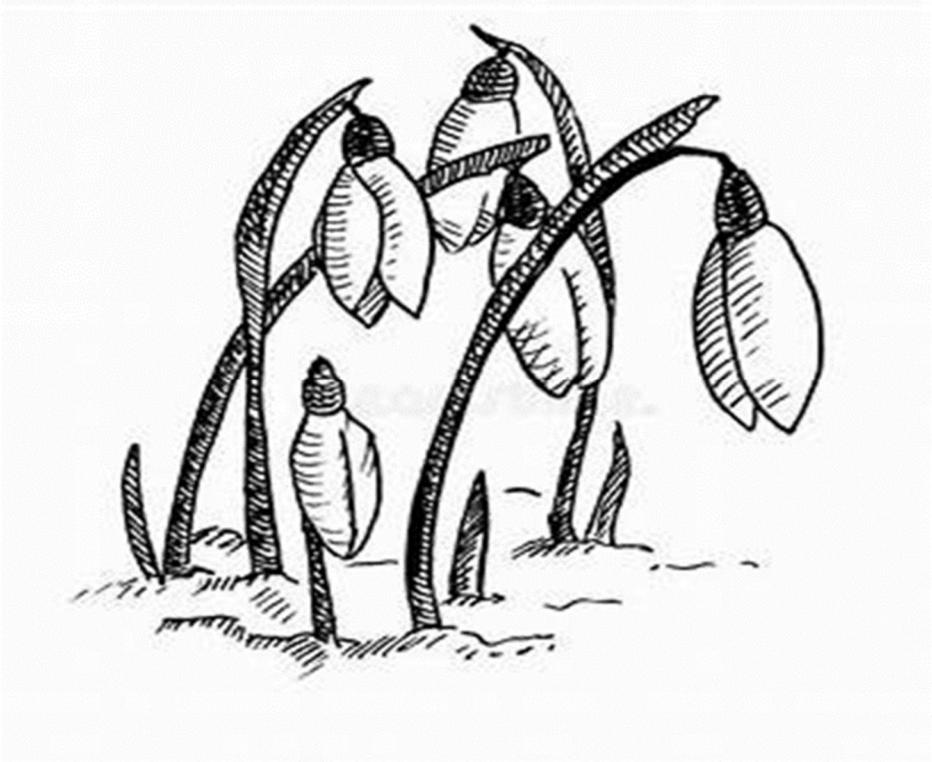


# CRATFIELD NEWS

February 2021



## MANSE LANE FLOOD

The flood in Manse Lane has been particularly deep and persistent this year. There is some progress with the local authority and those of us who are most affected are hopeful about the next step. Meanwhile could I respectfully ask people walking along Manse Lane, who come across the water, not to use my front garden as an escape route? I have watched numerous walkers pushing through my plants, treading on bulbs and tracking across my lawn. I understand their desire not to get their feet wet, but it is a universal truth that once one person forces a footpath across someone's garden, others will start to think it's OK to do the same. If the Manse Lane flood is causing you inconvenience, please complain to the council. Complain to Highways, to your local councillors and to your MP. Keep up the pressure. The solution is not trashing my front garden.

Natalie  
Field Cottage

## LOCKDOWN

Just a reminder that the Lockdown Helpline is still active. If you need any help please call Margaret on 07906 509302

## CONTRIBUTIONS

As always thank you to Nigel, Jeremy and Andrew for their ongoing contributions to our magazine. As Andrew comes to the end of his family saga there will be room for more copy. So, if anyone has anything of interest to say, amusing, informative, educational, please step up to the plate. We all have plenty of time on our hands to while away some minutes reading the Cratfield News and, I'm very pleased to say, many do read it.

(The phrase "*step up to the plate*" is derived from the American sport of baseball. Home *plate* is the beginning position in baseball designated by a flat marker known as home *plate*. The batter literally *steps up to the plate* in order to swing at the pitched ball.)

## **PACT ANIMAL SANCTUARY**

We all know 2020 was full of challenges, one of the biggest for us was financial. With 15 charity shops closed for most of the year due to COVID we lost one average £3600 a month.

As a charity, we receive no government funding. We rely on donations from re-homing, fund-raising, money left in wills and the profits of our charity shops.

We are looking to the new year with a hope that people will be eager to volunteer once they're able to, but we are anxious that we will soon see a rush of the 'lockdown pets' coming through our gates to be relinquished.

The pandemic didn't stop animals being abandoned, mistreated and unwanted. We carried on working hard throughout, despite having to make staff redundancies and not being able to have volunteers on site.

