

DIRECTORY:

Police: PCSO 3195 Julie Hinton phone 101, ask for her by name.

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—Bob Stratford 01986 798143

Village Hall:
Chair Person - Rebecca Sannick 01986 799006
Vice Chair - Richard Turberville 01986 798346
Bookings - Jo Nunn 01986 799181
Painting Club - Mick Chave 01986 798771
Laxfield School Act. Head Teacher - Mrs Hammond 01986 798344
Nova Group - Heather Hargood 01986 798180

Magazine Editors:
Sue Eade, Cranes Cottage, Cratfield, IP19 0BN 01986 798725
suecratmag@aol.com
Treasurer - Geoff Moore 01379 588024
Production Manager -
Peter Sparrow, 2 The Street, Cratfield, IP19 0BS 01986 798472
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.

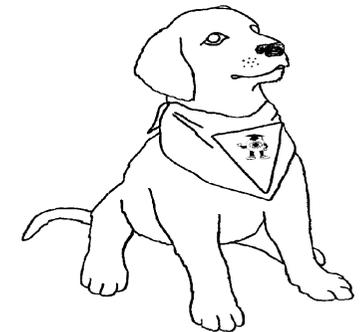
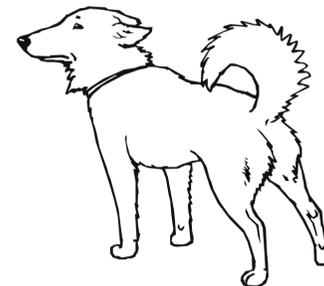
Please contact Sue, Geoff, Molly or Peter for more information

CRATFIELD NEWS

May 2017

CRATFIELD DOG SHOW

MAY 7th



WELCOME

A very warm welcome to Josh and Barney Potter who have moved into Woodside Cottage. We hope they will enjoy life and work in Cratfield.

CONDOLENCES

Our very sincere sympathies go to Tim Harvey, David, Esther and families on the sad loss of Gillian who died on April 11th. Gillian was a much respected member of the village who for many years lived at Coppings, a home she and Tim loved dearly. Gillian's passion was history, she researched the history of Cratfield and left us with a village archive, many items of interest from this have been published in the Cratfield News. Gillian will always be remembered and sadly missed.

NATIONAL GARDENS SCHEME OPEN GARDENS – APPLEACRE

This year we are again opening the garden to visitors on Sunday 28th May from 11.00am to 5.00pm and greatly appreciated the help of villagers in previous years in providing us with cakes for the teas. Again this year all contributions will be greatly received. All the proceeds go to worthwhile causes including both Macmillan and Marie Curie Nurses. The NGS only spends 17p in the pound on administration and advertising, allowing it to donate 83p to the charities it supports, one of the best records as charities go.

Tim and Naomi Shaw

CRATFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting dates 2017

Tuesday 9th May 2017 APM & AGM 7.15pm

Tuesday 11th July 2017 7.15pm

Agendas (3 days before meeting) can be found on the noticeboard and website:-

www.cratfield.onesuffolk.net

Planning meetings are arranged as and when required.

All parishioners welcome

ST. MARY'S CHURCH - MAY SERVICES

SUNDAY 14th	SUNDAY 21st	SUNDAY 28th
6.30pm Evensong DB	9.30am Holy Communion DB	8.00am Holy Communion DB
Reader R. Dix	Reader P. Baker	Reader E. Cook
Sidesperson A. Edmonds	Sidesperson A. Edmonds	Sidesperson D. Peacock
Acts 7:55-60 1 Peter 2:2-10 John 14:1-14	Acts 17:22-31 1 Peter 3:13-22 John 14:15-21	Acts 1:6-14 1 Peter 4:12-14 John 17:1-11

If you cannot fulfill these requirements please contact Margaret Thompson

News from St. Mary's

Thank you to everyone who came along to the Community Walk on a beautiful, sunny afternoon in April.

