

# CRATFIELD NEWS

March 2022





**SATURDAY MARCH 26TH**  
sees the welcome return of  
**CRATFIELD ACOUSTIC NIGHT**



This was another event that fell victim to lockdown 2 years ago – but, fear not, we are back!

Performers will include Richard Harvey, Johnny G, Simon and Jane with some jazz standards, new songs from singer-songwriter Tony Winn and a duo – Danny R and Paul Gillings. Paul is already a bit of a legend in Cratfield having been treated to his outstanding harmonica playing on a previous acoustic night. (Oh, and me too with some new songs!)

Doors open at 7pm to start at 7.30pm. The bar will be open!  
£3.00 entrance on the door

See you there!

Paul Marfleet.

**TIME TO GET WALKING AGAIN!**

At this time of year we start to think about the mud drying up and getting out to walk in the beautiful English Countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Suffolk <https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/suffolk> has hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the country and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (the custodian of the website) said, "There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Suffolk (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy. So home or away, check out the websites and get walking.

John Harris  
[www.walkinginengland.co.uk](http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk)  
[john@walkinginengland.co.uk](mailto:john@walkinginengland.co.uk)



**A WALK CLOSER TO HOME  
ST. MARY'S CHURCH  
DOG WALK  
SUNDAY MARCH 20TH 2.30PM  
TEA & CAKE AT FINISH**



**KILLERS 2022 TOUR**

I have two tickets for 'The Killers' at Carrow Road (Norwich) for June 9<sup>th</sup> 2022.

These were from their intended 'Imploding the Mirage' leg of their tour July 2020, but CV-19 got in the way so re-scheduled for July 2021.

That didn't happen either thanks to continuing CV-19, so we now have a June 2022 date.

They will probably play more from their latest album 'Pressure Machine', but they always do their back catalogue within their set which is nearly two hours.

If, by now, you haven't a clue what I'm talking about then read no further. But if you know who they are, read on.

Anna is no longer able to come with me as she is now virtually 100% wheelchair and the tickets I have are not wheelchair accessible. They are seated tickets and very close to the main stage (I had a pre-sale code to get the best ones).

So I have a few choices what to do.....

1. Just get a refund on the tickets.
2. Sell them on eBay etc.
3. Just go by myself and waste the second ticket.
4. Give the spare ticket to some random person and sit/stand next to them.

If you want to be that 'random person' of option 4, let me know – [rod.sugden@gmail.com](mailto:rod.sugden@gmail.com)

Ticket would be free, but if travelling together, travel costs to Norwich would have to be shared.

*Travel would be by rail, drive to Diss, then Diss/Norwich (Carrow Road is just across the road from the station) but, at the moment, I can't book the train tickets on-line, it looks like they have a three month limit on pre-booking, but I will book the tickets as soon as they are available. I won't know the train ticket prices until they are available on-line.*

## AN HISTORICAL NOTE – CRATFIELD 1622

In 1895 “Cratfield: a Transcript of the Accounts of the Parish from AD 1490 to AD 1642” was published by Jarrold & Sons of Norwich.

The accounts had been painstakingly collated by William Holland, the late rector of Huntingfield-with-Cookley (himself a figure of some modest – local – historical interest), and edited by John James Raven, the vicar of Fressingfield-with-Withersdale.

According to Jarrold & Sons “...the affairs of this remote village are a microcosm - The stirring events of the Tudor period, as the martyrdom in the village of Laxfield, adjacent to Cratfield, Lady Jane Grey’s rebellion, the Arrnada etc. find valuable and interesting illustrations...”

Certainly for 1622 the following entry (reproduced exactly as it was printed in 1895, grammatical errors and all) provides some insight into Cratfield life exactly 400 years ago which, hopefully, is of interest to Cratfield residents in 2022.

“1622 [20 James 1.]

Paid to Wilham Crosse for a casement for a window in the schoolhouse being 20 inches long and 10 inches breadth...2s 6d

Paid in behalf of the Town for a Benevolence or Gratuity to the King the sum of £3 0s 0d

*[This is (notes William Holland) the first of the Compulsory Loans which in after years made Charles I so unpopular. A circular Letter was sent by the Commissioners into each parish, and the names of those who would lend money to the King were inserted at a meeting duly convened. The Letter concluded with these words ‘Nevertheless, if any person shall, out of obstinacy of disaffection, refuse to contribute therein, proportionately to their estates and means, you are to certify their names unto this Board. And so recommending this service to your best care and endeavour, and praying you to return unto us notes of the names of such as shall contribute, and of the sums offered by them’ The excuse for this levy of money was the King’s pretended resolution to recover the Palatinate by arms]*

