

# CRATFIELD NEWS

May 2019



## **NATIONAL GARDENS SCHEME – OPEN GARDENS** **APPLEACRE**

After a gap of a year we are again opening the garden to visitors on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May from 11.00am to 5.00pm. We greatly appreciated the help from 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.

Naomi and Tim Shaw

### **RECOLLECTIONS**

Further to Sue Seabon's piece in last month's magazine she was wondering whether anyone has any recollections or reminiscences about their barn or cottage in Manse Lane, now called Bell Corner, but previously called Bell Green Cottage, Bell Green Farm. If so please contact Sue on 798617.

### **CRATFIELD HOUSES**

Each month for several years the cover of Cratfield News bore a drawing of one of Cratfield's houses.

These drawings were the work of Mick Chave. The Parish Council has arranged for good copies of them to be collected into a presentation file and placed in St. Mary's Church, as both an historical record and in recognition of Mick's work.

The church has placed them close to the decorative appliquéd hanging of Cratfield houses made by Sue Eade. They are available for everyone to see and that will include the many visitors the church has from people who have historical or family connections with the village.

The original artwork for these drawings, together with copies of the Cratfield News over several decades, which contain many of Mick Chave's illustrations, are preserved as archive material by Laxfield and District Museum.

Peter Baker

## **A NEW SIGN**

There are times when folk in Cratfield ask the question, “Where is the Millennium Meadow?”

Now there is a very smart new sign which should leave people in no doubt as to where it is.

The decision to commission the sign was made by the Parish Council and the work has been done superbly by Dan Elford. If you haven't already done so, please go and see the sign and use the meadow.

## **Free NHS Health Checks provided by OneLife Suffolk at Laxfield Village Hall**

Each year, NHS Health Checks can prevent 1,600 heart attacks, prevent 4,000 people from developing diabetes and save 650 lives.

The NHS health Check is a national screening programme which supported locally by the OneLife Suffolk team. The check calculates your risk of developing cardiovascular disease such as heart disease, stroke and diabetes. A range of tests, including a blood pressure and cholesterol check (don't panic, it's just a prick blood test) form part of the check and the results provide a clearer picture of your health.

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The friendly OneLife Suffolk team will be delivering the NHS Health Checks from 10.30am – 4.00pm at Laxfield Village Hall, The Link, Laxfield, IP13 8DY on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May**.

To book your appointment simply call OneLife Suffolk'd Client Services Team on **01473 718193**  
or email [info@onelifesuffolk.co.uk](mailto:info@onelifesuffolk.co.uk)

## **Cratfield 100 Club**

Held at Nova:-

1<sup>st</sup> Michael Hargood No. 22 £15.00

2<sup>nd</sup> Robert Sannick No. 49 £10.00

3<sup>rd</sup> Pat Chave No. 51 £5.00

Congratulations to the winners.

The 100 Club recently purchased a projector for use in the Village Hall.

Application/renewal forms are enclosed in this month's magazine.

## **Cratfield Photographic Competition**

Are you taking your season's photos for the competition? Here are May's tips for a fine photo. They come from keen amateur Andy Leonard from Ellon in Scotland (did you see his stunning photo of a stag silhouetted against a giant full moon - published in the Times newspaper?)

Catch the late spring/early summer colours in the landscape. The fresh greens and early bright flowers present a great landscape opportunity. Remember though that when the sun is high in the sky there are big contrasts between sunny places and shadows – cameras struggle to cope with this. The best time is the golden hour – shortly after dawn and before sunset when the sun is low in the sky, the light has a yellowy glow that can really make colours in the landscape 'pop'. Look for leading lines to draw the viewers' eyes into the picture.

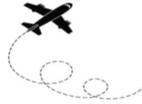
## **Points of View Photography Exhibition**

Thank you to all who came to the exhibition and gave generously to the charities, Dementia Carers and Macmillan. A total of £288.74 was raised. More on the show next month.

## **Mindlessness**

We hear a lot about mindfulness these days, but unfortunately there was some mindlessness in the village recently. The appliquéd banner for the dog show which is hanging on the rails at the village hall has been scrawled on in ink. Why? A lot of work went into the making of the banner, why oh why deface it? Mindlessness, thoughtlessness, badness?

