

CRATFIELD NEWS

February 2019



February is a suitable month for dying. Everything around is dead, the trees black and frozen so that the appearance of green shoots two months hence seems preposterous, the ground hard and cold, the snow dirty, the winter hateful, hanging on too long.

February is merely as long as is needed to pass the time until March!

WELCOME

A warm welcome to Mark and Sue who will shortly be joining us in Cratfield at The Old School, we hope they will be very happy here.

HERE PUSS!

The grey tom-cat which was loitering at Spong Farm, now appears to have crossed the fields to The Old Cider Works, he is being fed, but please, if he's yours or you know who owns him please take him home.

LOST

Lost, somewhere on a dog walk in Cratfield, single Yale key with orange string attached. Hoping to be reunited with it. Natalie Lloyd-Evans, Field Cottage, Manse Lane.

FREE

The small table outside the village hall is a free give-away if anyone wants it.

COMMUNITY WALK on 6th January 2019

On a rather dull and miserable Sunday afternoon over 20 people and 9 dogs took to the fields and footpaths of Cratfield to enjoy a companionable walk. The weather was soon forgotten as the camaraderie took over and the walk, planned by Clive, proved to be a most enjoyable way to spend a dreary afternoon. The event concluded with tea and cakes, organised by Margaret, before a huge, flaming bonfire, courtesy of the Community Payback team who had recently been clearing the churchyard, and carefully overseen by Don and Andy.

Another walk will be announced at a later date, probably Springtime.

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

POINTS OF VIEW

Chrissie Kitchen, Candy Blackham, Nick Eade, & Geoff Moore are exhibiting exciting new photographs!

Friday 12 April 2019, 18.00-20.00
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COFFEE MORNING VILLAGE HALL SATURDAY 16TH FEBRUARY 10-12 NOON

The temperature is rapidly dropping in Syria and Yemen. It will be below freezing, conditions deadly to vulnerable families fleeing conflict. The threat of hypothermia and frostbite is very real for people without a place to call home.

Before Christmas we received a green envelope through our letter-boxes, asking us to donate to a SHELTER BOX. These boxes are practical and sent out in the midst of disaster.

Monies raised by the Carol Singers walking around the village at Christmas went to Yemen. We can do more, these people are part of our global family.

THE TOTAL COST OF A SHELTER BOX IS £590.

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sell on a stall please call 07906509302**

Hahahaha! Sue has made a mistake again this month and left me some free space to mess around with!

So I think it's time for a challenge. There are 4 more spaces just like this at the end of other articles throughout the mag, to make it easier I have put a border around them, a bit like this. 

In them I have hidden a secret message! See if you can figure it out!

Pete.

Marge and the Lost World

Christmas shopping for the grandchild's present was easy in Jarrold's of Norwich. It is an old-style department store with as wide a range of goods as a normal human brain can take in – and you get to see exactly what you are buying. We were almost as pleased with the toy digger we bought as was two-and-a-half-year-old Freddie when he finally got to unwrap it. Going into a real live store with its bright displays, lights and Christmas shoppers was blissfully different from the airless experience of internet shopping.



But there was more to it than that - as I walked through women's-wear with its artificial lighting, bright new clothes and gorgeously artificial scents I had a flashback to another time – I visualised my Mum's friend Marge. I could feel her presence as if she was standing there before me in Jarrold's. Her gorgeous fragrance, her glamorous appearance. Marge, my Mum's friend from long ago. She was a down to earth woman married to a man who worked in the same factory as my Dad. She did not have loads of qualifications nor was she a female trailblazer in the world of work. She kept a lovely house, cooked brilliant food for the family and raised her children with loving care. But she had a glamour my Mum freely admitted she did not have. She had the longest, reddest fingernails. Her hair was immaculately set and exquisitely coloured. She was the nearest to a film star our homely neighbourhood could produce. She worked full time as a Supervisor in the ladies' wear department of the House of Fraser – which my Mum regarded as being a top job.



