

CRATFIELD NEWS

January 2021



LOTS OF THANK YOUS

Firstly, very many thanks to Geoff for delivering Cratfield News to North Green, Silverleys Green and Swan Green since the inception of the magazine in January 2004. How many magazines is that! Prior to that Geoff also delivered the Parish News. Very many thanks Geoff.

Secondly, a big thank you to all those who offered help in taking over this delivery round. From January 2021 North Green will be delivered by Andrew Weight, Siverleys Green by Maisie Lister and Swan Green by Mary Kirk. As always we are very grateful to Julie, Rebecca, Dan and Linzi, Mel, Andy and Richard who deliver around the rest of the village.

Somewhat belatedly a thank you from St. Mary's PCC to Clive for his work on cutting the wild vegetation from around the gravestones and to Alison and Mike for weeding and re-defining the path around the church and clearing the building edges. Your work is much appreciated.

Whilst we are on the subject, there have been lots of generous offerings of apples around the village, on behalf of those who have helped themselves another thank you. We found the ones we had very tasty.

Another thank you to Clive for erecting the star in the church tower, it looks beautiful shining out through the west window.

Thank you to all those who put up lights around the village to bring a little brightness and cheer during this very strange and difficult Christmas period. They have been much admired.

And finally a thank you to the Christmas Elf who was very busy on the Sunday morning before Christmas delivering little gifts throughout the village. He has left us with a Christmas Conundrum, who is he? Many suggestions have been put forward, but his anonymity remains intact. Well whoever you are little elf, you brought a some joy, fun, not to mention perplexity to brighten these trying times.

So as we enter 2021 from Cratfield News we wish you all a safe and healthy New Year. Maybe before too long things might get back to some sort of normality and we can meet up again without this ghastly social distancing, then those who have arrived in the village during this difficult year will find out what Cratfield is really like. They won't be disappointed.

Sue

Chuchyard Carols

Sunday 20th December 4.30pm Jupiter and Saturn could be seen aligning in the night sky. The last time this happened was 400 years ago. Well the planets were certainly aligning for Cratfield as 115 people gathered for our Churchyard Carols. Even the weather was calmer than it had been. The fire was crackling, the lights were twinkling, the singers were singing and everyone was so pleased to see each other. I think it made us all feel that Christmas was going to happen. The air was highly charged with Cratfield friendships.

So I have to thank Pike's Paws for the donation of the tree, Tim Ackerley for transporting the tree on his truck, Robert Sannick for his help in planting the tree, David Abell for the trailer full of wood for the bonfire and the straw to get it going, the team of Graham Nixey, Gary Thomas, Dennis Rockall and Robert Sannick for building the bonfire, Andy Barringer and Richard Turberville for decorating the tree and especially Andy for helping with the advertising, Rebecca Sannick for producing and delivering flyers, also for sparklers and sweets for the children. And a very special thank you to Arthur, only eight weeks old, for switching on the lights and to all the choristers for their glorious moments.

Lastly a thank you to Cratfield for just being you. Watch out next year!
Margaret Thompson

Reasons to be Cheerful in Cratfield



* The Christmas Elf delivering a bag of treats to my home and those of neighbours. Unseen, and creating a bubble of happiness the morning after we all heard our festive plans had changed.

* A curving stretch of new-laid hedge on the lane towards Linstead, which in time will recreate ancient boundaries and provide habitat for dozens of species. My admiration goes out to the man who has planted it single handed.

* The Carol Service, which as I write, is still on and which will bring us all safely together. Thank you to everyone who has organised it, done the logistics and built the bonfire.

* The farmers who keep going, whatever.

* The annual floods outside my home which have come lightly and gone quickly this year. (Yes, I know we still have January and February to come.)

* Neighbours putting buckets of apples outside their homes. My freezer is full of Bramleys and now I'm loving Barbara and Julian's russets.

* And finally, Cratfield News arriving through our letter boxes. It is one of the longest, ongoing conversations in this village. Thanks to Sue Eade and Peter Sparrow who create it and all the 'posties' who deliver it.