2021 brings a chance for improvement – we are hoping that we can get back into organising fund-raising events to continue raising money to improve our Wildlife Hospital facilities. The Wildlife Hospital cares for sick, injured and orphaned wildlife such as birds and mammals. Our most common patients are hedgehogs during the winter and fledgling garden birds in the summer.

We are also hoping to raise enough money to rebuild our ferret enclosures. An important part of the sanctuary as ferret rescue in East Anglia is very limited, so we need to ensure that we always have safe, secure enclosures available.

If you would like to learn more or to make a donation, please head to our website at [www.pactsanctuary.org](http://www.pactsanctuary.org) or head to our Facebook page

Jordane Ellis-Williams

Publication and Website designer for PACT Animal Sanctuary

## Fire

This winter in Cratfield we woke to a particularly cold, foggy, and sunless morning. I made a note of the date – Saturday January 10<sup>th</sup>. The neighbouring ploughed field was ruttled with rime and studded with frozen puddles of milky ice. Every blade of grass and every skeleton tree was overlaid with a pale aluminium patina of frosting. The washing line was a thick white rope strung with crystal ice drops. It was a morning for staying in and lighting the wood stove. We lit the logs much earlier than usual and we did not stray from those welcome flames all day.



Cratfield people like a wood fire. They are cosy, they provide a centre to the room. The pictures your mind's eye sees in the flames are a respite from TV news. Fire is an ancient thing.

We love our hearths warmed by elemental fire. Each has a different personality and gives off its own individual fiery perfume. There are the super-modern super-efficient stoves of the space age that can appear, with minimalist steel flues, independent of walls and brick chimneys, anywhere in the room. There are primly efficient little stoves with big warm hearts like our wood burner. There are huge furnaces cavernous as Vulcan's smithy which open on to a universe of flames. There are wild, untamed open fires. There are giant inglenooks with fire dogs and braziers, refuges for the retired, redolent of the Elizabethan era when they used to say that only a miracle could tempt 'old men from the chimney corner'. And every hearth in every home is as individual as the people that inhabit it. To warm ourselves at a hearth in the home of friends, with its special smell and gleam is, I am afraid, just a faraway dream now. Next winter perhaps.



More prosaically, in a remote village, a wood fire gives an assurance of heat in the face of power cuts. A good stove is a reliable source of warmth when elderly central heating boilers conk out – I speak from experience as this happened on the day I wrote this little piece.

Then there are the logs and the joy of amassing and storing them. The sight of our neatly stacked logs, soldiers in a wooden army laid up to defeat General Winter gladdens my heart. Our logs are delivered, we merely put them neatly away – an hour doing that is strenuous enough for us. I have met those who extol the virtues of capturing one's own

logs with chainsaw and trailer. I admire the rugged independence of such people, but their way will never be mine. I blench at the idea of the damage I could do myself with a chainsaw – I have inflicted enough inadvertent self harm in my back kitchen, with vegetable knives and cheese graters.



And the testimony of friends who chainsaw their own logs, though enthusiastically meant, has never inspired confidence. 'You got to grip it hard, really hard, or it might kick back. The bruises I have had off that machine.' (Tapping a boot on the floor) 'Hit my foot last year, went to A and E and lost a toe!'

'See' (Pointing a truncated digit heavenward) 'I lost the tip of that finger on my chainsaw. Power tools are a dangerous force that needs to be contained – unless you are like me and know what you are doing!'

I will leave the delights of lumberjacking to others. When I come in from the winter's cold to warm my extremities at a real fire, I find it somehow reassuring to know that I will have a full set of them.



**Nigel Cousins**

MICHAEL OLIVER

## FENCING AND GATES

ALL ASPECTS SUPPLIED ERECTED REPAIRED  
ADAPTABLE to your individual requirements

GARDEN FEATURES CONSTRUCTED AND INSTALLED  
Arches pergolas trellis paving paths footbridges raised beds log stores

GRAVEL DRIVEWAYS CONSTRUCTED AND REFURBISHED  
Including drainage and all types of edging

MINI DIGGER TO: CLEAN SMALL DITCHES TRENCHES DRAINAGE  
HOLES AUGERED CONCRETE BREAKING AREAS LEVELLED AND CLEARED

*PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE  
FREE WRITTEN ESTIMATES AND SENSIBLE ADVICE*

HOME: 01986 798129 MOBILE: 07946 714291  
EMAIL:michael700oliver@btinternet.com

## Linstead Farm & Garden

For all your gardening equipment and machinery needs

Lawn mowers, ride-ons, chainsaws, hedge trimmers etc

**STIHL VIKING MOUNTFIELD COUNTAX STIGA**

Sales and service, spares and repairs. Contact Bob or Simon on 01986  
785272 or email [linsteadfarm@btconnect.com](mailto:linsteadfarm@btconnect.com)



