

# CRATFIELD NEWS

December 2021



**CRATFIELD'S 1ST NATIVITY TRAIL  
LEAVING THE VILLAGE HALL AT 5.00PM  
ON  
SUNDAY 12TH DECEMBER**

## **GOODBYE**

Geoff Moore would like to thank the village of Cratfield for his many happy years living at Silverleys Green. He enjoyed friendship and camaraderie throughout his time here belonging to clubs, joining in and contributing to all village activities. Geoff won't be too far away in Laxfield, so easy for friends to keep in touch.

## **THANK YOU**

On behalf of all who know him I would like to wish Geoff all the best in his new home. He is a good friend to many. Over the years Geoff was a very active member of the village who gave freely of his time and energy. He was always willing to give help where needed and as many of you know he acted as treasurer and delivered this magazine for many years. His legacy will live on, not least in the display boards he made for the village hall countless years ago, they are still as sturdy as ever, and have been able to move with the times by being covered with velcro-receptive fabric, many of you will have seen this at the village photographic competition/exhibition last month. Farewell and good luck Geoff.

## **EAST ANGLIA CHILDREN'S HOSPICE**

**EACH The Treehouse** (Ipswich) will be at the Christmas Fair on 5<sup>th</sup> December at Cratfield Village Hall, with Tombola, hand-made felted Alpaca animals, crocheted beanie hats and scarves, jewellery and gifts. Come and support your local children's hospice.

## **HISTORY WEEKEND**

Thank you to those who contributed to the History Weekend, so many interesting facts about our village were revealed. We appreciated this opportunity to fill in some gaps in our knowledge, from the old maps to the fruit canning processes and much more. We thoroughly enjoyed the event. And, as always cake brought us together!

Wendy and Gary Thomas

## **CHANGE OF CONTACT DETAILS**

If anyone needs to contact Sally Chapman Clerk to the Parish Council her new number is 07774 734411. This can be found on the back of the magazine.

## CRATFIELD NATIVITY TRAIL



Come along with lanterns and torches and join Cratfield's first Nativity Trail. We will leave the village hall at 5.00pm led by narrators through Nazareth to the City of Bethlehem. The children will act and sing the Nativity story stopping at four venues along the way and finishing around the manger at St. Mary's Church. We will then join together for Carols around a bonfire and the lighting of the Christmas Tree. This will be followed by sausages and mulled wine!!

Should the weather be inclement we will still go ahead, but inside the church.  
**PLEASE COME ALONG AND JOIN US**

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**Fressingfield and District** (which includes Cratfield) **Royal British Legion**

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**Grand Christmas Draw**  
**Fressingfield Sports & Social Club**  
**Saturday December 11<sup>th</sup> from 7.00pm**



**1<sup>st</sup> prize £100, 2<sup>nd</sup> £75, 3<sup>rd</sup> £50 plus many  
more great prizes**

**Complementary glass of mulled wine, sausage roll/mince pie on  
arrival.**

**Bar**

**All most welcome**

## SOMERSHEY

Following the pieces relating to John Stuart Anderson in the last two editions of Cratfield News it was interesting to find the following contained in one of the scrap-books on display during the History Weekend.

I have copied it verbatim so hope no-one is offended by any of the references.

**THE SOMERSHEY** presents **CORONA MUNDI PART ONE** by DANIEL HASSAN

the production directed by John Stuart Anderson

### UNCHARTED

Anyone familiar with English Folklore, especially that part of it relating to Gypsies, will know the name Maple Durham: that strange and mysterious treasure which has over the centuries not only captured people's imagination, but has even figured largely in dreams that have been recorded: and which has never been found. I do not pretend for a moment that Daniel Hassan had any knowledge of this, but Uncharted is about a lost treasure and its extraordinary effect upon two people, as recorded by one of them. The player is ADRIAN TALBOT

### ACCEPTED SHADOWS

A frightening piece in which a woman, unnamed, appears before a Tribunal to account for a single devastating action of destruction, the only way apparently by which life and social order could be preserved. Anyone who shares our feelings about political violence and such organizations as the Shi Ites will know immediately what this piece is about. The player is CHRISTINE WILSON.

