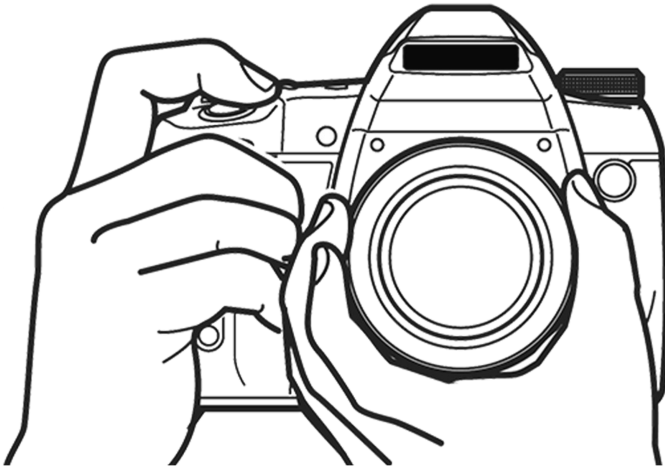


CRATFIELD NEWS

October 2022

**PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION
SATURDAY OCTOBER 15TH**



FRIENDS OF ST. MARY'S



With Incomes under increasing pressure from every direction this must be the worst possible time to be asking anyone for help but it is those same pressures that are making life so difficult for village churches generally. St. Mary's, Cratfield is no exception and it owes its continuing existence to the efforts of a loyal congregation and the very welcome help we receive from the village over churchyard maintenance and at events.

And it is those of you who, whilst not being regular churchgoers, nevertheless value the continued existence of this medieval masterpiece in our village, that we are addressing this appeal.

It may be that you know someone buried in the churchyard or have enjoyed a wedding or a christening or a carol service here. Or perhaps you just enjoy walking in the churchyard and showing it to visiting friends. Whatever is there for you to enjoy can only continue if the church is maintained, and maintaining a medieval building is expensive.

On asking for your help there are a couple of things we should make clear. The first is to correct the popular misconception that the Church of England maintains parish churches. It does not and it never has. That burden has always been borne willingly by the congregation, and still is.

The second point is a reminder that from its earliest beginnings, probably as a thatched, wooden building around a thousand years ago, it was local people that gave the land for the church and villagers who put up the building and they who have enlarged and improved it ever since.

You can help to keep this tradition and the church alive by subscribing to the Friends of St. Mary's maintenance fund on a monthly or an annual basis for around any amount of your choice. Please consider it: standing order forms are in the church or at the Old Rectory or speak to Don or Margaret and we will drop one round for you.

We are pleased to announce this year's
Cratfield Christmas Event

OLIVER

WITH

A

TWIST

(Christmas Edition)

Come and join us for a festive play of well known songs and dances. Sing along with the children of Cratfield as they perform this timeless classic. Keep December 10th free, more ticket information to follow.

Please help us to raise funds to put on this special event for the village by coming along to....

QUIZ NIGHTS – Village hall 7.30-9.30pm £2.50 each. Teams of four. Bring your own liquid refreshment.

21st October, 11th November

COFFEE MORNINGS – Village Hall 10-12noon **27th October, 24th November**

Please come along for some fun and if you can't make it but would like to offer a donation please call 07906509302

CHURCHYARD CLEARANCE **Saturday October 29th 10.30am**

There was a good response from the village to be on a mailing list for this event, reminders will be sent nearer the day, but all are welcome. Bring your own tools, any of the following are useful, strimmers, rakes, secateurs, shears, wheelbarrows, small handsaws. Coffee/tea will be provided.

Stay for as long or as short a time as you can manage.



History Corner

The journey of a farm from Scotland to Laxfield by rail

In 1949, Scottish born brothers, Archibald [Archie] and Hamilton [Hami] Knox left their native land and their parents' farm and travelled to Suffolk with forty milk cows, one bull, two horses, two tractors and various farm implements. All these animals and machinery filled the train so the brothers, along with their cousin, Willie Knox, slept in one of the horse boxes with the puppy, which accompanied them and in fact managed to chew a sizeable hole overnight in Willie's brand new sports jacket bought especially for the journey.

