with the Sunday papers, but, after making the effort to gird ones loins and venture out, it proved to be a most enjoyable way to spend said dull January day in the company of like-minded others.



Let's hope we can organise another outing again later in the year. Thanks to all who came, you make Cratfield the great place it is in which we are lucky enough to live.
Sue

RIP
Fr. Leslie Michael Hipkins
17th March 1935 – 13th December 2019

Fr. Leslie was Rector of the Benefice of Cratfield, Huntingfield, Heveningham, Cookley and Walpole, living at the Rectory here in Cratfield, between 1991 and 2000. He will be remembered by the more long standing members of the village as a very charismatic character who gave great support to his parishioners. His time in Cratfield was a very happy one for him, his partner of fifty years, Brian and their black labrador Angus. On retirement Leslie and Brian moved to Theberton and later to Norwich. Leslie was the first priest (after his retirement) to enter into a Civil Partnership with Brian in 2006. Very sadly both Leslie and Brian became in need of care and both eventually moved into nursing homes (different homes due to their differing needs). Brian died in 2017 and Leslie was deeply saddened. Dementia overtook him, but the care he received at Hassingham House, Hingham, was exemplary, his passing was peaceful and not unexpected.

Fr. Leslie's funeral took place at Breckland Crematorium on Friday 17th January. In case you think it odd that the funeral of a priest should take place in a crematorium this was his specific request as he wanted the funeral to be the same as for his life partner Brian a few years previously.

We have many happy memories of entertaining times with Leslie and Brian, they are both sadly missed.

Sue E.



APOLOGIES



Apologies to everyone that had to put up with the large diesel spillage through the village recently – it was not intentional! For anyone who has mice chewing their way through the wiring looms and fuel pipes on their cars I can now recommend peppermint oil applied under the bonnet as the mice do not like the smell. Further apologies in advance to anyone who does a double take when it looks like I am blessing/anointing our cars when I am liberally splashing the stuff around under the bonnets and muttering/cursing under my breath!



Andy Barringer

***Laxfield Produce, Craft and Flea Market
Saturday 1st February
9.30am -12 midday***

*lots of stalls inside All Saint's Church and in the Royal Oak
and outside on Church Plain*

The second Market of this year arrives on the very first day of February, when over 30 stallholders will be offering a range of goodies. Kick those winter blues into touch and come along for a look round. Not visited before? Why not stop by for just a cuppa and a chat and you might find some nice surprises on the many stalls. New and casual stalls added to regulars help create a buoyant and interesting atmosphere at this popular monthly Market

Look out for organic vegetables, local free-range pork (freshly cooked hot-dogs often served too), delicious grass fed beef, vegetarian bakes and meat pies and sausage rolls, freshly baked cheese scone wedges, Suffolk breads baked fresh in the morning, free-range eggs, plus many local crafts, goats' milk soaps, all sorts of vintage and collectibles including jewellery, and modern jewellery too. Very local honey and wax products, turned wood, warm knitted hats, trinkets, something for all the family - in fact look out for doggie bandanas for the stylish hairy friend in your life.

*Cake of the Month -
delicious freshly baked Pecan and Cinnamon Buns*

Cake, tea and coffee will be available in the Church, and in the Royal Oak breakfasts, bacon butties and teas/coffees, beer and lunches will all be on offer, plus goodies for immediate consumption from the bakes stalls.

Thinking of taking stall space this year? Contact Catherine Cawood on 01986 798852 for more details. There's normally a waiting list, so do plan ahead.

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

A fantastic community co-operative market run by lovely friendly people!

ACOUSTIC NIGHT



Cratfield Acoustic 4 will be held in the Village Hall on Saturday 14th March with doors opening at the usual time of 7.15pm and music starting at 7.40pm. This event will run slightly differently; instead of a collection during the evening there will be a £3.00 entry fee, on the door. The bar will be open and the first half will feature local artists.

Our guest in the second half is Joe G. Joe is a young solo artist – singer, song-writer, guitarist and drummer – whose songs are inspired by themes of friendship, love and politics. He has performed extensively throughout the region, including radio and festivals. I first heard him at an acoustic night and was blown away by his talent and originality.



Save the date – I will write more about him in next month's magazine.

Paul Marfleet

Mixed Blessing

After years of suffering from impaired hearing, a man was finally given a new hearing aid that allowed him to hear perfectly. Monitoring his patient's progress the doctor remarked, "I'm sure y our family are delighted that at last you can hear again."

The man replied, "I haven't told them yet. I just sit around and listen to their conversations. I've changed my will five times in the last two months!"

The Best Thing

A newspaper reporter was interviewing a 104 year old woman. "What's the best thing about being 104?" he asked her.