Paid toward the relief of the poor French protestants refuged hither for their conscience...£2 0s 0d

Paid to one John Borrett of Ditchingham in the County of Norfolk and tenant to the Lord Bishop of Norwich [Samuel Harsnet] who besides his brief for the loss of £500 by fire obtained his Lordships letters to the Ministers and Churchwardens within the Diocese ...3s 0d

Paid to the repairing of a haven belonging to the town of Saltfleet within the County of Lincoln which charges amounted to the value of £1,400 as by

the brief appeared...2s 0d

Paid to Mother Keswick for wood to make a fire at the last reckoning day...8d

Paid to James Smith for one days work thatching about Widow Barbers [the widow of the felo de se] house, she being in great distress by reason she could not lie down in her bed and could get no help to do the same ...1s 2d

Paid and given to Richard Morlitsch a charitable benevolence in the distressed estate of him his wife and children being visited long with sickness towards their relief....10s 0d”



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MICHAEL OLIVER

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## Cratfield Parish Council

*Please help clean & tidy your village*

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

*Your help & support would be greatly appreciated!*

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

***Cllr Peter Baker Tel: 01986 798617 - village collection***

***Cllr Richard Chivers Tel: 07900 187 350 - Silverleys Green collection***



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## **You Couldn't Make It Up – the Virtues of a “Private Naval Station”**

### **(Part 2)**

As we approached the dhow harbour in Ras al Khaimah, I spotted a small boat ahead of us in which was seated Trevor Bevan, the Chief of Police. We forged ahead with me waving and shouting and, wonderfully, he heard me as he got out of his boat and waited. After exchange of pleasantries, I explained my problem to him. “Well,” he said “Colonel Tim is just about to leave my house and drive down to Dubai. Perhaps he could drop you at RAF Sharjah<sup>1</sup>.” I knew Colonel Tim. He was the Trucial Oman Scout officer who had visited Beachampton at Khor Fakkan<sup>2</sup> some months earlier and I had given him lunch, so it seemed a reasonable bet.

We reached Trevor's house just as Tim was setting off and he readily agreed to take me and my trunk to Sharjah, so off we went, and drove the 55 miles down the long desert road (the only road in fact), past Umm al Quwain and Al Ajman to Sharjah. We didn't see another vehicle until we reached the gate of RAF Sharjah.

On the way down, I had been pondering my position. The seven Trucial States were all small, independent sheikhdoms, each of them linked to UK by treaties in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century which made them effectively British Protectorates. Each of them had a British Political advisor, who advised on policy and was their link with the UK government which was responsible for their security and foreign policies. Their public services – the police, health, defence (provided by the British officered Trucial Oman Scouts), banks, communications etc were run by Brits, reporting to the Sheikh. They varied from tiny states like Umm al Quwain, with a very small income in those days through Ras al Khaimah – an economy based on piracy until the late 1800, to Abu Dhabi, one of the biggest oil producers with the highest per capita income in the world.

But they were separate states and I had landed in one of them without a passport or any immigration check, driven across a couple of others, and was now hoping to leave from a fourth and enter a fifth, still without any official documents. Still, there was little choice. I went into the Sharjah control tower and said to the aircrew in the crew room “I need

to get to Bahrain. Is anyone going there?" An experienced looking Flight Lieutenant told me he was taking a Beverley – a rather ancient lumbering transport aircraft - to Bahrain in half an hour and I was welcome to come too but would have to sit on my trunk in the cargo space and would find it noisy and uncomfortable. And it was, but two hours later I was on the ground at RAF Muharraq in Bahrain with my trunk, having passed through no border controls anywhere, nor even registering my name with the RAF staff at Sharjah.

The rest was easy. A taxi to HMS Jufair, the naval HQ in Bahrain, and well before teatime I was sitting in the Wardroom with a cup of tea, only 5 hours after leaving my ship over 300 miles away with no idea how I was going to get back to Bahrain, and with 30 hours to catch the RAF trooping flight home! Of course, in today's highly bureaucratic world it would be impossible to travel like that without a passport, let alone a visa, as anyone going today to Dubai or Abu Dhabi will know. The next time I was in the Gulf, it was all very, very different. No more private naval stations.

At 5 am a day and half later I was on the ground at RAF Brize Norton<sup>3</sup> being met by a car my father had booked to take me to the family home in the loW. And when I got home, some of the suspicions I had been developing were answered, for there waiting was Candy, whom I had last seen in Port Elizabeth 16 months earlier and who had come over to England by ship to meet me. A week later, we were engaged.

