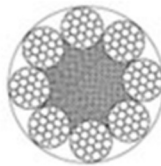
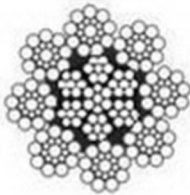
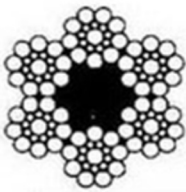


CRATFIELD NEWS

April 2020



COVID 19

In these challenging times all each of us can do is care for our neighbours.

Cratfield is way out in front of most communities, but in order to reach out to all there will be a '**help line**' which can be used by anyone in need of assistance in any of the following ways.

So if you are self isolating or need help with

- Shopping
- Collection of medication
- Urgent supplies
- Walking a dog
- Friendly phone call to relieve social isolation

PLEASE RING IF WE CAN HELP YOU IN ANY WAY

Help is only a phone call away.

We will need an ever growing tree of names and phone numbers of willing helpers so that the pressure may be spread.

As co-ordinator please ring

Margaret Thompson 07906509302

if you feel you could join the list of helpers. We will only be spreading kindness, not the virus, so no-one will be asked to enter anyone's home which would only escalate the situation.

The heart of this wonderful village beats faster when it's in trouble.

Margaret Thompson

LAXFIELD AND DISTRICT MUSEUM

Opening event Saturday 14th April

This event is cancelled

also cancelled

LAXFIELD MARKET

Saturday April 4th

THEFT OF CHURCH SILVER

We regret to report that some time between 16th and 23rd of March all the church silver, which included an Elizabethan chalice, was stolen from a locked safe in the locked vestry.

The police have been informed and they ask that anyone who witnessed any suspicious activity around the church during that period should contact them on their website <https://www.suffolk.police.uk/contact-us> , or by telephone on 101, quoting crime reference no. 37/11655/20.

Our thanks to those of you who have already been in touch to commiserate with us over the loss.

Cratfield St. Mary's PCC

THANK YOU

Very many thanks to Don and Alan for their sterling work in shoring up the entrance to the footpath opposite the Town House. Their work has restored the equilibrium of many a dog walker who has spent the last few months exiting the field in the most ungainly fashion, in fear and dread of slithering down the slope into the path of an oncoming truck!

Dignity restored! Thank you.

CRATFIELD VILLAGE HALL

It feels superfluous to mention that we took the decision to postpone upcoming events in the hall. Most of you will have seen the posters around the village, the notes on the social media page, or probably simply assumed that's what we were going to do. The acoustic night, the talk by Jeremy and Candy Blackham on the 'backroads of Spain' are merely postponed and will be re-scheduled. April's pop-up on the first Friday is cancelled and there will be no more pop-ups until further notice. Events further on in the calendar are in the balance. We have to see how things pan out. When we feel the go-ahead has been given for a renewal of social gatherings, be assured that there will be signs put up, even bunting and a brass band if we can pull one together!

If the village hall can be of practical help during this social shut-down, of course we will open it up, as long as that can be done with no risk to health. In the meantime, I'm sure I speak for the hall committee in that Cratfield will remain the kindly, friendly and mutually supportive village it has always been.

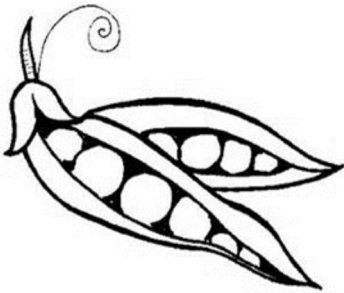
I can always be contacted on 01987 798790

Stay well everyone Natalie

The Taste of Time

I love to eat, and I love to talk. Sometimes, out of sheer gusto, I try to do both at the same time – with unfortunate social consequences, as even my best friends would attest.

Eating and talking are my vices – but hey – I am an oral person and I cannot really imagine life without both those delectable activities. You can kick bad habits or come to terms with them and I have chosen the latter course. Now that the growing season is upon us, I look forward to the tasting things and, almost as good, talking and enthusing about them.



