

CRATFIELD NEWS

August 2022



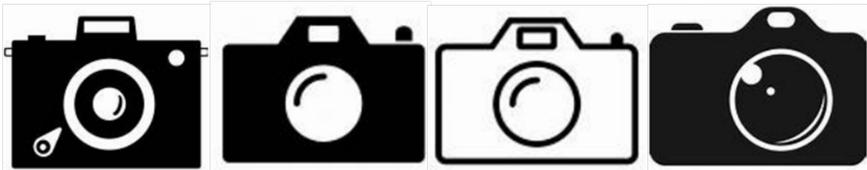
**THE GREAT CRATFIELD
PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION IS BACK!**

SATURDAY 15 OCTOBER / 7 - 9 PM

ENTRY FORM WITHIN THIS MAGAZINE

ENTRY DEADLINE FRIDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER

£1 A PHOTO TO ENTER & CHILDREN ENTER FOR FREE!



WELCOME

A very warm welcome to Lesley and her two lovely, friendly cockapoos Toby and Elsa who have recently moved into one of the Poacher's Cottages. We hope they'll soon settle in and get to know us locals and our dogs.

GARAGE SALE TRAIL

around Fressingfield

SATURDAY AUGUST 13TH

All proceeds to Fressingfield and District Royal British Legion
for more details contact Mervyn Chambers
mervynchambers@yahoo.com

CHURCHYARD CLEARANCE

Our churchyard clearances are always valuable and pleasant working projects, but it is not always easy to round people up. Notices in the magazine are useful, however, if too early, people forget, word of mouth works too, but it's easy to go for days without seeing a soul! So, I wondered if those of you who have helped in the past and anyone else who would like to in the future, but has not yet got around to it, would be happy to be on a mailing list, so that when the time comes I can just contact you in this way. Obviously there is no pressure, if you fee like it at the time and are available all well and good, if you're not, you're not, you may have a better offer! For those who have not helped before we work for as long as we feel like and it is never more than a morning or afternoon. We bring our own equipment, strimmers are very useful, but secateurs, shears, rakes and wheelbarrows are all invaluable. Drink and biscuits are provided.

So, if you'd like to help when possible email me at suecratmag@aol.com

Many thanks, Sue



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY The weekend of **10th and 11th September** *The Companye of Merrie Folke* will be in Laxfield helping Laxfield & District Museum celebrate its 50th anniversary and the Guildhall's 500th (albeit two years down the line). The Companye is a well-respected living history group, which has featured in many TV programmes and films. Younger residents may have seen them in the Horrible History series. There will be a number of different activities during the weekend. A programme will be issued later. The event is FREE.

Just a reminder.

Recently there have been a couple of incidents where people have wanted to submit items for the magazine but they have been a little too late and either the pages have been filled or the magazine has already gone to print. 20th of the month is the absolute deadline, so if you want to be sure of getting something in you can send items any time of the month. Many thanks - Sue

Dry Land Sailor – pro tem.

When I left Ark Royal in August 1973, it turned out to be a watershed both personally and professionally. Firstly, I did the Naval Staff Course at Greenwich, a course designed to prepare one for serving on operational staffs and in the Ministry of Defence, so we were obliged *inter alia* to learn to write those strange, beautifully crafted minutes, beloved of Sir Humphrey in “Yes, Minister”, that finished up recommending nothing of significance that could rebound on the author. Or on his boss. I took rather too easily to this.

Then, in a fit of absent-mindedness my appointer gave me, a newly married officer, two spells ashore and able to live at home¹. The first was 18 months as a teacher of new officer cadets at Dartmouth. Here, I taught boatwork, navigation and general naval subjects, and played a lot of cricket (one of my three greatest loves - after Candy, of course). Dartmouth had changed a lot since I had passed out ten years previously. The regime was less rigorous than in my day, although still pursuing the same goals. Sadly, the training had been shortened, mainly for financial reasons and so it was probably less fun. Many of the “Officers-under-training” were now university graduates. It was an enjoyable, fascinating and rewarding task. The most testing part was teaching Astro-navigation² to the many Iranian cadets who came to Dartmouth at that time. I had practiced this art at sea for ten years but had never really understood it until I started teaching it. For the Iranians, I developed a teaching method based on camels crossing the desert, using imaginary minaret tops as stars, which appealed to them and was anyway very similar to navigating in the vast emptiness of mid-ocean, and we had a lot of fun in our respective languages! Whilst on the Dartmouth Staff, I also started to do an Open University degree in history and philosophy which was to lead to a Masters degree during our first couple of years at Cratfield, and eventually - 30 years later - to an invitation to write and teach a Masters degree course at Kings College London for 13 happy years. Big trees can grow from very small seeds, as my old School song said (only in Latin!)³.

