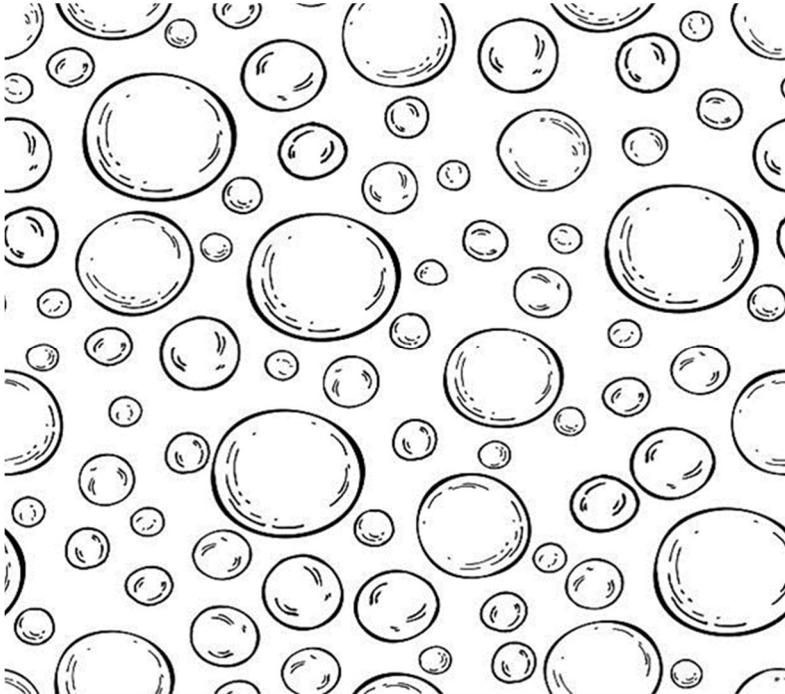


CRATFIELD NEWS

July 2020



WHO'S IN YOURS?

APOLOGIES

I apologise for the lateness of last month's copy of Cratfield News, the old printer gave up the ghost and we had to purchase a new one, which took a little while to materialise. I hope you all noted the superior quality of the print! (It was heartening to have some queries as to when the June issue would appear!)

There were also several queries regarding the picture on the cover of the June issue, I hope it didn't scare the children! The picture represented the head-dress of a plague doctor's costume. Further information on plague doctors can be found elsewhere in the magazine.

THANK YOU

Very many thanks to Dan and Linzi for their sterling work on clearing the huge growth at the roadside outside the church, to Alison, Mike, Chrissie and Ian for their work in the churchyard. There may be more who have crept in unnoticed, in which case thank you also. Not forgetting, of course, Dennis who regularly mows the open areas of the churchyard. If anyone else has any spare time there is plenty more to be done. It is suggested that strimming around the graves would be most useful, the larger areas can be done by machine at some point.

FROM OUR LOCAL MEDICAL PRACTICE

Fressingfield and Stradbroke N.H.S. Medical Centres
Fressingfield Medical Centre 01379 586456/01379 586227
Stradbroke Medical Centre 01379 388313/01379 384220
www.fressingfield-medical-practice.co.uk

We have a bumper edition of contributions from our readers this month which is excellent. Don't forget if you have anything of interest to offer we would be delighted to publish it.

COVID 19 HELPLINE

We are still volunteering to help in any way we can – please call Margaret Thompson on 07906 509302

Apologies to Roy, this should have appeared in last month's magazine, not sure what happened, but better late than never.

VE DAY MEMORIES OF CRATFIELD FROM ROY VINCENT

Roy's parents owned the shop in Post Office Lane (which was not the post office as this was now where the former Poacher Pub is.)

On VE day 75 years ago all the village children were playing at the cross roads outside what was The Bell Pub – where Bell Green meets Manse Lane. They played marbles, hoops and hopscotch, at the time there were only 3 cars in the village and if anything came along they had to wait till the children were finished playing before they were allowed to pass. That was the place in the village where everyone used to meet as it was near the Vincent's shop in post office lane – which Roy remembers being open at any time of the day or night - selling tobacco, cigarettes and anything else you could need.

No fireworks had been allowed to be sold during the war, so there was a stockpile stored in the cupboard by the fireplace in the shop! These were all let off on VE day along with shotguns being fired in the air at the crossroads. The children used to put treacle tins through the railings with carbide in them, make a small hole in the bottom and put a match underneath to make them explode.

Roy recalls there was a dinner to celebrate VE day, but not sure if it was held on the actual day. His sister Winnie used to play the piano at some of the dances held at the Village Hall.