The adventure for these three young men had started in 1948, when brothers, Archie, Hami and an older sibling were working on their father's rented farm near Summerston, Scotland, which is now part of Glasgow but was then a separate village. The young men dreamed of an opportunity to buy their own farms but saw little chance in post war Scotland where renting was the norm. So Archie and his oldest brother drove down to East Anglia to look at the land. Archie was impressed by the level ground, quite different from their hilly farm in Summerston and the following year he bought 200 acres in Laxfield with his brother, Hami. The purchase was possible because apparently English farmers were reluctant to buy after the Second World War, not wanting to risk their money as some had done after WW1. Also, the brothers had inherited some money from their parents by then.

The move began with the three young men setting out on their quest, driving the cattle about three miles to Summerston Station, which was on a single track line running from Kirkintilloch to Glasgow. With all the animals and machinery on board, the train reached Glasgow Central Station at ten o'clock that night, all its occupants, human and animal, sleeping through till early morning, when the forty cows needed to be milked and all the animals watered. The next major stop in Newcastle saw the animals once again leave the train for exercise and drink but one of the horses proved to be very difficult to get back in its box and consequently lost his freedom

until the party eventually reached Laxfield.

The journey continued in a similar vein, stopping overnight in sidings and tending to the milking, watering and exercising of the animals, unloading and loading the livestock each time. They stopped in York and Whitmoor in the Fens and eventually reached the Mid Suffolk Light Railway line for the final leg to Laxfield. Archie, in his memoirs describes the line:

The Laxfield line was a single track, across country... There were two men, the driver and the guard. The driver opened the gates to let the train through and the guard closed them after the train went – a slow process.

This description echoes the one written by Peter Paye in his book *The Mid-Suffolk Light Railway*:

Schoolchildren were permitted to open and close the level crossing gates for the passage of the train and often received a penny reward from the driver or guard. Trains stopped midway between stations so that the train crew could pick mushrooms or vegetables from fields alongside the track, and a certain driver with his shotgun often took aim at rabbits or pheasants whilst on the move, and stopped to pick up the trophies on the return run.

The arrival at Laxfield Station meant a two mile trek with all the animals and equipment to reach their final destination, Blue House Farm, when a new challenge presented itself – the language! Archie, Hami and Willie had to learn the byre was now the neathouse, the grape was in fact a four tine fork, the stackcover, the tilt and a horsecart was a tumbrel.

The brothers farmed together until they both married. Archie moved to a neighbouring farm in the next village, Cratfield. Sixty one years later, Archie Knox retired from his farm, Cratfield Hall, and passed it to his son. Brother, Hami, who continued at Blue House Farm also passed his land and property to his son. The dream of owning their own farms was fulfilled in Suffolk for the two brothers and their families. The gloomy prophecies, which their Scottish family and friends had uttered when they left their homeland, have been truly dispelled.

(Based on the short memoir written by Archie Knox in March 2011, *How I came to be here.*)

This story features in Laxfield & District's display on the Middy. The museum is open from 2-5 every Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holiday until the end of October. Also on Laxfield Community Market days from 10-1pm.

MICHAEL OLIVER

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Please help keep your village clean & tidy

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 Dan Elford Tel: 01986 798649 - Village collection

Cllr Richard Chivers Tel: 07900 187350 - Silverleys Green collection



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Frigate Command

In October 1977, aged 34, I was appointed Captain of the Tribal class frigate, HMS Ashanti (2,700 tons) and her crew of 260. The seven “Tribals” were designed to operate independently in the Middle and Far East. They were impressively armed with two 4.5 inch guns, (range nine miles), two 40mm Bofors guns, two quadruple Seacat AA missile launchers, state of the art sonars, an anti-submarine mortar and a basic helicopter carrying either anti-submarine torpedoes or small anti-ship missiles and, more importantly, mail!

