

CRATFIELD NEWS

December 2020



WELCOME

A very warm welcome to Jane and Marcus who have recently moved into Rookery Farm. I'm sure they will love living in Cratfield (everyone else does), once they are able to meet people and join in. They have already introduced themselves via 'Nextdoor' and many of you have already sent them good wishes. The next stop is actually meeting face to face, though hopefully this will have happened by the time this reaches you.

HELP NEEDED

Is there anyone out there who would be willing to take over, on a regular basis, the cutting of the grass in the churchyard. **It involves a sit-on mower.** Dennis has been doing this and the area round the village hall, for some while now, but doing the two is rather time-consuming especially in the summer. If you feel you would be able to help with this please contact Dennis Rockall 01986 798262 or 07947212622 He will be pleased to give you tuition! Or as he put it, run through the controls etc.

MORE HELP NEEDED

Magazine delivery in the North Green, Silverleys Green, Swan Green area. As you know if you live in these parts of the village Geoff has been delivering your magazines since the start of the Cratfield News over ten years ago. Now he deserves a rest. The round could easily be split into a couple of areas, so if more than one kind person offers their help that would be excellent. You don't need to live in these outreaches, a good long walk might be just what you want! Any way look forward to hearing from someone. Please contact me, Sue, by phone or email on the back of the magazine.

REMINDER – DOG FOULING

There have been reports recently on dog fouling in Tongs Lane. There is a bin at each end of the lane, so please can you keep an eye on your dog and clean up, Tongs Lane is a very well-used walkway in the village.

CONDOLENCES

Sincere condolences to Bob Clark and family on the recent loss of Anne who died November 3rd, two days short of their golden wedding anniversary.

Anne and Bob lived for many years in Cratfield at West Hinder in Manse Lane. She loved our village and was a good friend and neighbour to many. She put a lot into village and church activities over her years here and was an inspirational organiser for the Heveningham Hall County Fair Trust which has provided great financial support to Cratfield and surrounding villages.

Anne was buried here in Cratfield on a sunny morning, November 18th. Rev. Fiona Newton, our previous vicar and friend to Anne, joined Rev. David Burrell in celebrating her funeral. Sadly due to Corona Virus only a restricted number were able to attend, otherwise the church would have been packed with people who knew, loved and respected Anne.

On a happier note - THANK YOU

Thank you to Simone and Aaron at The Poacher for their splendid display of Christmas lights. Their home, at the centre of the village, looks a picture of traditional Christmas festivity. It's well worth an evening walk to look and cheer yourself up during these rather dismal times. Perhaps this year in particular we need some light in the darkness, come on everybody, join in if you can and light up the village.

Addendum - I would just like to add that while not quite as extravagant, we on the street are doing our part in lighting the darkness, for the first time ever I have outside lights! - Pete (at no. 2)

CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND

I expect by now many of you will have noticed the new shelter built next to the children's playground, This most attractive little building has greatly improved the look of this end of the village as it has replaced the rather ugly, utilitarian bus shelter. (There are probably not many people left in the village now who remember the weekly(!) bus, let alone travelled on it.) The playground is well used by local and visiting children and their parents, so I am sure it will be an appreciated village asset.

Stories from a Family Tree: Frederick Weight (1828 – 1901) - Episode 2

Recap: It's 1849 and newly-weds Frederick and Charlotte Weight have joined the Mormons and are now emigrating to America. Charlotte was sick for a terrible 5 day sailing from Bristol to Liverpool, and now the voyage to America is becoming nightmarish too. After being blown off-course to the West Indies, days of sea-sickness, then 2 weeks becalmed, they are now in the midst of another huge storm: the Captain fears for his ship.

Frederick wrote: "Many passengers assembled in prayer: we could hardly stay on our knees, as the ship was rolling so badly, but we asked the Lord to stay the storm. He heard our prayers." The storm abated, however, "My wife was very ill during the entire journey across the sea..."

