

CRATFIELD NEWS

December 2019



HAPPY CHRISTMAS CRATFIELD

Thank You

Maisie Lister and family, Silverleys Green, wish to thank all those for the support, sympathy, flowers, cards, help and telephone calls in the hospitalisation and loss of Gordon. Thanks also to all who attended the funeral service and afterwards at the Urban Jungle on such a wet day. Thank you to all.

More Thanks

'Having returned home last month after 11 weeks in hospital and heart surgery I would like to say a very big 'thank you' to all the friends and neighbours who helped us in many ways during my hospital stay, driving Claire to visit me in hospital when she had a broken wrist, sitting with Claire' Mum while she was visiting me, helping with gardening and a host of other jobs during our busiest time of year with the holiday cottages. We are really grateful for all your kindness and help, we couldn't have managed without you. My recovery is going well, with plenty of walks in the Autumn colours to build up my strength again.

David Sillett

For Sale

Philips Hostess Trolley complete with 4 dishes. In working order and with instruction booklet.

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Calling Cratfield Mince Pie Makers!

Last year, we had a mix of home baked mince pies and shop-bought ones for sale at the Christmas Market. The home-baked ones went fast while the commercial ones languished. No surprise really, spoiled as we are in Cratfield for the real thing! Could any of our wonderful bakers make us a plate of pies for this year? To your own unique recipe, of course. The fair takes place on **Sunday December 8th**, so I would need them either early that morning or the previous evening. Let me know if you can help by calling me on **01986 798790**.

Once again we'll be splitting our profits between the village hall itself and St. Martin's Housing Trust which helps homeless people.

Thank you
Natalie Lloyd-Evans

A Cratfield Miscellany

Chrissie has already made very generous donations, from the sale of her book, of over £90 to both the Church and the Village Hall. The cost of printing has also been covered.

There are still copies available so why not think in terms of Christmas gifts, I'm sure family and friends who have visited Cratfield would be interested in some of the history of our village.

Contact Chrissie on 798764

Answers to last month's Cryptic Quiz

(Musical shows or film titles)

Arm yourself Ms Lennox. **'Annie Get Your Gun'**

Coal user may be deranged. (anagram) **'Carousel'**

Head covering – for most! **'Hair'**

Cat by night repeated round this musical. (anagram) **'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang'**

Your female sibling's stage performance. **'Sister Act'**

Getting rather wet while vocalising. **'Singing in the Rain'**

Fair hair within the law. **'Legally Blonde'**

Eight-legged lady gives you a smacker! **'Kiss of the Spider Woman'**

Sir Bernard Law Montgomery, First Viscount of Alamein? **'The Full Monty'**

Karloff and Cushing in a boutique. **'Little Shop of Horrors'**

Dog owners

Thank you to all dog owners who keep our village roads, verges and our one footpath clear of dog waste. However, please don't forget the footpaths too, they may be grass or even mud at this time of year, but are still well used. Please keep an eye on your dog if it is running free. There have been reports recently of *large* deposits on the footpath crossing Sillet's meadows and the one at the end of School Corner leading to the bridge. The Parish Council have provided plenty of dog waste bins so you don't have to carry the offensive material too far! Do try to remember to keep the pockets of your dog walking coat full of 'poo bags'!

Thank you. Sue (Ed.)

CRATFIELD VILLAGE HALL CHRISTMAS FAIR
SUNDAY 8TH DECEMBER : 10am – 2pm



OVER 13 LOCAL STALLS INCLUDING..

The Cratfield Calendars

Lotty Barbour - Cratfield beef

Soapy Goat – local handmade soaps

Lina Haglund – metal craft & jewellery

The Southwold Candle Co – candles & reed diffusers

Natalie Meg Evans – top selling romantic historical fiction author

Cratfield author Chrissie Kitchen with her book ‘The Cratfield Miscellany’

Helen Cannon – Huntingfield handmade – a variety of knitted & woven gifts

Juliette Weaver – delicious treats for the dog in your life (all profits go to Meadow Green Dog Rescue)

‘The Suffolk Craft Shed’ – unique handmade stained glass art for the home & garden, Christmas decorations, pet portrait commissions undertaken

Phoenix Bird of Prey Rescue - gifts, tombola & a live owl

Barbara Askew’s household miscellany

Alison King - Pixie Pot Craft Company

mulled wine – tea / coffee – mince pies

!! Richard’s famous bacon rolls !!



