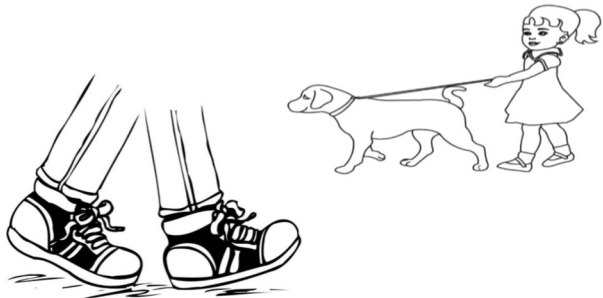


CRATFIELD NEWS

January 2019



COMMUNITY WALK

January 6th 2.30pm

St. Mary's Church

All welcome 2 or 4 legs

See church page for further details

FAREWELL

We will be sad to leave the village and are so grateful for all the help we have received while we lived here but the "big city" is calling (Halesworth – eventually) via a sideways move to Yoxford for six months.

Cratfield village has a warm heart which we will miss tremendously.

Jane and Martin
(The Old School)

I'm sure everyone would like to join me in wishing Jane and Martin all the best for their future and in hoping Halesworth will provide them with a new home as soon as possible.

Sue

Last month we also said goodbye to Valerie from Peninsula House, we wish her well back in Framlingham.

SYMPATHY

Our sympathies go to Dot Mayhew and family on the sad loss of Eric who died in December. Eric loved Cratfield, (in fact it was only last October that he contacted me to write a piece in praise of the village) he was born here many years ago and came back on a very regular basis to visit and walk his dog down by the village hall.

GREY TOM CAT

Is anyone missing a moggy? A grey tom cat (which is obviously not a feral cat) has been living around Spong Farm since about the beginning of December. I'm sure he'd like to go home. If you have lost him or know of anyone who may have done so, please go and give him a shout.

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION



POINTS OF VIEW

Chrissie Kitchen, Candy Blackham, Nick Eade, & Geoff Moore are exhibiting exciting new photographs!

Friday 12 April 2019, 18.00-20.00
Pay Bar & Nibbles

Saturday 13 April 2019, 10.30-17.00
Tea & Yummy Cakes

FREE ENTRY

Donations to Halesworth Dementia Carers Fund & Macmillan Cancer Support

Further information: candyblackham@gmail.com

A simple little story which confirms why it is so good to live in a place like Cratfield

On Saturday December 8th a car key was found in Manse Lane, the key was from a Vauxhall and had a Kerridges tag, so the finder contacted the garage to see if there was any way of ascertaining the car details or owner, there was not. She also contacted some people in the village that she knew owned a Vauxhall, no joy, so she contacted me and asked to put a 'Found' notice in the next Cratfield News. Remembering that the Christmas Fair was to take place the next day I thought it would be worth putting up a notice in the village hall. Imagine the delight of a visitor to the village who was staying with friends to see the notice. She had spent some fruitless hours with her friends turning the house upside-down, retracing steps, revisiting places and now the relief, you know the feeling. Key and owner happily re-united. It is unlikely that there would have been such an outcome elsewhere, (Nick lost his phone in Halesworth not a 'dicky-bird') small, friendly communities like Cratfield really work.
Sue

Cratfield Photography Competition

For 2019 the categories will be as follows:-

Suffolk Seasons
My Suffolk Weekend
Secret Cratfield
and a 'fun snapshot' category – Cratfield Pets

The viewing will be held in the Village Hall on 12th October 2019 when the winners will be announced – further details will follow in due course.

Lots of opportunity for interesting photos from these subjects and the idea of a 'fun' category is so that anyone who fears they do not have the equipment or experience to enter can relax and just submit a casual photo to show off their pet (or maybe your neighbour's pet!)
Happy snapping.

Laxfield Produce, Craft and Flea Market
Saturday 5th January 9.30am -12.00pm
(please note the slightly earlier time)
inside All Saint's Church and also the Royal Oak
and outside on Church Plain

After an extremely successful 2018, a New Year full of interesting monthly Produce, Craft and Flea Markets is planned, where you will regularly find all sorts of lovely offerings of food, crafts, refreshments, treats, household, vintage and collectibles, locally reared meats and local cheeses, and entertainment too.

During 2018 the Market flourished to often include 40+ stallholders. Run co-operatively, it is pleasing that, apart from a small amount reserved towards running costs, money raised from pitch fees goes to support All Saint's Church in Laxfield. Mike, landlord of the Royal Oak, kindly allows his premises to be used without charge, ensuring plenty of stallholders inside both venues, with some hardy folk being outdoors all year round, and even withstanding the heavy gusts of winds last month! Thanks go to everyone for making 2018 so successful, and best wishes to all for a happy and interesting year ahead.