The North American sailed into the Gulf of Mexico and a steamboat met them to tow them into the harbour at New Orleans. They then took a steamboat to St Louis: "The crew was made up of very wicked, cursing men." The Head Cook "fell in love with my wife" which they thought was "in fun", but realised it was in "deadly earnest" when he threatened to shoot Frederick and run off with her.

This didn't come to pass but, due to exposure on the steam boat, Charlotte was, once again, very ill. Frederick hardly had any money left, but an expat from Bristol, Brother Edward, let them have a room. Frederick put his sick wife on the straw bed they had brought with them – but he had "no stove, no wood, no light, no money and nothing to eat. I went to Brother Edward, who was a baker, and asked him to let me have some bread every day until I could find work and then I would pay him."

Frederick then sold some boots, brought from England, to fund a cooking stove – and he found some work in a sugar factory, and then a foundry: he was able to buy a bedstead and other things for the house. Charlotte felt better and Frederick was appointed choirmaster for the Mormon meetings, a post he held for 2 years. After another spell out of work, and trying to be a tea pedlar around the country *on foot* ("I made just enough to keep us from starving"), he secured further work in another foundry: "We now lived well and saved money."

Frederick was now preparing to "come to the Valley" – i.e. the Salt Lake City valley where Mormons were migrating, due to hostility towards them. Mormons were attracted to the low population count there, despite the warnings about the agricultural unsuitability of the land – and the hostile population of Native Americans there.



In 1852, Charlotte gave birth to a son but “she was never very well after.” They were joined by Frederick’s brother, James, from England – and, having bought two oxen and a wagon, they were ready to cross the plains: however, an ox soon died and he had to sell the other ox and wagon in order for his wife to secure a place in a fellow-traveller’s wagon. Charlotte, still unwell, could not produce milk for her baby: daily, Frederick would go around the camp, collecting cow’s milk in a bottle from the accompanying cattle. The journey took 4 months, travelling an average of 15 – 20 miles per day. The entire journey was 1,013 miles and Frederick had to walk most of the way – often barefoot: his feet became “as tough as an ox hoof.” They survived encounters with bears, wolves and swarms of mosquitoes... but Charlotte remained too weak to wash and dress the infant.

In September, 1852, the trail ended as they came into Salt Lake City: although Frederick was down to his last 25 cents, they found some very basic accommodation. He found a woman willing to care for the infant (now aged 6 months) for \$1.50 per week, which Frederick paid as soon as he found work.

Realising that Charlotte needed better accommodation to get well, a lady by the name of Sister Dalton offered to care for her in her house – but still Charlotte deteriorated. Frederick found work in the Public Works and visited his wife every night – but he could see that she was getting weaker. “Consumption had set in and she was nothing but skin and bone. She suffered a great deal.”

Five weeks after arriving in Salt Lake City and at the age of just 23, Charlotte died. Frederick wrote, “I felt terrible and cried without ceasing for half a day, until I could cry no more. There she lay dead in the midst of strangers and there was I without one cent of money with which to bury her.” More next month...



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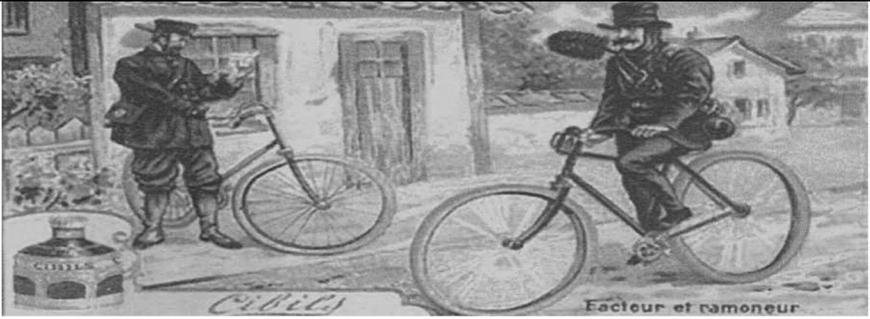
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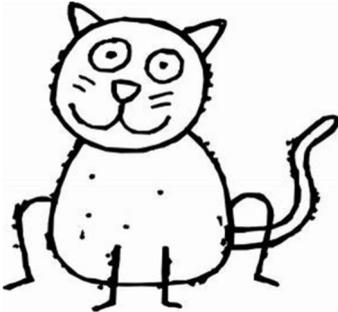
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Snowy and the Cat