"No peer pressure," she replied.

MICHAEL OLIVER

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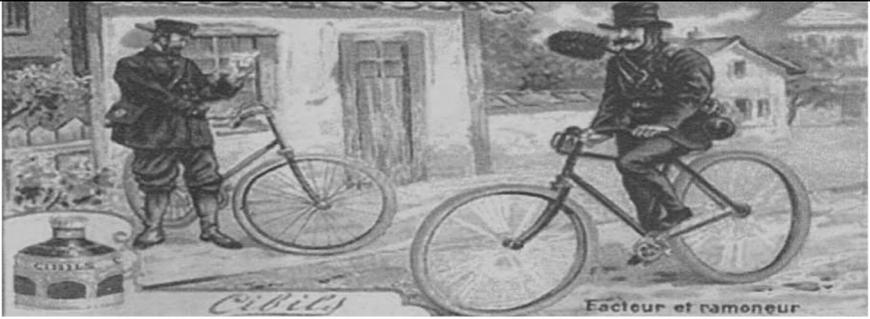
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LAUGHING IS GOOD FOR YOU

Paraprosdokians (My Concise Oxford didn't recognise this word, but Google did!) are figures of speech in which the latter part of the sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected and is frequently humorous. (Winston Churchill loved them!)



Where there's a will, I want to be in it.

The last thing I want to do is hurt you... but it's still on my list.

Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.

We never really grow up we only learn how to act in public.

War does not determine who is right, only who is left.

Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.

To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.

I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.

In filling out an application, where it says, "In case of emergency, notify..." I answered, "a doctor."

Evening news is where they begin with "Good evening" and then proceed to tell you why it isn't.

You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need one to skydive twice.

The voices in my head may not be real, but they have some good ideas.

To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit, the target.

Going to church doesn't make you a Christian, any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.

A diplomat is someone who can tell you to go to hell in such a way that you will look forward to the trip.

I'm supposed to respect my elders, but it's getting harder and harder to find one now.

How is it one careless match can start a forest fire, but it takes a whole box to start a camp fire.

A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.

Always borrow money from a pessimist, he won't expect it back.

(I don't think there's anything offensive here, but one never knows these days! Sue)

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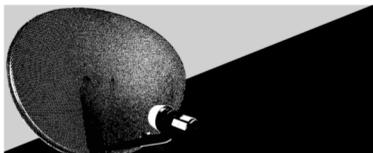
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VILLAGE HALL UPDATE – JANUARY

Next Pop Up Pub - Friday 7th February with food by Cratfield Kitchen 6 – 9PM

Many thanks to all the helpers and bar staff from the January pop up – it was a great start to the year. Cratfield Kitchen will also be providing their usual fantastic range of food. So whether you drop in for a pint after work, fancy a glass of wine or a gin & tonic to start the weekend off or just can't face cooking dinner just come along.

Acoustic Night 4 ! - 14th March

Following the huge success of the 3 previous acoustic nights and by popular demand we now bring you Acoustic Night 4 featuring rising star, singer and songwriter Joe Gibbings, more details to follow. Many thanks to Paul Marfleet for arranging these acoustic evenings and sourcing a fantastic wide range of talent for all tastes. If you have never been do come along and see what it is all about – the bar will be open too!

Advance dates for your diary for 2020..

Race Night – provisionally 22 Feb TBC

Next Village Hall Talk evening – 28 March – A spanish evening – more details to follow

Dog Show – 17th May

Sotterley Horse Show – 24th May

Photographic Competition – 10th October and the categories are...

Suffolk Transport –

Photography tips - Cars are probably the first mode of transport that comes to mind when you think of transport photography but there are plenty of other subjects that are worth a shot or two. Bikes, trains planes and boats can be slightly more challenging to capture but can produce good results. Trains are predictable as they have to follow a track, leave and arrive at certain stations and have a schedule they have to follow. Finding a spot to shoot from should be quite simple then all you have to do is perfect your technique – the brilliance of taking photos on phones and tablets alongside digital cameras is you can click away taking plenty of shots and delete any that are not required, and instantly see the results.

Black & White Cratfield –

Photography tips – A good black and white photo is one where you want to emphasise shapes, lines, texture and structure. You want to remove the distraction caused by colours. Good black and white photography should have contrast between light and shadow. Some good subjects could be man made structures like farm buildings, house details, roads, bridges etc alongside nature – close details of hedgerows, wildlife and so on.

Suffolk Skylines –

Photography tips – These shots are all about finding the right location - start by identifying vantage points that could give you a good view. Keep in mind that if you want to capture a wide photo of the skyline you will need to be a fair distance away. Anything goes – for dog walkers there may be a stunning sunrise or sunset over the countryside that you can capture, for drivers there may be a bridge, town or city skyline you see on your way to and from work that makes an interesting shot.