Not on VE day itself – but another wartime memory - there was a huge explosion at the airfield over at Metfield. Thunderbolts and Liberators were based here and occasionally pilots and officers would go for dinner at The Vincent's and take presents of tins of fruit or chocolate. There was a large bomb dump at Metfield Airfield and Roy remembers standing at the back of the old Bell Pub (Natalie Lloyd-Evans old house, now Ray & Susannah Crawley's) with his best mate John Brown and there was an enormous explosion and mushroom cloud. It turns out that the men unloading bombs from trucks into the bomb store had been in a hurry, as the truck was late, and dropped one of the bombs off the back of the truck. The explosion killed 5 men and windows were blown out as far away as Halesworth. There is a memorial to this disaster on Metfield Common where you can see the end of the taxiways for the planes.

Roy Vincent

HMS Diamond Rock

Whilst in the West Indies in HMS Rothesay, we visited Fort de France, the capital of Martinique in the French West Indies in early December 1965. It is quite different from the British islands, being part of Metropolitan France with MPs in Paris, and a very French culture and cuisine. It is perhaps best known for the volcanic eruption of Mount Pelée in 1902 which turned the town of St Pierre, then the main town of Martinique, into a 20th century Pompeii, killing 30,000 people in a few minutes with its pyroclastic flow. The ash covered ruins are still there.

Less well known is a large rocky “volcanic plug” just off the south coast of Martinique, about 600 feet high with sheer sides and one narrow scrambling path to the top. It is covered in vegetation and infested with the Fer de Lance snake, one of the most venomous known. Somehow it is the only site in Martinique where this very dangerous snake is found.

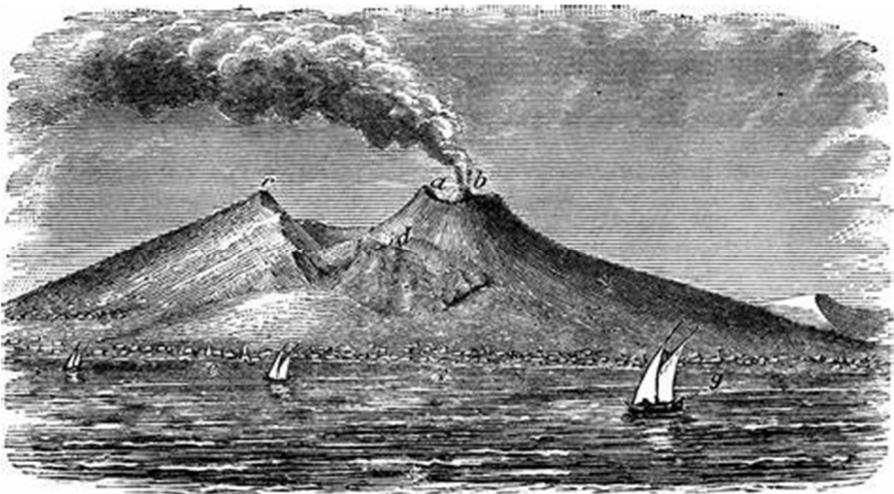
In 1803 England was, as so often, at war with France on a world-wide scale, with a lot of naval action in the Caribbean, around the major French base at Fort Royal (today Fort de France). Now it happened that, in those days, the route for sailing ships into Fort Royal lay between this rock and the main island. Commodore Samuel Hood decided in December of that year to land a naval party of 128 men on the rock and to commission it as ‘the sloop, HMS Diamond Rock’. They somehow parbuckled* some ship’s guns to the top of the rock and remained there for 17 months, successfully harassing French shipping until, in May 1805, they surrendered to the French Marines. Admiral Villeneuve and the main French fleet had arrived at Martinique during the famous chase by Nelson across the Atlantic and back before Trafalgar, and decided that the White Ensign flying on French territory was too great an insult to ignore. The crew of HMS Diamond Rock had lost 17 men, most of them to snake bites. We felt that the exact 162nd anniversary of the commissioning of this remarkable “ship” deserved some recognition, so a small group of us set off by boat from Fort de France to make the 15 mile trip to HMS Diamond Rock, to scale it and, briefly and provocatively, hoist the White Ensign at the top! It was very hot, and the climb was not only very stiff, but more of a serious climb than a scramble. Moreover, we made occasional sightings of the dreaded Fer de Lance and the only serum we had was with our Australian doctor who, being a mountaineer, was well ahead of us and out of sight. I am afraid that the less intrepid of us only made it halfway, where we saw a Fer de Lance kill a small animal instantaneously with its bite, and we

decided that a cold beer and a swim off the rock in crystal clear water where we could see the sandy bottom and coral some ten fathoms down, offered a better bet. We were, I am afraid, less hardy (or maybe less foolhardy) than our naval ancestors.