After Dartmouth I was sent to the MoD as the appointer for junior seaman officers – Lieutenants and below. I had around 500 “clients” on my books and was responsible for filling the billets that had to be filled (not all were particularly desirable), developing individual officers’ careers to meet the Navy’s and their individual needs, and meeting their personal preferences. But definitely in that order. Of course, a number of my clients were people I had taught at Dartmouth, now embarking on their real professional careers. I loved following their professional progress and growth. I kept up a lively correspondence with them and with their commanding officers. Some of them developed interesting ways of trying to persuade me to give them the job they wanted. One minesweeper Captain brought his entire officer team (all of whom were my clients) to London to take me out to

lunch! Halfway through lunch, he suddenly realised that he had left no-one in charge of his ship – that cost him brownie points and a swift return to Plymouth!⁴ Another (who later became an admiral) brought his wife with him and, after our interview, claimed another important appointment but said that his wife would buy me lunch! Fortunately, I too had another unmissable appointment and so was able to decline, but gave him points for trying!

This Whitehall job allowed us to buy a very small first house in London, on the principle that I would mainly be either at sea or in the MoD, which proved to be one of the better decisions we made. Perhaps more importantly it gave me an insight into the way government worked (or didn't work!) which was to be very important in my future career, in a very different world from those happy, rather care-free and wide-ranging days in the 1960s and early 1970s.

Life was about to become rather different.

Jeremy Blackham

1. Naval shore establishments are known as “stone frigates”.
2. Astro-navigation = navigation using the stars, planets, sun and moon. It was a very enjoyable skill, invented in the Pacific Ocean eastern Mediterranean and the Gulf, especially by Iranians, around 3000 years ago.
3. For the latinists amongst you “Parvula radice crescit abor ingens. Tale surgat, parva linquens, magna quaerens, Andreae collegium...” A prize for the first correct translation I receive!
4. I am afraid that, after leaving the Navy, this particular officer finished up in prison for fraud.



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Exploring the Scottish Islands – with a collapsible bike!
Fair Isle (Pop. 48) – Part 1
(Mid-way between Orkney and Shetland, north of mainland Scotland)

My trips to the islands would typically last 3 weeks – being the maximum amount of leave I could take from work at any one time. Organising the trips was like planning a military operation! Ordnance Survey maps would be sellotaped together, so that an island chain would occupy an entire wall of my house. Every island would be researched, so that I knew what I wanted to see there, and thus, how much time I would allocate to each island. However, frequently the ferry service would have other ideas: for example, I might allocate a single day to ‘do’ a particular island, only to find out that the ferry might drop me off on a Tuesday morning, and not return again until the Thursday evening – but eventually, an itinerary would be worked out.

The Tourist Board would often provide invaluable help: when I explained that I wanted to get to Fair Isle they said, “Oh, you need to speak to John Cowie. He’s a ferry captain, but he also has an aeroplane!” They provided his phone number and John – who became a great friend – came up trumps.

Once on the islands, my carefully planned itinerary was hastily adjusted twice because bad weather interfered with our flight plans and, towards the end of my trip, time was running out: it was our last chance to fly. John had a daredevil streak in him and his attitude was “Today we fly, no matter what!” A friend of his accompanied him in the front and as we climbed away from Kirkwall Airport (in the Orkneys), I was perched in the back seat with the handlebars of my folded bike poking me in my left ear with every bump! Almost immediately, John put his little aircraft into a steep turn as we climbed, so that the plane seemed to be standing on its wing: I felt a little precarious as I glanced out of the window, staring straight down at the ground beneath us, rather than the traditional view of sky and clouds! We battled through the rain at what seemed to be a pathetically slow speed, but eventually the sun came out and Fair Isle – all on its own with 25 miles of sea either side of it between Orkney and Shetland – came into view. The island was luxuriously green and little white houses beneath us glimmered like jewels in the sun. The plane had to travel down the length of the island (3 miles) before turning out at sea, to make its approach for the landing strip. Landing a plane at Fair Isle is a tricky business, as there are ‘lumpy bits’ either side of the approach which cause nasty air currents. We landed hard and bounced once – then several times after that, before we made permanent contact with the ground. The man in the passenger seat then suddenly started to tick John off and gave him a bit of a lecture. It then dawned on me: this was a flying **lesson!**