Designed in the mid-1950s, Tribals were a serious engineering challenge, with unusual and antiquated machinery for which spares were no longer always readily available. They had one boiler powering one steam turbine engine, and an evaporator which, on its good days, distilled just enough fresh water of sufficient purity for the boiler and for domestic use – once again my life became dominated by fresh-water availability. They also had an early marine gas turbine engine¹ which could be used independently or coupled with the steam turbine but was very temperamental and not amenable to fine tuning of speed. Moreover, if you went astern, it tripped and took 15 minutes to restart! With both engines coupled together we could almost manage 25 knots with a following wind, though 21 was more comfortable, so we frequently operated independently of the rest of the Fleet, which had its benefits.

Tribals had a single shaft and propeller which seriously affected ship handling, especially when berthing or unberthing because of “paddle wheel effect”², which would kick the stern sharply one way or the other, greatly complicating berthing. I had no previous experience of single screw ships – few people had. All these design and engineering issues often produced nerve-wracking experiences when manoeuvring in harbour, fuelling underway at sea or simply trying to maintain progress. They were more unpredictable than most.

I joined her in Portsmouth, relieving Michael M, from whom I had taken over Beachampton in 1969. In those days, one tried to meet one’s predecessor over dinner for a long chat shortly before taking over, and then on the day of change of command, one arrived around 10.30 for a brief coffee and chat before the departing Captain left. He said “I know that all you want to know is how to manoeuvre this rather contrary lady³ away from the wall safely.” He was right. He got a piece of paper and a pencil and showed me the effects of current, and of the dreaded “paddle wheel effect” and explained how to do it. Then I walked him down to the gangway to pipe him off his ship. As he left, I noticed that the ship was actually berthed the opposite way round from his explanatory diagram. Everything he had told me was wrong!

I returned to my cabin, listening to the bustle and noise of a working ship which I now commanded and in which, as yet, I knew no-one and didn’t know my way around. I sat there, awaiting my briefs from the Heads of Department and wondering if Michael had deliberately led me astray or

rather was suffering from his “dining out” the previous night!
I spent the evening puzzling about the unberthing problem. The next morning found me standing on the roof of the bridge, the only place from which I could get an all-round view. With the conning intercom in my hand, I suddenly sensed that the whole crew was watching, waiting to see if their new Captain had any idea what he was doing. Once again, I wondered if Michael had set up an elaborate joke to which only I was not privy; a most unworthy thought which he completely pooh-poohed when I next saw him a year or two later. Sheepishly, he confirmed my hangover theory. I believed him then and I believe him now. Nevertheless, it shows how nerve-wracking one’s first major ship handling effort can be!

Anyway, all went well, safely, and neatly enough and we slipped out of Portsmouth on time for my first operational patrol. However, it was not until, about four weeks later, we berthed at Campbeltown on the Mull of Kintyre in the dark, with no tug assistance available and a strong wind blowing, that I felt the crew really trusted me!⁴

Thereafter, and for the next 20 months, handling the ship was the least of my worries in a most enjoyable appointment.

Jeremy Blackham

1. Gas turbine engines are aircraft jet engines, modified to cope with rough water and reduce corrosion. My next ship, HMS Nottingham, had the same engine as Concorde.
2. As usual I am happy to explain if anyone is interested.
3. Ships are always female and referred to as ‘she’. Political correctness prohibits me from saying why!
4. It is not always appreciated how great is the effect of wind and current on ship handling. At slow speed, even very large ships can be pushed sideways quite fast by the wind. A friend of mine commanding a sister ship of Ashanti, was manoeuvring at slow speed in Grand Harbour, Malta, when a strong gust of wind blew him hard onto the quayside at Valetta, watched by a huge crowd, damaging both ship and quay. There but by the grace of God.....

HMS ASHANTI ENTERING PORTSMOUTH



AS WE SAY GOODBYE

The bells rang out, the guns were fired,
You closed your eyes because you were tired.
A rainbow shone way over head
As the palace gates announced you were dead.
God save the King was the proclamation,
You'd done your duty for all our nation,
Now passed to your son King Charles III,
The trumpets sound was loudly heard.
A funeral to come to lay you to rest
Beside your husband, mother, father, sister all blessed.
As we bid you farewell with grateful love
May you rest in peace with the angels above.