Our 'feat' grew in the telling on our way back to Fort de France and by the time the sun was under the yard arm (on its way down) and we had a rum and coke in our hand, even we believed the story we told of our daring exploit. Fortunately, the Australian doctor, who had got to the top, displayed unusual tact and diplomacy and made no comment on our slightly fanciful version of the tale, although it cost us all a few drinks later!

Jeremy Blackham

*Parbuckle. Look it up on google!



MICHAEL OLIVER

FENCING AND GATES

ALL ASPECTS SUPPLIED ERECTED REPAIRED
ADAPTABLE to your individual requirements

GARDEN FEATURES CONSTRUCTED AND INSTALLED
Arches pergolas trellis paving paths footbridges raised beds log stores

GRAVEL DRIVEWAYS CONSTRUCTED AND REFURBISHED
Including drainage and all types of edging

MINI DIGGER TO: CLEAN SMALL DITCHES TRENCHES DRAINAGE
HOLES AUGERED CONCRETE BREAKING AREAS LEVELLED AND CLEARED

*PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE
FREE WRITTEN ESTIMATES AND SENSIBLE ADVICE*

HOME: 01986 798129 MOBILE: 07946 714291
EMAIL:michael700oliver@btinternet.com

Linstead Farm & Garden

For all your gardening equipment and machinery needs

Lawn mowers, ride-ons, chainsaws, hedge trimmers etc

STIHL VIKING MOUNTFIELD COUNTAX STIGA

Sales and service, spares and repairs. Contact Bob or Simon on 01986
785272 or email linsteadfarm@btconnect.com



Cratfield Parish Council

*Please help clean & tidy up your vil-
lage*

Cratfield Parish Council has now pur-
chased litter picking equipment
which can be borrowed anytime.

Your support would be greatly appreciated!

If you would like to litter pick please contact:

*Cllr Gloria Steward Tel: 07791 515 016 - collect in vil-
lage*

*Cllr Richard Chivers Tel: 07900 187 350 – collect from
Silverleys Green*

Gates Lodge Self Catering

- *Luxury Grade 2 Listed Accommodation*
- *Fully Equiped*
- *4 star Detached Cart-Lodge & Stable*

Farmland views

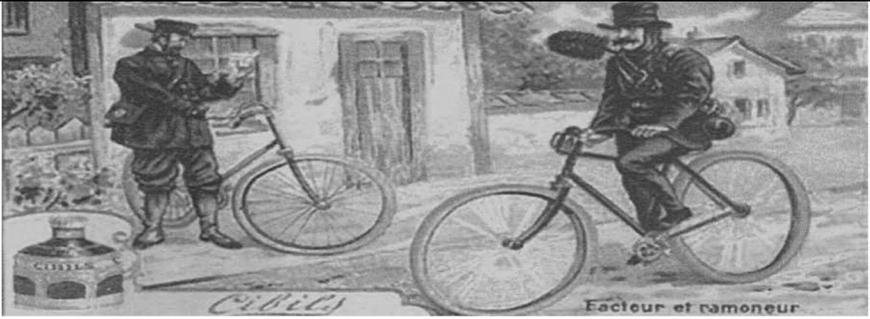
Chippenhall Green, Fressingfield, IP21 5SJ

01379-586166

www.jolly-farmers-suffolk.com

www.gateslodge.co.uk





CHIMNEY SWEEP

STRADBROKE 01379 388908

FULLY CERTIFIED

INSURANCE APPROVED

TONY HALES

BUMBLE COTTAGE, WILBY RD, STRADBROKE



Don't forget to book your lucky sweep for weddings.

Pike's Paws

Home Boarding for Dogs



- Safe family environment
- 3 Acre organic small-holding
- From holiday stays to day care
- Fully insured and Licensed

Oak Tree Cottage, Cratfield Road
Huntingfield, Suffolk, IP19 0QB

Pikespaws@yahoo.co.uk

01986 798310

Find us on:
 [facebook. PikesPaws](https://www.facebook.com/PikesPaws)

The Blackbirds



This spring and early summer I have noticed the blackbirds more than I ever have before. There is a pair in our garden that we have rather unenterprisingly named Mr and Mrs B. Mr B has a sleek black suit with a sharp yellow beak and Mrs B a tawny dress, her beak is equally sharp though not so yellow. They appear unexpectedly at the oddest moments like a running visual joke in the background of a comedy film skittering over the lawn at fast forward speed. They are forever foraging and scurrying home with the treasures they have found.

They hop, but really quickly. Skinny legs like tiny pogo sticks – boing, boing, boing, with a little bit of a running motion thrown in. Urgent as ambulances they zig zag the garden nurturing the new life in their nest. They are clever too with their relentless searching. Even this hot early summer when the surface of our Cratfield clay was baked concrete hard they managed to come across the juiciest worms and the fattest, moistest grubs.