CRATFIELD VILLAGE HALL - MANSE LANE – CRATFIELD
– IP19 0DJ



St. Mary's Christmas Diary

1st December onwards

Reverse Advent Calendar Box will be in the back of the church. Please put something in, as little and as often as you like. Everything will go to the Waveney Food Bank. Please make a difference

20th December

7.00pm Carol Service by candlelight. Mulled wine and mince pies. (We would be grateful if anyone could provide some mince pies. Please ring Margaret on 07906509302

25th December

Christmas Day 9.30am Family Service with Holy Communion

12th January 2020

Village walk starting at St. Mary's at 2.00pm. Bonfire and refreshments.

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If you would like to litter pick please contact:

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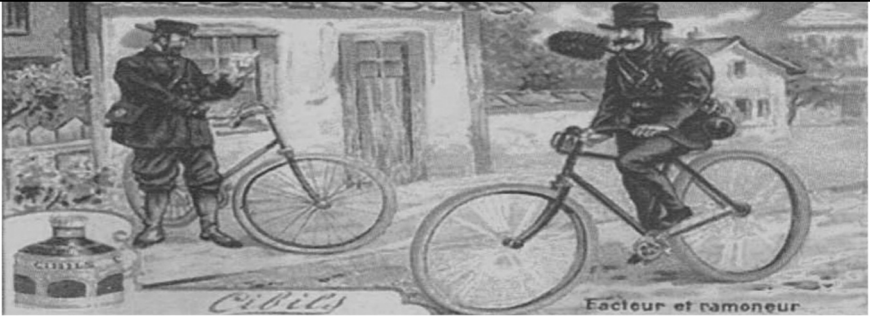
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*Laxfield Produce, Craft and Flea Market
Saturday 7th December 9.30am -12 midday*

*inside All Saint's Church & in the Royal Oak
and outside on Church Plain (IP13 8DH)*

Yo, ho, ho – guess what? This month's Market will be choc-full of stallholders offering lots of goodies for Christmas – why not come along and see if you can do all your present shopping in one place? Save on time, travel, energy, and no doubt on cost too. Shop locally and have a very green Christmas!

Items on offer include crafts, cards, wrapping paper, stocking-fillers, stained glass, local honey and wax products, hand-made candles and soaps, free-range eggs, bird food, cakes and baking (including gluten free and dairy free), meat pies, sausage rolls and quiches, delicious preserves, Fairtrade items, local free-range meats including pork and grass-fed beef, organic vegetables, charity hats and beautiful festive wreaths. Many more items include vintage and pre-loved goods... and there'll be a special stall selling Laxfield's very own Robin Hood January pantomime tickets (oh yes, there will!)

But why wait until the festive period? Treat yourself to something nice while you're at the Market and enjoy entertainment too, which this month will be provided by the Sandlings Recorder group.

Refreshments will be available in the Church, and in the Royal Oak breakfasts, bacon butties and teas/coffees, beers and lunches (and no doubt a log fire too) will all be on offer, along with quick bites to purchase from the bakes stalls.

This lively Market is very popular with stallholders and customers alike, so there is always a waiting list for indoor stall space, but do contact Catherine Cawood on 01986 798852 for info on booking a slot.

Don't forget the Laxfield Produce, Craft and Flea Market is now held every month of the year, so we hope to see you all again on 4th January 2020.

*The Laxfield Produce, Craft and Flea Market welcomes you
on the first Saturday morning of every month –*

*a Suffolk Market with a lovely friendly atmosphere -
looking forward to seeing you there!*

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

Village Hall Update – November

THANK YOU!

The Village Hall is run by a committee of volunteers and supported by a number of volunteer helpers. We try to put on a wide variety of events that would appeal to everyone in the village and surrounding areas – from “Pie n’ Pud” nights to “Wine & Cheese” evenings – and everything in between such as a dog show and once a month Pop Up Pub. So whether you have helped set up, wash up, clear up, put the bins out, distributed posters or bought tickets/dragged friends and family along to something... THANK YOU!

Next Pop Up Pub - Friday 6th December with food by Cratfield Kitchen 6 – 9PM

Many thanks to all the helpers and bar staff from the November pop up. Paul Marfleet is in charge of the rotas – so if you fancy yourself as a Bette Lynch or Peggy Mitchell (and that is just for the men..) please contact Paul on marfleets@doctors.org.uk – everything is set up on the evening with a price list, change, glasses, measures and so on. Anyone who has done it before for the first time commented how easy and straight forward it is, and a great chance to meet more people in the village.