As you see a plane taking off, leaving you on your own where it has just dropped you off, there is a momentary feeling of total isolation and there’s a slight emptiness in the pit of your stomach – but then the adventure starts! I started off by exploring the top half of the island, which is inhabited

not by humans, but mostly birds: 345 species of bird have been recorded there (more than anywhere else in Britain). Ornithologically-speaking, the island is unique and, as a prisoner-of-war in Germany, George Waterston dreamed of buying the island and setting up a bird observatory: in 1948, his dream came true. As I trundled downhill on my bike, filming from my handlebars, I commentated on my camera with exhilaration, "I'm on Fair Isle... in the middle of *no-where!*"

Next on the list was purchasing a Fair Isle pullover (the design of which is said to be influenced by shipwrecked Spanish sailors), visiting the island museum (to learn yet more about the numerous shipwrecks which have occurred here) and to go to the Stores to send uniquely-postmarked postcards to friends and family.

I was leaving behind the half of the island dedicated to the birds: the hunt for humans was on!

Part 2 - next month.



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Cratfield Quiz The Human Body

1. What is the name of the red pigment in blood?
2. Which parts of the body are called the nares?
3. Which vital organ neutralises harmful substances in the blood?
4. What is the soft spot on a baby's head called?
5. What is the common name for the scapula?
6. Which word meaning dog-like applies to a human tooth?
7. Conjunctivitis affects which part of the body?
8. Where in the body is the talus bone located?
9. What is the more common name of the disease pertussis?
10. How many pairs of ribs does an adult normally have?
11. Which bony tissue forms the bulk of a tooth?
12. What does the body lack in the condition hypoxia?
13. What term is given to an abnormally slow heart rate?
14. How many chambers are there in a human heart?
15. Where is the Cerebellum located in the body?
16. Who performed the first human to human heart transplant in 1967?
17. The ulnar nerve is often called what other name?
18. Which part of the body has an inner, middle and outer?
19. German measles has what medical name?
20. Which is larger-the liver or a kidney?



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VILLAGE HALL UPDATE – AUGUST

Many thanks to Dennis Rockall

After over 5 years on the committee, Dennis has decided to step down and we are very sad to see him go. Dennis was a key driver behind setting up the Pop-Up Pub – and set up the ongoing arrangement with The Royal Oak in Laxfield for the monthly barrel for us behind the bar – which he also would collect and set up a few days in advance to allow it to settle each and every month. He was first to roll his sleeves up and offer help setting up for any events – and staying late to clear up and holds the record for setting up the Pop-Up pub at the village hall in record time!

100 Club – you have to be in it to win it!

A HUGE thank you to Helen Torrance at Yew Trees who has taken over the administration of the 100 Club – along with Carolyn White who will be the 100 Club's promoter and treasurer going forward. Again – a massive thank you to Heather Hargood for initiating the 100 Club and running it for all these years. Subscriptions are now due for the 2022/23 year. Don't forget – for just £1 a month for the year, you are in the draw to win either £15, £10 or £5 EACH MONTH! Forms are within this magazine – and to be returned to Helen at Yew Trees on Bell Green as soon as possible (3rd house on the left along Bell Green after the turning to Manse Lane on your left) The 100 Club has benefited the Village Hall for many years – contributing towards such items as the glass washer for the pop-up pub, picnic benches for outside events, decorating and water heaters. **You know the saying... "you have to be in it to win it" - so go on - have a go!** Please note the July and August winners for 2022 will be published in the September magazine.

Pop Up Pub – Friday 5th August with BBQ / 6pm onwards

Many thanks to all the volunteers who enable this to happen. The August 'Pop-Up Pub' will also incorporate a BBQ - doors open 6pm with food from 7pm. Cratfield Kitchen will be taking a well earned break for September, but will be back in October. For details on Pop-Up Pub food for September please see the Cratfield Facebook page nearer the time.

Cratfield Talk – Saturday 17th September 'WILDLIFE OF CRATFIELD' - 7 for 7.30

'Wildlife of Cratfield' will be presented by Paul Taylor accompanied with some absolutely stunning photos and amazing video footage to show us. You will be amazed to see what happens out and about around Cratfield while we are all tucked up safely in bed! **Bar will be open too.** The talk will be in two parts with snacks in the interval and tickets are £6 per head.