It's an old naval adage hammered into new recruits, and indeed a principle adopted by many experienced travellers, that you must never be separated from your luggage. As I sat on my trunk in the back of that Beverley, I finally understood why!

1. RAF Sharjah was then the only proper airfield on the Trucial Coast and it was a very small one as well, although it did take a few scheduled flights by Gulf Air in small single aisle planes.

2. Cratmag December 2021

3. The RAF's trooping flight centre near Whitney in Oxfordshire.

**Jeremy Blackham**

1. Who had friends called Teddy and Looby Loo?
2. Where was Lego invented?
3. What was the round hole in old wooden school desks used for?
4. How many Teletubbies are there?
5. Who played the Grinch in the 2000 film 'How the Grinch stole Christmas'?
6. What is the name of the parrot in 'Treasure Island'?
7. What creature is Sonic?
8. Which comic features the Bash Street Kids?
9. What is a Furby?
10. When was Barbie launched?
11. Who is Sooty's girlfriend?
12. In the past, what job did a climbing boy do?
13. What is the title of the last Harry Potter book?
14. What is Mario's occupation in the video game?
15. In which T.V show would you find the characters Igglepiggle, Makka Pakka and Upsy Daisy?
16. What was Woolworths children's clothing brand called?
17. The Elementary Education Act in 1870 set the framework for schooling of all children between which ages?
18. What was the name of the Raleigh bike that became a cultural icon in the 1970s?
19. Sky Brown who was 13, won a bronze medal in the Olympics but in which sport?
20. What were the christian names of the Princes in the tower?

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### **Cratfield Allotment to Rent**

*CPC has an allotment available from the 1<sup>st</sup> October for Cratfield residents.*

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

**cratfieldpc@gmail.com**

### **Four Star Rated**

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## **VILLAGE HALL UPDATE – MARCH**

### **ARE YOU FREE?**

The Pop-Up-Pub came about following the change of use and closure of 'The Poacher' Pub and requests to the Village Hall Committee to arrange this type of event. There were many concerns from the committee as it would require a huge amount of work, and most of the committee work full time - on top of being committee members and volunteers for most events already. The Pop-Up-Pub itself is co-ordinated and run by a few members of the committee who oversee all the purchasing, licenses, sourcing, pricing, administration, set up, breakdown and so forth. There is a volunteer list of around 35 volunteers to help staff the bar – and we are **hugely** grateful to all the volunteers and especially Caroline Wisbey-Brown for organising the rotas. I am sure you will agree the Pop-Up-Pub is a huge success – and on one hand we have people asking for it to be more regular than it is. However, on the other hand, it is the same volunteers every few months who are manning the bar. If you have volunteered to be on the rota, could you please check you are receiving it each month – by adding [caroline@wisbey-brown.co.uk](mailto:caroline@wisbey-brown.co.uk) to your 'safe senders' list and check in case her e mails have been going into your junk filter/folder. If you are not down to receive the rota e mail and would like to help keep the Pop-Up-Pub going then please do e mail Caroline and ask to be put on the e mail to receive it. You do not need to volunteer for the next month – you can put yourself down for a shift several months from now. There is a 'shift leader' who is experienced in how it all works and it really is great fun to help out and a way to meet new people.

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

#### **4<sup>th</sup> March / 1st April / 6th May**

Do keep an eye on the village Facebook page for the menu from Cratfield Kitchen – this will be posted the week before the Pop Up Pub to entice you. Go on – why stay at home and cook on the first Friday of each month – come along and let someone else do the cooking (and the washing up!) Please note Cratfield Kitchen only takes cash payments.

#### **Backroads of Northern Spain - Saturday April 30th 2022 7 for 7.30 / £6 per head**

Candy and Jeremy Blackham will give the next 'Cratfield Talk'. The subject will be 'Backroads of Northern Spain' This talk, you may remember, was postponed in 2020 due to the lockdown. We've had to wait a long time - but it will be worth it. Sneak previews reveal a wealth of stunning images with fascinating tales to accompany them! There will be a charge of £6 per person to attend, but this will also cover a 'Spanish-inspired tasting platter'. Bar will be open. To book your place please email Paul Marfleet - [marfleets@doctors.org.uk](mailto:marfleets@doctors.org.uk) or text him on 07891 940479 or leave a message on 01986 799048. Money will be taken on the door. Book early

as numbers are limited to 50.

