

# CRATFIELD NEWS

*June 2020*



Last month we published an article on the Covid 19 virus, unfortunately I omitted to name the author. The article was provided by Anne Bedford. My apologies to Anne.

The following item was submitted by Peter Oakes, a young man who used to live at No. 1 The Street.

### **Cratfield Bus Services** – a brief history of three routes

#### **Route 100** Fressingfield – Saxstead – Ipswich

In 1992 Riches Coaches (based in Stradbroke) started up and operated the above route. The service changed hands when Riches Coaches ceased operating in 2004. It wasn't until 2010 some eighteen years later when an Ipswich bus service was introduced to the village. This was short lived as the route was withdrawn in 2011.

#### **Route 498** Harleston – Halesworth – Harleston

In 1996 a route was formed to link the villages to the towns. The route had a selection of operators including Simonds, Anglia Bus and Weylands (both have ceased operating). In order to get from Fressingfield to Silverleys Green (approximately 3 miles) the bus would travel via Stradbroke and Laxfield. However in 2000 a direct route was taken from Fressingfield. I believe this route was withdrawn in 2010, an impressive fourteen years later.

#### **Route F2** Laxfield – Cratfield – Harleston

In 1974 Foreline, a bus company set up in Wingfield which is still running today, launched their second route as shown above to offer transport to Harleston. The route was withdrawn in 1977 due to poor passenger usage.

All information has been collected from timetable books I own. If anyone would like a copy of the timetable(s) please email me on [oakespeter71@gmail.com](mailto:oakespeter71@gmail.com)

This month's issue is full of contributions from members of the village, many thanks to them all. Please keep them coming!

## THANK YOU

Firstly to Ian and Margaret for ringing the church bells on V.E. Day (and for same every Thursday evening at 8pm), secondly to Lottie and Katie for their idea of putting the flag on the playing field gate and starting the list of those whom we remember for the part they played in saving our country in WWII. It was moving to see the list keep on growing as family members and friends were remembered and their work and sacrifice applauded.

There was plenty of patriotic bunting to be seen around the village and a good many thankful celebratory tea-parties taking place around the village despite the lock-down.

Another thank you goes to Andy Barringer for the massive amount of work he has been doing in the village hall. When we finally get back to using it we will all be able to appreciate his efforts, a lot of which took place in the confines of a hideously packed and untidy store-room and a disgustingly dirty shed!

Thank you all.

Sue (Ed.)

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## THANK YOU (2)

Thank you to those of you who have already purchased sweet peas from the stall at Box Bush Cottage or the Long House. All profits from the sales go to St. Elizabeth's Hospice. Last year I sold them at work, but with COVID restrictions this avenue is closed so your support is greatly appreciated.

As you may be aware the hospice is a cause close to my heart having seen their amazing level of care. Their fund raising has been curtailed with the COVID restrictions so I hope (providing we soon get some rain!) to be selling flowers throughout the summer to support their fund raising efforts.

Clive Mobbs

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## **Desperate Measures in another tropical paradise**

In 1965, aged 22 and in my first “proper job,” I was serving as a watch-keeping officer and diving officer in the frigate HMS *Rothsay*. She was a member of the West Indies Squadron (The “Yellow Birds”). In those days, though sadly no longer, we kept a permanent guard ship, usually for 9 months at a stretch, in the Caribbean. Operationally we were there to assist the many small islands in post hurricane repair, to intercept the growing trade in drug smuggling from Colombia and to intercept and rescue the “boat people” fleeing Fidel Castro’s Cuba, before they were carried off in the very strong Gulf Stream as it swept past the foot of Florida. Socially we played a lot of cricket and learned to pace ourselves in a culture where rum and coke was a common currency and great social stamina was needed in visiting what were then still outposts of the former British colonial empire.

We went to visit an island called Cayman Brac. The smallest of the three Cayman Islands, it is basically a coral reef covered in sand, with palm trees and small huts inhabited by about 2000 people. Its great attractions were exotic flowers, toucans and a unique species of parrot called the Brac Parrot. Most of the men were merchant seamen, and were usually away at sea for long stretches, so that the normal day-to-day ratio of women to men on the island was 7 to 1; some of them were wives and some, happily, were not, although which was which I never found out.