When we were children, we had pretty much the same Christmas decorations every year. There were muddy coloured plastic discs, which, if you looked closely, depicted unconvincing images of chiming bells. There were brittle metallic birds you pegged on to the tree with a wire clip, the tufts of feathers that sprouted from their rear ends moulted and got sparser over the years. There were thick black zigzag wires that bore dull coloured lanterns – mainly in red or green – whose bulbs were always blowing. There must have been other items too – but they are forgotten. None of our decorations were exactly inspiring; yet their familiar and predictable return every year was an inseparable part of Christmas.

Two little tree decorations stood out. A little fluffy snowman with coal black eyes and a red nose that my brother and I really liked - we called him – with all the breath-taking originality of childhood – ‘Snowy’; and his rather un-Christmassy looking companion – a yellowish striped cat with triangular felt eyes and green felt pupils and little wire whiskers.



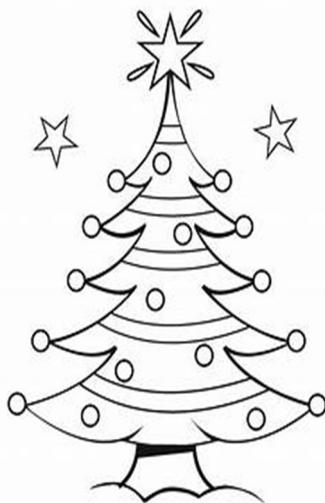
We did not like the cat much at all. I do not think we felt it had any place on a Christmas tree. It remained nameless. It was just the cat, its presence only tolerated because it and the snowman were both

made of wire and fluffy fabric.

We hung paper chains across the living room, licking the gummed bits to make paper links out of green and red paper oblongs – my tongue still puckers when I recall the yukky taste of the glue. We draped the finished chains over our shoulders, rattling them or rather rustling them, like little Jacob Marleys, before they were pinned to the ceiling with drawing pins. There was green and red crepe paper – it scrunched and stretched and stained your fingers. We blew up little dark coloured balloons with our mouths until we were lightheaded and the balloons had swollen to a pale tightness. I remember the squeaky noise they made when we hung them in bunches. They spent the Christmas season slowly deflating. There were letters of gold card on a string on the round 1950's wedding present mirror that hung over the fireplace. My

Dad had meticulously cut them out himself – they spelled out HAPPY XMAS. None of the stuff we had was spectacular and it was pretty much the same every year. It was nothing like the flashy Christmas silver bling that makes modern living rooms look like Las Vegas. But as children we liked them.

Over the years our original decorations broke or were lost, and I cannot say that their departure was greatly lamented. Things move on. But my brother and I did retain an affection for Snowy and, because both ornaments were kept together, we never lost his unloved companion, the cat.



What eventually became of Snowy, our favourite, the sentimental heart of our Christmas is lost in the mists of time. Maybe his white fur got so grubby and misshapen he was tossed away or perhaps he was just mislaid in house moves. But the cat, uncared for and un-Christmassy still lives on. My brother keeps it secreted away somewhere. By now most of its fur is gone – you can see the wire frame, it has lost its whiskers. Its nose and one eye has gone too - its remaining eye has lost its green pupil and has migrated to the middle of its forehead. It looks less Christmassy than ever – a shrunken misshapen Cyclops. But the cat is all we have left - and so now at Christmas my brother gives it a place of honour on the tree.