The Pop Up Pub will also be open on Friday 3rd January – again, with food by Cratfield Kitchen.

Christmas Fair – Sunday 8th December 10am – 2pm

Please see the full advert elsewhere in the magazine (many thanks to Sue the editor for finding space!) Following the popular success of last years event we have managed to stretch the hall to fit 13 stalls instead of the 11 we had last year, with a wide range of local companies – so come along and find a great selection of gifts (you are also allowed to buy something for yourself at this time of year too, remember!) Richard will also be doing his famous bacon rolls (gluten free, vegetarian and vegan options available) along with mulled wine, mince pies and tea / coffee etc.

Advance dates for your diary for 2020..

Race Night – provisionally 22 Feb TBC

Acoustic Night 4!! – Provisionally either the 14th or 22nd March TBC

Dog Show – 17th May

Sotterley Horse Show – 24th May

There will also be another Village Hall Talk evening – date TBC

DRUM ROLL PLEASE....

Photographic Competition – 10th October

Following the largest amount of entries ever, this event will run again next year.

The categories are...

Suffolk Transport

Black & White Cratfield (any photo in or around Cratfield in black and white format)

Suffolk Skylines

Fun category – *Suffolk Seaside*

Remember - this is a fun event and you do not need a professional camera to have a go – photos taken on phones / tablets and so on can also be entered. Good luck!

Carpet Bowls Club –

Continuing to go from strength to strength since reforming - meets every Wednesday 7 – 9pm the cost is £2 per head and includes refreshments. The majority are novices who just get together to learn and have fun – so do come along and have a go – for £2 you might find you have a new hobby!

Gardening Club – Wednesday 6th November at 7.30 (Village Hall)

From Caroline Marfleet - 'Cratfield Garden Society' held the last meeting of 2019 in the village hall on Wednesday 6th November. The topic was 'Planning the vegetable garden'. I did a short presentation on the basic essentials and theory and Carolyn White gave a more detailed, personal account of a year in her vegetable patch illustrated with pictures.

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.

On March 4th, Tim from 'The Plantsman's Preference' near Diss will be our guest speaker. His nursery specialises in Grasses and Hardy Perennials and they hold the National Collection of Miscanthus. If anyone wants to pre-order plants, he will bring them to the meeting. Caroline Marfleet

Next Village Hall committee meeting – Thursday 30th January

Open Forum 7.15 – 7.30 with committee meeting from 7.30. The open forum is for anyone who wants to ask the village hall committee any questions about use of the village hall or events etc. Please note only the committee can be in attendance for the committee meeting from 7.30 onwards.

100 Club draw held at NOVA,

100 Club draw held at NOVA, 1st Mark Aryaenia No: 59 £15.00 ; 2nd Lotty Barbour No: 40 £10.00 ; 3rd Ann Bedford No: 5 £5.00. Congratulations to all the winners!

Don't forget – more information on village events, reminders of events and timings along with information on other surrounding areas can be found on the village facebook page – just search 'Cratfield Village'

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'A Chapter of Accidents'

Crime at Christmas



Sometimes clever sleuthing alone solves a crime. Often there is more than a little luck involved. On the rarest of occasions, the solution is entirely down to chance – as in this true crime story. It took what a newspaper of the time called 'a chapter of accidents' to solve it.

Accident at the Old Bailey

Christmas 1811 on a corner outside the Old Bailey the blind goddess fortune intervened in human affairs. Mr Fox, a lawyer, late for a case, was not looking where he was going as he hurtled along a snow flecked street bearing a pile of documents. Proceeding along a lane at right angles to Fox was Mr Archdeacon Oldershaw, a Norfolk magistrate on a rare visit to a family friend in the capital. Cheeks flushed with Christmas grog; he was paying less attention than he should have done. Oldershaw and Fox collided with a bang and a scattering of dusty papers. Oldershaw solicitously restored the pile of documents to Fox. Having introduced themselves to each other and laughed about this accidental meeting they decided on the strength of it to repair to the Mitre Inn for a Yuletide glass as soon as Mr Fox was free.

The Ratcliffe Highway Murders

'Mighty fine wine they keep in the Mitre.' said Oldershaw later.

'Indeed,' replied Fox. 'A man needs strong drink in these evil days so soon after the dreadful Ratcliffe Highway Murders.'

'Aye,' said Oldershaw 'A terrible business. Who can forget the details? Even in the countryside we slept less easy in our beds when we read of it. Cruel and senseless murder with no motive.'

