

CRATFIELD NEWS

November 2017

st. Mary's Community Walk
sunday 19th november,



2.30pm from the church

Activities for children, dogs welcome.
Finish back at the church for a hot drink and
toasted tea-cake.

WELCOME

A very warm welcome to Wendy and Gary who have recently moved into Mill House. I've heard they are already enjoying living in Cratfield, well we all do!

FOR SALE

TELESCOPE 'Optolyth' 30 x 75 German optics. Draw tube mount for tripod. Would cost about £750 new. Ideal for bird-watching. £95.00

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DON'T FORGET

St. Mary's community walk Sunday November 19th leaving the church at 2.30pm.

FLU JABS

Hope you all got one and didn't suffer any side effects. We did rather push the advert (2 pages!) last month.

Sue

CRATFIELD BOWLS AND SOCIAL CLUB

We are looking for new locals to come and have a go at carpet bowling. No equipment needed, just come along and we will show you how it's done! It's easy and good fun.

We meet on Wednesdays at 7.15pm in the Village Hall for 2 hours with a 'cuppa' at half time.

Please come along or ring Mick Chave for more details:-
01986 798 771

ARE YOU ARTISTIC?

If so why not try out the Cratfield Painting Club. We are just a small group of amateur artists who work on our own pictures. Come along any time on a Wednesday afternoon between 2 and 4 pm and have a look, or ring Mick Chave for further details:-

01986 798 771

YOUR STORIES

I know there has been great interest in reading about the past and previous lives of Cratfield residents, there's more to some people than meets the eye! We have some fascinating reading later in this issue from Doris Cook describing some of the events of her life during World War II.

Now, how about contributing something yourself. Everyone has a story to tell, it doesn't have to be exciting, hilarious or wildly fantastic, just a life or job perhaps, of which not everyone has knowledge. Basically we are all curious, and, living in such a small village it is always interesting to know a little more about one's friends and neighbours.

OVER TO YOU!

An email is all it needs or pop something in my postbox.

Sue

Did Dowsing steal the Church brasses?

How was it that four brasses from St. Mary's Church in Halesworth got into the river Waveney near Earsham. That they did so is not in doubt. They were discovered there in 1825 and returned to the Church from whence they came. One of the finds provided evidence of large families in the 16th century. A mutilated inscription bears witness that one John Browne (no relation) and his wife, had sixteen children, six sons and ten daughters! The memorial brass indicates that John Browne died in the August of 1581 leaving his children behind. One brass bore the head and shoulders of a lady thought to be John's wife, while others bore images of the six sons and ten daughters.



There have been many theories as to how the brasses got into the River Waveney some eight miles away. The most likely would seem that they were stolen from the church during one of William Dowsing's fervent bouts of destruction during the mid 17th century – Dowsing was appointed as parliamentary visitor of Suffolk Churches. It was his job to implement the declaration of 1641 that all the crucifixes and idolatrous pictures and images should be destroyed. It seems safe to presume that he considered Halesworth brasses, with their engraved images, as idolatrous.

In less than fifty days Dowsing is said to have destroyed around 7,000 pictures, 500 cherubim and 150 crosses at Suffolk churches. There seems some doubt as to where he came from. Many have linked him to Stratford St. Mary. Returns of hearth tax in the 1670's list William Dowsing living in Laxfield. He is also thought to have lived in Eye.

Pam Brown

Did he destroy anything in Cratfield Church?

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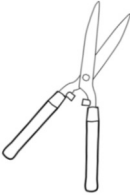
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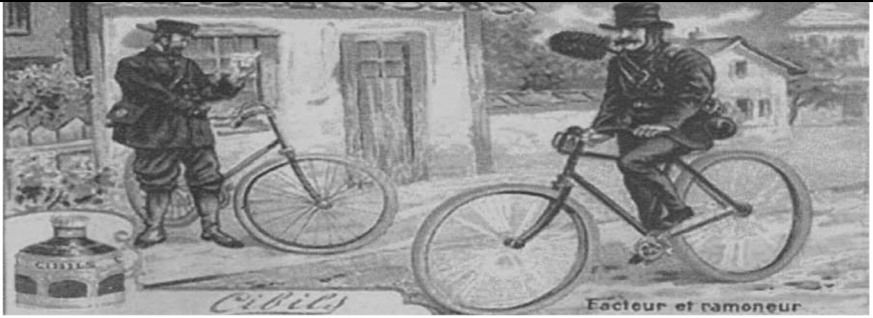
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*Laxfield Produce, Craft and Flea Market
Saturday 4th November 10am -12.30pm*

*inside All Saint's Church,
inside the Royal Oak, and outside on Church Plain*

A highlight of the October Market was Tropic stall-holder Eileen's demonstration of energetic Zumba dancing – look out for her local classes (it's surprising what talents lie behind some of these stalls) and remember – do Zumba = eat more cake and goodies from the Market!

Despite the arrival of Autumn it was pleasing to see the stalls were as busy as ever, visiting the Market is obviously on many people's must-do list each month as a pleasant way to spend a Saturday morning.