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

1st prize £15.00, 2nd prize £10.00, 3rd prize £5.00

July: 1st Richard Turberville no.70, 2nd Mary Powell no.37,
3rd Sara Vass no.12 £5.00

August: 1st Sue Ackerley no.47, 2nd Sheila Hookins no.50,
3rd Carolyn White no.36

September: 1st Chrissie Kitchen no.1, 2nd Gary Thomas no.33,
3rd Helen Torrance no.78

October: 1st Rebecca Sannick no.48, 2nd Graham Nixey no. 55,
3rd Brian Leveratt no.61

November: 1st Molly Matthews no.10, 2nd Robert Sannick no.49,
3rd Sandra Chivers no. 38

December: 1st Paul Taylor no.68, 2nd Dennis Rockall no.94,
3rd Sharon Keens-Soper no.51

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VILLAGE HALL UPDATE – DECEMBER

Many thanks to everyone who supported the Village Hall this year (for the few months we held the Pop Up Pub before lockdown!) whether you popped along for a pint, helped set up and clear away, sat on the committee, worked the bar, assisted with maintenance, the never ending cutting of the grass (St. Dennis of Wivern House we salute you), and those who cleared gutters, trimmed brambles, re painted the shed, cleared out storerooms and re organised cupboards – and any one else we may have forgotten!

The one recurring message during lockdown to committee members was that people are keen to get back to events at the Village Hall. People are excited for the next dog show, the routine of the regular pop up pub nights marking the first Friday of the month, the summer BBQ's and photographic competition, the hugely successful acoustic nights and Christmas fair along with the Carpet Bowls Club and so on. It is amazing what a social hub the Village Hall has become - and when not in use, how much it is missed and the interactions it provides between us all.

THE 2021 CRATFIELD CALENDAR

A **HUGE** thank you to Rebecca Sannick and her team of volunteers who waded through all the submitted photos (and kept track of who sent in which photo – ensuring everyone got their originals back!) Only 50 were ordered this year due to there being no Christmas Fairs to sell them at - and they all sold out in under a week, apologies to anyone who missed out. We had a number of orders from around the UK and even had enquiries from Australia!! Many thanks again to everyone who sent photos in – a small selection have also made their way on the Village Facebook page. Due to the interest we may look at an 'Old Cratfield' photographic exhibition in the future – watch this space...

THE BIG CRATFIELD CHRISTMAS BRUNCH – Sunday 13th December at 11 AM

At the time of writing we still do not know if the lockdown will be lifted on the 2nd December to enable this event to proceed. The tables sold out very quickly with a great response from everyone who booked, saying that they are so pleased to see the Village Hall Committee find a way to hold some sort of event under the current circumstances. Everyone who has booked will be kept up to date via the e mail address they registered when booking a table.

Village Hall AGM – Postponed from the 12th November

At the time of writing (whilst still in lockdown) the decision has been made to set a date for the Cratfield Village Hall AGM - for the 16th December 2020 at 7.30 pm. If the lockdown lifts on the 2nd December then the AGM will be held at the Village Hall with the public open forum beforehand from 7.00 - 7.15pm - the open forum is the chance for anyone to ask questions of the committee about events, use of the hall, to stand for committee and so on. If the lockdown continues after the 2nd December beyond the 16th December the AGM will be held via a Zoom meeting with no public open forum. Regardless, if anyone wishes to stand for the Cratfield Village Hall Committee for the next year please contact Chairperson Natalie Lloyd-Evans via natalie.l.evans@gmail.com - we only hold a few meetings a year where any tasks/events and so on are divided up into smaller 'sub committees' to ensure the small work load is evenly spread around - so it is not a huge commitment. If the AGM is held at the Village Hall with the public open forum before hand please do also e mail Natalie to let her know if you wish to attend so we can set up accordingly with plenty of space between chairs.