### MISSA BREVIS

Perhaps the most mysterious, perhaps the most powerful of all the shorter plays in Corona Mundi, this beautiful work will be quite incomprehensible if you approach it in the light of any of the usual conventions of present-day drama. It has nothing at all to do with drama as we generally think of it, but a great deal to do with music. Overall, the only possible comparison of Hassan's work is with music rather than with drama. Here we have in effect a sonata for one actor alone. First, a brief spoken overture, followed by a series of short movements in which the performer is asked to assume two quite separate entities – one 'I' the other 'He'. The story-line, if there can be said to be one, is of a man who may be any of us and who is threatened by a following shadow, something twisted, distorted, most monstrous – but what is it? Let this piece happen, without worrying too much what it is about, and I think you may find yourself caught up into the atmosphere of it – with your own interpretation. The player is GEOFFREY ARRAND

Interval

## **THE ANGEL IN THE SUN**

In fact the last of the 'inner cycle' of the pieces about Akhanton, the exiled Pharaoh. Here, apparently now in the guise of a prophet who has forgotten what it is he has to prophesy, but who has written a mysterious book, Akhanton comes – presumably – to the end of his journey, an event not untouched by comedy. The player is JOHN STUART ANDERSON

## **ALL THE RECORDED MUSIC IS BY BENJAMIN BRITTEN**

The COFFEE BAR will be open after the performance, when John Church and John Stuart Anderson will take your orders. We hope that anyone who does not have to hurry away will stay, partake, and talk!

Just a reminder that lavatory facilities are located in Somershey itself, at the other end of the paving stones.

Please see the notice-frame in the foyer for further Somershey information.

Is there any wonder Chrissie had not the faintest idea of what was going on!

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## **ARSKIT**

I have been asked what happened to HMS Beachampton's dog Arskit. About 2 years after I left the ship, the UK withdrew from the Persian Gulf.

Beachampton, together with a couple of other minesweepers of the Gulf Squadron, was transferred to the Hong Kong squadron, pending the arrival on station of five new patrol craft, specially designed for the purpose in the early 1980s. Arskit went to Hong Kong but then I lost track of him. I still have a photograph of the whole crew of Beachampton, with Arskit sitting at my feet, taken in October 1970, but sadly nothing after that. Life in the Navy of those days was a bit like that as we moved around virtually the whole world.

I have also been asked if I have a notebook of all these stories. I am afraid not. They and many others live only in my memory where they are as clear as daylight and I am absolutely certain that I remember them accurately and in detail and can give names and dates for all of them!

**Jeremy Blackham**

MICHAEL OLIVER

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## Cratfield Parish Council

*Please help clean & tidy up your village*

Cratfield Parish Council has now purchased litter picking equipment which can be borrowed anytime.

*Your support would be greatly appreciated!*

***If you would like to litter pick please contact:***

***Cllr Gloria Steward Tel: 07791 515 016*** - collect in village

***Cllr Richard Chivers Tel: 07900 187 350*** – collect from Silverleys Green



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## Cratfield History Weekend

I visited the Cratfield History weekend exhibition at St Mary's Church on Saturday October 30<sup>th</sup>. I spent two hours there and went back again on Sunday. Fascinating! So many things to take in.

I never realised that the 'Middy Railway,' so loved by its enthusiasts in Suffolk was a failed project. A detailed exhibit showed how it was started up in the latter part of the nineteenth century as an antidote to the agricultural slump in East Suffolk. A new railway line was thought to be a panacea for all financial ills. As Peter Baker pointed out to me it never really took off. It did not carry passengers for years - the stations were miles away from the settlements. It only really came into its own for a short period during the Second World War when East Anglia became a giant aircraft carrier for the U.S. air force, and the railway line was used to transport munitions to Mendlesham and Horham fields. It was while chatting that I learned that the first settler in Australia was descended from a Cratfield Churchwarden - Peter showed me an Australian School textbook to prove it.