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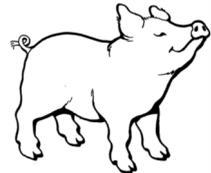
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*Dog Show*



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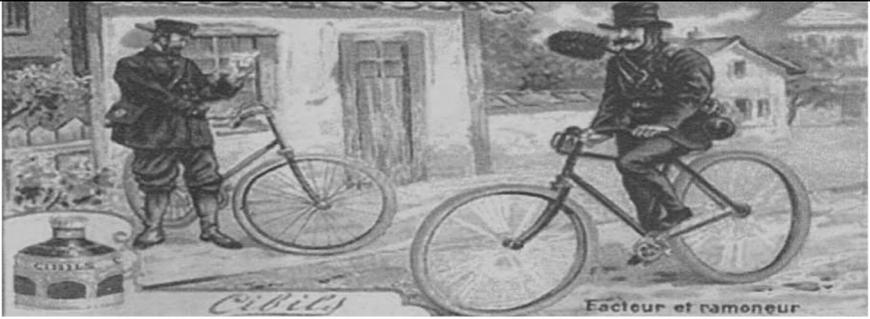
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## Cross Meadow

Walk a few fields up from our little cottage, which is one of the last ones before you leave Cratfield on the way to Diss, and you will find yourself in Cross Meadow. It is one of that endangered species – the wildflower meadow - once found all over the countryside and now quite rare. Over the years, numbers of these meadows have decreased by 97%, causing a drastic fall in biodiversity.

Cross Meadow stands out dramatically on our walks because of its variety of plants and insects. There are

gorgeous butterflies: commas, gatekeepers, graylings, meadow browns, ringlets, common blues, red admirals, painted ladies and peacocks. There have been large whites, green veined whites and small whites. We have spotted orange tips and brimstones. We have been buzzed by honey bees, bumble bees and dragonflies.

During the growing season the shifting surface of the meadow is an iridescent haze of natural colour. In February the primroses begin. March sees blackthorn and speedwell start to flower. April ushers in ground ivy, cow parsley, cowslips, ribwort plantain, common mouse-ear, buttercups and bush vetch. In May come field scabious, hay rattle, red campion, dandelions, ground elder, red clover, white clover and black medick. June is the time for the dog rose, the bee orchid, ox-eye daisies, scarlet pimpernels, bird's foot, trefoil, yellow melilot, yellow meadow vetchling, self-heal and zigzag clover. In July come the mouse ear hawkweed and brown knapweed and you might even glimpse a pyramidal orchid. The meadow flowers all the way till the hay is cut.



The meadow is a remarkable feature of our lovely landscape. It is an oasis of natural diversity which did not arise by chance, but is the creation of local farmer John Horsman. John says that if anyone wants to know how to go about making a wildflower meadow, he will give them his recipe. Take a small arable field and sow it with grass seed. Do not include any clover. Use no pesticides. Mow it late every year – around July 31<sup>st</sup> – remove the cuttings and sell what you mow for hay and silage. The secret of a wildflower meadow is to degrade and impoverish the soil.

Wildflowers flourish in soil starved of nutrients. If you do all the above and wait for twenty years you will have your wildflower meadow.

The recipe must be fine-tuned to include some spot spraying to remove creeping thistle and sowthistle and hand roguing for the complete removal of ragwort. Ragwort is poisonous to most livestock. They will resist eating it if it is growing in the field, but if it is present in hay or silage, they cannot detect it and they may eat it with unfortunate results.

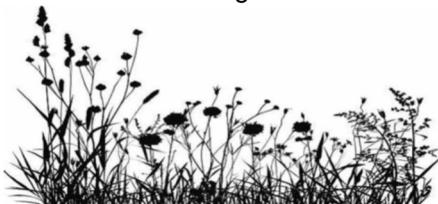
Anyone can enjoy Cross Meadow just by walking through it - though visitors are asked not to leave the footpath during the growing season or



until the hay is cut and baled.

John created the meadow because he did not want to sit in a treeless plain watching crops growing. He wanted to be surrounded by beauty. Anyone who sees it would agree that he has succeeded and that the twenty years it took to reach maturity were worth the wait.

The future is bright because over the next five years John is participating in a Countryside Stewardship Scheme where he will use no pesticides and no artificial fertiliser on his land and will grow bird friendly and insect friendly crops, bringing more soil back to life again.



