

CRATFIELD NEWS

April 2024



CONCERTS AT CRATFIELD 2024

Concerts at Cratfield is a summer highlight for many people who often travel quite long distances to hear some of the best British and European artists play in the wonderful surroundings of Cratfield Church. The musicians all speak highly of the church's acoustic, attentive audiences – and especially the wonderful cakes! The concerts are an important source of funds for the church, including 10% off ticket sales (in excess of £1600 last year) plus the income from the refreshments.

Last year was one of our most successful seasons for many years, with about 95% of tickets sold and several sold out performances. This year's season starts on June 30th. We have an exciting programme and will announce the new season and open booking soon after publication of this newsletter. We'll again be offering free tickets to under 25s and unsold tickets on the day at a reduced price to Cratfield residents.

Keep an eye on our website <https://concertsatcratfield.org/> and if you are adventurous you can also follow us on Twitter / X @cratfieldmusic

Better still, sign up to our mailing list and be the first to know what's going on; either via our website or by contacting the Membership Secretary, Marilyn Reeves on cratfieldinquiries1@gmail.com

Finally, please join us for two concerts we're putting on soon at The Cut in Halesworth to celebrate and encourage young artists. On April 21, classical accordionist Ryan Corbett - a BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artist, Royal Overseas League Gold Medal Winner and Classic FM Rising Star 2024 - is performing an hour long concert at 3pm; and on Sunday May 12, the Melos Saxophone Quartet made up of graduates and students from Guildhall School of Music & Drama will be playing an exciting and lively programme. (See poster on Church notice board)

Tickets cost just £15 and you can get them by clicking on the button on the front page of our website www.concertsatcratfield.org or by calling Steve at the Box Office on 0300 303 3211 / email: boxoffice@thecut.org.uk
We're looking forward to seeing you there and in Cratfield at the end of June.

Jonathan Birt
Chairman, Concerts at Cratfield
concertsatcratfield@hotmail.com

CAN YOU HELP?

We're also looking for someone to act as Concert Manager on Sundays to help set up in the morning and put everything back after the concerts. This will be a paid role and you can contact me or our Treasurer Graham Ingham (cratfieldtreasurer@gmail.com) for details.

CRATFIELD COMPANION DOG SHOW
SUNDAY 12TH MAY



! CLASSES FOR ALL SHAPES AND SIZES !

PEDIGREE JUDGING BEGINS - 10.30AM
FUN CLASSES START - 1PM

**BBQ - RAFFLE - TEA/COFFEE - CAKES - BAR - ICE
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SCHEDULE ON VILLAGE HALL NOTICE BOARD
& VILLAGE FACEBOOK



Kagera - Tanzania

Bwana asifiwe - (Swahili for “Praise the Lord “– the regular greeting throughout my stay in Africa) What an adventure I had during my trip to the Kagera region of Tanzania in February. The journey, the people I travelled with and the people I met, so much to tell and maybe some time I can find an occasion to share all this with you in more detail.

During the trip we bounced our way through the hills of NE Tanzania visiting towns and villages in one of the country's poorest regions. Kagera is named after the river that forms the borders with Rwanda and Burundi both of which have had their own fair share of war and civil unrest over the past forty years which has often resulted in refugees pouring into the Kagera region putting its weak local economy under even more pressure.

My overall impression was of communities and local leadership with a plan and the drive to improve their lot, with relatively little in the way of resources, but not letting that stop them getting started – in fact that is what their motto has been. In recent years it was “We have a plan – lets get started.” Now they have moved on to “We have started– lets make progress” – which they are doing, but, as I mentioned, with comparatively few resources progress can some times be frustratingly slow until some quite basic things are in place – clean and reliable water sources, universal education and access to quite basic health care for example.

Against this background communities are also facing problems associated with climate change without the systemic resilience to ride the wave of rapid weather changes. Most farming in Kagera was at a subsistence level and few people have reserves to see them through difficult times or to make the next step towards sustainable prosperity even within the context of their quite basic expectations.