Natalie Lloyd-Evans

The Art of Navigation – it's all a load of bull!

On return from Spain, I was appointed in May 1968 as Navigating Officer of the shiny newish frigate, HMS Naiad. Naval vessels are not permitted to hand over control to a pilot, so my job entailed planning and execution of the ship's navigation whether entering or leaving harbour, sailing in confined waters or in the middle of the ocean. It also included planning the ship's programme, supervising the operations room (the ship's command centre), determining fuelling requirements and, most importantly for all the crew, arranging delivery of mail wherever we were. In those days there was no Satnav or GPS; we relied on what we could see or, in fog, hear and monitor by radar and depth recorder. Out of sight of land we navigated by the sun, moon and stars¹. Nor were there PCs or mobile and satellite phones, so we depended on snail mail which we could only receive and despatch when in port, assuming I had made the necessary arrangements. Occasionally it might be dropped to us by RAF aircraft. It could take three or four weeks to write home and get a reply.

I felt daunted by this role. At sea it was a 24 hour a day job, and in harbour a great deal of planning and administrative work. The most urgent thing was to learn quickly to navigate safely and accurately and win the confidence of the Captain so that he felt sufficiently relaxed to go and sleep. That I might need to sleep seemed to concern him rather less!

I was thrown in at the deep end. Naiad was ordered to support Polaris submarine trials on the deep underwater range in the Sound of Raasay between Applecross and the islands of Skye and Raasay. This is a very testing area for any navigator, let alone a novice, with many sea lochs, islands, rocks, narrow passages with racing currents and tide rips and often unpleasant weather. One could easily be tripped up by unexpected changes in the wind or currents. Sometimes we were required to enter narrow sea lochs and tortuous passages between islands. There were a few near misses with rocks, fishermen and the like! It was exhausting. I was learning the ropes under close scrutiny from the crew whose safety lay partly in my hands. The scenery of the Sound and Lochs Carron and Torridon was glorious but for several days I didn't even notice it. I was on the bridge 18 hours a day, snatching snacks when I could and learning by mistakes! When I got to bed, I struggled to sleep because I was replaying it all in my mind, cold sweats and all.

One evening, in fading light, we approached the entrance to Loch Ailsh, the notoriously difficult Kyle of Loch Ailsh between Skye and the mainland. I had confidently identified my headmark, told the Captain so and we kept going. Somewhat disconcertingly, I found myself continuously altering course; I glanced at the Captain but he was sitting quietly, seemingly con-

¹Once again, free tutorials on Astro-Navigation over a drink are available! This skill is being re-introduced to cope with the great vulnerability of GPS.

tent, yet alert. Then I discovered the problem. The headmark I was using wasn't the farm building on the chart; it was a large bull slowly "Roamin' in the gloamin'" across the heather. I nervously told the Captain. He didn't explode but said quite calmly "Next time you're lost, stop the ship until you've found yourself" – another good lesson in life. When I had found the real headmark we carried on and got safely through. I realised that the Captain, who was familiar with these waters, knew exactly where we were and let me carry on in order to learn an important lesson – something I copied years later when in command of ships myself.

That night, in between being called to the bridge several times to help the Officer of the Watch, I tossed and turned, wondering if the job was beyond me. I even thought about escaping, but fortunately there was no way off. Not long afterwards I was doing all parts of my job with confidence, enjoyment and the Captain's trust as we literally sailed the world's oceans from Brazil to Japan. Another lesson learnt – never give up. I was lucky to have a boss who accepted his own responsibilities and trusted, encouraged and taught his people to do their best. Nothing breeds loyalty upwards more than loyalty downwards, whatever the organisation.