Perrin Ellis

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VILLAGE HALL UPDATE – OCTOBER

Wild About Cratfield

Many thanks to Paul & Sandra Taylor from Dunnetts Farm for the amazing talk – which included photography and video footage of a huge range of wildlife in and around Cratfield. It was amazing to watch everything from Dragonflies and Damselflies to Cormorants, Shags and Green Woodpeckers up so close. There was a huge range of video footage of Owls, Owlets, Deer, Foxes and a Badger in her sett with 4 cubs too! Future planned talks include the restoration of Lincoln Castle and behind the scenes at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show – so watch out for these dates for next year!

Pop Up Pub – Friday 7th October / 6pm – 10pm – with food by Cratfield Kitchen

Many thanks to all the volunteers who enable this event to continue to happen. Alongside the volunteers behind the bar are a number of the committee who spend many hours in the run up to this event ensuring it can go ahead. The drinks need purchasing from various wholesalers and locations, the barrel collecting and setting up, bar setting up, float arranging, volunteers scheduling, posts on facebook and neighbour next door, pop up A board going up, chairs and tables setting out – to name but a few of the many tasks required - so a huge thank you to everyone who enables this community event to continue.

Photographic Competition – Saturday 15th October / 7 -9pm – BAR OPEN!

Now all the photos are in and being mounted, we look forward to seeing you at the open evening on Saturday 15th. Come along for a drink and take a look at all the entries!

Acoustic Night – Saturday 19th November / Doors open 7.15pm

Back by popular demand – and featuring guests Paul Gillings and Danny R who will fill the entire second half. Paul is one of the finest harmonica players you will ever hear. Small door charge and **BAR OPEN TOO!**

Christmas Fair – Sunday 4th December

Are you a local crafter or maker? Would you like a stall at our very popular Christmas Fair? E mail cratfieldvillagehall@gmail.com for a booking form – first come first served. Last year we had to turn away several stallholders due to being fully booked early on so contact us promptly to reserve your pitch!

Water water – but not everywhere and possibly not a drop to drink!

We have had an ongoing issue with water pressure at the Village Hall and we owe a huge debt of thanks to Derek Knight for spending many hours

investigating this. Essex & Suffolk Water have now been out and the issue is not on Village Hall land but near the main out under the road – which means (luckily!) it is Essex & Suffolk Water’s problem (and cost!) to fix. Apologies for any inconvenience as it will mean the road needs closing for a day – but a small price to pay!

Dan Dan the mower man

Now summer is over we are probably getting towards the last few cuts of the grass surrounding the Village Hall. Massive thanks to Dan Elford for cutting the grass – it is a huge undertaking - and not only benefits users of the village hall and events, but dog walkers and ramblers who walk across the grass to the field. Many thanks Dan!

Hall for hire

The Village Hall is available for hire – at very reasonable rates! Thinking about having a children’s party or a family get together and want a bit more space and a bigger kitchen to do the catering in? Why not hire the village hall - contact bookings secretary Jo Nunn on 01986 799181.

AGM & Committee Meeting – Thursday 10th November / 7pm

Open forum at 7.00 / 7.15 AGM / 7.30 committee meeting.

The open forum is for anyone who has any questions about the Village Hall and how it is run to come along and talk to the committee. If you would like to consider joining the Village Hall committee, we are always looking for new members to help spread the load. We have 4 meetings a year – each one is usually around 2 hours (the last one was actually only an hour and 15 minutes!) **This is your village hall so why not get involved and help it and the events it provides to remain part of the community?**

100 CLUB

Many thanks to everyone who has signed up to join the 100 Club for the forthcoming year – and to Helen Torrance who has taken over the administration. The last 3 months winners - as drawn by D. Britton, solicitor - are....