Near the altar, massive, rugged, and pale loomed Churchill's head. Fashioned in Cratfield by sculptor Ivor Roberts-Jones it was the maquette for the large bronze statue that stands in Parliament Square.

And the photographs – so many and so varied – all different sizes, from all different ages – clipped from local newspapers over the years, lovingly preserved in family albums or displayed on their own. They were so evocative. How timelessly rural proud agricultural workers looked - whether posing with horses or modern machinery. There were wedding photographs - an everchanging cast of characters captured fleetingly in front of St Mary's Church. An image of a spry looking farm worker being presented with a certificate from the Suffolk Agricultural Society for working for fifty years on the same farm – displayed next to the certificate itself. Will people ever be able to live such local lives again with modern workers under pressure to constantly change jobs and relocate?

There were programmes for events celebrating the Coronation, fading colour photographs from the Queen's Silver Jubilee. There were items from decades of the Women's Institute. There was a copy of the electoral register from the 1990s – typed out on an old-style typewriter and filled with all the familiar Cratfield family names. There were all kinds of local news items. A mildly scandalous cutting from the local press in the seventies about a local lady who wrote a sex manual – thoroughly endorsed by the very liberal minded local vicar. A long running dispute, complete with photographic evidence, over the cutting of a boundary hedge. There were items about the **Cratfield Poacher** in its legendary heyday. People still speak with amused awe about the famous occasion when tons of sand were transported to the front of the pub to stage the most improbable beach party of all time. Aerial photographs memorialised the orchards and extensive greenhouses that were once so prominent a feature of working life for Cratfield people.

There was the entry for Cratfield in the Domesday Book – there were forty-eight households, thirty-four small holders and, intriguingly, one slave! There were ancient title deeds, elaborately inscribed, dangling seals, and looking very Harry Potterish. A pile of Estate Agent's details from decades before Rightmove sent me dreaming about the glorious possibilities of a time machine that could take me back just long enough to buy properties when they were priced at a few thousands or

even hundreds of pounds. If I bought in 1960 and could sell in 2021, I could make a fortune!

The most moving thing I saw was a letter written to the family of a young man from the village who died serving in the RAF in the Second World War by a surviving crew member of his plane. The young man's name is on the wall of St Mary's along with the names of all Cratfield's war dead.

The exhibition was about the history of a particular place. But its very particularity gave it a universal resonance. Every village in England has its own story. Cratfield's story is the story of every village.

A huge thank you to Margaret Thompson whose idea it was and who worked tirelessly for weeks – coaxing exhibits from Cratfield residents and in fact organising the whole event. She even went home at the end of the first day to bake more cakes for the visitors. Margaret's delicious cakes are themselves part of Cratfield history.

Also, thanks to Peter Baker, Sue Seabon and Ian Thompson, all those who gave so generously of their personal items for the exhibition and everyone else who helped.

## **Nigel Cousins**



## Cratfield Quiz ' Money, Money, Money' - Sue A

1. Which coin came into circulation in June 1982?
2. Who features on the £10 note?
3. What is the currency used in Mexico?
4. What is a monkey in Cockney rhyming slang?
5. When did polymer notes come into circulation in England and Wales?
6. Which note was withdrawn from circulation in 1988?
7. In which musical would you find the song "Money makes the world go round?"
8. Who features on the new £50 note?
9. A \$5000 chip is known as a flag but what colour is it?
10. How many dimes are equivalent to 1 dollar?
11. What does the expression mean to "take the king's shilling?"
12. Who wrote the song "Money" in 1973?
13. When did the UK change to decimalisation?
14. What was replaced by the 50p coin?
15. What currency is used in Vatican City?
16. How much was Judas paid for identifying Jesus to the soldiers?
17. How much did the Banksy painting of a girl with a balloon sell for in 2018?
18. Who is currently the Governor of the Bank of England?
19. Who is currently the wealthiest person in the world?
20. Which bank has the logo of a black horse?