Fun category – Suffolk Seaside –

Photography tips – Don't just head straight for the beach – think 'outside of the box' lighthouses, arcades, shells and driftwood, dog walkers, picnics, sunbathers (with their permission!) sandcastles, beach huts, ice cream eaters, - it doesn't have to be a scorching summers day either – think wet and wild and out of season when the seaside is deserted too.

Carpet Bowls Club –

Continuing to go from strength to strength since reforming - meets every Wednesday 7 – 9 and cost is £2 per head and includes refreshments. The majority are novices who just get together to learn and have fun – so do come along and have a go – for £2 you might find you have a new hobby!

Gardening Club –

From Caroline Marfleet - The dates for next year will again be the 1st Wednesday of the month so March 4th; May 6th; July 1st; September 2nd; November 4th. The March and November meetings will be held in the village hall and the summer meetings in a Cratfield garden. Details to be arranged. On March 4th, Tim from 'The Plantsman's Preference' near Diss will be our guest speaker. His nursery specialises in Grasses and Hardy Perennials and they hold the National Collection of Miscanthus. If anyone wants to pre-order plants, he will bring them to the meeting.' Caroline Marfleet

100 Club draw held at NOVA,

1st Wendy Thomas No:63 £15.00, 2nd Sue Eade No:11 £10.00,
3rd Richard Turberville No:70 £5.00 Congratulations to all the winners.

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“This season is full of terrible lessons”

A rash of leathery brown fungi appeared on our front lawn this winter. These malevolent mushrooms are emblematic of our sodden winter weather. The Cratfield clay in our sloping back garden is always muddy in winter, but this year it has turned into a brown porridge suggestive of the trenches at Ypres. There are puddles on our normally bone dry, front path. Christmas found me having to wade down the length of a newly flooded canal in Manse Lane to get to a party. A friend was unable to drive to Halesworth because of flooding and reported that the whole of the Waveney Valley seemed filled with standing water.

Such wet weather in a dry county seems unreasonable to say the least. 2019 saw the hottest February day on record in the UK – I dried three lots of washing in the back garden in the one day. The weather seems to be turning upside down. From the safety of Suffolk we look with horror at the apocalyptic bush-fires in Australia.



As we in Cratfield are well aware, the natural world is a thing of great beauty and it is a source of solace to live amongst it. But the natural world is also fragile.

This beauty and fragility was brought home to me on a moving Facebook post from friends in Australia. They have recently moved from the suburbs of Adelaide to live closer to nature on a beautiful wooded site in the hills. The accompanying video shows lovely forest vistas, leaf-strewn paths and wooden walkways.

Here's an extract from what they posted.

“As Australia burns, of course we are reflecting on why we chose a hills life... tonight in the dusk light I can't help but marvel at the life that surrounds us; and no, I would not prefer to live a suburban life in the swelter of a fire-safe house-upon-house brick and concrete living. This season is full of terrible lessons that we will learn... We are more vulnerable, yes, but we are more connected, more alive. It is wonderful.”

In “A Midsummer Night's Dream” the climate was severely disrupted because of a dispute between Oberon and Titania, the supernatural rulers of the natural world. Their row turned the weather upside down.

“ ... the spring, the summer,

The childing autumn, angry winter, change

Their wonted liveries, and the mazed world,

By their increase, now knows not which is which"

In the Shakespeare play, of course, the differences between Oberon and Titania are resolved by the end and harmony is restored to the climate.

In the real world there are no such neat dramatic solutions. Whether we live in Cratfield or on the Adelaide hills we need to look at what is happening to our climate and reflect on possible causes, just how much human actions are implicated, and how we need to change things so that harmony and equilibrium can be restored.



Nigel Cousins

Flood in Manse Lane

It's been back three times this winter... I mean the water feature outside my house on Manse Lane. First in mid-November, then again over Christmas and yet again last week (second week of January). It's been a remarkably wet winter. Last winter we were spared, but during 2017/18 the flood was a regular feature. It comes when we have days of rain together and the fields are sodden. Call me a nerd with a ruler, but I can inform you that at its deepest it was a couple of inches higher this year than 2017/18. A sign of things to come? There has always been a tendency for Manse Lane to flood, I've been informed by those who have lived longest in the village, but it is getting worse. This year more than one person has paid a price in wrecked vehicles. It's no joke wading through 11 inches of freezing water, in the dark. Someone will fall in eventually. The Parish Council is taking steps and I have emailed a report to Stephen Burroughes who represents our ward at the county council. I would urge everyone who has been affected to make their feelings known to the council, to Suffolk Highways, our MP etc. because the more of us that pitch in, the more determined we will appear in our desire for a long-term solution.