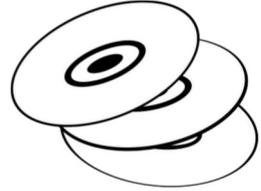
I like to think that there were thousands like her, working in retail in those days. They had something to dress up for every day and could dispense a little portion of the dream of fashion to their customers. I doubt that she earned a great deal of money – but she could go out, dolled up, every day and work in a steady job. It was a swanky shop owned by a reliable firm which seemed like it would last forever. I hope she worked there for a long time and safely retired long before some asset stripper could get their hands on the pension fund.



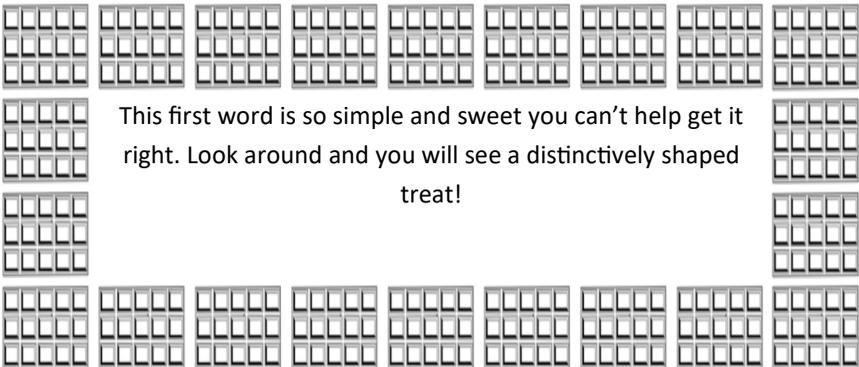
I like to think Marge and the thousands like her who worked in retail enjoying a charmed life. A safe and steady job they loved with not many changes other than new window displays. I like to think of her working during a time when living standards for ordinary people were going up. When bankers were trustworthy and boringly reliable.

That safe world, which now we have lost, gave us teenagers

just the sense of security that makes you feel safe to rebel and experiment. We used retail to express our rebellion – I would go into town on Saturdays and buy a subversive LP– trotting home clutching the latest album by Cream, Deep Purple or Frank Zappa.



It's all different now. That kind of High Street is becoming a thing of the past. We order things on line. The world is a far less certain place. Let's drink a toast to the Department Store of yesteryear and the old certainties. Lets us drink a toast to Marge and those like her – may her memory be forever fragrant and glamorous.



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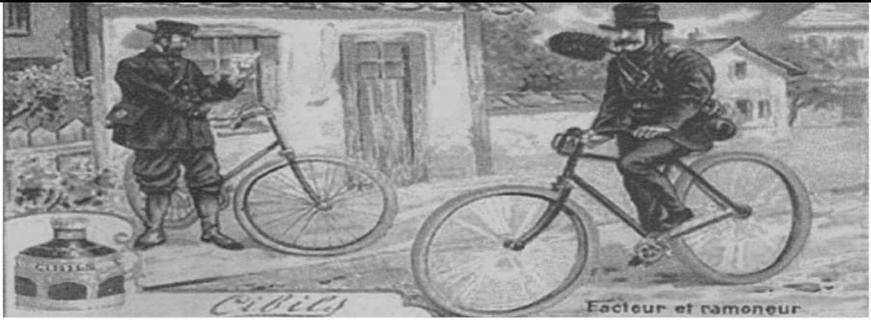
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Quiz Answers



1. 2nd century in 333 Pope Julius I officially declared that the birth of Jesus would be celebrated on the 25th December.
2. Christmas Tree
3. Santa Claus
4. variant of nael , from Latin natalis birth.
5. It was first used in the mid 1500s. χ is the Greek letter "chi," the initial letter in the word Χριστός. Christ.
6. 'A Visit from St Nicholas.'
7. Odin
8. Austria
9. Silver Bells
10. Mexico
11. The bible does not say, there were three gifts but all we can be sure of is that there was more than one wise man.
12. Greece
13. John Smith
14. Mistletoe
15. Yule Log
16. Bah Humbug!
17. White Christmas (Bing Crosby)
18. She was his Aunt
19. Christmas pudding
20. Bethlehem is where the Messiah will be born.