MINI FOOD QUIZ

1. After whom was the dessert 'Pavlova' named?
2. In 'Angels and Devils on Horseback' what are the angels and devils made of?
3. In Scotland which soup is traditionally served on Burns Night?
4. After whom is Caesar salad named?
5. How did Eggs Benedict get its name?
6. Who invented muesli?
7. What is the origin of the word Gammon?
8. From where does Spaghetti Bolognese originate?
9. The name of which dish, literally translated, means 'outside of work'?
10. How did chocolate get its name?

Answers page 19.

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VIVA ESPANA

I left HMS Wiston in September 1967, having been selected by some mysterious process to go to Spain for 6 months to become a Spanish interpreter, something I really wanted to do. In those happy days the Navy expected you to make your own travelling, living and learning arrangements in whichever country you were going to, and return to sit the all-day Civil Service Commission interpreter exam – the toughest exam I ever took. So, in early October, with very basic Spanish, I boarded the Portsmouth/Cherbourg ferry to drive to Cadiz with a view to learning Spanish naval terms. After two months in Cadiz I planned to return to Madrid to learn more about the people, the country, its customs and language. Looking back, I am surprised at my confidence but, being young, I thought I was invincible!

In those days, all Spanish roads were narrow and pot-holed, with almost no dual carriageways, and Spanish lorries were slow and hard to pass. I had to find food and accommodation *en route*, as well as checking in at the British Embassy in Madrid and arranging for my pay to reach me. So it was day five before I reached Cadiz and looked for the Spanish student hostel, run by two formidable elderly unmarried sisters, that had been recommended. I took a room with breakfast and supper, costing just under £1 per week and paid another seven shillings a week for all my laundry. Free Spanish tuition from the other eight or nine students, none of whom spoke English, was to prove invaluable, as was my car – a rare possession then among young Spaniards.

Quick-fire conversational Spanish was new to me and initially I felt rather lost, but my wheels came to the rescue and I quickly became useful as a source of lifts and weekend outings. Many conversations started “Podemos ir al Restaurante Tal.....pero solo si te conviene, por supuesto.”¹ Well, anything that gave me an opportunity to speak Spanish suited me. Life in Cadiz was simple, cheap, gregarious, lively and good fun, even without night life. A decent student’s lunch could be found for around 40 pence, and a glass of Fino in any bar for about 5 pence. I even learned that we could donate blood in return for £1-50, which easily kept us in Fino between what became our ritual fortnightly blood lettings. What could be better?

About three weeks in I was summoned one evening to the largest room, where Ramon, the self-appointed senior student, was seated on a sort of throne, surrounded by the others, as if presiding over a court. What on earth had I done? He addressed me very formally. “Well, you’ve been here for nearly three weeks and appear to have some idea what’s going

¹“We could always go to the Restaurant Such and such.....but only if it’s ok with you, of course”

on. In time we may be able to make you comprehensible. But you sound like a school textbook and this is real life, not a literature class. We need to teach you how real Spaniards speak.” I was then taught and drilled in all the swear words and insults under the sun. Spanish is liberally supplied with such words which had become almost an art-form, even if absent in “nice” restaurants and bars². Back in the 1960s, Spanish men were deeply steeped in a culture we today call machismo - it was how “real men” spoke or, at least, it was how they thought they should.

At last I had “arrived”. I was now deemed fit company for evenings out, and life changed completely. I was even occasionally mistaken for a Spaniard, only from some part of Spain the other speaker didn’t know! They taught me how Spanish girls in those heavily chaperoned days expected to be “chatted up”. Twenty years later, I was at a government lunch in Tel Aviv and met a Spanish Sephardi Jew who had first gone to Israel in the great migration of 1947/8. I asked him how he learned Hebrew and he said “There’s only one way to learn a language. Get yourself a girl friend who speaks only that language,” although he did admit it felt odd courting a young lady in what he called “the language of the Bible”!