Amongst the highlights of the trip were travelling into the remote hills of NE Tanzania to meet rural communities and join in the worship at their churches – a very different experience from church in Suffolk, shadowing the hospital chaplain at Murgwanza district hospital and spending time with Thomas Shavu, a local community development

manager who promotes sustainable agricultural and secure water supply projects.

There were also culinary delights to savour – notably the boiled goats head (complete with grinning teeth and eyeballs) that we had served to us as honoured guests in one remote hill town. The fried chicken was not much better depending if you ended up with the head complete with beak or the feet complete with toe nails. Some times it was best not to think about which part of what animal you had just been presented with and I have to admit to being “vegetarian” when ever I could without insulting our hosts.

Yours,

Clive

PS Not quite as adventurous as the Kagera Trip but over the next few months I will be on placement in Oulton Broad as part of my continuing ministerial training. I will still be living in Cratfield but may not be as present in our community as frequently, as I will be joining the ministry team in Oulton Broad for at least two weeks of each month.

Spring Village Walk – Provisional Date

We hope to hold another Village walk at 2.45pm on Sunday 28th April starting from St. Mary’s Church. If you have not joined us for the walk before then do come along as it is a great way to meet people. Our route usually allows for a shorter and longer walk depending on your stamina and we end up back at the church around 4.00pm for tea and cake. You are welcome to come for the tea and cake if for any reason you do not wish to walk.

No need to book, but if you want further details or to offer cake contact Clive 07349838639

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Cllr Richard Chivers Tel: 07900 187350 - Silverleys Green collection



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ICS

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A quiz for April

(all answers begin with A)

1. A purple precious stone.
2. Which boys name would come first if they were listed alphabetically.
3. A termite eating nocturnal mammal.
4. Unaccompanied choral music.
5. A wading bird with an upturned bill.
6. A newt like amphibian found in Mexican lakes.
7. A closed recess in the wall of a church.
8. The star-shaped symbol used to mark words for reference.
9. Scene of ultimate or large scale conflict.
10. A botanical tree garden.
11. A place where bees are kept
12. A disease of sheep and cattle transmissible to man.
13. A study of mankind.
14. In the year of Our Lord.
15. The transposition of letters of a word to form a new word.
16. An animal living both on land and in water.
17. Deposit of earth, sand etc. left by a flood, especially in a river.
18. The first letter of the Greek alphabet.
19. Lymphatic tissue between the back of the nose and the throat.
20. The capital city of Ethiopia.

Answers on page 10.



Look where you are going

After our visit to Karachi, Nottingham was programmed to carry out the annual live firing of our Sea Dart missile, basically to ensure that the system was working correctly. To do this we had embarked a small team from the UK who would operate pilotless target aircraft, commonly known as PTAs, from our deck for us to shoot at as they approached us from about 100 miles. It was not a supersonic target of course, although its small size and radar echo made it a challenge to detect and engage in good time, and it could manoeuvre unpredictably so it was a reasonable test of the system. Our missile had a maximum range of around 45 miles at a speed of around Mach 2.¹ Obviously the further away we could engage a target, the better for us and any ships we were escorting.

In order to conduct a live firing, we required a “Clear range” – a large zone of sea and air out to over 70 miles and up to about 60,000 ft free of other ships and aircraft. It was a laborious task, using our own radars and our Lynx helicopter to establish this. To assist us, it was (and doubtless still is) the normal procedure to issue a “Notice to Airmen” warning them all of this exercise. Pilots were supposed to check all relevant NOTAMs before filing a flight plan. This we had duly done. However, as is well known, “You can take a horse to the water, but you can’t make it drink.....”