VILLAGE HALL NEWS - FEBRUARY 2019

Friday 1st February – Pop-up Bar – with food by Cratfield Kitchen

Please note the Pop-up Bar opening and closing times for 2019 – Bar opens at 6.00pm with last orders at 9.45pm and bar closes at 10.00pm. The hall will close at 10.30pm to allow the volunteers to tidy and lock up and get home at a sociable hour – your co-operation is greatly appreciated. We are always looking for extra help running this evening, so if you have ever fancied yourself as a Peggy Mitchel (just no shouting 'geroutta my pub') or Bet Lynch (leopard print outfits not compulsory) then please do speak to anyone on the committee.

We would also like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to Mike Downer at the The Royal Oak in Laxfield as he has helped us get very good beer at a reasonable price – which has helped turn the pop-up pub into a profitable event for the Village Hall.

Saturday 16th March – Curry and Casserole Night

Another gastronomic feast for your taste buds following numerous food themed evenings. Tickets are £12.50 per head and booking is essential – please book via Rebecca Sannick with your food choice on 01986 799006 – options are Chicken Curry, Beef Casserole, Curried Eggs (vegetarian option) or Winter Vegetable Casserole (vegetarian option), pudding options are Chocolate or Syrup steamed Sponge. All previous food evenings have sold out well in advance so please book early to avoid disappointment.

Bring your own wine or beer to drink – the bar will be selling bottles (not glasses) of wine on the night (no soft drinks or beer will be sold).

Sunday May 12th Dog Show – more details to follow

Sunday September 1st – Horticultural Show – more details to follow

Accoustic Night – following the huge success of this night (many thanks to Paul Marfleet for organising) we are planning another this

spring – more details to follow when confirmed.

Now that the Christmas decorations are all packed away... Do you have any unwanted or duplicated Christmas presents sitting there gathering dust? Alongside donating them to the local charity shops had you ever thought about passing them onto the village hall for one of the raffles run at events throughout the year? Contact a member of the village hall committee if you have anything to donate – contact details at the back of the magazine.

Gardening Club – there is a newly formed Gardening Club – for any enquiries please contact Caroline Marfleet to find out more - marfleets@doctors.org.uk 01986 799048 or 07969603509

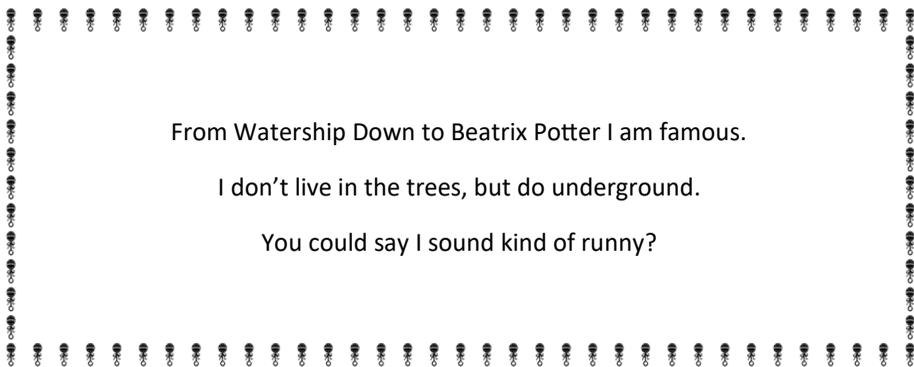
Also – there is a very active Facebook (for those who use it!) page, which covers not only Village and Village Hall events, but other local events and information – just search for 'Cratfield Village' on Facebook

100 CLUB

1st Patrick Turley No:54 £15.00
2nd Simon Woolward No:77 £10.00
3rd Carolyn White No:36 £5.00
Congratulations to all the winners

Andy Barringer

(Roving reporter for the Cratfield Cryer!)



From Watership Down to Beatrix Potter I am famous.

I don't live in the trees, but do underground.

You could say I sound kind of runny?

Broadband (or, rather lack of) again - 2019 update.

Well, since my last letter, things have changed. I would like to say things have advanced or moved forwards but let's wait and see....

As of mid January BT submitted roadwork applications for the same route as early last year but not road closures for installing ducting, but stop/go boards to install poles over the "missing" 4 Km. This work is supposed to start January 28th so by the time you read this it should already be happening..... but, given last years' experience, who knows?