Answers on page 21

### Things may get better

Things may happen  
Or they may not,  
Things may get better,  
Although I doubt not a lot.  
But just keep on smiling,  
Hold back the tears,  
Remember all the laughter  
You enjoyed through the years.  
From a child with its candy,  
To perhaps your first car;  
Tying the knot  
And finding your star.  
Remember the good times,  
Make life a bright summer's day;  
In the throws of your winter,  
Remember those children at play,  
And when as it must,  
The good time ends;  
Give thanks for a life  
Shared with family and friends.

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For further details contact the Parish Clerk: **Tel: 07774 734411** or **Email:**

**cratfieldpc@gmail.com**

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Chris Kitchen tel. no. 01986 798 764, email: [chrissie.kitchen@yahoo.com](mailto:chrissie.kitchen@yahoo.com) or write to Bell Green Cottage, Cratfield, Halesworth, Suffolk, IP19 0BI

## **VILLAGE HALL UPDATE – DECEMBER**

### **Pop Up Pub first Friday of each month / 6 – 10pm with food by Cratfield Kitchen**

#### **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec and Friday 7<sup>th</sup> Jan**

Huge thanks as always to all the volunteers and committee members behind the scenes who enable this to happen. Don't forget Cratfield Kitchen offer a fantastic range of food, so whether you just want a drink to celebrate the end of the week or just don't fancy cooking do pop along. We aim to put their menu up on the village facebook page a few days beforehand. If you would like to help in anyway (be it setting up some tables and chairs or helping behind the bar, clearing up etc) then please do contact Caroline Wisbey-Brown on [caroline@wisbey-brown.co.uk](mailto:caroline@wisbey-brown.co.uk).

#### **THE EAGLE HAS LANDED...!**

After much hard work and multiple form filling in (and returning of aforementioned forms as someone's signature was too close to the edge, someone else had not listed their original hair colour and someone else had not put down their correct inside leg measurement) we finally have a card machine to accept card payments at the Pop up Pub – there are a few technical issues but we really hope this will be up and fully working for the December Pop Up – however, please do bring cash – just in case. Please note it is only the bar that will be able to take card payments and at the moment Cratfield Kitchen is still only able to take cash payment.

#### **PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION CALENDAR – £6.00**

We have a limited print run of calendars and when they are gone they are gone – don't miss out! You can book and collect yours now from Rebecca Sannick on 01986 799006, they will also be available at the Christmas Fair on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December – but may sell out before then as they are proving very popular as always!

#### **Christmas Fair – Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December 10 – 1pm**

Please see our full advert elsewhere in the magazine, come along for breakfast (as previous years, Richard will be cooking his amazing bacon, egg scotch baps along with fresh coffee) we have a HUGE range of new stallholders, with jewellery, a Christmas tree raffle, food and drink, Christmas decorations, cards and a whole lot more – all by local stallholders – so come along and support local crafters and makers

#### **Images of India – Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> February / timings TBC**

With 25 years plus of visiting India, Peter Baker & Sue Seabon have an amazing collection of photographs and tales of their many travels across India. Come along and challenge your preconceptions of what is a really incredible country and hear some of their adventures along the way. There will be a door charge to cover a range of Indian snacks and part of the door charge will also go to Peter & Sue's charity the banyan Tree (<https://thebanyantree.org.uk>) The bar will be open with specially sourced Kingfisher, Cobra or IPA alongside wine. Please note you will need to book places via Natalie on [natalie.l.evans@gmail.com](mailto:natalie.l.evans@gmail.com) . More details to follow in next months magazine!

#### **Photographic Competition – October 2022**

Following the success of the 2021 event the topics are... Cratfield Flower Power, Suffolk Textures and Suffolk Perspective. Anyone can enter – you don't need a fancy camera or be a professional to have a go – so get your thinking caps on. We have also decided that not only will the winning photos be published in the calendar, but they will also be displayed at the Village Hall for the forthcoming year.