July 2022 - 1st prize (£15) number 59 - Mark Aryaenia, 2nd prize (£10) number 64 - Colin Bain, 3rd prize (£5) number 32 - Carolyn White

August 2022 - 1st prize (£15) number 26 - Pam Goodey, 2nd prize (£10) number 5 - Jean Peacock, 3rd prize (£5) number 33 - Gary Thomas

September 2022 - 1st prize (£15) number 45 - Linzi Elford, 2nd prize (£10) number 100 - Shirley Symonds, 3rd prize (£5) number 1 - Chrissie Kitchen

Congratulations to all the winners!

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Cratfield Quiz Transport

1. What type of bicycle is designed for two riders?
2. Which liquid is put into car batteries?
3. Who wrote the novel 'Three Men in a Boat'?
4. Gondolas are associated with which city?
5. On which famous train did Agatha Christie set one of her novels?
6. In the tyre pressure measure PSI, what does the 'I' stand for?
7. Which small car was designed by Sir Alec Issigonis?
8. In Doctor Who, what do the initials TARDIS stand for?
9. In which year did the Hindenberg disaster happen?
10. In which London borough is London City Airport located?
11. On which space mission did astronauts first step on the moon?
12. In marine terms, what does RIB stand for?
13. Which Ford car is named after a wild horse?
14. Who directed the 1951 thriller 'Strangers on a train'?
15. What gas is used to heat the air in a hot air balloon?
16. Who is the manufacturer of the Vespa Scooter?
17. How did Gladys Knight and the Pips travel to Georgia?
18. Complete the title of the 1987 film –Planes ,trains and ?
19. What does a black flag indicate in Formula 1 racing?
20. What colour is the Northern line on London Underground maps?

Answers on page 22

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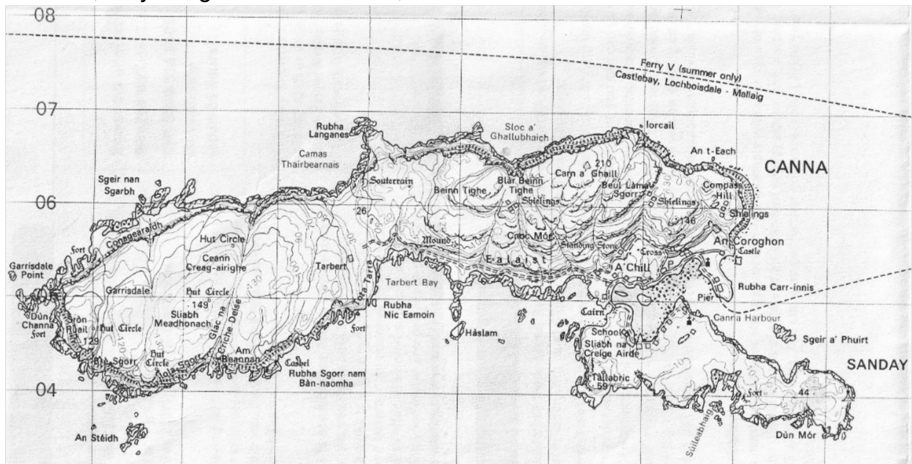
Exploring the Scottish Islands – with a collapsible bike! Canna (6 miles long, 1/2 a mile wide: Pop. 15)



Canna is an Inner Hebridean island and part of a group of 4 known as 'The Small Isles'. Lying off the west coast of Scotland, the other islands in this group are Rum (pop. 30), Eigg (100) and Muck (30).

I visited this group on my very first trip to the islands and was content to stay on the ferry as it plied its circular route around the 4 islands: I just took in the beautiful scenery and watched the goings-on with fascination. As the ferry unloaded a few people and provisions at Canna's pier, I could make out a rather grand building in grey stone: this was Canna House.

Margaret Fay Shaw was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania but fell in love with the islands on a cycling holiday when only 16 years old. An excellent pianist, she later studied music at New York and Paris, then returned to South Uist in the Outer Hebrides, where she lived for 6 years: she collected Gaelic songs & folklore and filmed & photographed the vanishing way of life before it was lost forever. While there, she met and married Dr John Lorne Campbell, himself a Gaelic scholar and in 1938, they bought Canna – for £9,000!