And on November 4th there will again be an offering of a wide array of crafts, gifts, cards, pre-loved and vintage, jewellery, children's clothes, and food items.

Delicious beef from a grass-fed Belted Galloway herd will be available again, and as they also raise a few geese, speak to them if goose is on your menu for the festive season, or goose-fat required for extra crispy roasties. Happily, the Market offers some really good welfare-friendly food from small, local producers to include pork, beef, eggs, goat's cheese, along with baked produce from carefully sourced, quality ingredients.

A new stall will be offering fabric made wreaths, and in December natural foliage wreaths will be available too, in aid of a pet charity. Don't forget that all stallholders will be happy to discuss your festive needs and take orders ready to collect at the December Market, or to arrange later delivery.

Tea, coffee and cake will be available inside the Church, and The Royal Oak will be offering breakfasts, bacon rolls, liquid refreshment, and lunches.

This month's entertainment – The Ox Blood Molly Dancers – morris dancing, but not as you might know it!

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

*Laxfield Market - on the first Saturday morning of every month –
all local, all individual and all very friendly! Come and see us!*

2017 MOBILE LIBRARY DATES

Silverleys Green 14.15-14.35
The Poacher 14.45-15.00

Calling every four weeks on Tuesdays:
7th November, 5th December

Something to look forward to.

A CHRISTMAS EVENING WITH THE FRESSINGFIELD PLAYERS

Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd December

Carols, sketches, comedy, readings, stories & hot chestnuts too.



(Not to mention Andy B's famous mulled wine secret recipe – get in early before it runs out!)



Sancroft Hall – Fressingfield
(Diagonally opposite the Fox & Goose)



Tickets only £5.00 from 01379 588013

(Not to be confused with Fressingfield Players Pantomime)

Some Cratfield residents came last year and had a lovely evening, it was such a success it has been extended to two nights.

Book tickets early.

VILLAGE HALL NEWS ROUND-UP

Our Pop-up Pub is on the first Friday of each month, starting at 6.00pm. All are welcome as always.

Now here is the serious bit. Numbers have dropped since the summer – not surprising as dark evenings take effect – but we are hitting a critical point for Steve who runs the bar. Should numbers drop too far the maths won't work. The village hall committee is very much behind this venture and we know from people's comments that it is valued. We have some fresh ideas for the future and we know that other communities are looking at what we are doing with interest. So... if you want to keep your monthly pub, please turn out and support it. Is there anything else we can be doing? We welcome your comments and ideas, and have already received some suggestions which we'll be raising at the next meeting.

The Village Hall is run by volunteers and we try to keep committee numbers up so we can share out the tasks.

Our AGM is on November 16th at 7pm. If you feel you can offer help please come and talk to us. We are an informal group and try to keep our meetings short, and whatever is the opposite of po-faced

Winners of the October 100 Club Draw

1 st	Nick Eade	no. 30	£15.00
2 nd	Christine Knox	no. 17	£10.00
3 rd	Pat Chave	no.5	£5.00

Congratulations to the winners

**Coming up at the Village Hall for
the Autumn/ Winter Season**



Friday 3rd November at 6pm Pop-up-Bar with hot food.

Thursday 16th November AGM Village Hall Committee. 7.00pm.

Friday 1st December at 6pm Pop-up-Bar with hot food



Saturday 9th December Village Christmas Fair.

10 am to 3pm. Stalls, festive food, carols, Father Christmas.

Would you like to have a stall at the fair? Sell your own things, or raise money for a favourite charity? Stalls cost £10 for the day.

Call Natalie on 01986 798790

December 31st 8 to late New Year's Eve disco. Free entry, all welcome. Collection for Air Ambulance. Hot food is served, so come hungry. It's important we know how many people are likely to come so please look out for attendance slips which will come in next month's magazine.

Hope you can attend. Lots of fun!!

Memories of life during the blitz and as a member of the Women's Land Army in World War II

We were a family of four living at Buckhurst Hill, about thirteen miles outside London. Before the war started I was working at Keystone Photographic Press Agency in Fleet Street. When war broke out, not being old enough to join the forces I opted for Civil Defence ARP (air raid protection); the duties involved patrolling areas checking that, at night, no lights were visible (car and bicycle lights had to be covered by paper with only a small hole in the middle so that they could be seen approaching), advising on protection such as pasting strips of paper over windows to prevent glass splintering and, following air raids, checking to see how people had fared and what help they needed, stirrup pumps were carried to deal with small fires.

At home my father constructed an Anderson shelter in the garden. The shelter was made of very heavy sheets of corrugated metal and the roof covered with a thick layer of soil or turf, the dimensions were four feet six by six feet six. Father made seating around three sides of the interior and when time came to retire slats and cushions were laid across to form a bed where the four of us slept most nights for about two years. The alternative to an Anderson shelter was a Morrison shelter, a strong, steel, indoor table with mesh sides, meals would be eaten from it and at night it would be slept under as protection from falling masonry.