### **Dog Show – Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May**

The much missed Dog Show is back! Watch out for full details coming soon – in the magazine and on the village Facebook – along with posters at the Village Hall and around the village. Even if you do not own a dog it is a good spectator event – or mention it to friends and family who do and come along for a great day out.

### **Photographic Competition – date now confirmed as 15<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

Some photography tips for you –

Cratfield Flower Power – Think about shooting from a low angle, consider filling the whole frame for instant impact, think about the time of year – the verges are about to bloom with bulbs and think about the time of day – for example early evening dew on petals

Suffolk Textures – Think about mixing and matching textures, or having a close up of just one. Looks for shapes and patterns along with uniformity and straight lines to add interest

Suffolk Perspective – Think about the vanishing point of a road, footpath or structure such as a pier with the horizon, try looking for a shot with something for scale within it – something in the foreground for example.

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

### **100 CLUB –**

100 Club winners numbers drawn by NOVA Ladies Group -1st Sara Vass No 12 = £15.00 / 2nd Sheila Hookins No 50 = £10.00 / 3rd Jo Nunn No 9 = £5.00.

Congratulations to all the winners.

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# Cratfield Parish Council

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## **What's Involved?**

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require some input*

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*Get actively involved in projects to deliver  
benefits for the community*

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website: <http://cratfield.onesuffolk.net>**

### **You gotta break a few eggs to make an omelette!**

Our successful building project is practically at an end. It went well. We are pleased with our new extension and delighted with the team of builders who successfully realised our brilliant architect's plan.

I now know an awful lot of stuff about building I did not know before. The knowledge did not come easily – it was learnt from the interesting experience of living on site during a six-month building project. I learned about the fiendish complications caused by moving power lines and building over sewers. I know about the extra costs caused by structural engineer's requirements for steel reinforcement. Sixty tonnes of rubble had to be removed from the ground and sixty tonnes of concrete had to be used to replace it. Cratfield clay demands deep foundations. I will never forget the day the concrete was delivered in a convoy of three huge concrete lorries with massive revolving mixers – each one large enough to lay an additional runway at Stansted. One thing is sure – our new extension will not collapse. I am sure that if Britain was devastated by a nuclear attack our extension, together with whatever bunker the British Government were taking refuge in, would be the only edifice left standing in the country.

Our builders could not have been nicer, more skilled, or more obliging, but even so having them here for months was – um - not easy. Anyone who has had work done will understand. They were invariably here at eight o'clock each day. Then they would go about making the 'Noise du Jour' the day's activities required. Thumping, banging, rasping, clashing. The various noises that different kinds of electrical saws make - powering through concrete, wood, and tiles - each type of sawing has a different way of setting your teeth on edge.

When the scaffolding was up the builders stood ranged along the horizon every morning like Apaches on a ridge in a Western. There were builders at breakfast, builders at lunch and builders at tea. Privacy went out of the, as yet to be constructed, window. You feel, as one of our friends pointed out, an obscure need to be active at all times; as if sitting around the house contemplating, watching tv or reading your phone would somehow make you look bad in front of an audience of workmen.

And the mess! The unavoidable ghastly mess of it all! As one of the lads said cheerfully 'You gotta break a few eggs to make an omelette!'

Last year we screened off our lawn from the driveway by putting a row of trellises between the road and the bottom of the lawn. Before the building work started, in my innocence, I asked if we could keep the trellis and the builders could get access to the site through the neat wooden arch we had built between the screens. No, they smiled, the trellis would have to go for the duration and soon diggers, dumpers, concrete mixers, bricks, and general detritus were parked firmly on the muddy plain that had been our lawn. Our peaceful rural garden was turned into something resembling Ypres circa 1914. I remember once having to have major abdominal surgery, I timidly asked the surgeon if he would be able to remove all the stuff he had to remove in a neat little keyhole operation. He demurred - nothing less than a massive cut across my midriff was called for. 'Not a keyhole operation.' he replied drily. 'In this case conventional surgery will be much more satisfactory.'

Mess and mayhem are all part of the long ride on the way to completing a successful project. "You gotta break a few eggs to make an omelette!"