We anchored off the island and went ashore for a formal lunch with the Administrator. During the course of lunch, our Captain mentioned that he planned to sail at 8 pm. The Administrator was aghast. He turned pale and almost choked. When he had recovered, he said “Captain, you can’t. The ladies of this island have been preparing for this visit for 6 months. They have been making dresses and we have a dance with a seafood buffet tonight. Can you imagine my position if there is

no dance and several hundred angry women? I am afraid you must stay and do your duty Captain.” There was a hurried whispered conversation between the Captain, the First Lieutenant and the Navigating Officer. “Well, Sir,” said the Captain, “I can see that this demands desperate measures. I could stay until 8 am and then steam faster to our next patrol, although I have been told to economise on fuel”. The Administrator visibly relaxed. “I have always believed that the Navy lived up to Nelson’s famous signal – England expects that every man will do his duty. I am glad, and very relieved, to find it is true.”

So we stayed, went to the dance and sufficient of us were fit for the ship to sail the next morning, although the anchor was unusually reluctant to weigh. I think it was because it was snagged in the coral but there were other explanations offered. I am happy to say that I have no memories of the dance itself and if I had, they would remain a closely guarded secret.

## Jeremy Blackham



MICHAEL OLIVER

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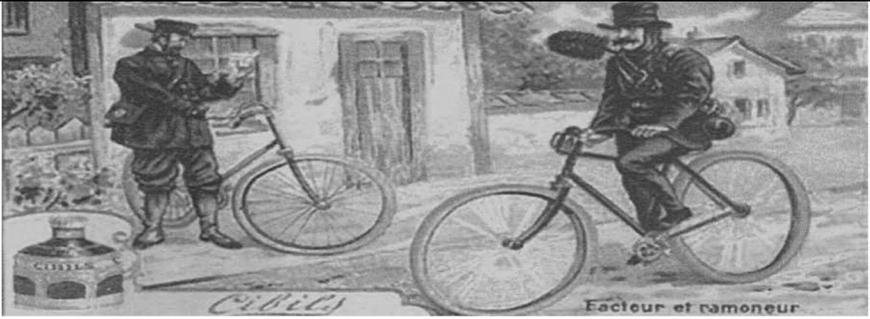
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I cannot be the only person who, in these long and fine late spring days, with many of the man-made noises much reduced, thinks that I can hear more bird song than usual. Not just the signature sound of Cratfield which for me is the cooing of doves in Bell Green, but many birds I have never really heard properly before. Candy says it is because I am using my hearing aid at last, but I think it is because of the huge reduction in car and aeroplane noise. An unexpected benefit and gift of the lockdown.

Edward Thomas, was another fine and poet of the countryside, sadly killed during the First World War. He used to note and record such things in his gentle poetry and perhaps especially in one of his best known poems, Adlestrop, a small village near Moreton-in-Marsh where the train still sometimes stops “unwontedly” at the disused station on its way from London to Worcester and Hereford. His poem may ring a few bells in June 2020 Cratfield.

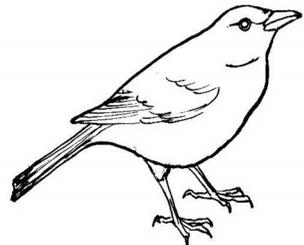
Yes. I remember Adlestrop—  
The name, because one afternoon  
Of heat the express-train drew up there  
Unwontedly. It was late June.

The steam hissed. Someone cleared his throat.  
No one left and no one came  
On the bare platform. What I saw  
Was Adlestrop—only the name

And willows, willow-herb, and grass,  
And meadowsweet, and haycocks dry,  
No whit less still and lonely fair  
Than the high cloudlets in the sky.

And for that minute a blackbird sang  
Close by, and round him, mistier,  
Farther and farther, all the birds  
Of Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire.

**Jeremy Blackham**



## RECIPE

During this time of quiet and isolation the evening meal has become a more important point in the day and I thought I would share a cookery writer I enjoy, and a recipe which uses store cupboard food.

**Yotam Ottolenghi** is an imaginative chef and writer from Israel, now resident in the UK. He has written a number of cookery books and the recipe below is taken from 'Jerusalem', co-authored with Sami Tamimi. When you have a glut of pears, Ottolenghi has a fabulous recipe for pears poached in white wine with cardamom!