To book your place please email Paul Marfleet - marfleets@doctors.org.uk or leave a message on 01986 799048. Money will be taken on the door – please remember to book early as numbers are limited to 50. **Future talks include ‘The Restoration of Lincoln Castle’ and ‘Behind the scenes at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show’ so keep your eyes peeled for these dates as they are announced.**

Photographic Competition – Saturday 15th October

Entry forms included within this magazine – the village Facebook page will also post hints and tips on the categories. Spare forms will be available at the Pop-Up pubs and a few at the back of the church. The three categories are –

Cratfield Flower Power – have you any photos of spring blossom or bulbs, your garden (or someone else’s?!) or wild flowers – all flowers count!

Suffolk Textures – an easy one as textures are all around us. Have you any photos of anything man-made such as bricks in a pattern on a house or path, or up-close details on a farm building? Also think about texture in nature - like the bark of a tree, crops in fields or a bird’s nest.

Suffolk Perspective – have you any photos which give a sense of depth or a relationship between two objects? Look at horizons, train tracks or over-head power lines to draw the eye and create distance.

Don’t forget – the competition is for everyone. You do not need a professional camera or training, and most winning photos over the years have been taken on phones or tablets. Children can enter for free also!

Acoustic Night – Saturday 19th November

The next Acoustic night will be on Saturday 19th November when the guests will be Paul Gillings and Danny R. Paul and Danny were due to perform at the March Acoustic but, alas, Covid struck so they had to withdraw. Again, not to be missed - Paul is one of the finest harmonica players you will ever hear. **BAR OPEN TOO!**

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SUMMER PISTOU

A. cross between a soup and a stew, a healthy French dish – perfect as a light lunch. Will keep in the fridge for a couple of days

INGREDIENTS

1 tbsp oil
2 leeks, finely sliced
1 large courgette, finely diced
1 litre of boiling vegetable stock
400g can of cannellini or haricot beans, drained
200g green beans, chopped
3 tomatoes, chopped
3 garlic cloves, finely chopped
small pack of basil
40g freshly grated Parmesan

METHOD

STEP 1 (Soup)

Heat the oil in a large pan and fry the leeks and courgette for 5 minutes to soften. Pour in the stock, add three-quarters of the haricot beans with the green beans, half the tomatoes, and simmer for 5-8 minutes until the vegetables are tender.

STEP 2 (Sauce)

Meanwhile, blitz the remaining beans, tomatoes, garlic and basil in a food processor (or in a bowl with a stick blender) until smooth, then stir in the Parmesan. Stir the sauce into the soup. Cook for 1 minute.

This can be eaten hot or alternatively chilled. If you want it more soupy than stewy blitz the soup part as well.



BLACKBERRY PICKING

Late August, given heavy rain and sun
For a full week, the blackberries would ripen.
At first, just one, a glossy purple clot
Among others, red, green, hard as a knot.
You ate that first one and its flesh was sweet
Like thickened wine: summer's blood was init
Leaving stains upon the tongue and lust for
Picking. The red ones inked up and that hunger
Sent us out with milk cans, pea-tins, jam-pots
Where briars scratched and wet grass bleached out boots.
Round hayfields, cornfields and potato-drills
We trekked and picked until the cans were full,
Until the tinkling bottom had been covered
With green ones, and on top big dark blobs burned
Like a plate of eyes. Out hands were peppered
With thorn pricks, our palms sticky as Bluebeard's.
We hoarded the fresh berries in the byre.
But when the bath was filled we found a fur,
A rat-grey fungus, glutting on our cache.
The juice was stinking too. Once off the bush
The fruit fermented, the sweet flesh would turn sour.
I always felt like crying. It wasn't fair
That all the lovely canfuls smelt of rot,
each year I hoped they'd keep, knew they would not.