**NIGEL COUSINS**

### **2022 Mobile Library Dates**

Tuesdays

**22<sup>nd</sup> March** , 19<sup>th</sup> April , 17<sup>th</sup> May , 14<sup>th</sup> June , 12<sup>th</sup> July, 9<sup>th</sup> August 6<sup>th</sup> September, 4<sup>th</sup> October, 29<sup>th</sup> November

Silverleys Green 14.15 – 14.35

The Poacher 14.45 – 14.55

# Cratfield Parish Council

## Meeting Dates 2022

- Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 7.30pm
  - Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 7.30pm
  - Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 7.30pm
  - Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at 7.30pm
  - Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 7.30pm
  - Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 7.30pm
- Agendas (3 days before the meeting)  
are on the noticeboards & website:

**[www.cratfield.onesuffolk.net](http://www.cratfield.onesuffolk.net)**

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### Answers to Childhood Quiz

1. Andy Pandy
2. Billund, Denmark
3. Ink well
4. Four
5. Jim Carrey
6. Captain Flint
7. Hedgehog
8. The Beano
9. An electronic robotic toy
10. 1959
11. Soo
12. Clean chimneys
13. Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows
14. Plumber
15. In the Night Garden
16. Ladybird
17. Five and twelve
18. Chopper
19. Skateboarding
20. Edward and Richard

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“Believe in the Devil, he is the only explanation for modern civilisation.”

“’Tis better to be silent and thought a fool than to speak and remove all doubt.”

“Happiness is good health and a poor memory.”

“No one tries the patience of his relatives like a rich centenarian.”

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Dear Friends

It's instructive to go back to a time before the laws of libel and slander (and certainly before political correctness) to see the angle that Shakespeare took about people who were 'different'. He explored what it was like to be an outsider in Renaissance Venice, and what happened to the outsider's character when those inside continually abuse and undermine him. Many people think the 'Merchant of Venice,' is anti-Semitic. It isn't, though some of the characters say some appalling things to and about Shylock the Jew. He is useful as a money-lender to Christians, but when he protests his equal humanity with them the Christians treat him with contempt. Small wonder that he behaves like a cornered animal and tries to exact a cruel revenge. At the end of the famous trial scene, Shakespeare appears to have turned the tables when Shylock's revenge is thwarted, but the shameful behaviour of the Christians leaves such a nasty taste that the dramatist surely means us to be uneasy and unsure about where right and wrong truly lie.

To be back in the 16<sup>th</sup> century Venice was to be even more conspicuous as an outsider. Othello is successful, but lacks true confidence, not surprising when you hear some of the racist comments of some of the other characters. Iago undermines Othello where he is happiest but most insecure, in his marriage to Desdemona.

The outsider was someone particularly special to Jesus of Nazareth. Zacchaeus the tax collector, the woman taken in adultery, lepers, beggars and prostitutes were all claimed by him as citizens of the Kingdom of God. He warned that the 'Children of The Kingdom', those who considered themselves as insiders, were liable to be left outside. The irony was that he himself became an outsider too, flung outside Jerusalem as a condemned criminal and nailed to a cross between two thieves. (Unlike Shylock's contemporaries we do not hold the Jews solely responsible and therefore cursed). We shall be recalling those events in a special way on Good Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. Please mark this as a solemn day and join us in our worship. Follow the whole Easter story from Palm Sunday April 10<sup>th</sup>, to Easter day April 17<sup>th</sup> Look at what services and events that are on in this and Aprils magazine.

There was no happy ending for Shylock or Othello. Jesus Christ could have been just another tragic hero, but this tragedy did have a happy ending, the triumph of Easter Day. Share it in a Church near you!

David

# St. Mary's Church Services March 2022

Sunday 13th	Sunday 20th	Sunday 27th
6.00pm Evensong	9.00am Village Worship	9.00am Holy Communion
<b>Sidesperson</b> M. Thompson	<b>Sidesperson</b> C. Marfleet	<b>Sidesperson</b> D. Peacock
<b>Reader</b> D. Peacock	<b>Reader</b> P. Baker	<b>Reader</b> M. Powell
<b>Readings</b> Gen 15:1-12 Phil 3:17-4:1 Luke 13:31-end	<b>Readings</b> Isaiah 55:1-9 1 Cor 10:1-13 Luke 13:1-9	<b>Readings</b> Exodus 2:1-10 2 Cor 1:3-7 Luke 2:33-35

**Masks are still being worn in church**

**Information to follow soon for the  
Swing Band Event  
June 18<sup>th</sup> 2022.**

**The Cratfield Concerts are back!  
If anyone would be able to make us a cake or join  
a tea team please call Margaret 07906 509302**

# 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](mailto: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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Parish Clerk Sally Chapman		07774 734411
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Parish Council Website	<a href="http://www.cratfield.onesuffolk.net">www.cratfield.onesuffolk.net</a>	
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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 - Rebecca Sannick		01986 799006
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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 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.

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

Please contact Sue, Graham or Peter for more information