Watch this space for the next date.

Crane Lodge, Bickers Hill, Laxfield, IP13 8DP

Telephone: 01986-798901

May 2017

Dear Friends,

On the 8th May, we celebrate the feast of Julian of Norwich. Julian was an anchoress, that is, someone who had withdrawn from the sinful world and lived in a cell; this action probably quarantined her from the plague and so saved her life. During her 74 years, she wrote a great deal, particularly about sin, a subject which has caused many great debates. One of the questions I am often asked is what is sin? A very good question, to which many have offered answers.

Sin is what separates us from God and it is that 'distancing' which is the main characteristic of a sin. But sin does perform a function, Julian wrote that sin was necessary because it brings people to self-knowledge, which leads to acceptance of the role of God in their life. The more we are aware of our sinfulness, the more we are aware of God and the self-inflicted gulf between Him and us.

So, what constitutes a sin? We should avoid all but the obvious guidelines; Studying the books of the Old Testament, you can see that that is exactly what the writers were trying to do: establish a comprehensive list of do's and don'ts that we should live by. But the problem with that is the philosophy that says, 'if the law doesn't say that this action is a sin, then it must be okay'. Many live their lives by believing that if they keep within the law of the land, then they are a good Christian, which is far from true. The two commandments that Jesus gave us are far more exacting – to love God and love one another.

A saying often quoted in the media goes along these lines: if something seems too good to be true, then it probably is too good to be true. Similarly, with sin, if something doesn't feel right – then it isn't. The problem then comes when we try to override that still small voice within us with reason and logic, very often initiated out of our own self-interest in trying to delude ourselves that we are doing nothing wrong. Listen to that voice within and as Julian said: we should trust in God, whose compassionate love is always given to us.

With my prayers and best wishes,

Ron

EAST ANGLIA AIR AMBULANCE

Thank you to the small number of people who came along to the informative talk given by a representative of the Air Ambulance, a vital service to our community.

£130.00 was donated on the evening

EAST AFRICA FAMINE APPEAL COFFEE MORNING

'Together we are stronger'.

A really special thank you to everyone who supported the coffee morning. Thank you to all the cake bakers, stallholders and much needed helpers, and to everyone who came along and had a cup of coffee. Together we raised £420.00 and that has been sent to 'Tearfund', a Christian charity that works directly in the famine torn areas. It *will* make a difference.

Margaret Thompson

It's quite some time since we printed one of Brenda Thirkettle's poems, here's a short one.

BELL GREEN

On our village green once stood the pound,
Where straying beasts were encircled round.
On our village green once stood the shop,
Where blacksmiths worked with irons hot.

On our village green once stood The Bell,
Where farmers met with tales to tell.
On our village green once stood the pump,
For all to gather round the hump.

On our village green once stood the mill,
Where the corn was ground by the miller's skill.
On our village green once the chapel stood,
Where families gathered to learn of good.

On our village green once stood the school,
Where children played and worked to rule.
Now these meeting places we do deplore
Have gone with our green and are no more.

Press release

For immediate release 15th March 2017

Diabetes care in Suffolk: Do you know your foot health risk?

Healthwatch Suffolk is putting feet in focus with the launch of its latest research report. It has worked closely with a leading clinician to explore the views of local patients about their experiences of accessing diabetic foot care in the county.

Figures from Diabetes UK indicate that over 100 diabetes-related foot amputations occur every week in England. Patients with diabetes should receive an annual foot examination to determine whether their foot sensation is intact and their blood supply to the feet is good but this does not always happen.

Key findings:

- 32% of the respondents stated that they were not told about their risk of developing a diabetic foot problem in the future during their last appointment.
- 43% of respondents were not told what they should do if a new foot problem had developed.
- 28% of respondents said they were not given advice about how to look after their feet.