On December 7th a young shopkeeper, Timothy Marr, his young wife Celia, her fourteen-week-old son and his apprentice James Gawen done in with a Shipwright's maul, which is a hammer with a very long handle and a heavy nine-inch head. Skulls smashed; throats hacked to the bone. Gore everywhere. Nothing was missing. No discoverable motive. Then twelve days later the publican of **The King's Head** his wife and their servant throats slashed and battered to death with a crowbar, for no apparent reason.

'Has anyone been arrested?' asked Oldershaw.

'No,' said Fox. 'That's the iniquity of it, there seems no way of bringing anyone to justice. Crimes like that open a pit of terror beneath our feet. The news has tinged the Festive Season with funereal black. Surely there has never been a crime so cruel and heinous.'

Slaughter at Cratfield

'Never,' said Oldershaw, his watery eyes glistening, 'Save once. Do ye happen to recall the Cratfield Murders some eighteen years ago? The case was all over the broadsheets.'

'Yes,' said Fox. 'I am old enough to remember it. A senseless killing. That was also the work of a hammer.'

'Aye,' said Oldershaw. 'The crime has been unsolved since its discovery on October 16th, 1793 eighteen years ago. Elizabeth Carter's body was discovered in her garden in Cratfield, brains spattered underneath the gooseberry bush, after an attack with a hammer wielded by one possessed. Inside the house her poor old father was found in his armchair, his head crushed. The two had kept a small shop but nothing was taken. There seemed no motive other than direst cruelty.

'And the very Devil of it all,' said Oldershaw, 'is that I have evidence of who the culprit is – but I cannot apprehend him for he is missing and supposed dead.'
'How so?'

A confession

Oldershaw sipped his mulled wine and warmed to the telling of his tale.

'In 1793, a short time after the murders John Head, a felon with a murky past who was later to be sent to the Hulks, fell into conversation with Edmund Thrower, an unemployed blacksmith. Head wanted to borrow a hammer. Thrower told Head he could surely borrow it and that the hammer had seen hot work as he had used it that very year to kill an old man and a young girl in the village of Cratfield. Thrower added that his wife had recently left him for another man and that "she deserved a hammering too."

'An Outrage!' exclaimed Mr Fox. 'And did Head relate the tale to the Authorities?'

'The pity of it is that he did not. Thrower was a renowned liar, always making up far fetched tales. Besides, Head knew nothing of any murders at Cratfield, so Thrower's story sounded utterly false. Head thought no more of it and the matter would have been lain to rest forever. Save for a singular coincidence, the circumstances of which I will relate to you now.'

A talk with a killer in Norwich Gaol

Mr Oldershaw continued, 'Eleven years later, in 1804, John Head happened to be a witness in the murder trial of a man called Saunders. Saunders was a black hearted man but not so far gone in wickedness as to ignore false accusations. When they were both in Norwich Gaol Saunders told Head how aggrieved he was at being long suspected of a crime he did not commit. When Head asked him what crime this was, Saunders replied that it was the murder of a girl and her father at Cratfield way back in 1793.

'This was the first John Head had heard of the Cratfield killings. He now felt sure he was in the possession of crucial evidence. He straightway made a deposition in front of me and a fellow magistrate with details of Edmund Thrower's confession. That is how, for eight years I have known the possible identity of the Cratfield killer. But Thrower is missing and supposed dead so there is nothing that can be done to apprehend him.'

'I have reason to think that this might prove to be a merrier Christmas for you, Mr Oldershaw, than you might reasonably have supposed,' said Mr Fox, 'For I can reveal a stroke of coincidence which will astound you.'

'Less than a week or two ago I had to pay a legacy to a woman who lived in Stradbroke with a gent called Mr Norman. To pay her the money I needed her husband's signature. She told me she was the estranged wife of Mr Edmund Thrower.'

'By God, Sir!' Mr Oldershaw's brows beetled in astonishment.

'She told me where Thrower was to be found. I visited him in Carbrooke, Norfolk, where he resides.'

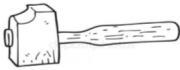
The story ends

'That is the biggest coincidence that I ever heard. And now I think that at last I may have my man!' Oldershaw raised a glass. 'Merry Christmas. Let us celebrate our new-found friendship and the trail of luck that has enabled Justice to be done!'

Edmund Thrower was arrested and tried. He denied murder but admitted that he had been at the scene of the crime on the night in question. He said he set out to rob the shop with two accomplices and put the blame for the murders on them. But there was no evidence that they ever existed.