Jeremy Blackham

A Belated Christmas Message

'Twas the night before Christmas and all round the house
The only sound that was heard was a little white mouse.
Tickle was stirring from his hole in the stairs
A happy little man with no worries or cares.
He went on adventures with a crow and a frog
Whom Tickle had met whilst perched on a log.
The lights on the trees and decorations hung,
The Christmas season had finally begun.
Presents for the family all wrapped under the tree,
A happy and peaceful Christmas is sent to you from me
And a Happy New Year.

Perrin Ellis

MICHAEL OLIVER

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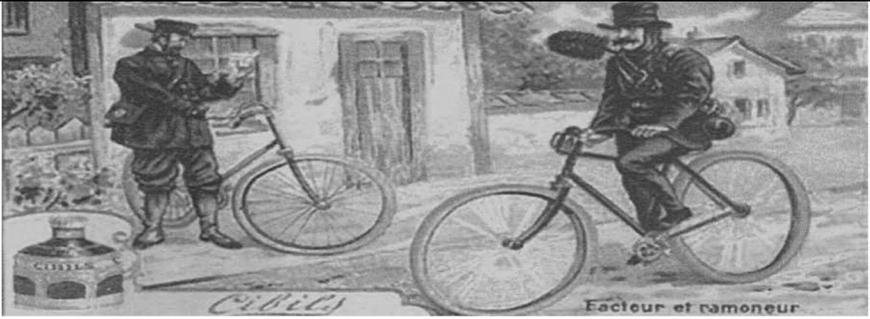
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Stories from a Family Tree:
Frederick Weight (1828 – 1901) - Episode 3

Recap: After an arduous emigration to America, the birth of an infant son, and joining a 4 month wagon train crossing of the plains to Salt Lake City, Charlotte Weight died 5 weeks later aged just 23. Frederick wrote, “There she lay dead in the midst of strangers and there was I without one cent of money with which to bury her.” The year was 1852.

Frederick’s employer (the Public Works) allowed him \$5.00 with which to buy his wife’s burial clothes and a carpenter there made her casket for \$9.00. Charlotte was buried in Salt Lake Graveyard: they had been married for just 2 years. Frederick’s life was interspersed with periods of acute poverty and this was one of them: he paid a Sister to look after his young boy, using his dead wife’s clothes as currency. His accommodation arrangements were also basic to say the least: he had eating arrangements in a house, but had to sleep outside in his wagon. It was a hard winter and he writes of “sleeping on a corn husk bed and a thin, worn out old wagon cover. Many a night I crept into bed almost frozen, the snow being on it when I retired...”

Frederick’s first winter in Utah lasted from 8th November until the following April, but occasional musical work brought in a few extra dollars, before he retired to his freezing bed: he also helped to start theatrical productions in Salt Lake City. By springtime, he had saved enough to buy a plot of land and, over time, he built his own house on it. After a brief courtship, he married Mary Millins in January, 1854. Later that year, he had visitors from England: his mother, his brother Martin and wife, and his sister Amelia came to stay – but after only 3 weeks, his brother fell ill and died. 3 months later, Martin’s wife gave birth to a son.

In November 1856, Frederick and family left Salt Lake City to go to Springville (55 miles to the south), joining the first pioneer families there, who, like him, had crossed the plains from the east. He was appointed choir leader, an office he held for 25 years. Frederick wrote: “I took up my plastering tools and plastered hundreds of houses in Springville. I worked on public roads, schoolhouses and made water ditches in the fields. I have done as much as any one man, in helping to build Springville. I was here during the great move of the Mormons from Salt Lake City in 1858, when the U.S. army came into the valley and the Mormons fled from their homes to southern settlements for refuge and safety.” Things appeared to be looking up, for Frederick had, by now, acquired 11 acres, some farming tools and, with his boys, was producing his own bread and potatoes.

In his memoirs, Frederick wrote: “In 1865, I entered into the principle of Polygamy and took another wife according to my belief in the religion that I embraced – Elizabeth Bocock by name.” He then says, “There are many things in this double life to put up with, which are not so pleasant. Yet I believe it to be a commandment of God.” He continues, “My two families lived on the same lot in separate houses for over 6 years. I then bought a place with 7 acres of land, built a house and moved my second wife and children into it. It was a mile and a quarter from one house to the other and I stayed with my families week about, for 17 years, making some 6,000 miles of walking in that time.”