## 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

## *Gates Lodge Self Catering*

- *Luxury Grade 2 Listed Accommodation*
- *Fully Equiped*
- *4 star Detached Cart-Lodge & Stable*

*Farmland views*

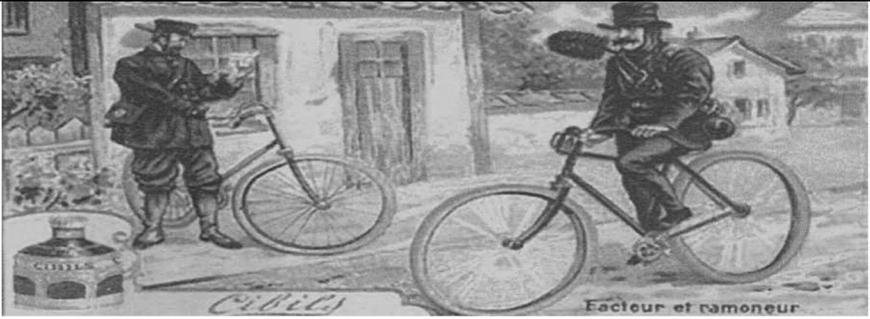
Chippenhall Green, Fressingfield, IP21 5SJ

**01379-586166**

**[www.jolly-farmers-suffolk.com](http://www.jolly-farmers-suffolk.com)**

**[www.gateslodge.co.uk](http://www.gateslodge.co.uk)**





## CHIMNEY SWEEP

STRADBROKE 01379 388908

FULLY CERTIFIED

INSURANCE APPROVED

TONY HALES

BUMBLE COTTAGE, WILBY RD, STRADBROKE



*Don't forget to book your lucky sweep for weddings.*

## Pike's Paws

### Home Boarding for Dogs



- Safe family environment
- 3 Acre organic small-holding
- From holiday stays to day care
- Fully insured and Licensed

Oak Tree Cottage, Cratfield Road  
Huntingfield, Suffolk, IP19 0QB

[Pikespaws@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Pikespaws@yahoo.co.uk)

01986 798310

Find us on:  
 [facebook. PikesPaws](https://www.facebook.com/PikesPaws)

## Stories from a Family Tree: Frederick Weight (1828 – 1901) - Episode 4

**Recap:** Frederick's first wife, Charlotte, never recovered from her deprivations in their emigration to America, followed by crossing the plains to the Mormon heartland of Salt Lake City: she died aged 23 5 weeks later, leaving a 6 month old son. Frederick's fortunes waxed and waned: in 1854, he married Mary Mills – this proving to be an unhappy marriage – and, in 1865, in Mormon tradition, he polygamously married Elizabeth Bocock. However, the year is now 1887, polygamy has just been outlawed and two marshalls are at Frederick's door, ready to arrest him and take him to *the county jail*...

Frederick happened to be away on business, but he was finally arrested on 12<sup>th</sup> November, 1887, and taken to Provo (a large city in Utah) – with a trial date set for the following March. Frederick wrote in his memoirs, "My wife Elizabeth was arrested soon after, being placed under a \$300.00 bond to appear against me as a witness, as was my son George." Mary, Frederick's first wife, meanwhile kept her distance.

Frederick pleaded guilty at his trial on 10<sup>th</sup> March, 1888. "On the 19<sup>th</sup> March, my son Eugene, aged 11 years, was taken very ill with peritonitis. He became worse and worse, and the doctor gave us little or no hope that he would recover. I shall never forget how hard it was for me to tear myself away from my dying boy to go to prison, never expecting to see him again in this life. I looked at my dying boy, my weeping wife, and my children, and could not hold back the tears of bitter anguish which I felt. I left on 24<sup>th</sup> March, 1888."

"The Marshall took charge of us in Provo and my sentence was that I would be confined for 60 days. We were then marched to a train to be taken to the penitentiary in Salt Lake City." However, behind the scenes, Judge Dusenberry of Provo – who had had representations made to him on behalf of Frederick ahead of the trial - expressed concerns to Judge Henderson that the 'old man' (meaning Frederick, who was now 60) was going to jail. Judge H. said, "What else can we do? He can't pay his fine. Does he have any friends?" "Yes", said Judge D, "I am his friend." "Well, will you go to his security?" "Yes, I will," said Judge D. "Then," said Judge H., "I will let him off with a \$100.00 fine."

Just as the train was ready to pull out, setting off for the county jail, Judge Dusenberry reached it and managed to take Frederick off. In his memoirs, Frederick wrote: "The people of Springville raised money for my fine in less than half a day, and I was a free man once more."

Although this was an unexpected turn of events, he was only to return home to witness the last days of his son Eugene, who died on 1<sup>st</sup> April.