Thrower was sentenced to death at Suffolk Assizes in Bury St Edmunds March 21st, 1812. Nearly twenty years after he had killed his victims 'the chapter of accidents' that had brought Edmund Thrower to justice was closed.

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PAVEMENTS/HEDGES IN CRATFIELD

So I received my letter from the Parish Council and soon found out it wasn't only me...

But being a dutiful and respectful Serf to the Parish Council I brandished my best hedge cutters (my new electric ones because I've become all environmentally friendly recently) and attempted to fulfil their commands.

Much amusement arose from others doing the same (or saying "no way one earth" would they be doing it) but it became quite a talking point.

So much so I felt obliged to write a letter to the Parish Council assuring them of my continued subservience even though their dictates weren't being observed by some of the other serfs.

I sort of felt the need to be the Alpha Serf of the village in a kind of sad way and let them know I was their real Alpha Serf in case anyone else caved in and sub-served to them before me.

But then I ran into a problem.....

The pavement doesn't actually go to the Post Box.

Not by quite a long way, longer than my little stretch of pavement that I had dutifully, and subserviently cut the hedge next to.

So I thought I'd drown my disappointment at not being able to actually post a letter (yes, I resorted to email instead) by walking down to the pop-up pub in the village hall.....

So I then ran into my second problem.....

The pavement doesn't actually go to the Village Hall.

Nowhere near it by over ½ Km, it makes the Post Box look quite advantaged.

In fact there isn't even a road to the Village Hall, just a third world dirt track (at time of writing), more potholes and puddles than tarmac, that could have led to serious injuries if I had tried to walk back down it (after the pop-up pub closed) in the dark (no street lights either but this letter is about pavements and hedges so let's not get started about street lights....).

So I thought, well I have a few bottled beers indoors, I won't risk the third world dirt track, I'll drink safely at home and recycle the bottles.....

And there's my third problem....

No pavement to the bottle bank, I would have to walk down the middle of a 60MPH road to get there.

In fact it seems the only public amenity left in the village (since the Poacher closed down) that actually has a pavement to it is the Children's Playing Field.

|||||

Rod Sugden.

Please don't get started on street lights Rod. Lack of light pollution is one of the many joys of living in Cratfield. Sue (Ed.)

The Rectory, Noyes Avenue, Laxfield

Dear Friends

Here is this year's Christmas Quiz. As before there will be a prize of chocolate for the entry with the most answers. In the case of a tie the winning entry will be draw from a hat. See if you can find the Carols from the letters the first, O c O c E is

O come, O come Emmanuel.

David

Christmas Quiz

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. O c O c E | 11. J t t w |
| 2. A f t r o g | 12. O c a y f |
| 3. A i a m | 13. O l t o B |
| 4. D d m o h | 14. O C n a C s |
| 5. G r y m g | 15. O i r D c |
| 6. G C m r | 16. S a t w s |
| 7. G K W | 17. S n |
| 8. H t h - a s | 18. T f N |
| 9. I t b m - w | 19. T h a t i |
| 10. I c u a m | 20. W s w |



An evening of Wonderful Christmas Music with Il Tenore and Forest

7.00pm Saturday, 7th December
at St. Lawrence's Church, Brundish

Admission £12.00

Tickets from Chrissie Smart 01728 627838

Lessons and Carols for the Eve of Christmas

6.30pm 24th December at St. Lawrence's Church, Brundish

St. Mary's Church Services – December 2019

Sunday 8th	Friday 20th	Sunday 22nd	Christmas Day 25th
6.30pm Evensong DB	7.00pm Carol Service	9.30am Village Wor- ship Holy Commu- nion RO	9.30am Family Service with Commu- nion DB
Sidesperson A. Edmonds	Sidesperson D. Peacock	Sidesperson A. Edmonds	Sidesperson A. Edmonds
Reader D. Peacock	Readers TBA	Readers A. Edmonds	Reader TBA
Isaiah 11:1-10 Romans 15:4- 13 Matthew 3:1-12		Isaiah 7:10-16 Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18- 25	

For Christmas events in Cratfield please see main diary ad.

Midnight Mass

11.30pm at St. Lawrence's Church, Brundish

People from all over the Benefice will unite in Brundish to celebrate the first Communion at Christmas, conducted by our Rector, The Reverend David Burrell. The Chantry Singers will be there directed by Michael Spencer. This is a sacred and uplifting service and whether you are a communicant or not, you are most welcome to join us.

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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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, Geoff, Molly or Peter for more information