On quiet evenings after long dry days when I water the vegetable plot either Mr B or Mrs B or both come to join me companionably. They are not just there for company - they love the tasty titbits that pop up out of newly watered ground.

You can be having the most serious discussion about things when suddenly, utterly oblivious to hard times in the human world, the blackbirds come scooting across the lawn. I was making a particularly weighty point one day when beady eyed Mr B exploded from behind a foxglove, Groucho Marx bearing a long straight cigar of nesting material in his mouth, reducing me to laughter.

Mr and Mrs Blackbird's activities, comical to us yet deadly serious to them, are a homely that life and nature carry on. There is much to learn from Mr and Mrs B's pell-mell scurryings.

The zig zagging birds zooming about the garden on their hopping errands also remind me of something else. Their unexpected and rapid comings and goings are like the thoughts that come unbidden at odd times to all our minds in these days. Thoughts of loved ones we cannot see or stray memories of those days when things were different and uncomplicated. Idle moments wandering around town without a thought of social distancing, going to a film or a concert or, best of all at this time of year, having a sneaky pint in the garden of the Low House.

If you add Mr and Mrs B to the number of blackbirds in Cratfield and the rest of Suffolk together with the blackbird population of the whole of the United

Kingdom the total comes to around six million pairs. That means twelve million little flitting reminders that life and nature urgently go on. Every scurrying trip of every blackbird across park or garden is a yearning thought in a human mind – a hope that one day the world that we once knew will be restored to us.

Nigel Cousins

Plague Doctors

The clothing worn by plague doctors was intended to protect them from airborne diseases. The costume worn in France and Italy in the 17th century consisted of an ankle length overcoat, gloves, boots, a wide-brimmed hat and a bird-like beak mask. The mask had glass openings in the eyes, a nose shaped like a beak about 6 inches long with two holes, one each side near the nostrils for breathing and straps to hold the beak, which was often filled with sweet or strong smelling substances (commonly lavender), in front of the doctor's nose. They also carried wooden canes (were they 2m long?) to point out areas needing attention and to examine patient without touching them. The canes were also used to keep people away, to remove clothing from plague victims and to take the patient's pulse, (Not sure how that worked!) The costume terrified people because it was a sign of imminent death.

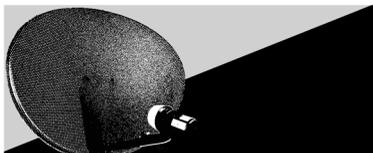
The 'beak doctor' costume was attributed to Charles de Lorne chief physician to Louis XIII.

Plague doctors were typically not experienced physicians or surgeons at all, they were often either second-rate doctors unable to run a successful medical practice or they were young physicians looking to establish themselves in the industry. These doctors were specifically hired by towns where the plague had taken hold and since the city was paying them, they treated both the wealthy and the poor. They rarely cured their patients; rather, they served to record a count of the number of people contaminated. Plague doctors could not generally interact with the general public because of the nature of their business and the possibility of spreading disease, they could also be subject to quarantine.

Doesn't this sound somewhat familiar?

GOT A DRIP?

Need a plumber?
40 years experience.
Water filters and softeners
Heating and plumbing
NO JOB TOO SMALL
Locally based
Call Derek 07971 007846
email:
Dcknight67@yahoo.co.uk



CHARLES GLENNON
TV, VIDEO/DVD
WALL BRACKETS &
SURROUND SOUND SYSTEMS
DIGITAL AERIAL & SATELLITE
INSTALLATION & REPAIRS
Tel: 01728 603376



Would you like
an attractive
garden, or a productive
vegetable patch, but lack the
time, energy or experience?

Then call Gary Kimpton Garden
Services for expert advice and
practical help in your garden.
Please telephone 07913814176 for
a prompt response.

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.

Wet room, dining room, lounge and large kitchen. All level ground floor for easy wheelchair access. Pretty cottage garden, summerhouse plus off road parking for two cars.

For bookings apply to:

Chris Kitchen tel. no. 01986 798 764 or write to Bell Green Cottage, Cratfield,
Halesworth, Suffolk, IP19 0BI

VILAGE HALL UPDATE - JULY

“Some sunny day?”

The passing of Dame Vera Lynne had me singing, “We’ll Meet Again”, and contemplating when we might open the Village Hall once more. The conclusion was, ‘I don’t know’ but rather than sport with your intelligence, let me lay out pros and cons.

The village hall is in good shape financially and will survive even a prolonged lock down. The pros for opening can be summed up in the fact that we’d love to put on a party, so everyone can meet on the green outside the hall. However . . .