Through an inheritance, Elizabeth came into some money, but Frederick's first wife, Mary, came after a good portion of it for herself; in return, she would give Frederick a divorce. The money was not his to give, but instead, he passed over the deeds to Mary's house on the condition that she let him take the organ that he had built himself. She agreed to this, then after they

parted, took an axe to it.

Frederick's memoirs continue: "On 30<sup>th</sup> November, 1890, my brother Alfred passed away in England, at the age of 64. He had worked at Reading Iron Works for 35 years." *The Alfred referred to is the great, great grandfather of Chrissie Underwood from Swan Green!*

Frederick's description of his last decade appears quite reflective, looking back at everything he had achieved. In telling his story, I have focused on the more dramatic moments, trying to tell as much as I can, in as few words as possible, so as not to overcrowd the Cratfield News! But in being as economical as I can in the telling of this story, I have omitted to explain the immense impact music, prayer and singing had on this family. For Frederick and his family, music was a constant – and however quirky we might think Mormonism is (though Frederick's 'hell and damnation' pastor in England would use stronger words!) – you can't ignore the sheer devotion they had to their religion, attending endless prayer meetings and services, performing works for the community; and no matter what disaster befell them, it was "The Will of God."

Frederick Weight made a dulcimer for his boy Claude, a violin-cello for his son Ralph and toy wagons which were sold in the stores. He played the organ, making three of his own; he repaired musical instruments, and he was the choir leader and Sunday School teacher for over 45 years in Springville. He also made, and sold, one guitar, a double bass and several violins. Six of his sons and grandsons played in the Martial Band, and his son, Ralph, was playing the organ in Sunday School from the age of 11. In 1865, he was appointed drum major and he started the Theatre in Salt Lake City. He played organ, horn and cello (and probably more). He built and plastered houses across most of Springville, and he built several of his own houses from scratch. He tended roads, ditches and waterways, and he was a gardener and a farmer. He had a lathe and he made his own furniture. Oh! And protector of the peace, being in the Home Guard for the Black Hawk Indian war! ...Frederick died at Springville on 15<sup>th</sup> December, 1901 and lies in the City Cemetery at Springville, Utah.

The first line of Frederick's memoirs reads: "I, Frederick Weight, am the son of poor but honest parents, having been born in Stroud, Gloucestershire." Who knew what was to follow?

Frederick, you had guts, grit and determination: that was quite a ride! Thank you for sharing your journey with us.

Andrew Weight

### **GOT A DRIP?**

Need a plumber?

40 years experience.

Water filters and softeners

Heating and plumbing

**NO JOB TOO SMALL**

Locally based

Call Derek 07971 007846

email:

Dcknight67@yahoo.co.uk



Would you like  
an attractive  
garden, or a productive  
vegetable patch, but lack the  
time, energy or experience?

Then call Gary Kimpton Garden  
Services for expert advice and  
practical help in your garden.  
Please telephone 07913814176 for  
a prompt response.

## **CHARLES GLENNON**

AERIAL & SATELLITE  
INSTALLATION & REPAIRS

AUDIO • VISUAL • CCTV • WIFI

**01728 603376**

**07786 363 832**

### **Four Star Rated**

### **Whipple Tree Cottage**

### **Bell Green, Cratfield**

This carefully restored timbered former stable and hayloft includes 1 x double, 1 x twin bedroom (1 cot on request). 1 single bed downstairs.

Wet room, dining room, lounge and large kitchen. All level ground floor for easy wheelchair access. Pretty cottage garden, summerhouse plus off road parking for two cars.

For bookings apply to:

Chris Kitchen tel. no. 01986 798 764 or write to Bell Green Cottage, Cratfield,  
Halesworth, Suffolk, IP19 0BI

## **VILLAGE HALL UPDATE – FEBRUARY**

### **Village Hall – Cladding**

Following receipt of the Retail, Hospitality & Leisure Grant (made available to all village halls from local government) at the start of Lockdown last year we have now had all the quotes submitted from a number of local companies with regards to re cladding the village hall. You may remember in one of last years articles we reported a lot of the cladding is original and failing in places. We have had a number of local companies visit (as one industry that has been allowed to continue throughout lockdown) and have quotes for a range of cladding options along with installing new insulation behind the cladding and a new gutter system. The committee look forward to being able to meet and talk through the costs and options when it is safe and allowed.

We are also planning on updating the ‘napalm or off’ heating system and updating some of the lighting throughout, along with possibly some of the flooring. With all of that and Robert King’s hard work on researching and overseeing the quotes and installation last year of a sound deadening system we feel the Village Hall will be fit for another 91 years.