The relevance to the OfCom report is interesting. Given that BT have effectively been promised £3,400 per property of taxpayers money in 2020 to finish what they have already been paid for twice (with taxpayers money) and that they were involved in the negotiations with OfCom last year to get the work and further taxpayer funding, I suspect OfCom have just paid them anyway to do it when they feel fit and now may be the best time for other network reasons.

But that is if it actually happens, unlike last year. And if it does, where are these poles actually going??? Suffolk County Council's website only broadly defines the route as being the 4 Km gap between existing poles and the same route as the ducting that never was last year.

But it doesn't say which side of the road. If it's the same side of the road as the existing cables – which is where BT/Openreach presumably have the necessary permission (way-leaves etc.) because of their existing cables, and given Morrisons could damage the existing cables with a highly controllable mini digger after just 20 metres of work, the hole boring machines BT/Openreach's subcontractors use for new pole work are far less forgiving.....

So let's hope they have permission to use the opposite side of the road.

If not, and if you still get your internet by the current BT copper cable (rather than Fram wireless or any of the 3G/4G mobile services) I would suggest I would suggest you do all your online banking etc. ASAP if the work starts on the existing side of the road.

Rod Sugden.

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The joys of retail

Nigel's article this month brought to mind my own ventures into the world of retail, courtesy of the 'Saturday Job'. Do such opportunities exist these days? I'm not sure that they do.

At the age of 16 my first Saturday job was in the Co-op in St. Helens. This Co-op was not the food-store, Halesworth variety, rather more the Beccles type, a department store. I was assigned to the shoe department. It was not the most glamorous of departments. Had it been a Clark's Shoe Shop (dizzy heights!) the clientèle may have been slightly more up market, but then again we *are* talking St. Helens here, a northern industrial town which was not particularly salubrious, even in those days! Anyway, I have some less than fond recollections of feet, often clad in not the most pristine of hosiery and occasionally, vaguely malodorous, which had to be carefully and gently inserted, with the aid of a shoe-horn, into not the classiest of footwear, whilst kneeling somewhat subserviently at said feet.

As I recall the remuneration for the day's work, which was not received until the following Saturday just in case the job was so unbearable one didn't return, was 17s 6d.

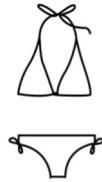
It was delivered in a small brown envelope (wage packet) with holes punched into it so that one could check the amount before opening and if one felt there was any shortfall to be brought to the attention of the wages clerk one would not be accused of pilfering.



The second shop in which I worked was 'Harts'. Who Mr. Hart was I never knew, but he must have been falling on hard times; the shop building was a health and safety nightmare (not that health and safety had been invented in those days, I was tempted to write 'in them days' that's the sort of shop it was). The goods were displayed on sloping counters which were arranged in blocks, we staff stood in the middle between the counters, where the floorboards were lethal, often with cracked, split or even broken boards. I can't recall any outraged customers complaining so I'm guessing repairs must have been made to the store's flooring on the customers' side at least. Here I worked in the children's department, the clothes, in keeping with the shop, were extremely basic and incredibly cheap. I can still conjure up an image of the dresses for little girls, made from cheap, garishly printed cotton with embellishments consisting of bands of 'rick-rack' (you may well ask!) braid stitched around sleeves or hems.

Later when I was at college, and preferring to stay in London during the holidays, I applied for a job in the Oxford Street branch of Marks and

Spencer. Compare and contrast! (However, my previous retail experience must have stood me in good stead! I got the job.) I have two outstanding memories of this period, the first being assigned to the swimwear department, where part of the brief on 'exchange or refund' was to check *the gusset* on returned goods, and then, as if this wasn't cripplingly embarrassing enough, having to explain that a refund or exchange was being refused due to the goods being 'soiled'. I really did have to do this on one occasion, I'm not sure who was more embarrassed the customer or me!