A taste or a smell can carry us back to an earlier time. It can restore a moment or even a whole world to us. I don't, for example, need to think consciously about my early childhood to revisit it - if I crunch a raw pea from a pod and close my eyes, especially when the air is moist and warm, I am in the original garden that is forever alive

in my memory. The modest garden at the back of my parents' council house which was for me – as first gardens are for all of us – my Garden of Eden. In that same garden, impossibly distant and yet as close as the smell of green growth, I remember crunching into peppery tasting cabbage stalks and enjoying them thoroughly. Sometimes our Dad would cut us a red skinned tube of rhubarb we would dip in sugar and devour. I don't really want to repeat that experience but the mere sight of rhubarb growing makes my tongue watery with the recollection of that shiveringly sharp taste. Then there were the raspberries which grew in profusion - our Mum loved them as passionately as any marauding bird; feasting on them straight from the bush



or eating them crushed between bread for her summer breakfast. How I loved to pick and eat them too, warm, squashy and fresh in the warm sunlight.

I did not have a garden until I was in my fifties. I had never had a place of my own but lived in a series of rooms in other people's houses until I found my way to London where I lived for years in my mate's spare room; gardenless, without so much as a cactus in a pot. At the time I think I thought that living like that was a temporary measure. My permanent transience perturbed me slightly – but not enough to do anything about it – so I drifted on.

Time overtakes even the most heroic procrastinators. I now find myself sharing a decent sized garden in Cratfield where we have taken to growing all kinds of lovely things. Sixty years on I may be a long way from Eden, but I now have a share in a whole garden to enjoy.



A casket of seeds ordered from the internet had just arrived as I started to write this. I will not be eating raw rhubarb dipped in sugar or cabbage stumps this summer – but I hope to be eating sweet broad beans fresh from the pod picked weeks before their old tired cousins that languish in the supermarkets.

I am looking forward to spring and summer in the garden and all the tastes that come with it. I will allow my twin vices to let rip – eating and holding forth. And just occasionally I hope to be transported by my senses from my Cratfield garden to a place safely beyond time.

Nigel Cousins

MICHAEL OLIVER

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chased litter picking equipment
which can be borrowed anytime.

Your support would be greatly appreciated!

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lage*

*Cllr Richard Chivers Tel: 07900 187 350 – collect from
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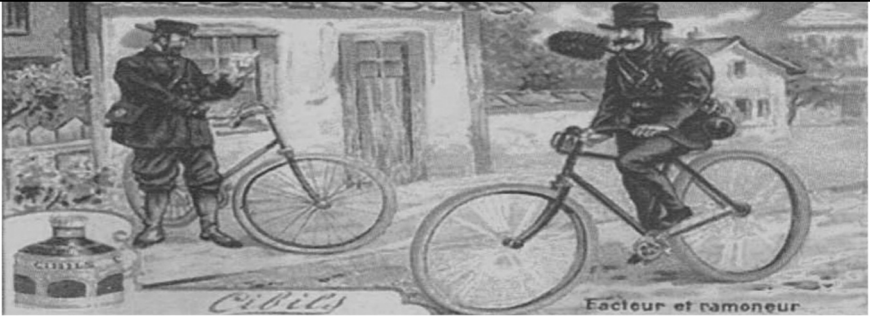
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You may have read Brenda Thirkettle's notes from the 50s elsewhere in the magazine, here's one of her poems, we haven't published any lately.

How things change – this was 1983 when the doctor visited Monday & Thursday mornings at 11.00am

The Village Surgery

Twice a week in the village hall
The people go to pay a call,
To see the doctor for their ills
Collecting medicine and pills.

Curtains are drawn, the door is shut,
The people go inside the hut,
To wait for the doctor to come
To look at sprains and throats and gums.

There's no brisk receptionist near,
Nor telephone that they can hear,
Just the kitchen where they can go
To tell the doctor tales of woe.