We duly launched our target and it was flown well out of our sight both visual and radar. When we had completely lost track of it, I asked the PTA controller to bring it in – quite a tense moment. As it approached, we acquired it on our search radar, transferred it to the much more accurate fire control radar and finally to our missile control radar and did all our pre-firing checks – all in a minute or so. I was just about to authorise firing, when we suddenly detected a large slow aircraft chugging right through the middle of the area we had so carefully NOTAM-ed. I immediately ordered “Check fire,” and since we had now had a live missile on the launcher we had to ensure we were continuously pointing the launcher in a safe direction.

We called this aircraft on “Guard”, the emergency radio frequency and it turned out to be a large US Air Force transport aircraft flying from their base in the British island of Diego Garcia to Bahrain, on a routine flight. I warned them that they were flying in a NOTAM-ed danger area, and it transpired that they neither enquired about nor seen any NOTAMs before setting off. So they had no idea they were in a well-publicised temporary danger area. We had, shall I say, a slightly icy exchange (I had wasted a bit of public money on a “non-firing run”) and they said they were sorry, cheerily wished us “Good day, y’all” and chugged on their way. We had to recover the PTA (out of fuel) and start all over again with another. I am pleased to say that this time it was a successful run, we got our missile away, shot down the target and almost

felt that we had shot down the “enemy”. By good fortune (or, I would claim, great alertness), we had not shot down a real live friend, although I wasn’t feeling too friendly towards our great ally for a while after that. It was the only live missile we fired whilst I was in command, but it did give me the confidence that the engineering and operations team I had knew what they were doing, and everything would work properly if it were ever required. Sadly, because at the time I was exercising command from the operations room, deep in the bowels of the ship, I didn’t have the pleasure and excitement of seeing the missile actually fired, although I certainly heard it, and its exhaust burnt off some of our smart paintwork, which we had to repair.

Then it was back to the Gulf and to our Armilla Patrol. At least I was able to vent my slight frustration by running our newly installed Olympus engine up to full power and “throwing it about a bit” to make sure that worked too.

Jeremy Blackham

1. Mach 2 = twice the speed of sound

Answers to Quiz

1. Amethyst 2. Aaron 3. Aardvark 4. A cappella 5. Avocet 6. Axolotl
7. Aumbry 8. Asterisk 9. Armageddon 10. Arboretum 11. Apiary
12. Anthrax 13. Anthropology 14. Anno Domini 15. Anagram
16. Amphibian 17. Alluvium 18. Alpha 19. Adenoids 20. Addis Ababa

A LITTLE STORY

This is a story about four people called Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure Somebody would do it.

Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it.

Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody’s job.

Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realised that Everybody wouldn’t do it.

It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done!

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VILLAGE HALL UPDATE – APRIL

PIE & PUD

A huge thank you to everyone who came along to support the village hall. As the volunteers (Robert, Natalie, Jo, Richard & Derek) washed up late into the night afterwards we talked about how lovely it was to be able to put on such an event that brings a wide range of the community together over food. Thank you to everyone who came along – and a massive round of applause for everyone ‘behind the scenes’ who enabled this event to happen.

POP UP PUB – FRIDAY 5th APRIL / 3RD MAY – DOORS OPEN 6PM

Why not relax on the first Friday of each month and pop along for a drink and a bite to eat – what could be better than no cooking – and no washing up!?! Doors open 6pm, with food by Cratfield Kitchen. Keep an eye on the village Facebook page for the menu – usually announced the Monday before.

As you know, Judith and the team from Cratfield Kitchen cannot cater for some of the summer months due to Fire & Feast being in such demand at the height of the season – so we have sorted a wide range of other offers for your tastebuds.....

June – Pizza Night / July – Creole night / August – BBQ / September– Oli’s Mexican Night

CRATFIELD VILLAGE HALL 100 CLUB – APRIL

The April 2024 Cratfield Village Hall 100 Club winners are - 1st prize (£15) number 32, Carolyn White / 2nd prize (£10) number 58, Andrew Barringer; and 3rd prize (£5) number 44, Caroline Marfleet. Drawn by D Britton (who can attest to the fairness of the proceedings!). Congratulations to the winners!