They dedicated their lives to preserving Gaelic culture, eventually amassing the world's biggest library of Celtic language and literature. John Lorne Campbell died in 1996, but Margaret stayed on, continuing to share the island with the MacKinnons, who have farmed there for generations.

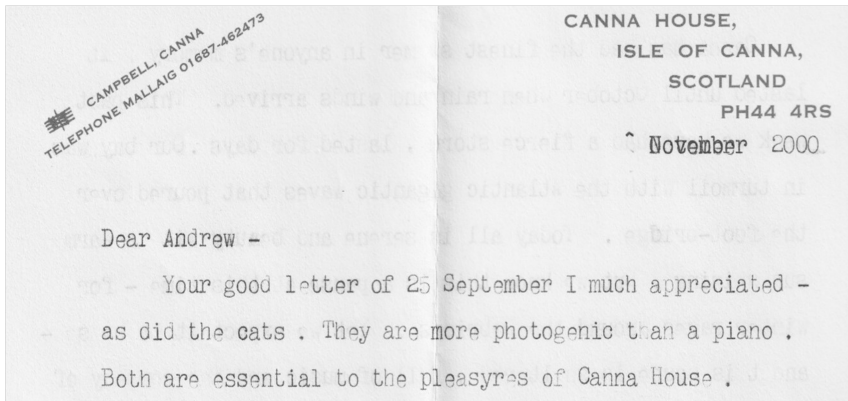
Through a previous trip to St Kilda (more to follow), I had befriended a National Trust working party, and we had a group holiday on Canna in 2000. There were 10 of us and, early on, we met a close friend of Margaret's who was staying with her (called Vivienne) who warned us that we should give Margaret her space and not bother her. We had no such plans anyway, then, one evening, the telephone rang

and it was Vivienne again. We were dumbfounded! “Mrs Shaw would like you to stop pestering her, it really does upset her.” We protested our innocence, and then, “Mrs Shaw would like to meet you. Tomorrow evening, 7.30 pm.”

We were perplexed and felt a little jittery about meeting her. Some of our party flatly refused to go. I simply saw it as a filming opportunity! The appointed hour came and we nervously opened the gate to Canna House. Vivienne, who seemed to be acting as a sort of female butler, opened the door and ushered us in. There was no sign of Mrs Campbell, until we looked upwards: at the top of a spectacular, sweeping staircase stood a little old lady who, like a faded filmstar still anxious for the attention, was timing her entrance only once she was certain that we were all looking at her. She held her cigarette horizontally as she slowly and graciously made her descent down the staircase which dwarfed her. She certainly didn't look her 97 years: she was, in fact, quite remarkable. The evening was lively, convivial and fuelled with plenty of drams, with a Steinway grand piano providing a backdrop. I pitied those of our party who stayed behind: they missed out on a great evening – in the company of a lady who, with her husband, had done so much to preserve a dying Gaelic culture. Her American accent was still a strong one, and she showed no signs at all of irritation with us. In fact, after that meeting, we thought that she was disappointed that we *hadn't* bothered her during our stay, and that she actually *wanted* to see us: hence Vivienne's phone call, bizarre though it was...

Margaret soldiered on, a whisky drinker and smoker all her life, and died at the ripe old age of 101 in 2004.

Andrew Weight



Next month: Rum (not the drink!)

2022 Mobile Library Dates

Tuesdays

4th October, 29th November

Silverleys Green 14.15 – 14.35

The Poacher 14.45 – 14.55

Cratfield Parish Council

Meeting Dates 2022

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

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To celebrate the opening of
Fire and Feast Cratfield villagers
are invited to join us for
complimentary coffee/tea and
cake at our Sunday Cafe or
enjoy 10% off a Saturday
Supper for you and a guest.
One offer per resident. Bring this advert with
you. Invitation open until 31st August 2022.