The people huddle on the seat,
The oil stove gives out little heat,
But all enjoy a hearty chat,
The villagers are glad of that.

The minutes pass, he does not come,
The people think it's not much fun
Waiting there in the wintry gloom
On wooden seats in draughty room.

Hurrah, his car arrives at last,
The doctor enters quite aghast,
He listens to the patients all,
Then walks out to pay more calls.

Those needing medicine and pills
Must go Fressingfield, to fill
The bottles, jars and the phials,
Now they must travel three more miles.

You may think nothing much is happening in the village at the moment, but this is a whole decade from the past. Taken from notes kept by Brenda Thirkettle who lived in the village at both The Firs and Holly Tree Farm (maybe not at the same time).

HAPPENINGS IN CRATFIELD IN THE 1950s

In **1950** The Rev, Harold Gerard Van Cooten became the rector of the United Benefices of Cratfield, Heveningham and Ubbeston. In **1953** he was married in Edinburgh to Miss Sophia Brown. In **1954** he was found dead in bed at the Cratfield Vicarage. A large congregation attended his funeral in Cratfield Church, The service was conducted by the Rev. Jack Thicket of Peasenhall and assisted by the Rev. R. Knight Parker of Yoxford.

In **1955** the Rev. James Foster became the vicar of Cratfield.

From **1950 to 1954** Cratfield had a successful football team which played in the local league. They held their matches on Mr. Johnson's field at Dunnetts Farm. Ploughing matches, fêtes and a harvest supper were held for club funds.

In **1953** a fancy dress parade, fête & supper celebrating the Queen's Coronation Day were held.

In **1956** Mr. Manning of Darsham, formerly of Cratfield where he farmed for many years at White house Farm, was awarded the MBE.

In Autumn **1958** G. W. Thirkettle lost 98 cockerels, they were 5 & 6 lbs in weight and were found dead and strewn all over the field, they had been killed by foxes.

In **1958** The Bell Inn was closed and Mr George Brown, the publican, was asked to surrender his licence.

Also in **1958** Mr. Ned Watson of Holly Tree Farm was the most successful competitor at the Harleston Horticultural Show, He won all 3 trophies, the Buckley Cup for the highest number of points in show, the President's Cup for most points in the vegetable section and the Carver Cup for fruit. Ned worked at The Firs for Mr.G.Thirkettle for 25 years

In **1959** Rev. Albert Searle-Barnes was inducted as new vicar by the Bishop of Edmundsbury & Ipswich, Dr A.H.Morris.

In **1959** a new altar frontal was presented to Cratfield church by a former lay reader, Mr.Loke. It was a rich blue and gold colour and was formerly part of the coronation decorations used in Westminster Abbey at the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

On December 24th **1959** Mr. B. Manning of White House Farm inaugurated the supply of electricity to Cratfield by pressing a button, which brought fluorescent brilliance to the former dim oil lit Hall. To bring the supply to Cratfield involved erecting five and a half miles of 11,000volt lines and two miles of low pressure lines together with 17 transformers. The supply was made available to 90 properties including 20 farms.

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Village Hall Update – April

Apologies to all that 'Acoustic Night 4' on the 14th of March and the 'Back Roads of Northern Spain' talk and tapas night on the 28th of March were postponed – these events will be re scheduled as soon as we are able to.

POP UP PUB FOR APRIL – CANCELLED

Many thanks to all the helpers and bar staff from the March pop up – your help is very much appreciated.

As soon as we have a clear picture of when it would be safe to resume events we will let you know – in the meantime you can also make sure you follow 'Cratfield Village' on facebook where more information on Village Hall events will be posted.

A little good news....

Many thanks to all that attend events – whether it's the pop up pub, community coffee break, photographic competition, dog show, gardening club or carpet bowls and all other events. These events are run to help raise funds to keep the village hall going and we support other charities where we can – and keep a contingency back for running repairs on the village hall and future large purchases.