### **Village Hall Flower Bed**

As soon as the weather improves work will start on stripping out and re planting the flower bed by the roadside – along with installing a sign (hopefully very locally made...) A budget has been set aside along with a planting plan – and we look forward to cracking on with this project.

### **100 CLUB**

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

1<sup>st</sup> Sara Saunders No: 90 £15.00

2<sup>nd</sup> Nick Eade No: 30 £10.00

3<sup>rd</sup> Colin Bain No: 64 £5.00

Congratulations to all the winners!

One of the many things that I love about rural Suffolk is the glorious lanes, that wind their own narrow, mysterious way round fields and copses and are rarely straight for more than a few yards, nor wide enough often to pass another vehicle. I tell those of my friends who don't know Suffolk (which is most of them) that it is always twice as far from A to B by road as it is by crow. But I think I am wrong. It is more like three times as far by road! However, I wouldn't have it otherwise. Nor would the poet GK Chesterton whose well known poem "The Rolling English Road" celebrates this wonderful feature of English, and especially Suffolk, rural life. He was really writing about the south of England but, as you will see in his poem, he might easily have been a Suffolk man. For my part, I am mightily grateful that, after full lockdown, we can once again roam these lovely lanes before the winter comes.

"Before the Roman came to Rye or out to Severn strode,  
The rolling English drunkard made the rolling English road.  
A reeling road, a rolling road, that rambles round the shire,  
And after him the parson ran, the sexton and the squire;  
A merry road, a mazy road, and such as we did tread  
The night we went to Birmingham by way of Beachy Head.

I knew no harm of Bonaparte and plenty of the Squire,  
And for to fight the Frenchman I did not much desire;  
But I did bash their baggonets<sup>1</sup> because they came arrayed  
To straighten out the crooked road an English drunkard made,  
Where you and I went down the lane with ale-mugs in our hands,  
The night we went to Glastonbury by way of Goodwin Sands.

His sins they were forgiven him; or why do flowers run  
Behind him; and the hedges all strengthening in the sun?  
The wild thing went from left to right and knew not which was which,  
But the wild rose was above him when they found him in the ditch.  
God pardon us, nor harden us; we did not see so clear  
The night we went to Bannockburn by way of Brighton Pier.

My friends, we will not go again or ape an ancient rage,  
Or stretch the folly of our youth to be the shame of age,  
But walk with clearer eyes and ears this path that wandereth,  
And see undrugged in evening light the decent inn of death;  
For there is good news yet to hear and fine things to be seen,  
Before we go to Paradise by way of Kensal Green."

**Jeremy Blackham**

---

<sup>1</sup>Baggonet – the original name for what we now call bayonets.

**D. M. BULLOCK**  
**GENERAL BUILDER**

*All building work undertaken*



Extensions

New Build Renovations

Patios Brickwork

Plastering

Carpentry

Ceramic Tiling

Mobile: 07766 063601

**R. Gritton**

**Professional Decorators**

**High Quality, reliable  
service for all your  
interior and exterior  
requirements**

**Telephone: 01379**

**586768**

**Mobile: 07766 982600**

**Cratfield Beef**



**Quality Home Produced Beef**

**A large selection of fresh & frozen beef  
readily available**

**Come and visit the Cratfield beef stand  
at Halesworth produce market every  
second Saturday of each month**

**A full price list is available on request.**

**Further details from Lotty 01986**

**798099**

**orders@cratfieldbeef.co.uk**



**HILLCREST**  
VEHICLE SOLUTIONS

- MOT
- Servicing
- Repairs
- Diagnostics
- All makes welcome
- Land Rover Specialists

**All mechanical work guaranteed for 12  
months or 12,000 miles**

**Hillcrest Garage, Cratfield Road  
Huntingfield Tel: 01986 798668**

# **PAINTING AND DECORATING INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR**

**FOR A CONSCIENTIOUS, RELIABLE  
SERVICE**

**23 YEARS EXPERIENCE**

**PAUL GODDARD**

**Tel: 01986 784594**

**paul@pablo101.plus.com**

## **LOCAL SPRING HONEY FOR SALE**



**1lb JARS £5.50**

**½ lb JARS £3.00**

**OR 1 ½ oz TASTER JARS ONLY £1.00**

**PLEASE CALL ON 07900 187350 RICHARD AT SILVER-  
LEYS GREEN**

**IF YOU ARE SELF ISOLATING, WE ARE HAPPY TO MAKE  
LOCAL DELIVERIES FOR YOU TO ENJOY THIS DELICIOUS  
HONEY**



**Pete's**

**Computer**

**Services**

**Reliable, helpful, honest and local!  
Assistance, maintenance and repairs.  
PC, laptops, tablets and phones.  
NO FIX NO FEE.**