Most committee members and volunteers are middle-age and upwards and some have people at home to shelter, so the consequences of opening too early have to be taken seriously. Cratfield’s population also has a significant number of older and sheltering people. We are in no haste to take risks.

I and other committee members are listening hard to the government’s directives on the hospitality sector. As the magazine goes to press, there are indications that they are re-assessing the two-metre rule. It looks as though it will be reduced to 1 metre.

While making things easier, this concession does not address the fear many of us have that this virus is still at large. Nobody wants our hall to be the venue that creates a local spike in cases. Scientific opinion also seems to be at odds, with some scientists believing the virus is on its way out while others warn of a winter resurgence.

We are holding out for the possibility – and it is only a possibility – that we might manage an outdoor event at the end of August/beginning of September. It would likely be a BBQ, with a bar but requiring all attendees to bring their own non-glass drinking vessel to take home with them afterwards (so volunteers don’t have to wash used glassware) and for people to sit in family groups or small bubbles. Now there’s an image to conjure with, the people of Cratfield floating away across the fields in bubbles. Keeping to established family or friend groups reflects the current rulings on social mixing.

The minute it feels safe to hold such an event, there will be posters around the village and updates on the Cratfield Village Facebook to let you know in good time. We will eventually re-open and the inaugural event will be an all-inclusive ‘thank you’ to everyone for your community spirit during the past weeks.

Meanwhile, keep smiling through.

Natalie Lloyd-Evans

Cratfield Race

While carrying out some research, I came across an article which I thought Cratfield residents may find interesting. This happened 200 years ago in the village.

On July 26th 1820 a remarkable race took place on Cratfield North Green. Peter Smith, a local resident, took part in a race for a small wager. His aim was to run 16 miles in under 2 hours. Peter was a blacksmith and an athletic man. At half past four he commenced his task around a mile long course that had been staked out ready for the race. Lots of bets were placed and at first they were mainly against him being able to achieve his aim. However in less than an hour the odds were even and at the end of twelve miles were in his favour. He ran at a pace of about six and a half miles an hour except for the fifteenth lap which took seven minutes as he wanted to keep some energy in reserve for the last mile. This he managed to do and successfully completed the race in 1 hour and 46 minutes. The race was one of "continued motion, without intermission for rest or refreshment!".

Apparently the gentlemen present gave him a generous reward. Peter's run was a notable achievement as he did not have the benefit of proper running shoes, heart-rate monitor, G.P.S. unit or modern sports nutrition. I wonder if he ran in his working boots or even barefoot.

Sue Askew



Calling all knitters

I have received a request from the St. Nicholas Hospice in Bury St. Edmunds asking for people to knit or crochet small hearts. They are given as a symbol of love in difficult times. They are small enough to fit into your hand. They can be made in any dark colour wool.

If anyone is interested in helping to make some I have the pattern. I have knitted a few, so if I can do it anyone can!!

Please call me for the pattern on 07906509302
Margaret Thompson

D. M. BULLOCK
GENERAL BUILDER

All building work undertaken



Extensions

New Build Renovations

Patios Brickwork

Plastering

Carpentry

Ceramic Tiling

Mobile: 07766 063601

R. Gritton

Professional Decorators

**High Quality, reliable
service for all your
interior and exterior
requirements**

Telephone: 01379

586768

Mobile: 07766 982600

Cratfield Beef



Quality Home Produced Beef

**A large selection of fresh & frozen beef
readily available**

**Come and visit the Cratfield beef stand
at Halesworth produce market every
second Saturday of each month**

A full price list is available on request.

Further details from Lotty 01986

798099

orders@cratfieldbeef.co.uk



- MOT
- Servicing
- Repairs
- Diagnostics
- All makes welcome
- Land Rover Specialists

**All mechanical work guaranteed for 12
months or 12,000 miles**

**Hillcrest Garage, Cratfield Road
Huntingfield Tel: 01986 798668**

PAINTING AND DECORATING INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR

FOR A CONSCIENTIOUS, RELIABLE
SERVICE

23 YEARS EXPERIENCE

PAUL GODDARD

Tel: 01986 784594

paul@pablo101.plus.com

LOCAL SPRING HONEY FOR SALE



1lb JARS £5.50

½ lb JARS £3.00

OR 1 ½ oz TASTER JARS ONLY £1.00

PLEASE CALL ON 07900 187350 RICHARD AT SILVER-
LEYS GREEN

IF YOU ARE SELF ISOLATING, WE ARE HAPPY TO MAKE
LOCAL DELIVERIES FOR YOU TO ENJOY THIS DELICIOUS
HONEY



Pete's

Computer

Services

Reliable, helpful, honest and local!
Assistance, maintenance and repairs.
PC, laptops, tablets and phones.
NO FIX NO FEE.