### **BARLEY RISOTTO (serves 4-6)**

200g pearl barley – rinse and leave to drain

Put the following ingredients in a large pan and cook til soft:

30g butter

90ml olive oil

2 small celery stalks, sliced

2 small onions, sliced

4 cloves of garlic, chopped/sliced

Add the following ingredients to the pan; stir to combine, bring to the boil, and then simmer very gently for c.45 minutes. Just watch to ensure it doesn't stick to the pan or boil completely dry:

Barley (as above)

4 sprigs of thyme (or dried thyme)

½ tsp paprika

1 bay leaf (or more if you like the taste!)

A large curl of lemon rind

¼ tsp chilli powder

400g tin of tomatoes

300ml passata (or similar)

Salt to taste

700ml vegetable stock (or other stock, or water)

The original recipe then adds caraway seeds and feta cheese to serve. I use fresh chopped oregano and crème fraiche, although mint and yoghurt will also work.

Candy Blackham

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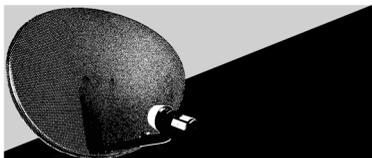
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## Village Hall Update – June

Although all events, talks, pop up pubs and clubs are postponed for the moment, the committee have used the 'down time' to carry out some long overdue jobs at the Village Hall. The shed was pressure washed (apologies to anyone who anyone who witnessed me looking like the incredible hulk - alas lacking the muscles – but covered head to toe in a decade of tree slime, bird poo and grime) after drying out for a week it was treated to two coats of preservative stain – which has led to a lot of people enquiring if we had a new shed installed! The inside of the shed was emptied – ten years plus of cobwebs, mouse poo and many mouse nests swept away and everything put back in order. The internal store cupboard was also emptied, cleaned out and re arranged for better access to everything. You may have been aware of two filing cabinets in the committee room – these have now been re sited into the store cupboard to provide more space during the pop up pub nights. A large number of drop files were purchased and all paperwork sorted through – from 1926 to present day, minutes, AGM minutes, receipts, grant applications, planning permissions, receipts, invoices, plans, events and so on – a fascinating social history of a small village. When the original committee was formed back in 1926 - before the hall was built - it was suggested the men to women ratio be 2:1 on the committee and they should be 'gentle' women and only with their husband or father / guardian's permission to be on the committee!

Alongside the acoustic panels being fitted we are also pleased to announce we are recipients of a stunning and beautiful piece of local art which has now been hung at the village hall and we look forward to a small unveiling ceremony at the first event when it is safe to do so. (or very very large unveiling ceremony if it coincides with the first pop up pub night after lock down!)

### 75 years ago....

Having waded through all the documents and filed them, I thought you might like snap shot of activities at the Village Hall during the Second World War – these extracts are taken from the Village Hall committee meeting minutes books;

#### **From November 27th 1939**

'to have social and whist drives alternately for troops comfort funds. Mrs Hammond, Miss Taylor, Mrs Sillett to be collectors for troops comfort fund.'

#### **From October 15th 1940**

'The Village Hall Committee held a meeting on the above date to discuss the running of the hall in wartime conditions.'

'the pianist be taken to and from dances by car'

'to have two socials to one whist drive to raise funds for forces comfort fund'

'admission = 6d members / 9d non-members / 4d - any wearing His Majesty's uniform'

#### **From May 29th 1941**

Under maintenance 'make 3 detachable blackout screens for windows (2 for Hall and 1 for Kitchen)'

#### **From January 30th 1942**

'A social be held to raise funds for the Lord Lieutenant's war comfort fund – entrance for all, one shilling'

#### **From October 21st 1942**

'either of the two pianists to play at dances with £1 being the limit to pay for their services'

'the committee all agreed to raise funds for the prisoners of war fund. Mrs Shel Drake and Mrs Keeble were appointed to make collections from house to house between Nov 5th and 12th and two dances to be held for the same fund'

#### **From January 25th 1943**

'If required for the W.V.S the charge to be 7/6 for the evening. In future the Home Guard will pay 4/6 per night while firing and lights are required & 2/6 during the summer months'

### **From Sept 3rd 1943**

'Whist and social events - Miss Winnie Vincent to be pianist for The Russian Fund'  
'It was also agreed that the Home Nursing Ladies have the hall free of charge for nursing lectures'

### **PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION**

While on lock down – if you have been looking through / sorting out any of your photos over the past year that fall into any of the below categories don't forget you can enter them into the Photographic Competition – Suffolk Transport / Black & White Cratfield / Suffolk Skylines and the fun category Suffolk Seaside

### **100 club**

For anyone new to the village or who has not taken part before, the 100 Club is a great hassle free way to raise money and also win – look out for the entrance forms in the magazine when things begin to return to normal (whenever and however that might be!)