The second memory comes from my time in the knitwear department, which was far preferable to swimwear and the dread of 'exchange or return'. Here I had the doubtful pleasure of serving Hylda Baker, you may well never have heard of her and if you do remember who she was you must be of quite an advanced age, she died in 1986 aged 81. Hylda was a very northern comedienne and actress who at the time was appearing in a TV series called 'Nearest and Dearest'. (I've googled this, I don't recall ever seeing it!) The reason for the memory is that she was probably the only 'famous' person (I don't think the term celebrity was in common parlance then) that I served and I was horrified at how scruffy she was and how dirty her clothes were, her 'white' cardigan in particular was covered in stains which spoke of very careless eating habits.

Despite these experiences I enjoyed working in this store far more than any of the others, the staff perks/discounts were very good and, well, it was London, Oxford Street! (London was a great place to be at the time. I never did go back 'up north'. In fact, then, I never wanted to leave London. How one's ideals change with age, I would not like to live there now, a visit is stimulating, but give me good old Cratfield and rural life any day!

Sue

+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
+	Another quick look around should help you here, but not as straightforward as you think perhaps? Try to stay positive wont you!									+
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

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February 2019

Dear Friends,

Many people hate to ask others for help. They have that "I can do it on my own" mentality. In life when something is broken in the home, wives say, "call someone to fix it." Men say, "why when I can do it myself" even though he doesn't know how to. In the workplace some people have a ton of work to do, but they refuse to ask their co-workers for help, often because they think that they are giving the impression that they can't cope.

Sometimes it's because we don't want to feel like a burden, sometimes we don't want to be turned down, sometimes we just want to control everything, some people hate anything that feels like a hand out.

There is nothing wrong with seeking help in fact Scripture encourages it. Christians must ask God for help daily because we won't get far in life trying to live off our own strength.

When you find yourself in a situation, He wants you to ask for help. It's never meant for us to do God's will by ourselves. God is the one who guides us in the right path.

Believing that we can do everything often leads to failure. Trust in the Lord. Sometimes God helps us by doing things Himself and sometimes God helps us through other people. We must never be afraid to get wise counsel and help for big decisions from others.

Asking for help doesn't mean you're weak, but it means you are strong and wise. Being proud is a sin and that is why many people fail to ask for help even when they desperately need it.

Continually ask the Lord for help and strength daily, realizing it's impossible to live the Christian life without Him.

"Refusing to ask for help when you need it is refusing someone the chance to be helpful." – Ric Ocasek.

The other side of that coin is knowing when someone is asking for help without coming right out with it. How often do you think you have missed the opportunity to help somebody because you weren't listening? They may find it just as difficult to ask for help as you do. Often when we ask God for help, he provides it through ordinary people, like you and me. "Be strong enough to stand alone, smart enough to know when you need help, and brave enough to ask for it." Ziad K. Abdelnour.

Next month because of Church law I shall have to retire as Assistant Priest, but I'm not going to disappear forever. In the not too far distant future I hope to be able to resume my ministry, albeit as a retired priest, if you'll have me. Please keep me in your prayers.

With my prayers and best wishes, Ron

It's finally here, the final clue, although I think it came first, others would argue!

Have a good go, it's just for fun.

Maybe next month I'll tell you who's won!

If you e-mail me the answer that is!

St. Mary's Church Services – February 2019

Sunday 10th	Sunday 17th	Sunday 24th
6.30pm Evensong DB	9.30am Village Worship Lay Elder	8.00am Holy Communion DB
Sidesperson A. Edmonds	Sidesperson A. Edmonds	Sidesperson D. Peacock
Reader Liz Dix	Reader D. Peacock	Reader P. Baker
Isaiah 6:1-8, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Luke 5:1-11	Jeremiah 17:5-10 1 Corinthians 15:12- 20 Luke 6:17-26	Genesis 2:4b, 15-25 Revelation 4 Luke 8:22-25

NOTES FROM ST. MARY'S

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed items of clothing or blankets and brought them along to St. Mary's Church on the evening of the Carol Service. The bags just kept coming and coming. On Saturday morning we took 20 large dustbin bags to St. Martin's Housing Trust for the people who found themselves homeless in Norwich at Christmas. It was a wonderful expression of Christian outreach in our community. A special thank you to Wendy and Gary and Alison and Mike who helped with transportation.



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theparsnips@googlemail.com

Church Wardens:

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PC Clerk Sally Chapman		01379 855486
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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 Hammond		01986 798344
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All information must arrive by 20th 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