From January 5th the Market each month will start half an hour earlier, from 9.30 and finishing at 12. This will be of benefit to our many early-bird visitors, and also enable the Royal Oak restaurant area to be re-set ready for people to stay on and enjoy lunch after the Market if they wish. Other sustenance available will be tea, coffee and cake in the Church, the Oak offering warming breakfasts, bacon rolls, liquid refreshment and hot lunches, plus other goodies from the various food stalls.

Entertainment this month will be in the Church and something completely different from the curiously named 'The Green Elastic Band'.

Please contact Catherine Cawood on 01986 798852 for info on pitch spaces.

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

*All local, individual and all very friendly!
Looking forward to seeing you there!*

Nostalgia

Someone suggested writing about nostalgia. Perhaps it is a good idea, I am at an age when I should be looking back on the Golden Years. To get into the mood I pored over an old school photograph. The teachers look ludicrously young. The pupils look scruffy with dated hair styles; some grinning, some sulky, some squinting at the sun. I remembered them as vividly as if it was still the summer day when it was taken.

In the middle of the front row is the black robed Headmaster; a pompous old-style stuffed shirt. We mocked him behind his back but were terrified of him. On his left, embodying the progressive approach is Mr Otter, sporting a cord jacket and suede shoes. He was a nice man but a disaster in the classroom - renowned amongst us pupils for reducing every lesson to a state of hilarious pandemonium. He wrote a book on teaching which was famous at the time and moved on to a career as a trendy teacher trainer. And then there is us. The class of 1970. In the middle of the photo are the Bilson twins, stalwarts of the rugby team, who scrapped with each other like cartoon characters in a cartwheeling tornado of bits of skin and hair and flying teeth. They were reputed to live on white sliced bread dipped in Daddies sauce. In the middle of the group is Smiffy with the very, very long hair who became a policeman. He is standing next to Jones who could pass wind at will. My face can be glimpsed in the back row on the very end, deliberately half obscured. Silly, slightly rebellious, raw and undeveloped. On the end of the third row is Merriman, who fainted at the sight of blood and had to be carried out of the film they showed us about STDs. Watching that film was an entirely unnecessary exercise for me as I blushed like a nineteenth century maiden if I had to so much as talk to a girl. It may have been the start of the seventies, but the Age of Aquarius had yet to dawn for me.

Scattered among us are those characters who seemed to thrive at school - the prefects, the sporty ones, the popular ones who went to all the parties. The ones who made up the cast of the school plays. Are they the sort who look back nostalgically on that time as the happiest days of their lives? It is not nostalgia I felt when I look at that photograph. It was not a particularly great time for me. I was mostly glad enough to see the back of it. My only regrets are the things I did not do, the opportunities that the limited adolescent in the picture had let slip.

Nostalgia is not for me – even for the happiest times.

The past has gone. The time that counts is the time we live in now and the time that is yet to be. Let's see out 2018 with a bang and hope that 2019 brings us all new adventures.

Nigel Cousins

MICHAEL OLIVER

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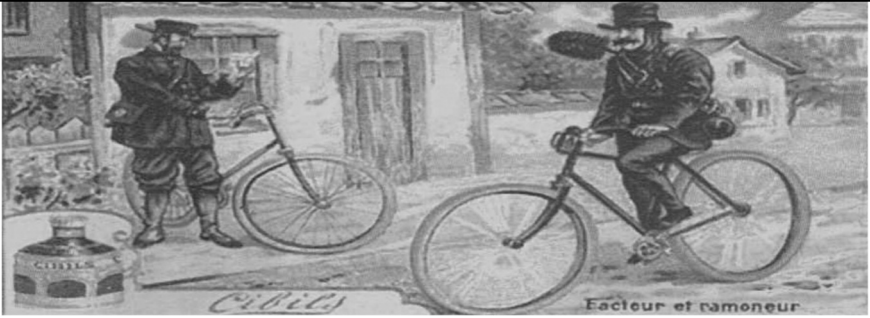
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The Dead Zone

At the time of writing I find myself stuck slap bang in the middle of the “dead” zone. Before the flowers and cards start flying in, don’t worry, no one has actually died (that I am aware of) and there are no zombies (insert politician joke here).