A 100 club is a type of private lottery – subscribers buy numbered tickets which are entered into a monthly draw with 3 cash prizes of £15, £10 and £5 each month – it is drawn by the NOVA ladies luncheon group (formally Cratfield & Huntingfield W.I) after the cash prizes given to ticket holders the balance is used to purchase items to enhance, update or improve the village hall. The 100 Club ia £1 a month to enter, you can pay annually or six monthly.

We are in our 10<sup>th</sup> year of the 100 club and over the years the 100 Club has provided funds for the following:

July 2010 – June 2011 - Decorating inside of Village Hall

July 2011 – June 2012 - Dishwasher

July 2012 – June 2013 - Wooden Tree Seat

July 2013 – June 2014 - Picnic Bench

July 2014 – June 2015 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Picnic Bench

July 2015 – June 2016 - Replacement taps and new water heater Ladies Toilet

July 2016 – June 2017 - Renovation and painting outside of Village Hall

July 2017 – June 2018 - Projector

July 2018 – June 2019 -Not yet decided by Village Hall Committee- new Committee Room Flooring or re-varnish suggested

Please note - July 2019 – June 2020 April, May, June draws are on hold for the moment. Renewal of memberships is due 1<sup>st</sup> July this is also on hold. Any suggestions to improve our Village, please place in Vine Cottage post box.

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## The Prince and the Housework

Just after the midpoint of the last century, eons ago it seems now, a Prince was born. He did not know he was a Prince and people could not tell he was a Prince as his family was far from rich. He did not seem to live in a palace, just an ordinary little house. The little house was ordinary in every way but one. In one special way it really was a palace, and a magic palace at that. For the house he lived in had a very special quality, no matter what happened, it was always sparkling clean, orderly, and tidy. The Prince would thoughtlessly discard dirty clothes and they would magically reappear later, pressed and folded in their usual place in drawer or cupboard. His childhood toys and later the objects he owned as a teenager, dropped and discarded where he had finished with them, returned themselves by magic to their cupboards. When he was hungry food was conjured out of thin air and appeared on the table. When he had finished eating, he got down and went out to play. Later he would return. The table was cleared, and plates and cutlery had been magically transported to the place they lived – not that the Prince ever bothered to take notice of all this. He was, after all, a Prince.

The Prince in the story, of course, was me. And my story is common to many men of my vintage. My mother was a typical old school respectable working-class woman. They did not have much but what they did have was kept clean and tidy. They took a pride in the little they had and made the most of it. Outside the world was dirty and problematic but inside things were clean and orderly. She was, like most women of her type, quick to judge people who did not live up to those standards.

I tend, even now, unless I am careful, to see every home I go into through my mother's eyes and make judgements. She would be unimpressed with well-chosen artworks, well stocked bookshelves and kitchens stuffed with well used exotic cookbooks, with classic iron pans hanging on the walls, and encyclopaedic ranges of spices and herbs Her hawkish vision would ruthlessly seek out dirt, grease and stains and paid no heed to culture. What she looked for above all was something that was 'nice and clean'.

The irony is, of course, that being brought up in a clean and tidy house where I did not lift a finger has left me with an inveterate tendency to be messy. Because I grew up as a working-class Prince my default position has always been to neglect household chores in the unspoken expectation that mother will do them for me. You may be unsurprised to discover that this has been pointed out to me repeatedly and quite forcibly, over the years.

I like order, tidiness, and cleanliness. I value housework. As a retiree with a wife who works I want to take the housework in hand. My intentions are good. Even though I grew up as a respectable working-class Prince I am doing my best to improve when it comes to housework. My wife tells me that I am trying ...very trying.

**Nigel Cousins**

On V. E. Day Paul Marfleet pinned a couple of his father's poems onto the barn outside his house. The idea was that anyone walking or cycling by might pause to read them.