Tel: 07758076177 or 01986888505
pete@petescomputerservices.co.uk
WEB: petescomputerservices.co.uk



Laxfield Pre-School

Framlingham Road, Laxfield. IP13 8HD
Sessions available 8.30am -3.30pm
term time only for Babies/Children
aged 6mths - 5yrs.
(Funding available subject to criteria).
Please call Lizzie on 01986 798091 or
email
at: office.laxfieldpreschool@gmail.com



Paul's fish supplies

Mobile fishmonger
Door to Door sales
07881 686282
Email : pmg@griffleet7177.plus.com

2020 Mobile Library Dates

Silverleys Green 14.15 -14.3

The Poacher 14.45 – 14.55

Calling every four weeks on Tuesdays:

May 19th, June 16th, July 14th, August 11th, September 8th, October 6th, November 3rd December 1st and 29th

**T.W. Tree and Gardening
Services**

All aspects of tree surgery

Hedges trimmed, rough areas
strimmed, garden rubbish cleared

Tel: 01986 798928

Mob: 07787 753525

BOOTY BUILDERS

LAXFIELD

**For all types of
building work**

Contact Terry

01986 798753

Or 07889 116448

D.C. PATRICK

26 Market Plkace, Halesworth

**YOUR LOCAL NEWSAGENT
NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES
DELIVERED TO YOUR HOME 7 DAYS A
WEEK**

TELEPHONE 01986 875229



Do you hate ironing?

Then let me do it! Reasonable rates, I can
collect and deliver.

Existing customers in Cratfield.

Contact Sue on 07789 041793 or
01986 873 729

NEWFOUNDLAND STORY

I'm quarter Canadian – not a lot of people know that!

My grandfather, Ernest Llewelyn Weight (born 1885), was a priest and part of his early training in those days, apparently, was to be 'sent somewhere': he was asked what he wanted – somewhere in a tropical or a temperate climate. He opted for temperate and got the distinctly chilly Newfoundland. (He probably thought, "You can't get much more temperate than *that!*")

After his Newfoundland spell, his career got off to a meteoric start with a post at St George's Chapel, Windsor – mingling with the Royals – which he promptly threw away by being a rather outspoken man and not knowing when to shut up! He was then exiled to Shalbourne: a village 3 miles from Hungerford, Berkshire, and was vicar there for 35 years. But I digress...

A year before my grandfather died, spurred on by my father, he wrote his memoirs, and his Newfoundland stories are fascinating, telling, for example, of officiating at a wedding, travelling by horse and sleigh and coming back with f

Frostbite!

In 1993, my father found my grandfather's notes (composed in 1965), handwritten in biro and hard to decipher – and he typed them up. We then had a script to follow, as our plan was to go to Newfoundland, following in my grandfather's footsteps.

I can't say that I was mad about going: I was in my mid-thirties, single (ish!) and looking forward to the next lock-in at the local pub (the landlord of which was rumoured to be an ex-chauffeur for the Kray twins, but *that's* another story!) ...but I felt, out of a sense of duty, that I should go to accompany my Dad on tracing his roots. However, as soon as we landed, the holiday transformed from a matter of duty, to a wide-eyed, mind-blowing voyage of discovery, meeting relatives that I never knew I had, and tracing the places where my grandfather had lived and worked between the years 1907-10.

Newfoundland is an island about 400 miles across and is the most easterly portion of Canada: consequently, it has a mixed heritage of mostly English, Irish and French, and the 3 nationalities have a history of fighting over the cod fishing (were these the first cod wars?!)... (Apparently, the fish were so plentiful, you could drop a basket over the side of a boat and haul it straight back in, full of cod!) The Irish accent is still very much in evidence and 'Newfoundland traditional music' is pretty much traditional *Irish* music!

Newfoundland and Labrador, though separated by sea, form a single province. It's cold, and icebergs are a common sight (and the Titanic sank 400 miles south of Newfoundland).

In my grandfather's time on the island, there were hardly any roads: the communities were mostly coastal fishing villages and travel was by boat (or horse and sleigh!)...

There are a wealth of stories and discoveries that I can tell you about

this trip, but I will focus on my favourite story:-

Through networking with distant relatives, my father organised that we were to stay with Ruth. She was a year younger than me and was a cousin of some sort: possibly a second or third cousin, once or several times removed, we weren't terribly sure! She had a great sense of fun and, at times, she was our excellent hostess, organising meet-ups with yet another bewildering batch of relatives, and at other times, allowing Dad and me to do our own thing as we explored the various places where my grandfather lived and worked.