“My wife, Elizabeth, has borne nine children to me, four of whom are now dead, two

having died 12 hours apart – a boy aged six and a girl aged four. We held a double funeral. A year later, we buried another boy aged ten. I shall never forget the feelings I had upon returning home from the funeral, not seeing them around the house nor outside as I had been used to. Oh! I cannot describe the feelings I had.” Frederick was desperately unhappy: he was mourning the loss of his children, he once again had struck poverty, there were family problems with his first wife, Mary (*“We did not live happily for more than 21 years of our married life.”*) - and he sometimes “walked the streets all night crying.” In 1887, the Edmunds Act was passed, making polygamy unlawful. Frederick wrote, “They were after every man they could find who had more than one wife. Sure enough, at about 5.00am on 26th April, two marshalls appeared at my door to arrest me and take me to the county jail.”



Portrait of polygamists in prison, at the Utah Penitentiary, in 1889, arrested under the Edmunds Act.
More next month...

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VILLAGE HALL UPDATE – JANUARY 2021

THE BIG CRATFIELD CHRISTMAS BRUNCH – Sunday 13th December - POSTPONED

Many thanks to everyone who had booked, we sold out of tables very quickly and even had a reserve list within a week! Despite all the hard work researching how the event could be run it was disappointing to find after lockdown we were to be in 'Tier 2' and the updated government guidelines accompanying that meant the 'rule of 6' no longer applied, so we could not have mixed tables from different households. We looked into the number of tables / attendees and permutations of layouts but there was no other option to postpone for the moment.

To everyone who booked and went onto the 'reserve' list – we will let you know as soon as we are able to host this event again - you will have first refusal for a table (whoever thought 'priority booking' would come to Cratfield!).

Village Hall AGM -

The Village Hall AGM and following committee meeting was held on Wednesday 16th December- via Zoom (a first for quite a few!) - almost like a séance with plenty of 'Elizabeth we can hear you - can you hear us?' and 'Fred we can hear you but cannot see you' – despite only a few minor technical hitches everything was covered in record time – thanks to all the committee members (and any family members that assisted technology wise!)

Robert King has stepped down and we thank him for all his help and hard work whilst on the committee. Robert was instrumental in looking into options for installing a sound deadening solution to the village hall and personally went to great lengths to research all the options, gather quotes and oversee the installation of the sound deadening earlier this year.

Village Hall Flower Bed –

We are aware the flower bed has become quite an eyesore in the past few years and the decision has been made to clear it back and start again. Having taken a lot of advice from local nurseries, growers and garden experts we have a low maintenance scheme ready to be installed in the early months of next year.

Suffolk Accident Rescue Service (SARS) is a voluntary emergency medical charity operational around Suffolk and its border areas. SARS volunteers are specialists in prehospital care and include anaesthetists, consultants in emergency medicine and critical care paramedics. They carry equipment and drugs not normally found on frontline ambulances and can undertake advanced procedures at the scene of an incident, which are not normally possible outside the hospital environment. These can be truly lifesaving interventions. Since 1972, SARS clinicians have helped thousands of patients and saved countless lives. SARS receives no central government funding and relies on voluntary donations to support its work.



Earlier this year SARS celebrated its 48th year of emergency medical responding across Suffolk and the East of England region. We passed this important milestone in the midst of one of the most challenging situations that we have faced in our long history. The COVID-19 outbreak has had a significant impact across the region and all our clinicians have been engaged in helping combat the virus. Once the threat of the virus became apparent, SARS took immediate steps to source additional PPE to protect the welfare of our clinicians and the patients they treat. We are very grateful to all the local councils, businesses and other groups who helped us achieve this objective.