Whitehouse Farm, Cratfield. IP19 0QF : Tel 01986 798340 to book supper

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(Sunday 6pm)

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The 2022 Suffolk Churches Ride'n'stride

This all took place on 10th September. Thanks are due as usual to all the volunteers and sponsors, many of whom were willingly press-ganged into support in the pop-up pub on the previous weekend. Various teams from Cratfield were cycling: Team Scoones (one old beer-drinker and a couple of young doctors) started in the village and headed off via Linstead through the Saints to Homersfield and then turned back along the Waveney valley to Palgrave (a wonderful painted hammer-beam roof) before turning for home via Yaxley and Eye. In total we visited 21 churches, some visited before (Hoxne, Eye), some deserted but all open and accessible except for Mendham (closed for building work). There were some beautifully located churches - St Margaret, Homersfield, Syleham and Oakley. It was wonderful to find villages that had grown around large tracts of common land - All Saints South Elmham, Stuston, Thrandeston and the extraordinary Mellis, said to be the largest area of common land in England. There were architectural highlights; the most delightful being the coloured brickwork of the almost unfindable Stuston Church. Yaxley is worth a detour for its rood screen and medieval paintings. Most joyful of all was the warm welcome from the people: the lady in Hoxne who took us on a full tour including uncovering the 1,000 year old Mensa stone on the altar; the people of Mellis who showed us the bat living in their font and, best of all, the lady at Denham (at 4.55pm!) proud of her remote and simple church who provided 2 kinds of home made flapjacks at end the day.

Looking forward to 2023!

Andrew Scoones, September 2022

Answers to Transport Quiz

1 Tandem 2 Distilled water 3 Jerome K Jerome 4 Venice 5 Orient Express 6 Inch 7 Mini 8 Time and Relative Dimension in Space 9 1937 10 Newham 11 Apollo 11 12 Rigid inflatable boat 13 Mustang 14 Sir Alfred Hitchcock 15 Propane 16 Piaggio 17 On a midnight train 18 Automobiles 19 Unsafe behaviour 20 Black

ST. MARY'S CHURCH SERVICES OCTOBER 2022

Sunday 9th	Sunday 16th	Sunday 23rd
6.00pm Harvest Festival	9.00am Village Worship	9.00am Holy Communion
Sidesperson C. Marfleet	Sidesperson M. Thompson	Sidesperson D. Peacock
Reader P. BAker	Reader D. Peacock	Reader M. Powell
Readings 2 Kings 5:1-3,7-15c 2 Tim 2:8-15 Luke 17:11-19	Readings Isaiah 35:3-6 2 Tim 4:5-17 Luke 10:1-9	Readings Isaiah 45:22-end Romans 15:1-6 Luke 4:16-24

NOTES

**PLEASE COME ALONG AND JOIN US AT ST. MARY'S
FOR A
BRING AND SHARE HARVEST LUNCH**

SUNDAY 9TH OCTOBER 1PM

No cost, just bring a contribution of food to share with friends

Please ring Margaret on 07906509302 if you can help with any of these suggestions: Quiche, French Sticks and Spread, Cheese, Cooked Meats, Sausage Rolls, Salad, Coleslaw, Crisps and Snacks, Jacket Potatoes, and any Desserts and Cream Tea, Coffee and Squash will be provided.

Our nod to Harvest Lunches of yesteryear is very much for children and families too. We will put on games for the children.

So come along no matter how big or small your contribution and enjoy fellowship and food with St. Mary's

DIRECTORY:

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

Local officers:

Church Rev. Susan Loxton		01379 388 493
revloxtongmail.com		

Church Wardens:

Lay Elder for Cratfield - Margaret Thompson		07906 509302
Parish Council - Lotty Barbour		01986 798099
Parish Clerk Sally Chapman		07774 734411
Parish Council Website	www.cratfield.onesuffolk.net	
Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator - Nick Eade		01986 798725

Village Hall:

Chair Person - Natalie Lloyd-Evans		01986 798790
Vice Chair - Rebecca Sannick		01986 799006
Bookings - Jo Nunn		01986 799181
Laxfield School Head of School- Mrs Minns		01986 798344
Nova Ladies Luncheon Group - Heather Hargood		01986 798180

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All information must arrive by 20th of the month.

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

Please contact Sue, Graham or Peter for more information