My Spanish friends in Cadiz were wiser than I’d realised. Later, when I was in Madrid, their advice worked very well when I managed to find a girlfriend who, over 50 years later, remains a friend – but still speaks no English. It made for a very nice Christmas in Madrid, with her family.

And my Spanish improved rapidly!

Jeremy Blackham



²Earnest Hemmingway’s wonderful novel of the Spanish Civil War, *For Whom The Bell Tolls*, gives plenty of examples of the art of Spanish insults!

ANSWERS TO MINI FOOD QUIZ

1. The Russian ballet dancer Anna Pavlova.
2. The angels are oysters and the devils are prunes.
3. Cock-a-leekie.
4. Caesar Cardini, who would assemble it for his guests in Tijuana, Mexico in the 1920s.
5. Created by a New York chef as a cure for a certain Mr. Benedict's hangover.
6. Dr. Muesli who was Swiss.
7. It was most common in the French colony of Virginia and the French word for ham is 'jambon'.
8. Imola, a city just west of Bologna in Italy.
9. Hors d'oeuvre.
10. It was a Spanish imitation of the Inca word 'Tchocolat'.

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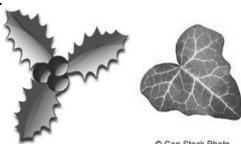
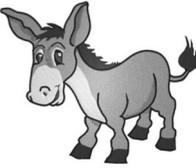
01379 588188

Mace

Family Christmas Quiz 2020

1. In the Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe it was always winter but never what?
2. In St Luke's gospel who told Zechariah he was to be the father of a son and he would call him John?
3. In those days, who issued a decree that all should be registered for tax?
4. Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son and his name shall be called what?
5. Who wore a garment of camel's hair?
6. Where did Joseph take his family after being warned in a dream?
7. When Herod asked the chief priests and scribes of the people where was the baby to be born, where did they tell him?
8. Which is the only gospel that does not begin with Jesus' birth?
9. When it was safe to return to Israel where did Jesus and his family go to live?
10. After Mary was told she was to bear a son who did she go to see in the hill country?

Name the carol from the picture clues

<p>11</p>  <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">© Can Stock Photo</p>	<p>12</p> 	<p>13</p> <p>Shhhhhh....</p> 
<p>14</p> 	<p>15</p> 	<p>16</p> <p>H</p> 
<p>17</p> <p>O</p>  <p>ALL</p> 	<p>18</p> 	<p>19</p> 

As usual a prize of chocolate will be given to the person who gets most answers right please hand in your copy before the feast of Epiphany. If you do not know when that is you will find the answer in this magazine. Merry Christmas David

St. Mary's Church Services – December 2020

Sunday 13th	Sunday 20th	Christmas Day 25th
6.00pm Evensong	4.00pm Carol Service	9.00am Holy Communion
Sidesperson A. Edmonds		Sidesperson A. Edmonds
Reader P. Baker		Reader M. Powell
Isaiah 61:1-4,8-end 1 Thes 5:16-24 John 1:6-8, 19-28		Isaiah 8:2-7 Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)

IF GOVERNMENT RESTRICTIONS ALLOW we are planning a

CHURCHYARD CAROL SERVICE Sunday 20th December 4.00pm



Wrap up warm and come and join us around a bonfire (socially distanced of course).

Bring your own hot drink.

Please watch the Notice Board or ring Margaret on 07906509302

PIE BANK

As there has been a glut of fruit this year and as we are in lock-down we're putting together a Pie Bank.

Could you make a pie or crumble? We have the freezer space. We don't know what restriction the winter will bring so it would be good to have something in reserve to help anyone in the village or new people moving in.

Please call Margaret on 07906509302 if you could help. Thank you

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

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	www.cratfield.onesuffolk.net	
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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 Minns		01986 798344
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Nova Group - Heather Hargood		01986 798180
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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; eighth £10; directory £8; flyer £10.

Please contact Sue, Graham or Peter for more information