Our second team vehicle SMED26 was launched at the start of August with the help of a grant from the HELP Appeal and the British Association of Immediate Care. The new vehicle is a Volvo XC90 and will add to our current team resource SMED20. The new rapid response vehicle is a vital bit of infrastructure which will enable us to run more team shifts, help more patients and increase the amount of coverage we are able to offer across Suffolk.

SARS is on course to respond to over 300 requests for critical care assistance across the region this year. In a significant amount of these incidents we will be the first medical resource on scene, a speed of response which is vital for time-critical patients and illustrates the benefit of our locally-based critical care resources.

Our charity has traditionally run on a relatively low level of income due to the generosity and commitment of our wonderful clinicians who give up their time and provide their skills without charge. This 'donation' of time equates to many hundreds-of-thousands of pounds each year, and the benefit that SARS clinicians can bring to a patient in terms of life-saving interventions, relief from pain and quicker recovery times is immeasurable. The fact that they continue to do this even in the midst of a pandemic is not only a testament to their bravery and commitment but also a recognition of the benefit they know they can offer these critically ill patients.

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Midwinter Light

*Late lies the wintry sun a-bed,
A frosty, fiery sleepy-head;
Blinks but an hour or two; and then,
A blood-red orange, sets again.*

Robert Louis Stevenson

Around the middle of winter, the days are short. Scarcely has the day raised its head and looked around a bit, than it seems that it puts its head back under the cover of the dark. The slightest glimmer or gleam of brightness is welcome. We are grateful for a lit candle, the glow of burning logs and our twinkling Christmas tree. Outdoors there are the lights from cheery Cratfield houses illuminated for Christmas – and the Nativity Star shining from the tower of St Mary’s Church.

Sometimes days have been so damp and drear that there seemed to be no light at all. But, even in the depths of midwinter there still is light. The sun can shine out still. We have had glorious visits to Southwold beach – where the sunlight could almost deceive you that you are in full summer – except for the temperature and the long, long shadows that accompany us.

Plenty of water has poured down on us this winter; and water, as Cratfieldians know, lingers for a long time in clay country. Negotiating Tong Lane became so slippery, sticky, slidy and tortuous that we vowed to avoid it until it has dried out. Standing water on farmland turns some of the fields into networks of what look like ponds, rivers, and lakes. Puddles, ponds, and stretches of river gleam on the surface of every road. This liquid world mirrors the light from above in all its variety – revealing to the onlooker a fragmented portrait of the vast midwinter sky.

Light falls on the bronze scales of beech leaves and on the matt red points of the berries clinging to the bare hawthorns. Lichen paints the twisted branches of bushes and trees pale green. Our Suffolk skies, despite the shorter days, continue their constant changes. For a while, the sky is a safe, smooth milky wash; then you look up and see swirling clouds of lowering black backlit by glaring sun. The many moods of wintry weather – sullen and dull or flashing and gleaming – play themselves out above us. One late afternoon the whole sky had metamorphosed into the ceiling of a gargantuan baroque church – pink, grey and blue marbled clouds chased with the glittering gold leaf of sunlight. It would have come as no surprise to see singing angels and cherubim with trumpets suspended there.

The days of midwinter are short, but light is still with us in some form. Midwinter light can catch us by surprise, it ignites the scene with more drama than summer light because it falls on a world that is often iron grey.

Taking a walk at this time of year gives you a chance to sample midwinter light in all its forms. And best of all, better than any light from the sky in this dark uncertain time, is the brightness that comes from greeting friends in the road. Even a little human contact, at this dark time of a dark season, can fill us with brightness.

A Happy New Year to everyone and may the Year to come be filled with light for us all!

Nigel Cousins

CHILDREN'S PLAYING AREA

The temporary closure of the playing area as lifted and the new shelter installed in November with additional finishing work to the building done in early December. There have been a number of appreciative comments: one was particularly pleasing, "the children really like it!". Several people have suggested that it could be good meeting place for a chat! The building can still be used as a shelter to wait for the school bus when the weather is inclement. Groundwork and landscaping is planned to be done in the immediate surrounding area; this will include additional fencing; renewing the hard standing and moving but retaining the metal gate and railings. This work is planned for early spring 2021. When all is completed we hope to have provided a much improved facility for the village.