This is the time between Christmas and the New Year. I am very lucky in that I am usually able to book this whole week off work to spend with my family, try to insert all the new stuff somewhere into the house and attempt to assemble all the new toys and spread my time equally between each child and whatever pointless plastic plaything they decided they couldn’t live with out this year (and to convince the oldest that whilst her clothes are not branded they are still wearable and very nice) and reassure the children that they only have to wear Nanny’s knitwear once, next time they see her, then we can burn the ugly, misshapen absurdities in some purifying Pagan ritual to rid us of any vestigial evil that may remain.

Anyway, I refer to this time as the “dead” zone as I suffer with a condition that many other full-time workers do when they manage to get this time off, I have absolutely no idea what day it is, what I am supposed to be doing and, worst of all, how much longer I am free of work. My wife and I arrange things to do, we usually go to the Panto in exotic Ipswich or visit family, but I have to keep reminding myself when we are doing these things in relation to now. It’s no good saying Saturday or Thursday as these terms hold no meaning for me any more, they are devoid of use. I have to think in terms of two days before New Years or four days after Boxing Day, even then it falls flat, when is New Years or was Boxing Day? I don’t ruddy know. I have to remind myself everyday whether or not we are doing something that day or the next and hope for the best.

A typical example of a conversation during this period:

“Babe, when are we seeing your/my/their parents?”

“29th.”

“When’s that?”

“Thursday.”

“What day is it today?”

“Oh I don’t know hang on.” *checks phone* “It’s Friday.”

“30th then?”

“Yeah I think so. Looks like we’re going yesterday.”

“Oh, good. Thanks Babe.”

And that children is how Father Christmas can get all around the world in just one night!

And also how I imagine it must feel to be retired.

Pete

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Happy New Year to everyone.

The first thing to say is that the first pop-up of the year will be on Friday 4th January.

Thanks to everyone who came to the Christmas Fair on December 9th and helped make it a good-hearted prelude to Christmas.. A stall-holder who came from outside the village commented on the 'lovely atmosphere' and friendly nature of the event. The counter, run by Andy Barringer and Richard Turberville, served a lot of bacon butties as well as mince pies and mulled wine. Special thanks to all our stall-holders, most of whom were local people. As ever, thanks to everyone who helped to set up and clear away.

We have split the profits between the Village Hall and the Norwich charity that the church is supporting this year. St. Martin's Housing Trust helps homeless people all year round, but during the winter the need is very great. We were delighted to be able to send them a cheque for £137.00 from the fair profits.

Other news is that we have almost completed the small lobby kitchen which serves the bar, allowing the main kitchen to be used by whoever is cooking and improving efficiency no end. We now have a short-cycle glass washer which means that the chore is substantially reduced. A wine/canned drink chiller will really come into its own in the hot months. Much plumbing, carpentry and admin has got us to this point, and thanks go to Robert Sannick, Derek Knight, Robert King and Rebecca Sannick. The cost of this extra kitchen has been met in great part by the Heveningham Hall Trust, for which the committee is very grateful.

Diary dates for the coming year:

So, as I said at the beginning, 2019 kicks off with our pop-up on Friday 4th January. Come along and wish your neighbours a Happy New Year. Hot food will be served, and there will be another barrel of beer to empty! All welcome, 6.00pm start.

March 16th – food night. This will be a dinner, a bookable event, more details next month.

May 12th – Cratfield Dog Show

Summer pop-up 'specials' will feature outdoor catering. On July 5th we'll be inviting the 'wrap man' to serve food. There will be a Barbie on August 2nd.

The Horticultural Show this year is on Sunday 1st September, ideal for late-flowering plants, fruit and squashes. We will post details of all the classes in due course.

Our photographic event is on Saturday 12th October. Categories are announced in this issue.

Until next time.

Natalie Lloyd-Evans

100 CLUB

1st Heather Hargood No. 7 £15.00

2nd Barbara Askew No. 56 £10.00

3rd Jo Nunn No. 9 £5.00

Congratulations to the winners

Cratfield Parish Council

The full Draft Minutes can be found on CPC's website:

www.cratfield.onesuffolk.net

Summary of November 2018 Meeting

Present: Lotty Barbour (Chair), Richard Chivers (Vice Chair), Peter Baker, Chris Mobbs, Michael Oliver, Robert Sannick, Gloria Steward.

Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer: Sally Chapman

County & District Councillor Report: www.cratfield.onesuffolk.net

Matters Arising - Cratfield's WW1 Church Event - Cllr Baker informed the event was atmospheric, well attended and organised and a fitting tribute to all who were lost at war.