**Tel: 07758076177 or 01986888505  
pete@petescomputerservices.co.uk  
WEB: petescomputerservices.co.uk**



**Laxfield Pre-School**

**Framlingham Road, Laxfield. IP13 8HD  
Sessions available 8.30am -3.30pm  
term time only for Babies/Children  
aged 6mths - 5yrs.  
(Funding available subject to criteria).  
Please call Lizzie on 01986 798091 or  
email  
at: office.laxfieldpreschool@gmail.com**



*Paul's fish supplies*

**Mobile fishmonger  
Door to Door sales  
07881 686282  
Email : pmg@griffleet7177.plus.com**

2021 Mobile Library Dates

Nothing here as yet.

But watch this space!

**T.W. Tree and Gardening  
Services**

All aspects of tree surgery

Hedges trimmed, rough areas  
strimmed, garden rubbish cleared

Tel: 01986 798928

Mob: 07787 753525

**BOOTY BUILDERS**

**LAXFIELD**

\*\*\*\*\*

**For all types of  
building work**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Contact Terry**

**01986 798753**

**Or 07889 116448**

**D.C. PATRICK**

26 Market Place, Halesworth

**YOUR LOCAL NEWSAGENT  
NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES  
DELIVERED TO YOUR HOME 7 DAYS A  
WEEK**

**TELEPHONE 01986 875229**



**Do you hate ironing?**

Then let me do it! Reasonable rates, I can  
collect and deliver.

Existing customers in Cratfield.

Contact Sue on 07789 041793 or  
01986 873 729

## “We are not Amused.....”

In August 1968, HMS Naiad sailed for 10 months unaccompanied foreign service which would take us to Madeira, South America, Tristan da Cunha, South Africa, Kenya, the Seychelles, three months as Persian Gulf guardship, Bombay, Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan, Indian Ocean islands, South Africa again, Sierra Leone, Gibraltar and home. A lot of wonderful experiences as well as operational challenges.

Our first task was to escort the Royal Yacht on a state visit to Brazil, not the first or last time I was involved in escorting Britannia. Whenever the RY embarked the Monarch, the RN provided an escort. Britannia herself was crewed by RN ratings selected for permanent Royal Yacht Service and officered by RN officers in normal rotational jobs. However, we ordinary folk felt that the latter tended to develop airs and graces and a certain *hauteur* which we felt obliged to remove when they returned to the coal face! Maybe we were envious. When on Royal Duty, they were forbidden to invite friends on board before Her Majesty embarked, and throughout the period of Royal Duty. This did not, however, prevent them from visiting their friends on the escorting ship as often as the bar was open, when naval custom and practice demanded that we buy their drinks! In this case Her Majesty was to embark in Recife and be taken for a 10 day stay in Rio de Janeiro, a Royal Duty spell of six weeks. Yes, I know, it's a hard life, but someone has to do it.

*En route* to Recife we stopped to refuel in Madeira which 50 years ago was nothing like the hotel-rich tourist paradise of today, but rather shabby and, well, old fashioned and definitely a land of the siesta. It wasn't that nothing happened in the afternoons. They slept in the afternoons; it was in the mornings that nothing happened!

The day before we left my good friend Terry, our helicopter pilot, and I walked to the famous Reid's Hotel for "tea". Suitably mellowed, we meandered back over the hill above the harbour. We were greeted by an extraordinary sight. The entire crew of Britannia, officers and all, were in overalls scrubbing the wooden deck and ship's side. Apparently, whilst fuelling, an aged Madeiran hose had burst (during the siesta when no help was available) and covered the pristine white decks and ships side with black sludge. In those days Britannia's boilers burnt Furnace Fuel Oil, basically the dark sludge left when everything else had been refined from crude oil<sup>1</sup>. It was horrid, treacly, smelly stuff which stained everything almost irretrievably. Understandably, the Admiral in the RY had visions of summary execution on his own quarterdeck like Admiral Byng (ironically Byng's flagship was HMS Monarch). Stifling a certain feeling of *schadenfreude*, we sent a team across to help and they were at it all night. However, we could not suppress a giggle that this haughty group of officers had suffered a bit of a comeuppance. It cured any envy we might have felt.

We sailed next morning, the RY looking surprisingly spry. In Recife the RY

---

<sup>1</sup>Today the only steam propelled ships in the RN are our nuclear-powered submarines.

officers were rather humbler, slightly embarrassed and much more approachable. Better still, they entertained us to drinks in a local bar of a distinctly un-Royal sort! In due course, Her Majesty embarked and we sailed for Rio de Janeiro, for me the first of four visits there. Rio was *en fete* for the occasion, and we had a wonderful time. We even met several girls from Ipanema and exercised at sea with the Brazilian Navy. Unfortunately, the Official Secrets Act (and loyalty to my former shipmates, plus the fact that Candy reads these stories) prevents me disclosing further details! Suffice it to say that, for all its problems, violence and inequalities, Rio is a wonderful, strikingly beautiful place.