#### **Pie & Pud evening**

Huge thanks to everyone who booked – and many, many thanks for all the lovely

feedback – we will look at scheduling this event again for 2022.

**100 CLUB –**

100 Club winners numbers drawn by members of the Cratfield Village Hall Committee.

1<sup>st</sup> Wendy Thomas No: 63 £15.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> Andy Edmonds No: 29 £10.00, 3<sup>rd</sup> Mary

Powell No: 37 £5.00.

Congratulations to all the winners.



CRATFIELD VILLAGE HALL  
**CHRISTMAS FAIR**

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## **“Water, Water Everywhere, Nor Any Drop to Drink.....”<sup>1</sup>**

A vital operational factor in our Minesweeper squadron was the availability of fresh water. In those days small ships had no saltwater distilling capability and we carried only 14 tons of fresh water for all purposes in our tanks. With our unique carefully designed and monitored, “Beachampton water management system” one could make this last 10 days. Typical patrols lasted 2 to 3 weeks, because of the passage time to and from our Bahrain base, so we had to refill our freshwater tanks once or twice during each patrol. A number of these rather whimsical watering stops I remember well.

One was to Khor Fakkan, on the Batinah coast of the Gulf of Oman – 150 miles of beautiful sand at the foot of the Musandam mountains, famous for quality dates and camels. Our sister ships had never been there so we were the “guinea pig”. We arrived at this pretty little white, flat-roofed town, nestling in the sand amongst date palms, to find just one small jetty, half the length of the ship.<sup>1</sup> Having moored ourselves, we found a man with a hose and got on with it. Halfway through, a British Army officer in the uniform of the Trucial Oman Scouts (the sort of costume Lawrence of Arabia wore) arrived in a dusty jeep. He had been sent by our Bahrain HQ to see if we were still alive and well as in those days of shaky HF radio comms in small ships, we usually couldn’t communicate with our base when 200 miles or more away. And how wonderful that was - a luxury modern captain rarely enjoy - when commanding a ship, to be out of communication with your base and able to decide for yourself how to meet your operational task. Still, it was nice that someone thought of us.

Sometimes, however, poor communications could be embarrassing. On another occasion we went to embark water in Muscat Cove, a small inlet whose entrance is guarded by two forts towering over the cliffs either side. On the cliff-face painted in white were the names of all the RN ships that had visited over years. At the head of the cove stood Muscat, the ancient capital of the vast state of Muscat and Oman, dominated by the Ruler’s Palace and the British Political Agency. It was 29 September 1970, just after I had promoted Able Dog Arskit to Leading Dog, thus outranking two thirds of the ship’s company! As we entered and turned towards the quay, there was no one in sight, although there was a large tap, which we hoped was fresh water. Undaunted, I sent some sailors ashore to take our lines and we moored stern to the wall<sup>2</sup>, with one line round a lamp-post and the other round what looked like a public convenience!

Unusually, however, no-one appeared to give us our vital water. The whole town seemed asleep, so I took our boat and crossed the cove to the BPA, noticing *en route* that all flags in Muscat were at half-mast. I found the PA enjoying a leisurely late breakfast in his dressing gown and explained my problem. “Oh well” he said “Nasser died yesterday and the whole Arab world is in mourning. You’ll be lucky to get anything today.” I should explain that, following the unwise, politically and militarily inept invasion by Britain and France of the Suez canal zone in 1956, the

Egyptian President, Gamal Abdel Nasser, was the hero and effective leader of the Arab world. His death, at only 52, had profound repercussions. When I told him our watering was operationally essential, the PA agreed to send someone round to open up the tap on the jetty. We felt that we should be able to manage. However, he said we must be very discreet and stay no longer than absolutely necessary. Then he gave me a welcome gin (at 1030 am!) and I returned to the ship feeling better, leaving him to an unexpected holiday.