Finally a small plea to drivers going through the flood ... some race through as if being filmed for Top Gear, creating a bow wave. It doesn't make it any less likely that they'll flood their engines and it is eroding the grass bank next to my drive.

Yours (hopefully not marooned as this goes to press)

Natalie Lloyd Evans

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Cratfield Community Coffee Break Thursday 20th February 10.30-12.30

Following the success of the Rural Coffee Caravan's visit and the subsequent Community Coffee Break last year this community event is back. It's a great way to meet new people, all welcome, come and join us. Donations towards the refreshments are welcome on the day and the village hall is open free of charge. Wendy Thomas is coordinating this event – if you need a lift, want to offer a cake, or would like to help on the day please call 798181

Saturday 28th March when we will have another Cratfield Talk at the Village Hall. This will be entitled “The Back Roads of Northern Spain” - an illustrated adventure across Northern Spain with Candy and Jeremy Blackham. Spanish wines and tapas will also feature during the evening! More details to follow in next month's magazine; keep an eye out for the poster too!

Spanish Recipe - Andalusian-style chicken (Serves 2)

Ingredients:

½ chicken stock cube crumbled in 100ml boiling water	
2 tbsp olive oil	1 small onion, thinly sliced
2 large chicken breasts	large pinch of ground
cinnamon	
1 red chill, de-seeded and chopped	2 tbsp sherry vinegar
1 tbsp clear honey	6 cherry tomatoes, quartered
1 tbsp raisins	handful of coriander, chopped
25g toasted pine nuts or almonds	crusty bread to serve

Method:

Heat the oil in a medium pan and cook the onion until it is just beginning to turn golden, push to the side of the pan and add the chicken. Cook for a few minutes until the chicken is browned all over.

Add the cinnamon and chilli and cook for a couple of minutes. Add the stock, vinegar, honey, tomatoes and raisins. Bring to the boil, turn down the heat and simmer for 10 minutes until the sauce is reduced and the chicken is cooked through. When ready to serve scatter with the coriander and nuts and serve with bread on the side.

Dear Friends

Here for your delight and delectation are the answers to the Christmas quiz. For some reason this year many more entries came in. There were nearly 20 and all but one were completely correct. What I have done is to put all the correct answers in a pot and got Virginia to pull out the winning name. The winning entry is..... and I feel like I am reading out the winner of an Oscar here..... Sarah Godfrey. Well done and you will be receiving the prize of a scrumptious bar of chocolate.

The correct answers are:

O come O come Emmanuel
Angels from the realms of
glory
Away in a manger
Ding dong merrily on high
God rest ye merry gentle-
men
Good Christian men rejoice
Good King Wenceslas
Hark the herald-angels sing
In the bleak mid-winter
It came upon a midnight
clear
Joy to the world
O come all ye faithful
O little town of Bethlehem
On Christmas night all
Christians sing
Once in royal David's city
See amid the winters snow
Silent night
The first Nowell
The holly and the ivy
While shepherds watched



David

St. Mary's Church Services – February 2020

Sunday 9th	Sunday 16th	Sunday 23rd
6.30pm Evensong DB	9.30am Village Worship Lay Elder	8.00am Holy Communion DM
Sidesperson A. Edmonds	Sidesperson A.Edmonds	Sidesperson D. Peacock
Reader D. Peacock	Readers P. Baker	Reader E. Cook
Isaiah 58:1-9a, 9b-12 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16) Matthew 5:13-20	Deuteronomy 30:15-20 1 Corinth 3:1-9 Matthew 5:21-37	Exodus 24:12-18 2 Peter 1:16-21 Matthew 17:1-9

Thank you to everyone who very kindly donated to the Reverse Advent Calendar appeal during December. Two boxes were taken to the Waveney Food Bank

RIP Sally Harris

Sadly Sally passed away in Norwich hospital on 22nd December 2019. Sally lived at The Old Thatched Cottage opposite the Village Hall for over 40 years before moving to Fressingfield in 2013. She was an active member of St. Mary's Church and served on the Village Hall Committee for many years. Sally will be remembered for her smart appearance and her genuine care for people in need.

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	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

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	www.cratfield.onesuffolk.net	
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Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator - Nick Eade		01986 798725
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Village Hall:

Chair Person - Natalie Lloyd-Evans		01986 798790
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Vice Chair - Richard Turberville		01986 798346
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Bookings - Jo Nunn		01986 799181
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Laxfield School Head of School- Mrs Minns		01986 798344
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Nova Group - Heather Hargood		01986 798180
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All information must arrive by 20th of the month.

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Please contact Sue, Graham or Peter for more information