Over the past few years the committee have had feedback regarding noise levels in the village hall - especially at large events such as the pop up pubs, food nights and private bookings. Several people have queried if anything could be done and we owe a huge amount of thanks to Robert King who has investigated this further – many hours on the phone and e mail's to 'noise reduction' specialists (including popping balloons and recording the noise at various point throughout the hall!) Robert (ably assisted by Lesley) compiled a huge amount of documentation – measurements, fabrication of the hall, flooring, window and heater positioning and so on) and approached three companies to quote.

Having looked at all the options the committee decided to proceed with one company who specialise in the retro fitting of noise reduction systems into older buildings – and they could competitively supply, fit and install (and clear up afterwards!) meaning the committee plus any willing volunteers would not be required to hang upside down off ladders.

We are also thrilled to let you know that The Heveningham Hall Country Fair Trust has also agreed to fully fund this work. The main reason they are able to assist us is due to the success of the many events they in turn hold throughout the year – if you would like to volunteer in any way to help please do contact Julie Collett on e mail to - juliecollett38@gmail.com

Photographic Competition – 10th October and the categories are...

Suffolk Transport, Black & White Cratfield (any black and white photo),

Suffolk Skylines, Fun category – Suffolk Seaside.

Photos don't have to be taken on a camera – you can snap away on your phone or tablet too!

Carpet Bowls Club –

Postponed for now – as soon as this resumes we will let you know.

Gardening Club –

From Caroline Marfleet - The dates for next year will again be the 1st Wednesday of the month so March 4th; May 6th; July 1st; September 2nd; November 4th. The March and November meetings will be held in the village hall and the summer meetings in a Cratfield garden. Details to be arranged.

100 Club draw held at NOVA.

100 Club draw held at NOVA, 1st Heather Hargood No: 7 £15.00 : 2nd Michael Hargood No: 22 £10.00 : 3rd Caroline Marfleet No 44 £5.00. Congratulations to all the winners.

Great news on the funding from Heveningham Hall Trust, however.....

**Statement from Heveningham Hall:Concours & Country Fair
18th March 2020**

In the light of the current situation and recent Government advice, we have sadly made the decision to cancel our Concours and Country Fair in June. We do not currently have an alternative date planned at this time, but do hope to be able to reschedule next year and will inform you of the new date in due course. We would like to thank you for your continued support and hope to welcome you next year.

For ticket refunds, please email: enquiries@countryfair.co.uk

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'LOCKDOWN' by Richard Hendrick

Yes, there is fear.

Yes, there is isolation.

Yes, there is panic buying.

Yes, there is sickness.

Yes, there is even death.

But,

They say that in Wuhan, after so many years of noise
you can hear the birds again.

They say that after just a few weeks of quiet
the sky is no longer thick with fumes,
but blue and grey and clear.

They say that in the streets of Assisi
people are singing to each other
cross the empty squares,
keeping their windows open
so that those who are alone
may hear the sounds of family around them.

They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland
is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.

Today a young woman I know
is busy spreading flyers with her number
through the neighbourhood
so that the elders may have someone to call on.

Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples
are preparing to welcome
and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary.

All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting.

All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in a new way.

All over the world people are waking up to a new reality

To how big we really are.

To how little control we really have.

To what really matters.

To love.

So we pray and we remember that

Yes, there is fear,

but there does not have to be hate.

Yes, there is isolation,

but there does not have to be loneliness.

Yes, there is panic buying,

but there does not have to be meanness.

Yes, there is sickness,

but there does not have to be disease of the soul.

Yes, there is even death,

but there can always be a rebirth of love

Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.



Today breathe.
Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic
the birds are singing again,
the sky is clearing,
Spring is coming,
and we are always encompassed by Love.
Open the window of your soul
and though you may not be able
to touch across the empty square,
Sing.



Sent in by Sue Seabon from a friend of hers.

Thank you Sue for this positive message.

A few more reasons to be positive:-
the flora and fauna don't know it's happening
at least we are looking towards the summer and not the winter
we live in the beautiful countryside and a caring village community
it's not bubonic plague
it will end one day!