Finance

a) To receive the current Financial Report and Approve Cheques

Date	Income	
28/09/2018	SCDC Precept - 2nd Instalment	1,600.00
11/10/2018	HHCFT Grant	579.99
18/10/2018	Allotments Rent	97.50
05/11/2018	Allotment Rent	32.50
	Total	£ 2,309.99
	Expenditure	
22/09/2018	CAS Insurance	363.14
28/09/2018	Clerk's Salary - September	175.07
28/10/2018	Clerk's Salary - October	175.07
13/11/2018	CAS Website Hosting	60.00
13/11/2018	Village Hall Rent May 2017-Sept 2018	140.00
13/11/2018	Clerk's Expenses October/November	20.00
13/11/2018	Play Equipment Annual Inspection	96.00
	Total	£ 1,029.28

b) Request for Funding from Heveningham Hall Country Fair Trust

The grant request of £579.99 had been successful and the marquee will be the property of CPC and loaned to the Village Hall.

c) To agree the Budget and Precept for 2019/20

Cllrs agreed unanimously to keep the precept at £3,200.

Planning Applications

a) Listed Building Consent - Proposed single storey extension to provide a pantry and food preparation space Old Hall Farm North Green Cratfield Suffolk IP19 0DS

b) Proposed single storey extension to provide a pantry and food preparation space.

Proposed cart shed. Removal work to old hall farm.

Planning Decisions

a) Proposed new dwelling, associated external works and landscape enhancements. - Roselynn Silverleys Green Cratfield IP19 0QJ

b) Change of use of a Residential Annex to 2 Holiday Lets The Firs Manse Lane Cratfield IP19 0QD

Appoint a Representative to the Town Estates Charity Trust

Cllrs agreed unanimously to appoint Geoff Moore, David Sillett and Sandra Chivers

Play Area Maintenance

- Cone Swing now repaired and working well.
- Play Equipment Annual Report & Actions one advisory of topping up the bark.

Village Maintenance

- Tongs Lane has two new green dog waste bins, to be fitted.

Village Matters

- **Neighbourhood Watch** the coordinator sent a report.
- **Hedges** letters and emails sent regarding overgrown hedges and some have been cut back.
- **Parish Map** A parishioner may be able to produce a painting.

Millennium Meadow

- **Community Payback Team** Chair to make contact.
- **Millennium Meadow sign** Cllrs agreed to contact a parishioner re making the sign.
- **Dog waste bin** to enquire after funding from the village Millennium Fund for another bin
- **Defibrillator and Defibrillator Training**
- Three parishioners have expressed an interest in training and some Cllrs. Clerk to offer the old defibrillator to other parishes via SALC.

Allotments and Land Rent the Clerk informed all rents how now been received,

- **Remembrance Wreaths** two wreaths were laid on Remembrance Sunday

Any Other Business

- **Cratfield News** CPC has received the past artwork and copies of the Cratfield News. They will be placed on the CPC website, in the church and offered to Laxfield Museum.
- **Table Tennis Table** to request if the donation could be used for another project.

To confirm next meeting date - 8th January 2019 at 7.15pm

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2019 Mobile Library Dates

Silverleys Green 14.15 – 14.35
The Poacher 14.45 – 14.55

Calling every four weeks on Tuesdays

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BROADBAND (or, rather lack of) again.

Broadband is now defined by OfCom as a minimum of 10Mb/s download so any of you who get less than 10Mb/s do not actually have broadband, just a last millennium type internet connection, probably little better than the old dial-up modems.

So, since my last letter to the mag. about all the road closures planned for earlier this year and us finally getting it, the expected happened, i.e. nothing.

I did warn you.....

Lots of yellow signs, but no work at all until mid-August when the cowboys called Morrisons (BT's sub-contractors) managed 20 metres of ducting (4 Km is required so that was a massive 0.5%) then damaged the existing cable and Openreach had to come out yet again to repair it.

Yet another join in the cable so speeds now even slower.

Morrison's just packed up and went home recognising their total incompetence. The look on their faces when I cycled up there on the day and watched five workmen staring down the hole was unreal, and the Openreach engineer's talk with me (he arrived about the same time) was priceless.

They (Morrison's) haven't been back since and there are no more road closures planned, according to SCC at my time of writing.

But in early December OfCom finally issued their proposals for how the Universal Service Obligation should work.

The USO is basically what the government have been promising for years, a guarantee of 10Mb/s from your current ISP, no need to pay extortionate fees to Fram etc, just to have the right to what your taxes have already been given to BT twice for, but they have not delivered.

The consultation document is really interesting. At time of writing it is here on the OfCom site.

<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/about-ofcom/latest/features-and-news/ofcom-proposes-broadband-universal-service-providers>

There is a short-cut on my own website (cratfield.net) along with a more detailed write-up of my views.