**Nigel Cousins**

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## **THANK YOU ROBERT**

Earlier this year Robert Sannick resigned from the village hall committee after almost a decade of support and service. We were all very sad to see him leave, but at the same time know that he deserves his retirement. He gave over and beyond what might be expected of any committee member. Robert has been the 'stealth' presence behind the hall's thriving position in the village, doing a large number of unseen and practical jobs, from mending leaks to emergency roof repairs, putting out the bin on collection day, helping to set up the big events such as the dog show and being an important part of the monthly pop-up pub. Not least, he was a strong support to Rebecca during her chairmanship. Robert assures us that he will still be around, in the background helping out, but is now enjoying catching up with jobs and interests at home. We all wish him well in his future endeavours, though we know he isn't a man to put his feet up.

Natalie Lloyd- Evans



## VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Village Hall Lighting – if you have visited any of the recent events you will have noticed secondary lighting in the form of up-lighters around the edge of the hall and the committee room. This has been a result of feedback from users of the hall over the past few years, as the type of events that the hall is used for has changed over time. Many thanks to Dennis Rockall who persisted with getting companies out to quote and who has project managed this update of the hall – many mornings spent hanging around for 'no-shows', chasing quotes and arranging access for the company that carried out the works – it is very much appreciated and the committee has had lots of positive feedback already.

Another example of how funds raised from events at the Hall are used has been an investment in kitchen equipment – previously when events and functions were carried out the committee ended up bringing a lot of kitchen equipment along themselves. A new range of pans, knives, serving equipment and chopping boards is now in place in the kitchen – however, this means that the committee no longer get to play 'saucepan bingo' or 'whose spatula is this?' at the end of an evening!

Acoustic Night 2 – Many thanks to everyone that came to the second acoustic night – it was another fantastic evening and it was great to see so many attend from both near and far. Following all the feedback (from both the performers and visitors) we are looking at making this a regular event in the calendar. Thanks also to Caroline Marfleet and Natalie Lloyd-Evans for running the bar and keeping the drinks flowing and to all the volunteers who helped clear up and which enabled the Hall to be ready the next day for another user.

Volunteers – you don't need to be on the committee to help out at any of the events. If you have some spare time and are happy to assist in any way – such as setting out a few table and chairs, helping pack away or taking some tea-towels home to wash please do contact Natalie on 798 790 – volunteering is great way to meet new people in the village.

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April -Westminster Abbey and Canterbury Cathedral – their stone skeletons. By the time this magazine is on your doormat, the first of the Village Hall talks this time by the speaker John Burton (MBE) who is the first surveyor since Henry Yevley in the 1390s to concurrently care for both Westminster Abbey and Canterbury Cathedral will have taken place. More on this in the next issue, but please keep your eye out for the next talk scheduled for November. The bar will be open before and after each talk, which will begin at 7 for 7.30pm, free entry with a collection for the Air Ambulance Service.

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May -Pop-Up Bar with food by Cratfield Kitchen  
Many thanks to Lesley and Robert King, Suzannah Ellis and Jo Nunn who helped out behind the bar last month and anyone else 'behind the scenes' – your help is very much appreciated!  
First orders at 6.00pm with last orders at 9.45pm – please note the bar closes at 10.00pm and the hall will close 10.30pm.

### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May – Dog Show

Judging from 10.30am with proceeds to Guide Dogs for the Blind and St. Martin's Trust (the local homeless charity).

There will be a BBQ, refreshments – including a fantastic range of cakes as usual, tea & coffee, ice-cream and raffle.

Popular classes, as before, with 4 pedigree classes and then 17 fun classes including 'best sausage catcher', 'best Cratfield dog', 'Irish pair' (least alike), 'most handsome dog', 'scruffiest dog', 'prettiest eyes' and 'junior handler'.

You don't have to live in the village to attend so please do encourage any family or friends with dogs to come along for a fun day – likewise, if you don't own a 'four-legged friend' then do come along for lunch, tea & cake or the BBQ and watch some of the classes. (If you have anything suitable for the raffle please contact Rebecca on 799 006.

### Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June – Cratfield Gardening Society (please note change of venue)

From Caroline Marfleet – We held our first meeting in the village hall on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April where 11 of us attended the meeting about the Chelsea Physic Garden and garden design.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June and the topic will be propagating, taking cuttings and seed sowing. To save a mess in the village hall the meeting is to be held at Church Farm House, Cratfield from 7-9.0pm. I will supply pots, some compost and suitable plants to take cuttings from, but do bring gardening gloves and secateurs if have them or need them. Any queries please contact Caroline Marfleet by email [marfleets@doctors.org.uk](mailto:marfleets@doctors.org.uk) or phone 01986799048 /07969603509

### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September – Horticultural Show

If you need another schedule or have any queries please do contact Carolyn White on 799187. There are plenty of classes for fruit & vegetables or flower growers of any capability and children can enter any class free of charge this year. If you are thinking of entering but have never had a go before lots of advice on fruit and vegetable growing can be found on the TRH website – you do not need to be an RHS member and this is a free resource –

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/grow-your-own/vegetables>

[www.rhs.org.uk/advice/grow-your-own/fruit](http://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/grow-your-own/fruit)

### Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October – Cratfield Photography Competition

The three categories for the photography competition this year are – **Suffolk Seasons, My Suffolk Week-end, Secret Cratfield and the new fun category – Cratfield Pets.**

All further details to follow.

### Village Hall Committee Meeting – Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June

Starting at the next meeting there will be an 'open forum' from 7.15 to 7.30pm which is for anyone to attend if they have questions about the village hall. Please note only committee members can be present for the meeting after this time.

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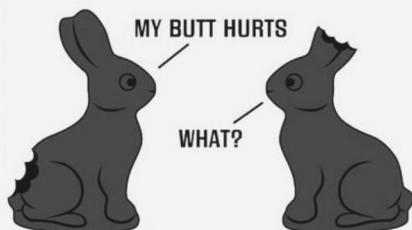
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*So I lay them and you get all the credit?*



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We haven't published one of Brenda Thirkettle's poems for quite a while now, but for the newcomers, Brenda lived in the village in the 80s, I believe she was a teacher. She wrote many poems of life in Cratfield, although I'm not sure she actually witnessed this one!

## THE CRATFIELD MURDER



When day dawned on Silverleys Green  
Horror struck the village scene.  
There Elizabeth Carter was found,  
Brutally murdered on the ground.

Poor old Tom Carter was found inside,  
Not in his chair but where he died.  
Lying sprawled on the cottage floor  
With battered head, near the open door.

This terrible crime took place one night  
When all were indoors and out of sight.  
No-one saw what happened to them,  
No-one heard voices or actions of men.

Just one countryman driving his cart  
Heard a woman shriek, and his pony start.  
He pulled up and spoke to his wife,  
But she thought it was a couple in strife.

To the crossroads this driver drove on,  
A quarter of a mile they must have gone,  
When they saw a man leap over a stile  
And across the fields he hurried awhile.



From this day in seventeen ninety three  
Somewhere a murderer was living free.  
Nineteen years later Thrower was caught  
And then to justice he was brought.



Thrower denied ever going to Cratfield.  
To a confession he would not yield,  
But the jury brought in the verdict  
“Guilty”, and so his life he had to forfeit.

(Murder Oct 16<sup>th</sup> 1793 – the trial of Thomas Thrower March 1812, hanged a week later)

*Laxfield Produce, Craft and Flea Market*  
*Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May 9.30am -12.00midday*

*inside All Saint's Church and in the Royal Oak,  
and outside on Church Plain*

This month the Market falls on the first Bank Holiday in May, so no doubt it will be a busy one, welcoming both locals and visitors to the area to a social, friendly, and entertaining morning in Laxfield.

Well over 30 stalls will be attending, all local and lovely, including delicious preserves, Cratfield beef, free-range pork, local eggs, tasty cakes and pastries, organic veg and even organic make up, children's clothes, goat milk soaps with all sorts of interesting perfumes, fresh flowers, cards, many excellent local crafters, plus vintage and collectible stalls.

There are often new stallholders popping up for the first time – “you never know what you'll come across at a Laxfield Produce, Craft and Flea Market!”

Now the Market starts a little earlier at 9.30am there should be time for customers planning a day out to pop along before setting off on their outings.

Delicious items suitable for picnics can be found (including gluten, dairy free and vegan), and for those doing some serious entertaining over Bank Holiday weekend, plenty of delicious food items will be available from local meats, eggs, veg, cakes and pastries.

Last month lively entertainment with 1940's dancing was provided outside, this month the music moves inside the Church and will be provided by 'Tanglethread'.