INDOOR BOWLS – ALTERNATE TUESDAYS

The dates for 2024 are - Apr 2 & 16 & 30 / May 28 / June 11 & 25 / July 23 / Aug 6 & 20 / Sept 3 & 17 / Oct 1 & 15 & 29 / Nov 26 / Dec 10. Do come along and have a go – no experience required – all good fun! Tea & Coffee available and there is a suggested donation of £2 to play.

Any queries please contact Nigel 07445351861 or Elliott 07963676207.

CRATFIELD DOG SHOW – SUNDAY 12TH MAY

The schedule is now on the Village Facebook Page and on the Village Hall Notice Board. Please also see the advert elsewhere in the magazine for more information. Pedigree class judging starts at 10.30am and the fun classes start around 1pm – with 16 fun classes to pick from. Even if you do not have a dog – come along for the entertainment – ‘Best Sausage Catcher’ is always a good one!

TABLE TOP & CAR BOOT SALE – SATURDAY 22ND JUNE

We are looking at holding a 'Table Top & Car Boot Sale on Saturday 22nd June (with Richard's big Breakfast bap's again) Places will be limited to 10 tables inside and 10 car pitches outside and are £10 each. Register your interest / reserve a place now via cratfieldvillagehall@gmail.com

'FROM LONDON TO KATHMANDU ON A DOUBLE DECKER BUS'

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Come along and hear about a journey made in the mid 1980's from Central London to Kathmandu on a Double Decker Bus (yes, really!) A wide range of photos, maps, menus and some very tall tales will cover this once in a lifetime journey. Book now via cratfieldvillagehall@gmail.com – places are limited so book early.

CRATFIELD PHOTOGRAPHIC – FRIDAY 11TH – SATURDAY 12TH OCTOBER

Who can enter? Anyone – yes anyone! You do not need to be a professional photographer or have professional equipment to take part. Over the years, many winning photos have been taken on phones and tablets – it is just £1 a photo and children can enter for FREE!

What sizes can I enter? Ensure your printed photos are either 6"x 8" or 8"x 12" – and photos can be portrait or landscape – and black and white or colour.

How do I enter? Entry forms will come out in the August Magazine. Ensure your printed photos are either 6"x 8" or 8"x 12" and submit them with the payment details and entry form to the address on the form. To ensure the competition is judged fairly please only submit the stated sizes and please do not submit any mounted photographs

I have some photos to enter, how do I get them printed? There are a number of online sites you can upload your photos to (Photobox, Snapfish Boots Photo etc)

What are the categories again? Cratfield Hobbies / Suffolk Street Scenes / All Suffolk Creatures Great & Small

VILLAGE HALL FOR HIRE

Don't forget our hall is available for hire for a very reasonable price – with a discounted rate for villagers. For enquiries, please contact us on cratfieldvillagehall@gmail.com or Robert King on 01986 798975

CRATFIELD VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE MEETINGS – 7.00pm

Thursday 9th May / Thursday 8th August / Thursday 21st November (and AGM)

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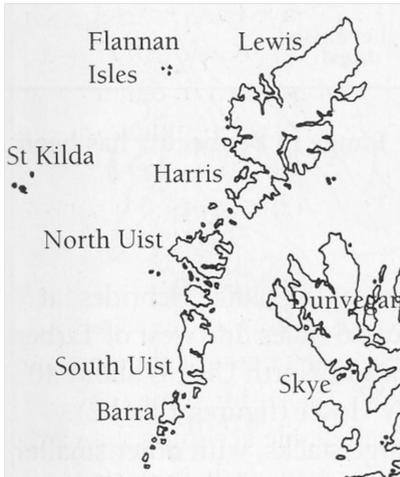
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The Uists, Outer Hebrides: North Uist, Benbecula & South Uist –
Part 2