The lady who eventually became my grandmother came from a large family in a place called Bay Roberts. Selina Belle Dawe, egged on by her sisters, proposed to the young parson on February 29th, 1908. He accepted, they married in 1909, and, when they sailed back to the U.K. in 1910, Belle had a baby daughter in her arms. (My father arrived 8 years later, in 1918...)

My father had done a lot of detective work in advance of our 1993 trip, and he had lined up several visits that would help us trace our family history. One was a trip to the Church Archives Office. A curator took us down into a temperature-controlled basement. As we descended, he said, "I'm not supposed to allow you down here... please don't tell the Bishop!"

We told him the years we were interested in and, in no time at all, we were looking at marriage records from the early 1900's... containing my grandfather's original signature!

On another occasion, my father wanted to solve a mystery: my grandfather's notes mentioned the name of the boat that he and Selina Belle sailed on for their honeymoon. It was a coastal steamer called 'The Ethie'... or was it? The writing was unclear. He thought a trip to the Maritime Records Office in St John's would settle the matter.

A receptionist found the correct Lloyd's register for us and we were able to confirm that it was indeed 'The Ethie' that my grandparents sailed on for their honeymoon, way back in 1909.

The lady behind the desk then said, "Would you like to see the ship?" Somewhat surprised, we said "Yes", and she somehow managed to produce some sepia photographs of the steamer. They were rather unspectacular photographs, but amazing to look at, all the same, as they took us to the far reaches of our own family history!

From talking to us, the lady knew the reasons for our visit, and realised the significance of what she was about to tell us. She said, "I think you two gentlemen need to sit down!" She took us to a quiet part of the office where there were some leather armchairs and a sofa. She offered us some coffee. We were bemused. It felt like we were, for some reason, all-of-a-sudden getting VIP treatment!

Naturally, Dad and I were very puzzled, almost a little nervous: what was going to follow? She told us the following story...

All will be revealed in next month's issue.

Andrew Weight

Cratfield Allotment to Rent

Large allotment available for Cratfield residents.



For further details contact the Parish Clerk:

Tel: 01379 855486 or Email: cratfieldpc@gmail.com

Tank Change Limited

Does your Oil Tank need replacing?
We are your local oil tank installer established since 1989 with over 16,000 installations to date

- New oil tank installations, relocations and servicing
- Emergency pump out service available for leaking oil tanks
- Kingspan Titan polyethylene tanks and steel tanks held in stock
- OFTEC registered
- Kingspan Titan Accredited
- Fully insured
- Parish magazine discount
- Free surveys

Tel. 01449 781210
Email: enquiries@tankchange.co.uk
www.tankchange.co.uk



HORSE & GARDEN

The Thoroughfare, Halesworth

01986 873484 open 9 - 5.00 pm

Monday – Saturday

Everything for horse and rider.
Garden supplies, seasonal bulbs,
wellingtons, workwear, country
clothing, gift tokens and much
more

ACORN FOOT HEALTH

Roger C. Griffiths, BSc (Econ), Dip Soc Sci,
PGCE, MCFHP, MAFHP

FOOT HEALTH CONSULTANT

HOME VISITS, CARE HOMES & PRIVATE CLINIC

Verruca treatments, ingrown toenails, calluses,
fungal infection, corns, nail cutting, bunions
and Foot Care for diabetics.

Foot health checks and all nail conditions.

For an appointment

Tel. 01379 384873 Mob. 07724 073328

Email: griffithstwo@aol.com

Some evening appointments available

MAN & MACHINE



LOCAL PLANT & DRIVER HIRE – REASONABLE RATES.

SITE WORKS, DRIVES, AGRICULTURAL, DITCHING, DRAINAGE, HARDCORE
SUPPLIED AND REMOVED, INCLUDING CONCRETE CRUSH.

ALL JOBS UNDERTAKEN. TRACTOR, TRAILER, SITE WASTE REMOVED.

CALL DAVID ABELL FOR QUOTATION; 01986 785132 MOBILE 07966
725001

LAMB MEAT

Welsh Mountain Badger Faced (from the uplands of Cratfield)

Traditional breed and you can taste the difference!



All meat is at present jointed & frozen
Available 1/2, 1/4 lambs or individual cuts

For further details contact tonybateson@live.co.uk

Or Tony & Kerry on

01986 785 274 or

07787 522 313

FRESSINGFIELD STORES

YOUR FRESH AND LOCAL VILLAGE STORE

NEW
'INDEPENDENT'
RANGE OF
OWN BRAND
SPECIAL
VALUE
GOODS



- ★ 3 Weekly Special Offers
- ★ Off-Licence, Dry Cleaning, Gas & Coal
- ★ Open 7 Days a Week until 8pm (Sunday 6pm)

01379 588188

Mace

Dear Friends,

Did you know that our village church is one of eight churches that make up the Four Rivers Benefice. Each year we are expected to raise somewhere in the region of £64,000 no small sum from a population of 3000, not all church goers. It never ceases to amaze me how each year the church is told what is expected of it and the PCCs take a collective gulp and then get on with it. I would like to thank them for their hard work, for their keenness and diligence. In some ways we should all be grateful to them because without them our church buildings would be lost to us. They would be turned into homes, workshops, ruins or demolished completely.