Three things that people said could be improved about their care:

- Ensuring people are informed about the importance of maintaining foot health and their risk of developing complications.
- Improving the availability of information regarding foot health.
- Offer more regular foot health checks.

An early outcome from the project will see patients across the East of England receiving a new information card following their annual health check. The passport, which will be roughly the size of a bank card, will be carried by patients at all times and include information about what to look for in terms of their foot health and who they should contact if they have concerns.

Andy Yacoub (Chief Executive of Healthwatch Suffolk) said:

“It is clear that people are receiving good care in the county but there is room to improve, particularly with regard to keeping people involved in their care and informed of their foot health risk. It is also important to help people to understand how they can best manage and look after their health as early intervention is linked to the best possible outcomes.

“It is our hope that the findings will be used to improve services in Suffolk and to build on continued developments within local services. Our report includes a number of recommendations and we will ask health leaders to respond formally in due course.”

For more information about this work and how you can make a difference to local NHS and social care services in the county, please visit www.healthwatchsuffolk.co.uk, call 01449 703949 or email info@healthwatchsuffolk.co.uk.

Forthcoming events in Brundish

Brundish Quiz and Social Evening - Brundish Village Hall Saturday 27th May @ 7.00pm.

Quiz nights are back at Brundish with wine and food. Why not make up a table with a team of 4 (£5 each, £20 a table) to include food, wine is available to purchase separately, or bring the drink of your choice, (tea and coffee are also available).

Please call Diane Palmer on 01728 628696 to book.

Join us for a very special evening of musical entertainment by two of the region's top independent artists -

**Father and Daughter
Il Tenore and Forest
17th June 2017**

Il Tenore is one of UK's fastest rising classical crossover artists
Forest is one of London's emerging and exciting young musical artists
Venue St. Lawrence's Church, Brundish
Ticket price £10.00 a head, bring a cushion
Further details from Chrissie Smart 01728 627838

A service in Commemoration of Luther's Reformation in 1517 6.30pm Sunday 2nd July 2017 at St. Lawrence's Church, Brundish

It has been 500 years since the first stirrings of change emanated in Europe to present an alternative way of worshipping to Catholicism. Therefore to mark this Brundish Church is in the midst of arranging A Service in Commemoration of Luther's Reformation in 1517. Among the hymns and prayers sung during the evening, there will be choral music from the Chantry Singers and Players: Bach Motet 'O Jesus Christ, Meins Lebens Licht. Also celebrated local soprano Lyndsay Gowers will sing Bach's Cantata 51 – Jauchzet Gott accompanied by an invited ensemble of musicians. We are hoping to invite a guest preacher for the evening as well, adding to what will be a very enjoyable and uplifting service. Light refreshments will be served afterwards. Please put this date in your diary or calendar.

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

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



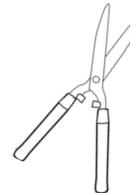
Brian Cole

7, The Street, Cratfield,
Halesworth, Suffolk IP19 0BS

Tel: 01986 798503 Mobile:
07770768209

Garden machinery repairs

Shears sharpened



**AFFORDABLE
HANDYMAN
HOME + GARDEN**



**RELIABLE, TRUSTWORTHY
EXCELLENT REFERENCES
CALL PETER
01379 668436**

OLIVER AND SALLY-ANNE GARDENS

Experienced greensman/gardener
RHS qualified gardener
catering for all your gardening
needs.

Based in Cratfield
and offering special local rates
07510 406259
sallyannegardens@gmail.com

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

Pete's Computer Services

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

Tel: 07758076177

pete@petescomputerservices.co.uk

WEB: petescomputerservices.co.uk

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

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

HORSE & GARDEN SUPPLIES

The Thoroughfare, Halesworth
01986 873484 open 9 – 1.00, 2
– 5.00 pm Mon – Sat

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



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

MAN & MACHINE



LOCAL PLANT & DRIVER HIRE – REASONABLE RATES.