Seamus Heaney

Answers to Body Parts Quiz

1 Haemoglobin 2 Nostrils 3. The liver 4. Fontanelle 5. Shoulder blade
6. Canine 7. Eyes 8. Ankle 9. Whooping cough 10 Twelve 11.
Dentine 12. Oxygen 13. Bradycardia 14. Four 15. Brain 16.
Christiaan Barnard 17. Funny bone 18. Ear 19 Rubella 20. Liver

2022 Mobile Library Dates

Tuesdays

9th August, 6th September, 4th October, 29th November

Silverleys Green 14.15 – 14.35

The Poacher 14.45 – 14.55

Cratfield Parish Council

Meeting Dates 2022

- Tuesday 11th January 2022 at 7.30pm
 - Tuesday 8th March 2022 at 7.30pm
 - Tuesday 10th May 2022 at 7.30pm
 - Tuesday 12th July 2022 at 7.30pm
 - Tuesday 13th September 2022 at 7.30pm
 - Tuesday 8th November 2022 at 7.30pm
- Agendas (3 days before the meeting)
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While the Four Rivers Benefice is in interregnum (with no priest-in-charge), the letters are being written by the other clergy in the benefice.... this month, Revd David Mulrenan.

Dear friends and neighbours

Well, it's August and we are well past the halfway mark in the year now. Many people will be looking forward to some quality time to spend with their family and friends in the hope of balmy weather, barbecues and holidays.

Of course not everyone has the time or perhaps the money, at the moment, to travel to exotic destinations but whatever your pocket can run to, it's very important to put aside that time to rest and recuperate.

I remember as a child at school being asked what my favourite month was. I couldn't decide between May (when my birthday is) and December (because of Christmas). Both of these months meant celebration to me and, to some extent, they still do. A lad called Clive was asked the same question. He answered August. "Why is that?" said the teacher, "is that when your birthday is?" Clive gave an irritated grunt and answered, "No! That is the only month in the year we don't have to go to school!"

I recall being confused by that answer as I always liked school, but now I see his point. He associated that month as a time he can fully relax, wind down and have some fun.

Spending time with your family, especially as they live a fair bit away as mine do, is essential to our well-being. It's an opportunity to catch up with and give those you love your full attention. The same applies to your friends.

Christian church-goers often get a bad press for being severe, hard-labouring and abstemious. That is far from the truth in my experience as we take a good example from Jesus to very often share food and drink with our friends. Lent Lunches, Parish Picnics, Harvest Suppers are to name but a few occasions. Jesus himself was not in any way averse to rejoicing with his friends. The Bible relates to many get-togethers and sometimes with those who were considered a very inappropriate choice of dinner guest.

He is reported to have spent a great deal of time on his own, retreating to meditate regularly and even falling asleep in a boat on Lake Galilee during a violent storm.

The fact is, that now it looks like the imminent danger of COVID appears to be subsiding, we owe it to ourselves and those closest to us to have some downtime. Constant striving is not beneficial to our well-being, medically, physically or psychologically.

So let's be kind to ourselves these pitifully short months of summer. Take a lead from Christ!

With blessings,

David Mulrenan, Associate Priest

ST. MARY'S CHURCH SERVICES AUGUST 2022

| Sunday 14th | Sunday 21st | Sunday 28th |
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| 6.00pm Evening Prayer | 9.00am Village Worship | 9.00am Holy Communion |
| Sidesperson M. Thompson | Sidesperson M. Thompson | Sidesperson D. Peacock |
| Reader D. Peacock | Reader M. Powell | Reader P. Baker |
| Readings Jerem 23:23-29 Hebr 11:29, 12:2 Luke 13:49-56 | Readings Isaiah 58:96-end Hebr 12:18-end Luke 13:10-17 | Readings Eccles 10:12-18 Hebr 13:1-8,15-16 Luke 14:1, 7-14 |

Some go to church to take a walk, some go there to laugh and talk.
 Some go to church for observation, but some go there for speculation.
 Some go there to meet a lover, and some go there a fault to cover.
 Some go there to meet a friend, and some go there their time to spend.
 Some go there to sing a sonnet, but some go there to show their
 bonnet.
 Some go to church oppressed with grief, some go there to find relief.
 Some go to hear a grand oration, some go to glorify a nation,
 Some go to hear about the war, some go to show how good they are.
 Some go repentant and repenting, but some go hardened, unrelenting.
 Some go to praise, to pray, to weep, but some go there to lounge and
 sleep.
 Some go to better their condition, some go to gain a good commission.
 While some go there to doze and nod
 There's many go to worship God.

Poet: Job Elletson

In the absence of any church news this week I filled the gap!
 Sue

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Parish Clerk Sally Chapman 07774 734411
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Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator - Nick Eade 01986 798725

Village Hall:

Chair Person - Natalie Lloyd-Evans 01986 798790
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All information must arrive by 20th of the month.

Advertising rates p/a: Full page £60; half page £30; quarter £20.

Please contact Sue, Graham or Peter for more information