My journey here took me from Uig in Skye to Lochmaddy, North Uist; there are a number of amenities at this ferry terminal, including the Lochmaddy Hotel (popular with anglers) and a courthouse in case of bad behaviour! The road system is circular around North Uist (35 miles long, linking up mostly fishing communities), then it becomes a single 'spine' through Benbecula and South Uist. High hills and undulating moors lie along the eastern shores of North Uist and these are dotted with numerous lochs, most of which are brimming with trout. The west coast differs, being carpeted with sweet-scented wildflowers (machair) amongst the communities of

crofters. In the hamlet of Carinish, there's a local landmark which is still called 'the Ditch of Blood' after a bloody battle (MacLeods vs MacDonalds) in 1601. Nearby, there's a ruined 13th Century nunnery which was once a seat of learning second only to revered Iona. (It was attended by Duns Scotus (1265 – 1308) who was a renowned scholar of his time, though some of his views proved unpopular with the establishment: thereafter anyone with similarly 'stupid' views was labelled 'dunce'!)

Another North Uist landmark is 'Barpa Langass', a relic from Neolithic times: it's a chambered cairn (or tomb) built in c. 2,000 B.C. Many such tombs are found on Orkney and consist of one or several chambers, usually leading off from a central area, designed to house the remains of a leader and other members of a tribe. The entire tomb was constructed in dry stone and was topped off with a pile of stones which were then usually turfed over. Access is via a tunnel/passageway which faces midwinter sunrise or sunset – though some tombs are of such scale in Orkney that you can literally walk around them: more on this when we 'visit' Orkney. I also visited 'Dun an Sticir', reputed to be the last inhabited Dun (or Fort) in North Uist: it's situated in the middle of a shallow loch, accessible via a rough causeway from stones laid into the loch many centuries ago. Hugh MacDonald was its last inhabitant during 1601-02: he laid claim to part of North Uist and took refuge in the fort to defend himself against the true heir of the lands. However, he was captured and imprisoned in Duntulm Castle on Skye where, it is said, he was fed on salt beef until he died of thirst. It seems, even in those days, the Planning Dept. was out to get you!

At Tigharry, there's a 'spouting cave', where a perpendicular shaft has been worn through: during westerly storms, the Atlantic rollers break with

so much force, the cave spouts water upwards to a height of more than 200 feet. (Whether it is possible to view this without being blown away yourself remains to be seen!) The island of Grimsay (between N.Uist & Benbecula) is the centre of today's fishing industry (mainly lobster) and contains a fine example of a wheelhouse: a prehistoric structure from the Iron Age. Further afield to the S.W., lie the Monach Islands. Uninhabited since 1942, they once had a population peaking at 140 in 1891. Until the 1500s, the channel separating the Monach Isles from the mainland could be forded at low tide – but heavy storms changed the coastline and they're now separated by 8 miles of sea.



There's a lot to see and do in the Uists, but one needs to be a committed 'outdoors person', whether it be walking the miles of pristine white beaches, angling the lochans or exploring ancient structures and ruins. For the birdwatcher (*Twitcher vulgaris binocularis*) the list of unusual birdlife to observe is endless. I made the mistake of organising an over-busy itinerary, meaning that I had to rush my visit to the Outer Hebrides, hurtling around in the car and coming away with the impression that there wasn't much to look at. As I was to learn in future travels, the only way to properly experience an island is to spend several days, or a week there. I would love to return to the Outer Hebrides one day, mingle with crofting families, and listen to stories which are still told today around a peat fire, of Clan feuds and brave warriors - and listen to the lilting strains of Gaelic songs, which

were originally sung to the rhythm of working activities, such as rowing, milking, spinning or working the Harris tweed. ...I'd have to learn Gaelic first though!