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

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

CALL DAVID ABELL FOR QUOTATION; 01986 785132 MOBILE 07966
725001

Paul's fish supplies
 Mobile fishmonger
 Door to Door sales
 07881 686282
 Email : pmg@griffleet7177.plus.com

♈ ♉ ♊ ♋

Astrologer Elizabeth Hills

Astrology is an ancient self-diagnostic tool; one's unique birth chart provides personal direction, timings & insight

Clients are seen at the Harmony Centre, Walpole

Mobile: 07765 861871
 Website: www.awayintwoworlds.co.uk

Christmas Lane
 Metfield, Harleston
 Suffolk IP20 0JZ

METFIELD GARAGE
 & Service Station

Tel: 01379 586219

Michael Glaysher

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.

Laxfield Pre-School Group
 (Framlingham Road, Laxfield IP13 8HD)

Rewarded 'Outstanding' for the third consecutive time.

Sessions available between 8.30am -3.30pm for children aged 2-5yrs. Funding is available subject to criteria. Please call Lizzie on 01986 798091 or email at manager.laxfieldpreschool@outlook.com

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

Cratfield Cattery

For cats on holiday in a rural retreat

- Spacious chalets
- Vaccinated cats only
- Utmost care and attention given
- 10% discount to Cratfield residents

Call Rebecca 01986 799006/07879 400113



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)

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

**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

Fiona Patrick's Therapies

Relax & Unwind

Holistic Massage - Back Massage

Hot Stone Massage - Indian Head Massage

Body Scrubs - Body Wraps

www.fp-therapies.co.uk

Fully Qualified & Insured

Give me a call - I am only in BRUNDISH

01379 388458 or e-mail

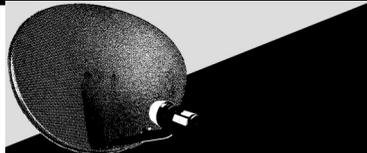
Fiona@fp-therapies.co.uk

**BOOTY BUILDERS
LAXFIELD**

**For all types of
building work**

**Contact Terry
01986 798753**

Or 07889 116448



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

D.C. PATRICK

26 Market Place, 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

**Our Move to Cratfield
(A Poacher's Tale)**

WELL MEANING FRIEND: Never heard of it? What's it called?

ME: Cratfield. No. There isn't a **P** in the middle. It's a **T**. C-R-A-T-F-I-E-L-D.

WELL MEANING FRIEND: You say there's no shop and no pub. Sounds deadly.

ME: Since we've moved we've met so many friendly people. There are coffee mornings, pie and mash nights and there was an Italian Evening. There's a Dog Show on May 7th and a Posh Bric- a- Brac sale. So much classier than just any old Bric -a -Brac you know. And there's a pop up pub on the first Friday of the month. There's the countryside, the walks, the places to visit. Our cottage and garden are so lovely. And we can't wait for the Cratfield Horticultural Show on August 5th.

WELL MEANING FRIEND: I still can't understand why you think you are going to like living out there.

ME: Let me put it another way. In London, we got our eggs from Tesco Metro or the corner shop. Nine times out of ten they were disappointingly stale. A sure sign of a tired stale egg is an egg white that spreads out as it cooks. Often as not poached eggs had disappointingly anaemic yolks and limp, slimy egg whites. Here you get eggs fresh from hens. Drop them into water on a rolling boil and they keep a firm, dynamic tear drop shape. The yolks are golden and the gloriously compact white sings out freshness. Every poached egg in Cratfield is a perfect egg if you cook it right. Now can you see why we think we are going to like it here?