However, the key point in the Ofcom proposal is that you won't get broadband if it will cost the contractor more than £3,400 to run the fibre cable to your location (i.e. the village, not your actual house).

But it then says "To help as many USO connections as possible fall below the £3,400 threshold, the USO providers would be required to assume and aggregate the level of local demand. This potentially brings more connections under the reasonable cost threshold."

It is hard to estimate how many people would be willing to submit their name to the "aggregate" however that may be organised and made to work (Parish Council ???) – but it now seems fairly obvious to me that BT didn't install the ducting/cable earlier this year as they were involved in the OfCom consultation and saw an easy way of getting paid a third time for the work they have already been paid twice for.

i.e. to put it bluntly, by not doing the work when they were previously paid to do it earlier this year, they stand a very good chance of being paid a third time from our taxes.

But the most incredible bit is OfCom awarded the USO contract to BT (yet again) despite them taking our taxes twice (and just sending the money to their India operations) when any of the other five tenderers would probably have actually done the work which BT have failed to do so twice.

Thoughts ???

TRIVIA

Singing in the shower is all fun and games until you get shampoo in your mouth. Then it becomes a soap opera.

Are you cold? Come and sit in the corner, it's 90 degrees.

Two guys walk into a bar. The third one ducks.

What did the grape say when it was crushed? Nothing, it just gave out a little wine.

A sign on the lawn at a drug re-hab clinic says 'Keep off the grass'

What do you call dental x-rays? Tooth picks.

Dear Friends,

I hope you all had a very good Christmas which sadly has almost come to an end and the world seems empty and back to its old grey aspect again. It seems that, at Christmas time, colour comes into the world and there is brightness and joy that is missing for most of the rest of the year. Yes, there are high points like holidays and birthdays, but these are individual, Christmas is a time when a large proportion of the world seems to allow a change to come over them.

It is strange how Christmas has become so important especially in a world where it is easier to hate your neighbour than love them. The problem is people are so quick to take umbrage so quick to stand on their own rights and forget the responsibility they have to the world at large. This is what causes wars, and suspicion between peoples who hold differing views and beliefs. There are religions and peoples in this world it seems that are looking for things to get upset about, and, once upset it seems blood-shed is the only way to appease them.

Christmas is bigger than that, for Christians it has a very special and specific meaning but Christmas has grown to include something greater, it has become a festival for all, a time when those who would not darken the door of a church during the year will come and sing carols or at least enjoy hearing them on Classic fm. Christmas is the only time of year where everyone makes an effort to be nice. Even the First World War was halted by Christmas and for a while the hate that was mutual between the trenches melted away.

Christmas above all things is an expression of love; love so great that even if you cannot believe in the story behind it like a cup running over it spills out and includes everyone. What makes Christmas for me is the celebration of midnight mass on Christmas Eve but I can remember as a little boy sitting up looking out of my bedroom window hoping beyond hope to see Father Christmas fly by. I never did see him but when I got up in the morning the evidence that he had been was plain to see, the empty whisky glass, the mince pies half eaten and the carrots taken, not to mention the presents under the tree. Christmas is a magical time of year and made more so by the decorations and tree lights. As Christians we believe that the love that was given at Christmas was God's love and as such is unfathomable, far be it from me to say only Christians are included in that love.

We are now at the beginning of a new year and a new decade - wouldn't it be wonderful if we could simply keep a little, or a lot, of that Christmas love in our hearts throughout the year. Because I believe God so loved the world that he sent his only son into the world that through him all might be saved. A love so great is worth celebrating even when it's not Christmas

David

St. Mary's Church Services – January 2019

Sunday 13th	Sunday 20th	Sunday 27th
6.30pm Evensong DB	9.30am CP Holy Communion DB	8.00am Holy Communion DB
Sidesperson A. Edmonds	Sidesperson A. Edmonds	Sidesperson D. Peacock
Reader Liz Dix	Reader D. Peacock	Reader E. Cook
Isaiah 43:1-7 Acts 8:14-17 Luke 3:15-17,21-22	Isaiah 62:1-5 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 John 2:1-11	Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6, 8-10 1 Corinthians 12:12- 31a Luke 4:14-21

BLESSINGS FOR A HAPPY NEW YEAR

from
ST. MARY'S CHURCH

Please join us for the
COMMUNITY WALK
on 6th January 2019

Leaving St. Mary's at 2.30pm
Everyone welcome 2 or 4 legs
Finish at St. Mary's with a bonfire, hot drink and refreshments

If anyone has any leftover Christmas cake, mince pies or
anything else, please bring along to share.

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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Painting Club - Mick Chave		01986 798771
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Laxfield School Head of School- Mrs Hammond		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