Chambered cairn: Neolithic burial tomb

Next month: Going south – Benbecula and South Uist
Andrew Weight

Cratfield Parish Council
Meeting Dates 2023
Cratfield Village Hall

Tuesday 10th January 2023 at 7.30pm
Tuesday 14th March 2023 at 7.30pm
Tuesday 9th May 2023 at 7.30pm
Tuesday 11th July 2023 at 7.30pm
Tuesday 12th September 2023 at 7.30pm
Tuesday 14th November 2023 at 7.30pm

~ *Planning meetings are arranged when required* ~
All Parishioners Welcome!

The agenda is displayed 3 days before the meeting on the noticeboards & website. If you would like to add anything to the agenda please contact the Clerk 7 days before the meeting.

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HELLO Spring

Come and join us for a
Workshop or book in
for supper!

Dates for the diary...

April:

- 21st: Spoon Carving Supper - A relaxed Sunday afternoon with The Woodland Haberdasher and supper made by us.

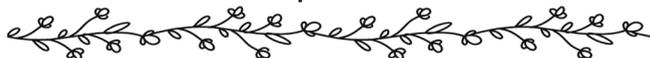
May:

- 18th: Foray & Fire Cooking with Vivia (Sciapod Foray) come and try your hand at foraging and fire cooking.
- 25th/26: Summer Suppers and Brunch Cafe begin

June:

- 8th: Hedgerow Dyeing Workshop - a day long workshop with The Woodland Haberdasher

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Mace

Letter from the Vicar

Hope is a really important part of the life of human beings. With hope all things are possible and even probable. Hope gives people the freedom to act with courage, in the reasonable expectation of good results.....something much needed in the life of the world at the moment. On the other hand, taking away hope from a fellow human being, is probably one of the most cruel things we could possibly do; which is one of the reasons we should be so careful about how we act towards and speak to one another. This doesn't just apply to our local relationships, but also to the relationships people have nationally and internationally. Human beings, wherever they are, need to live in hope if we are to thrive and do well.

We have just had Easter which brings supreme hope for all the world. Because of Jesus, we all have the possibility of having eternal life when we accept him as our Saviour, both now and following the end of our physical existence. Now, that is something to make us hopeful! Jesus is the giver of hope in all things. He shows us the right way to live and the right way to solve our human disagreements. Again, this is important both to us in our personal relationships and across nations. Christians believe Jesus is the way the truth and the life. At a time when the news so often makes us wince in pain, this is something to remember, that all things are possible through Christ if only we will listen to him.

April is a hopeful month in itself, with so much new life all around us. If we ask Jesus in anew, and pray in faith, perhaps it may prove to be the turning point not just for the year, but for the tide in human affairs around the world. This is my prayer for you all and for our beautiful world.

God bless you.

Rev'd Enid

April Church Services

Sunday 14th	Sunday 28th
Acts 3:12-19 1 John 3:1-7 Luke 24:36b-48	Acts 8::26-end 1 John 4:7-end John 15:1-8
9.00am Village Worship CS	9.00am Holy Communion CM
Reader TBA Sidesperson TBA	Reader TBA Sidesperson TBA

April	7th	14th	21st	28th
Bedfield	9.30am Holy Communion CS		10.30am Family Service MP	
Brundish		10.30am Village Worship CS		9.00am Holy Communion CS
Laxfield	10.30am Celtic Service LE	10.30am Morning Praise RO	10.30am Holy Communion CS	10.30am Fourth Sunday FS team CM
Monk Soham		11.00am Morning Prayer RA	11.00am Holy Communion RA	
Tanning- ton	11.00am Holy Communion CS			
Wilby	10.30am Village Worship SP	10.30am Holy Communion CS	10.30am Village Worship SP	10.30am Morning Prayer BCP CS
Worling- worth	Support Tanning- ton	11.00am Let's Celebrate BS	11.00am Holy Communion RO	11.00am Morning Prayer RA

Zoom services Celtic Prayer – 7.00pm Wednesdays, 9.00am Fridays

To join us mail rev.chrissiesmart@gmail.com and you will be sent details

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