The new Playing Area Shelter was kindly paid for by grant from The Heveningham Hall Country Fair Trust.

Cratfield Parish Council



Cratfield Parish Council

Meeting Dates 2021

Tuesday 12th January 2021 at 7.30pm
Tuesday 9th March 2021 at 7.30pm
Tuesday 11th May 2021 at 7.30pm – APM & AGM
Tuesday 13th July 2021 at 7.30pm
Tuesday 14th September 2021 at 7.30pm
Tuesday 9th November 2021 at 7.30pm

The Planning meetings are arranged as and when required.

The meeting's agenda is displayed 3 days before the meeting on the noticeboards & website: www.cratfield.onesuffolk.net

The meetings are currently held via Zoom (until further notice)
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For further details contact the Clerk email: cratfieldpc@gmail.com

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Mace

Dear friends,

The winter of 1836 was particularly bad in Suffolk. It started snowing two days before Christmas, and continued for nearly a week, putting a stop to all business. Some villages in Suffolk were completely isolated for six days. There was a strong NE wind which laid the high land bare and gorged the narrow roads and valleys with snow. Between Yoxford and Halesworth the drifts, in some places, were from 15 to twenty feet high. Two days after Christmas the coach from Ipswich to Yarmouth tried to make the journey. Nine horses were attached to it but its progress was slow. At Yoxford it became so entrenched as it could not move and had to be abandoned.

There was no communication between west and east Suffolk from Christmas to New Years eve. Communication only being restored when a man on a horse managed to get through. Men working in gangs of 20 – 30 tried to keep sections of road open.

The post was entirely disorganised. The guard of the Yarmouth mail coach had a perilous journey. Finding it impossible to proceed with the coach, he exchanged this for a post-chaise. In some places the snow was too much even for this and the guard had to unhitch his horse and ride that carrying the post bags on his back. He arrived in Woodbridge sixteen hours late, much fatigued and bruised from many tumbles.

It must have been hellish for our ancestors trying to survive such a winter that seemed to have no let up. But they did survive and did not give up. We have just lived through the worst year ever with disruption, lock downs, businesses failing, hospital full to overflowing. We have however come through it, or at least survived so far. We must have faith that all will be well to believe that God will not abandon us but be with us every step. The people of Suffolk in 1836 believed in God's love and the promise of Spring. We too can believe in God's love and the promise of a vaccine to come. Let us therefore believe and trust that this year 2021 will be a new beginning and that we will be free to live our lives once more.

David

St. Mary's Church Services – January 2021

Sunday 10th	Sunday 17th	Sunday 24th
6.00pm Evensong DB	9.00am Village Worship CM	9.00am Holy Communion DM
Sidesperson D. Peacock	Sidesperson M. Thompson	Sidesperson M. Thompson
Reader M. Powell	Reader P. Baker	Reader D. Peacock
Genesis 1:1-5 Acts 19:1-7 Mark 1:4-11	1 Samuel 3:1-10 Revelation 5:1-10 John 1:43-end	Genesis 14:17-20 Revelation 19:6-10 John 2:1-11

**The above services will take place if
GOVERNMENT RESTRICTIONS ALLOW**

Please check the notice board
Masks must be worn at all services

PIE BANK

We don't know what restrictions the winter will bring so it would be good to have some pies of any variety in reserve to help anyone in the village, but particularly the elderly. We have freezer space. 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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Magazine Editors:

Sue Eade, Cranes Cottage, Cratfield, IP19 0BN		01986 798725
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suecratmag@aol.com

Treasurer - Graham Nixey		07748 907099
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Production Manager -

Peter Sparrow, 2 The Street, Cratfield, IP19 0BS		01986 888505
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peter-sparrow@outlook.com

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