If you are truly bored, why not colour in the picture!



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Mace

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Dear Friends

On 3rd March 2006 the Prime Minister Tony Blair appeared on Michael Parkinson's TV programme and, when pressed, said that he believed that in the end God would judge him for his actions. According to the media the whole nation raised its hands in horror! TV newscasters reported on the great danger that the nation would be in if the Prime Minister made decisions according to Christian principles, and on the offence that his words would give to those of other faiths. After about 12 hours of this when the sky didn't fall in and another world war didn't start, it all quietened down although there were still those opposed to God or the Prime Minister, or both, who distorted the remark that he had made. It all goes to show what a mess our society is in about religion in general, and Christianity in particular.

It seems as if we are being persuaded that it's not quite the thing to be a Christian – if you are you had better keep quiet about it. It might be just all right to admit to it at Christmas with the baby and the angels and the shepherds – but now we are approaching Holy Week which is about a cross and nails and blood and death – followed by an incredible miracle of a crucified man rising from death and about a promise of eternal life to all people. Society isn't comfortable with those who recognise or celebrate that – it's much safer to think that Easter is about bonnets and bunnies and eggs; and possibly hot cross buns, although there are those who would prefer the buns without the cross.

"We don't do God!" said Alistair Campbell in an effort to stop the Prime Minister talking about his faith. In a so-called multi-cultural society it is assumed that a kind of neutrality is obtained by not mentioning God at all – by presenting a world without God: but that is atheism. Atheism is not neutral ground. It is an extreme position – every bit as extreme as a particular religious stance – indeed the great religions of the world have more in common with each other than they do with atheism. During the early days of the Church in the Roman Empire, Christians were said to be "enemies of the human race". They met in secret – so people didn't know what they did or what they believed; ignorance led to fear, and fear led to hatred and persecution. We haven't got to that stage now, thank God, but the recent event has shown that there are those who fear Christians who act on their beliefs. The risen Christ commanded us to proclaim the gospel to the world. We need to take that command quite literally. We need to show the world that Christians are "lovers of the human race", that we are not opposed to happiness and laughter, that we are not opposed to all the discoveries that science has made about God's world, and that our belief is reasonable.

I wish you all a very Holy Week and a very joyful Easter.

David

St. Mary's Church Services – April 2020

Maundy Thurs- day	Easter Sunday 12th	Sunday 19th	Sunday 26th
Sidesperson	Sidesperson	Sidesperson	Sidesperson
Reader	Readers	Reader	Reader
	Acts 10:34-43 Coloss 3:1-4 John 20:1-18	Acts 2:14a, 22-32 1 Peter 1:3-9 John 20:19-end	Acts 2:14a,36-41 1 Peter 1:17-23 Luke 24:13-35

Due to the current Covid 19 pandemic the church of England has suspended all church services until further notice.

The Archbishop has decreed there should be no public services in church for the time being. This means the usual Sunday services will not happen. However the church will remain open for private prayer and meditation. You are welcome to come into church at any time, there will be books and prayers for you to read if you want, plus a bible or two for you to use. Do remember if you go into church it is likely to be cold, so make sure you wrap up warm. Nobody seem to know how long things will last but keep safe and keep well.

David

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Church Wardens:

Andy Edmunds		01986 798523
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Lay Elder for Cratfield - Margaret Thompson		07906 509302
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Parish Council - Lotty Barbour		01986 798099
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PC Clerk Sally Chapman		01379 855486
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PC Website	www.cratfield.onesuffolk.net	
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Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator - Nick Eade		01986 798725
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Village Hall:

Chair Person - Natalie Lloyd-Evans		01986 798790
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Vice Chair - Richard Turberville		01986 798346
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Bookings - Jo Nunn		01986 799181
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Laxfield School Head of School- Mrs Minns		01986 798344
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Nova Group - Heather Hargood		01986 798180
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All information must arrive by 20th of the month.

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Please contact Sue, Graham or Peter for more information