So, all's well that ends well. We got our water, albeit rather slowly, added our ship's name to the painted gallery on the rocky sides of the cove (very discreetly of course) and slipped out to sea to continue our patrol, chalking another one up to experience.

## **Jeremy Blackham**

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1. Today the small town has gone, superseded by a deep water container port and major tourist resort with, most fashionably a 'corniche'.

2. In this style of mooring, the 'Mediterranean Moor', you drop one or both anchors to hold the ships head, and reverse onto the jetty. This is common in marinas and all over the Mediterranean for much larger vessels, allowing more ships to use a given length of jetty, although it risks anchors fouling each other

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!!!!

"Don't take life too seriously, no one gets out alive."

"The original point and click interface was a Smith and Wesson."

"Our world has all we need but can not sustain our greed."

"If life is like a game of football, make sure you try to score goals and not look for penalties."

"Never worry about the people you think you know, worry about those you thought you knew."

"Today's science and technology is a child with a lighted candle, it may illuminate its world or burn its house down."

"The only things you can count on happening are the things you make happen."

### 2021 Mobile Library Dates

28<sup>th</sup> December

Silverleys Green 14.15 – 14.35

The Poacher 14.45 – 14.55

# Cratfield Parish Council

Meeting Dates 2021

Tuesday 14th September 2021 at 7.30pm

Tuesday 9th November 2021 at 7.30pm

*The Planning meetings are arranged as and when required.*

The agenda is displayed 3 days before the meeting on the noticeboards & website: [www.cratfield.onesuffolk.net](http://www.cratfield.onesuffolk.net)

The meetings are held in Cratfield's village hall.

*For further details contact the Clerk email: [cratfieldpc@gmail.com](mailto:cratfieldpc@gmail.com)*

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**Advent Carol Service**  
**6.00pm Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December, St. Lawrence's Church, Brundish**

Not to be confused with our Christmas Carol Service, Advent marks a season of anticipation and preparation for the birth of Jesus..  
Our advent service is both moving and uplifting and features some beautiful music both choral from the Chantry Singers and congregational, to be enjoyed in the wonderful candlelit atmosphere of our fine old church. It would be good to see you there.

**Money Quiz answers**

1. 20p
2. Jane Austen
3. Mexican peso
4. £500
5. 2016
6. £1 note
7. Cabaret
8. Alan Turing
9. White with red and blue accents
10. 10
11. You agree to serve as a soldier or sailor in the army or navy.
12. Pink Floyd
13. Feb 1971
14. Ten shilling note(Ten bob)
15. Euro
16. 30 pieces of silver
17. \$1.4 million
18. Andrew Bailey
19. Jeff Bezos
20. Lloyds

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# Name the Carol or Christmas song

1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



8.



9.



10.



11.



12.



Here is the quiz for 2021 if you can answer the above clues get to me before Jan 6<sup>th</sup> and the winner will receive a big bar of chocolate. If there is more than one with all answers correct they will be put in a hat. Merry Christmas David.

# St. Mary's Church Services December 2021

Sunday 12th	Sunday 19th	Christmas Day 25th
5.00pm Nativity Trail from Village Hall	9.00am Village Worship	9.00am Family Communion
Carols around the bonfire	<b>Sidesperson</b> A. Edmonds	<b>Sidesperson</b> D. Peacock
	<b>Reader</b> P. Baker	<b>Reader</b> P. Baker
	<b>Readings</b> Micah 5:2-5a Hebrews 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)	<b>Readings</b> TBA

**Please come along and join us  
on the inaugural**

## **Nativity Trail**

**You may be in for some for surprises**

**Bring the family along  
on**

## **Christmas Day**

**for a**

**Family Service with Holy Communion**

# DIRECTORY:

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'The Vicarage, Noyes Avenue, Laxfield		
<a href="mailto:theparsnips@googlemail.com">theparsnips@googlemail.com</a>		
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All information must arrive by 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.

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Please contact Sue, Graham or Peter for more information