There is something about a church that helps define a community, gives a village an identity. We have some beautiful church buildings in our villages, all of them parish churches that have occupied their spot for hundreds if not nearly a thousand years. Perhaps this is in our minds when we go to church, remembering the countless thousands of people who have entered those doors before us and said their prayers? We look forward to a time when we can once more enter our churches and hold services. Just as we look forward to doing the ordinary things that make life enjoyable and enriched.

Hope is born from faith, faith in the future, faith that things will improve, for some it is faith that God has promised to be with us whatever befalls us. Very soon we will indeed be allowed back into our church as individuals to say private prayers. When you remember those people of the past who entered the church in faith, think of those today who would dearly love to but can't and pray in hope for the future when all will be normal again. If you cannot go to the church, don't worry, spend some quiet time at home, picture the church in your mind and use it to focus your thoughts on the future asking for faith to believe all will be well again. We know it will not be the same but the hope is it will be safe once more to hug and interact with friends and family. Look out for the notice outside the church for opening times but do remember the rules on hygiene and social distancing.

We are so blessed with the buildings that have been passed on to us. They are our responsibility, not only to keep but to use. Discover your church, use it, focus on it, use it to pray in faith for the future. Our churches are here for the crisis as they have been in the past. Gradually, as the government allows they are showing signs of opening up. Let us work to keep them open and the church will be here when we need it, whatever befalls.

David

Four Rivers Benefice

Sadly we are still not allowed in our parish churches for our usual worship, so we are meeting online on Zoom.

If you would like to join our online Zoom services, simply send your email address to Chrissie at christinesmart@aol.com and we will send you instructions, a link and a service sheet.

July Services – Everyone welcome!

Wednesday 1st July 8pm Celtic Prayer
Friday 3rd July 9am Celtic Prayer

Sunday 5th July 10am Family Service
Wednesday 8th July 8pm Celtic Prayer
Friday 10th July 9am Celtic Prayer

Sunday 12th July 10am Holy Communion
Wednesday 15th July 8pm Celtic Prayer
Friday 17th July 9am Celtic Prayer

Sunday 19th July 10am Family Service
Wednesday 22nd July 8pm Celtic Prayer
Friday 24th July 9am Celtic Prayer

Sunday 26th July 10am Holy Communion
Wednesday 29th July 8pm Celtic Prayer
Friday 31st July 9am Celtic Prayer

We hope to see you online and look forward to the time that we can meet back in our churches.

Reverend David

Prayers can now be said inside St. Mary's. Regular prayers will be said for the Parish of Cratfield.

If you or anyone in your family needs prayer, please contact me in confidence - Margaret Thompson 07906509303

DIRECTORY:

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

Local officers:

Church Rev. David Burrell		01986 798 136
---------------------------	--	---------------

'The Vicarage, Noyes Avenue, Laxfield

theparsnips@googlemail.com

Church Wardens:

Andy Edmunds		01986 798523
--------------	--	--------------

Lay Elder for Cratfield - Margaret Thompson		07906 509302
---	--	--------------

Parish Council - Lotty Barbour		01986 798099
--------------------------------	--	--------------

PC Clerk Sally Chapman		01379 855486
------------------------	--	--------------

PC Website	www.cratfield.onesuffolk.net	
------------	--	--

Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator - Nick Eade		01986 798725
--	--	--------------

Village Hall:

Chair Person - Natalie Lloyd-Evans		01986 798790
------------------------------------	--	--------------

Vice Chair - Richard Turberville		01986 798346
----------------------------------	--	--------------

Bookings - Jo Nunn		01986 799181
--------------------	--	--------------

Laxfield School Head of School- Mrs Minns		01986 798344
---	--	--------------

Nova Group - Heather Hargood		01986 798180
------------------------------	--	--------------

Magazine Editors:

Sue Eade, Cranes Cottage, Cratfield, IP19 0BN		01986 798725
---	--	--------------

suecratmag@aol.com

Treasurer - Graham Nixey		07748 907099
--------------------------	--	--------------

Production Manager -

Peter Sparrow, 2 The Street, Cratfield, IP19 0BS		01986 888505
--	--	--------------

peter-sparrow@outlook.com

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, Graham or Peter for more information