Three years later my friend Terry was appointed to the RY and very kindly invited me to dinner on board. During pre-dinner drinks I reminded him that we had last been together with the RY in Madeira. He immediately changed the subject, telling me, *sotto voce* but firmly, that Madeira was NEVER mentioned on board. You see, in the Navy your first loyalty is always to your present ship and Terry had become, at least temporarily, a RY man!

**Jeremy Blackham**



## How it all starts!

My wife sat down next to me as I was flipping through the channels.  
She asked, "What's on TV?"  
"Dust," I replied.  
And then the fight started.

My wife was hinting about what she wanted for our upcoming anniversary.  
She said, "I want something shiny that goes from 0 to 150 in about 3 seconds."  
I bought her bathroom scales.  
Then the fight started.

One year I decided to buy my mother-in-law a cemetery plot as a Christmas gift...The next year I didn't buy her a gift.  
When she asked me why I replied, "Well you haven't used the gift I bought you last year!"  
And that's how the fight started.

Sorry, very sexist, but hey, they can still make some of us smile!

**However I'm not sure what started the fight between two young men in the Co-op car park at 11.00am on a Friday morning. Not very Halesworth!**

## Tank Change Limited

Does your Oil Tank need replacing?  
We are your local oil tank installer established since  
1989 with over 16,000 installations to date

- New oil tank installations, relocations and servicing
- Emergency pump out service available for leaking oil tanks
- Kingspan Titan polyethylene tanks and steel tanks held in stock
- OFTEC registered
- Kingspan Titan Accredited
- Fully insured
- Parish magazine discount
- Free surveys

Tel. 01449 781210  
Email: [enquiries@tankchange.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@tankchange.co.uk)  
[www.tankchange.co.uk](http://www.tankchange.co.uk)



## HORSE & GARDEN

The Thoroughfare, Halesworth

01986 873484 open 9 - 5.00 pm

Monday – Saturday

Everything for horse and rider.  
Garden supplies, seasonal bulbs,  
wellingtons, workwear, country  
clothing, gift tokens and much  
more

## ACORN FOOT HEALTH

Roger C. Griffiths, BSc (Econ), Dip Soc Sci,  
PGCE, MCFHP, MAFHP

FOOT HEALTH CONSULTANT

HOME VISITS, CARE HOMES & PRIVATE CLINIC

Verruca treatments, ingrown toenails, calluses,  
fungal infection, corns, nail cutting, bunions  
and Foot Care for diabetics.

Foot health checks and all nail conditions.

For an appointment

Tel. 01379 384873 Mob. 07724 073328

Email: [griffithstwo@aol.com](mailto:griffithstwo@aol.com)

Some evening appointments available

## MAN & MACHINE



### LOCAL PLANT & DRIVER HIRE – REASONABLE RATES.

SITE WORKS, DRIVES, AGRICULTURAL, DITCHING, DRAINAGE, HARDCORE  
SUPPLIED AND REMOVED, INCLUDING CONCRETE CRUSH.

FOR SALE SAWN TIMBER OF DIFFERENT SIZES & TELEGRAPH.

ALL JOBS UNDERTAKEN. TRACTOR, TRAILER, SITE WASTE REMOVED.

CALL DAVID ABELL FOR QUOTATION; 01986 785132 MOBILE 07966 725001

YEW TREE COTTAGE, MARYS LANE, HUNTINGFIELD, IP19 0QW.

## LAMB MEAT

### Welsh Mountain Badger Faced (from the uplands of Cratfield)

Traditional  
breed and you  
can taste the  
difference!



All meat is at present  
jointed & frozen  
Available 1/2, 1/4  
lambs or individual  
cuts

For further details contact [tonybateson@live.co.uk](mailto:tonybateson@live.co.uk)

Or Tony & Kerry on

01986 785 274 or

07787 522 313

# FRESSINGFIELD STORES

YOUR FRESH AND LOCAL VILLAGE STORE

**NEW**  
**'INDEPENDENT'**  
RANGE OF  
OWN BRAND  
SPECIAL  
VALUE  
GOODS



- ★ 3 Weekly Special Offers
- ★ Off-Licence,  
Dry Cleaning,  
Gas & Coal
- ★ Open 7 Days a Week  
until 8pm  
(Sunday 6pm)

**01379 588188**

**Mace**

Dear Friends,

## Candlemas Day - February 2

For the Romans and the Celts February was the start of spring, but it was not part of the original Roman calendar and along with January was inserted by a chap called Numa Pampilus when the calendar was extended from ten to twelve months. The word February comes from februa which means cleansing or purification and reflects the many rituals that took place before the start of spring.