Why not sip a cup of tea or coffee in the church and listen to the entertainment, or stop for breakfast, bacon rolls, lunch or liquid refreshment in the Royal Oak?

The Market is so popular there is always a waiting list for indoor stall space, but do contact Catherine Cawood on 01986 798852 for info on availability.

*The Laxfield Produce, Craft and Flea Market welcomes you on the first  
Saturday morning of every month –  
A Suffolk Market run by lovely friendly people -  
looking forward to seeing you there!*

The Rectory, Noyes Avenue, Laxfield

Dear Friends

Rogation days, were at one time an occasion for prayer and fasting, instituted by the Church to appease God's anger at man's transgressions. To ask protection in calamities, and to obtain a good and bountiful harvest. The Rogation Days were round about the sixth Sunday in Easter (this year it is 26<sup>th</sup> May). Rogation came at that time of year when the dawn chorus and beautiful sunrises recall the Resurrection, and, looking about, we cannot escape the beauty of creation in a world of spring bursting with divine Love. There is a freshness in the air, a newness in the sunlight, an awaking of beauty in places one would never seek it. There is an excitement peculiar to spring, as though, watching long enough and quietly enough, we might spy God's hand moving or glimpse His face. It is His personality that impresses upon us in the spring, sensed in the beauty and colour and design of the new blossoms and the activity and sound of a world suddenly come full to life. God is revealing himself to us and there is gladness and joy in knowing the God who created both daffodils and leopards.

Rogation days were an especially happy occasion for a family celebration. We can also take this time to have our own procession to pray for God's blessings on our crops. This is something about which all must have a vital concern. Whether our food comes from our garden or the freezer at the supermarket, someone had to grow it; and before that God had to plant the mystery of life in the seed, or even the most skilful farmer could not make it yield.

The Rogation walk is a good way of reconnecting to the natural world around us. We take the opportunity to thank God for his bounty to ask for his protective love in caring for our efforts and show our faith in giving God praise before the crops have even begun to grow.

If you would like to come on a Rogation walk come to Laxfield 26<sup>th</sup> May, at 11am bring your wellies and we will Rogate together and possibly even end up with a picnic or something. Dogs are welcome.

David

## St. Mary's Church Services – May 2019

Sunday 12th	Sunday 19th	Sunday 26th
6.30pm Evensong AV	9.30am Village Worship Lay Elder	8.00am Holy Communion DB
Sidesperson A.Edmonds	Sidesperson A. Edmonds	Sidesperson D. Peacock
Reader P. Baker	Reader D. Peacock	Reader E. Cook
Acts 9:36-43 Revelation 7:9-17 John 10:22-30	Acts 11:1-18 Revelation 2:1-6 John 13:31-35	Acts 16:9-15 Revelation 21:10,22- 22.5 John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9

## NOTES

The Lenten talks were a great success and very well attended. All four of the talks proved to be both interesting and informative. Manwar Ali gave us an insight into the faith of Islam, Barry Spivak spoke briefly on Judaism then asked for questions so that he could provide the information we were looking for, Joe Hawes the Dean of St. Edmundsbury Cathedral spoke on Church and how it fits into modern day society, and finally three companions from the Emmaus Community in Ditchingham explained how the charity works to provide a home and meaningful employment for people who have been homeless. Everyone left the better for hearing their stories.

# DIRECTORY:

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

## Local officers:

Church Rev. David Burrell		01986 798 136
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'The Vicarage, Noyes Avenue, Laxfield

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

## Church Wardens:

Andy Edmunds		01986 798523
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Lay Elder for Cratfield - Margaret Thompson		07906 509302
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Parish Council - Lotty Barbour		01986 798099
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PC Clerk Sally Chapman		01379 855486
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PC Website	<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 Hammond		01986 798344
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Nova Group - Heather Hargood		01986 798180
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## Magazine Editors:

Sue Eade, Cranes Cottage, Cratfield, IP19 0BN		01986 798725
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[suecratmag@aol.com](mailto:suecratmag@aol.com)

Treasurer - Geoff Moore		01379 588024
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Production Manager -

Peter Sparrow, 2 The Street, Cratfield, IP19 0BS		01986 888505
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[peter-sparrow@outlook.com](mailto:peter-sparrow@outlook.com)

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, Geoff, Molly or Peter for more information