Nigel Cousins

2017 MOBILE LIBRARY DATES

Silverleys Green 14.15-14.35
The Poacher 14.45-15.00

Calling every four weeks on Tuesdays:

23rd May, 20th June, 18th July, 15th August, 12th September, 10th October, 7th November, 5th December

Spring Term Report - All Saints Primary School

The Spring term is always welcome as it heralds the better weather and the opportunities for the pupils to learn and play outdoors more comfortably. The school garden is coming to life. Pupils are so pleased when the vegetables they have planted begin to sprout. As in previous years, we are taking part in the 'Grow Your Own Potatoes' scheme and look forward to our harvest. We have two different varieties of potato growing and will be able to compare the yield and the taste. Less edible, but very pleasing to the eye you may have noticed the mass of purple crocus' growing along the path to our front door. These were kindly donated by Rotary as part of their 'End Polio Now' campaign. For the Summer term we welcome Miss Cable, who is taking over the role of helping the pupils learn about growing, and thank Mrs Titchiner for all her work, guiding us since our Smith and Ward garden began. Educational visits this term have seen Class 1 heading off to Norwich Castle to find out what life was like for those who lived in a castle. Class 2 have been to Bury St Edmunds Cathedral finding out more about parables through art, music, story-telling and in the fabric of the Cathedral itself. Class 4 have travelled to Sutton Hoo to discover more about the Anglo Saxons, including taking part in an archaeological dig. Class 3 will be going to the Suffolk Show and also to see *Fantastic Mr Fox* at Norwich Theatre Royal in the early part of next term. We are proud to report that fourteen of our talented artists were successful in the Young Arts East Anglia competition with two (Niamh and Georgie) being given the highest award. Well done to all of them - a brilliant achievement. Their work was exhibited in the Peter Pears gallery in Aldeburgh. World Book Day on March 2nd saw many amazing book characters arriving at school. You may have seen our photograph in the EADT. Our learning that day was based on the stories written by David Walliams. The school council, led by Mrs Harvey, organised a fun, but meaningful Red Nose Day on Friday March 24th. The red nose hunt was great fun and our parents and carers baked the most delicious cakes (I had to try one didn't I?). On Tuesday 28th March the pupils took part in 'Experiencing Easter'. This was a really meaningful way for them to understand what Easter is all about for Christians. Thank you to the organisers and storytellers from the church and chapel for giving the pupils this opportunity to explore the story in this way and for all the hard work in creating the different tableaux outside the church and the chapel. I would especially like to thank Liz Hammond and Di Wingfield for being the organisers. I hope our 'Palm Sunday' walk down to the church with drums beating and cheering did not disturb too many villagers. The term ended with our Friends of All Saints organising an Easter egg hunt after school. The sun came out, Easter bonnets were worn and it was great fun for all the children searching for eggs. More cakes were baked and eaten (I resisted this time - honestly). One more piece of good news is that we were among 307 schools nationally (out of 26,000) to be sent a letter of congratulations from the Department for Education. This was because we were in the top 3% of all schools to make the most progress from key stage 1 to key stage 2 last academic year - a fantastic achievement, which we were proud to share with our partner school, Stradbroke Primary. We were the only two schools in Suffolk to receive the letter. Well done to the pupils (who are now in year 7), their parents/carers for supporting them and to the teaching staff, especially Miss Havers, our year 6 teacher, who has the difficult job of keeping everyone calm and happy during SATS week.

Lucy Hammond (Mrs) Head of School

forté, netball just about OK, hockey I had always loathed and Volley Ball, I'd barely heard of it, this, coupled with a few hours a week in the pre-prep department, was my remit. Incidentally it turned out that the hockey field was also the field where the horses were turned out so it had to be mucked out by the grooms, not always successfully, before we could use it.

Theophilus taught Maths and Science when he wasn't clearing up after their two un-housetrained dogs, a rather ratty Dachshund and an elderly Great Dane which the girls had to walk in the local park.

Madam taught elocution - the strains of 'mee, mi, maa, moo' uttered by the those poor benighted souls under the tongue lashing of Madam echo in my ears to this day. If this was bad Madam trying to elicit Russian from them was even more traumatic. Detentions were par for the course.