The Anglo Saxons called February Sol-monath (cake month) because cakes were offered to the gods during the spring festival. In Shakespeare's time the second month of the year was called Fevrell and one hundred years later in the time of Isaac Newton it had become Februeer. The modern name which reflects more closely the original Roman name only came into use about one hundred years ago.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> February is celebrated in Church and is called Candlemas day. This ancient festival marks the midpoint of winter between the shortest day and the spring equinox. Candlemas marks the end of the Christmas season where we turn from the celebration of Christ's birth and make ready for his death and resurrection at Easter. Robert Herrick in his poem 'Ceremonies for Candlemas Eve,' writes:

Down with rosemary and bay,  
Down with mistletoe;  
Instead of holly, now up-raise  
The greener box (for show)

On Candlemas day all the candles that were to be used in the church and at home in the coming year were brought to church and a blessing was said over them thus the festival day or mass for candles.

And candles were very important not only because there was no electric or gas light but because they were thought to give protection against plague and illness and famine. For Christians they were a reminder of something even more important. Before Jesus came to earth, it was as if everyone was 'in the dark'. People often felt lost

and lonely. With the Advent of Jesus with his message that God was with us and loved us so much he came down from heaven to live among us. Jesus became the guiding light to Christians and he was given the title 'Light of the World,' so we light candles to remind us of this.

Candlemas is important in the Church year because not only does it remind us of the God of love who came to be with us but also the changing of the seasons. And as the season changes so does the mood of the Church, the Christmas joy is modified by the impending approach of Easter. Although Easter too is a great joyful celebration we must first pass through Holy Week and especially Good Friday the day when Jesus died on the cross. To be a Christian means we must be grounded in our faith and it needs to be real we shall be celebrating Candlemas on 31<sup>st</sup> Jan in Tannington Church and on zoom, do attend if you can.

David

### **The Answers to the Christmas quiz:**

1 Christmas, 2 The Angel Gabriel, 3 Caesar Augustus, 4 Immanuel, 5 John the Baptist, 6 Egypt,

7 Bethlehem, 8 St Mark, 9 Nazareth, 10 Elizabeth, 11 The Holly and the Ivy, 12 While shepherds

13 Silent Night, 14 Good King Wenceslas, 15 We three kings, 16 Ding dong merrily, 17 O come all ye faithful, 18 I saw three ships, 19 Little donkey.

We had four winners so their names went in the hat and the overall winner was Gwen Chambers

Well done Gwen some chocolate will be heading your way soon.

## **NO SERVICES IN ST. MARY'S DURING FEBRUARY**

(although there are benches in the porch, with cushions!)

# DIRECTORY:

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

## Local officers:

Church Rev. David Burrell		01986 798 136
---------------------------	--	---------------

'The Vicarage, Noyes Avenue, Laxfield

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

## Church Wardens:

Andy Edmunds		01986 798523
--------------	--	--------------

Lay Elder for Cratfield - Margaret Thompson		07906 509302
---	--	--------------

Parish Council - Lotty Barbour		01986 798099
--------------------------------	--	--------------

PC Clerk Sally Chapman		01379 855486
------------------------	--	--------------

PC Website	<a href="http://www.cratfield.onesuffolk.net">www.cratfield.onesuffolk.net</a>	
------------	--	--

Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator - Nick Eade		01986 798725
--	--	--------------

## Village Hall:

Chair Person - Natalie Lloyd-Evans		01986 798790
------------------------------------	--	--------------

Vice Chair - Richard Turberville		01986 798346
----------------------------------	--	--------------

Bookings - Jo Nunn		01986 799181
--------------------	--	--------------

Laxfield School Head of School- Mrs Minns		01986 798344
---	--	--------------

Nova Group - Heather Hargood		01986 798180
------------------------------	--	--------------

## Magazine Editors:

Sue Eade, Cranes Cottage, Cratfield, IP19 0BN		01986 798725
---	--	--------------

[suecratmag@aol.com](mailto:suecratmag@aol.com)

Treasurer - Graham Nixey		07748 907099
--------------------------	--	--------------

Production Manager -

Peter Sparrow, 2 The Street, Cratfield, IP19 0BS		01986 888505
--	--	--------------

[peter-sparrow@outlook.com](mailto:peter-sparrow@outlook.com)

All information must arrive by 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Advertising rates p/a: Full page £60; half page £30; quarter £20; eighth £10; directory £8; flyer £10.

Please contact Sue, Graham or Peter for more information