Here is one of the poems which he feels reflects, to some extent, the concept of our determination in adversity and so could apply to our current situation as well as all those years ago.



#### **6th June '44**

In full and golden summer see  
A flower astir, an English rose,  
Among the struggling Fleur-de-Lys,  
After long winter snows.  
And though in soft selected reds,  
Red mirrored from the roses glow,  
Poppies will lean above the heads  
Of those who sleep below,  
See how St. George's gentle bloom.  
That breathes the peace of other dawns,  
Shows that, to guard this sweet perfume,  
The rose puts forth its thorns.



Gerry Marfleet  
India 1944



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#### **HELP!**

Have you got any time on your hands!?! Looking for another job to do?  
Have you got a strimmer?  
The PCC of St. Mary's, and the rest of the village I'm sure, would be delighted if you could do a little strimming at the roadside of the church parking area. You would not need to rake up that can be done later.  
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## The things kid say – part 1

When our twins were quite young, they were a bit fussy about food. We tried lots of variations but eventually came to the conclusion that our son would not eat any dairy produce ( he just did not like it – no allergies or intolerance) whilst our daughter had an interesting relationship with sausages. Some days she would only eat the outer 'rounded' bits and sometimes only the 'inner' bits. On some days pieces with skin on were acceptable, but on other days only non-skin pieces would do. Kids! Spam fritters (yes really) always worked, as did fish fingers and pasta. We were never quite sure what to serve with them though!

We thought we had made a breakthrough when our son announced one day that he wanted roller beans with his fritters. We were somewhat perplexed by his request but duly served baked beans. “No,” he cried, “I want roller beans.” Over the next two or three weeks we tried every bean variation we could think of. French beans, butter beans, broad beans, dwarf beans, runner beans, haricot beans – even black-eyed beans. No good. Every attempt was met with a cry of anguish, “No, I want roller beans!”

We finally accepted defeat and stopped trying to source rare forms of bean.

It was about three weeks later that the twins tea was cooked and served – very simple; sausages (middles and ends) and a generous helping of garden peas. A look of pure contentment and pleasure appeared on our son's face as he surveyed the peas on his plate.

“Ah!” he said with great relish, “Roller beans!”



Paul Marfleet

## The Rectory, Noyes Avenue, Laxfield

Corona virus has changed all our lives some for the worse and some for the better. This time last year we lived in a different world. I think the virus has done two things for our world, first, it has taught us that we do not own this world and we are not in control of it. We are subject to it and all our attempts at reigning in nature have ended in disaster or at the very best are temporary. This tiny, nano size virus has brought our version of the world to a grinding halt and I hope we have all taken time to reflect on what this might be telling us. Our hubris has led us to believe we are indestructible but we are not. People have died, many have fallen sick, and we do not know if our economies will recover. Human society has taken a bashing.

Yes, it has but we have discovered heroes living among us as well, heroes who are prepared to sacrifice themselves for the well-being of others and we all know who these people are, to them I say thank you. This leads me on nicely to the second thing that has happened to our world; Corona virus has done all these horrible things but it has brought out the best in us as well. Communities have pulled together, neighbours are looking out for one another, (and I don't mean those living next door), but those living in our communities. For example, Bedfield held a wonderful scarecrow festival, not to raise money but simply to celebrate Bedfield and its people and recognise VE Day. Laxfield's Covid 19 support group will be looking into creating a permanent Good Neighbour group. Church has carried on through the marvel of zoom and it has been wonderful how those living in different parishes have discovered new people and have worshipped with one another. I hope and pray we do not lose some of the good things that have come out of this.

All through these last few weeks I have been upheld by prayer and knowing we are doing God's work by fulfilling the one great edict he has given to us. Love one another, not for gain or duty but because we simply want to care.

Love one another with pure heart perfectly.

David

If anybody wishes to join the services held on zoom they need to contact Chrissie Smart by email [christinesmart@aol.com](mailto:christinesmart@aol.com)

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

If you feel in need, or if anyone in your family needs prayer, please, in confidence, contact Margaret Thompson on 07906 509303.

Or leave a prayer request in the box at the back of the church.

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	Stradbroke	01379 384 220

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'The Vicarage, Noyes Avenue, Laxfield

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

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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 - 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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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, Graham or Peter for more information