Every morning we staff would gather in Madam's office for a de-brief and to have our black books returned, in these we had to enter any misdemeanours, for instance the wearing of fawn socks for games when they should have been white, not snapping to attention when Madam entered the room or losing property, amongst many other mortal sins. Punishments ranged from standing alone in the dining hall for half an hour, writing lines or learning by heart half of Homer's Iliad or some Russian tract. Having ventured off to classrooms the staff were regularly harangued over the intercom during lesson times. I was somewhat fortunate in that I was left out of these trials as Nick was so capable with her beloved horses she did not want to lose him!

As we lived in, one of my duties was take the older girls into town at the weekend for a little retail therapy, I regularly overlooked the purchase of a can of cider, I felt they needed it in the circumstances. However, the most memorable excursion I made was with the sixth form to see the film '*Romeo and Juliet*', we were studying this at the time. It was a schools only matinée so was completely full; when we walked in the whole cinema erupted with laughter. Why? The uniform - not a coat or gaberdine mac for these young ladies, but a swirling green cloak, not a velour hat or beret, but a brown mortarboard complete with tasse! On our exit I did allow them to conceal the mortarboard under the cloak.



They wished!

There is so much more, the screeching parrot, the black and white clad Spanish servants who came and went with great regularity, one does not have to wonder why. We managed to stick it for a year, but the memories have never faded.

Sue Eade

Would anyone else like to contribute a few words about their earlier life experiences? We'd be delighted to hear from you.

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The hall was crowded for our second Friday night 'pub' which was again supplied by the Huntingfield Arms. Was it a mark of success that the bar ran out?! Next time an extra barrel would be a good idea. Home cooked sausage rolls were available this time, and there will be light snacks available at the next event too. If you haven't been yet, why not give it a try? Everyone is welcome. We hold it on the first Friday night of the month, you can come early or late.

The day before the pub night, there was a well attended gathering when the directors of Fram Broadband told us about their service, now available in Cratfield. Several households are already connected. It was an informative session and I certainly gained more appreciation of how the massive upsurge in broadband usage has affected our speeds. Not everyone in Cratfield can currently access the service provided from the church tower as trees and topography can be an issue, but it was explained that a few yards can make a difference so it's worth asking Fram to give you a survey, to see if you can connect.

So, what's coming up? **The Dog Show on May 7th** is a fun event and you don't need a dog. There is still time to sponsor a class if you wish, and we are in need of raffle prizes and cakes. For the first time there will be a class for **CRATFIELD DOGS**. People are already polishing their pooches and the battle is on. Call Rebecca Sannick whose number is in the back page directory. Mine and Juliette's 'posh' bric-a-brac stall, raising money for Meadow Green dogs at the show, needs items. Call me on 798790, I'm happy to collect.

The recent frosts notwithstanding, there's time to plan something for this year's produce show. For more information on that call Carolyn on 799187

100 CLUB

The results of the April 100 club draw held at Nova are as follows:-

1st Simon Woolward no. 77 £15.00
2nd Paul Taylor no. 68 £10.00
3rd Sue Seabon no. 46 £5.00

Congratulations to the winners.

PANCREATIC CANCER

We would like to say a massive THANK YOU to everyone who baked, gave a raffle or tombola prizes or came along and supported us on the day of our coffee morning in aid of Pancreatic Cancer. We still have some money to come to us, but at the moment we have raised an amazing £1,424.73 plus.

Thanks again, Jo and Sandra.

NB

Due to unforeseen circumstances there will not be a May Bank Holiday Barn Sale at Church Farm this year.

More random tips from '**Life's Little Instruction Book**'

Wear out, don't rust out.
Don't delay in acting on a good idea. Chances are someone else has just thought of it, too. Success comes to the one that acts first.
Avoid negative people.
Be tough-minded, but tender-hearted.
Be wary of people who tell you how honest they are.