Journeys into Liverpool Street to work each morning were at times quite hazardous and travellers looked constantly to see which buildings were still standing after air raids, sometimes we could feel the heat through the train windows from the fires still burning. On one occasion after a bad night of bombing the train, unable to pass a bomb crater, terminated at Woodford, passengers then either walked to the next station or caught a bus into London, but they still went to work. On another occasion I had to walk to Fleet Street and saw the Bomb Disposal Unit dismantling a land mine which was caught in the overhead cables directly in front of St. Paul's Cathedral (these were very brave men). At night we would hear the Bofors (anti-aircraft) guns running on the local railway lines firing at enemy aircraft as they came over.

Whole families, mothers, children and older people (not many men, they were all in the forces) arrived in the underground stations just after 6pm with bedding, food and drinks, the children already in their pyjamas. They stayed until the all-clear sounded early the following morning. A line was marked on the platform indicating how much of it could be used by those

sheltering, just enough was left for travelling passengers. I believe a night train ran carrying food and drink for those sheltering below ground.

At seventeen I joined the Women's Land Army. I was sent to Plumpton Agricultural College in Chichester for training in dairy work and herd management (which end of the cow to approach!). After four weeks training I was sent to Battlebridge in Essex, Beeches Farm. I was first billeted with the head horseman and his wife (facilities were in the garden, quite an eye-opener for me). At this time I was the only Land Girl on the farm. Work started at 4.30 in the morning when the cows were brought in for milking. I can distinctly remember, on my first day, as the herd matriarch walked into the shed she turned to look at me with an expression as if to say, "What's this?". She had only ever been used to men before. At this early hour it was a good idea to have made a flask of tea the night before as breakfast was not until 8.30; with no electric lighting the milking was done by the light of hurricanes lamps, as was the evening milking in the winter. We had three cow sheds housing about eighty cows which were milked twice a day. Our herd was tuberculin tested, not all were in those days, and milk was bottled straight from the cow.. After milking we went for breakfast, a half hour break. Mornings were spent mucking out the cow sheds and grinding mangold for feed, sometimes there was peanut cake, food rations for each cow were put in the mangers. During the winter the cows were kept in the yards and bedding and hay had to be carted. There were also milk bottles to be washed and sterilised. Dinner break was one hour. Afternoons were spent doing field work, nice in the summer, but topping sugar beet by hand in the winter was pure punishment. Harvest was hard work, no comfortable combines, sheaves were stooked by hand, barley being the worst. When the stooks were dry they were loaded onto wagons to go to the stack yard. By now after about a year there were four of us Land Army girls, but we were never allowed to work on a stack, that was men's work. Our farm, however, was luckier than some as we had an elevator, the sheaves did not have to be thrown up by pitchfork to the top of the stack. Some weeks later the hired threshing machine came to the farm, we tried to avoid this dusty, dirty job.

At some point three of us Land Girls moved into the farm house and shared a lovely big bedroom. We ate quite well too as there was a kitchen garden, an orchard and chickens. Two pigs were kept on the farm each year and when they were slaughtered a half of each pig came back to the farm, the other half went to help subsidise food rationing.

We had one weekend off a month, from Saturday midday to Sunday evening. I met my husband whilst I was working at Beeches Farm and we were married in 1947. Having lived through the blitz I feel I was one of the lucky ones and offer my thanks and respect to those who gave everything.

Doris Cook

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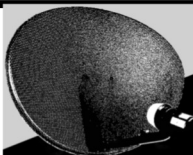
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'My Knees Are Brown'

More mature readers might recall Mr Norman Potter the officious caretaker played by Derek Guyler in the old school sitcom **Please Sir!** He loved to harp on about the War when he was a Desert Rat, fighting under Monty at El Alamein. I seem to recall his catchphrase was: 'My knees are brown.'

What he meant was that, as a veteran of desert warfare he had worn shorts and was proud of the tanned knees that symbolised this. This summer I found myself mentally adopting Mr Potter's catchphrase for myself.

This was because this last summer was the summer of shorts. Before I came to Cratfield I had the sort of job where, even in summer, you could not wear shorts. In hot weather, I had to wear long trousers – a badge of adulthood and responsibility. On coming to Cratfield I decided to cast aside the pantaloon and embrace shorts. For me they represented a new and more relaxed life.

Kingsley Amis, who was posh, thought that shorts were strictly for kids. In **One Fat Englishman**, one of his characters, the porky and obnoxious Roger Micheldene, sweating on the beach in long trousers sees a nattily dressed American in shorts 'looking a good twenty degrees cooler than [he] felt'. But Roger glories in not wearing them. He hates the shorts wearing Yank on sight because at least wearing long trousers means he is dressed as an adult. Amis says he thinks 'If being cooler meant dressing like a child there was a clear case for staying hot.'



My Dad, on the other hand, who was not posh, was a shorts pioneer. In the sixties at the same time as he and Mum went on their first Spanish package holiday, he started to wear shorts and sported them to show off his tan. He was proud to be the first man on our Estate to wear them.

On the wearing of shorts, I agree with my Dad.

Over the summer when we were searching for a home in Suffolk but I noticed that a respectable number of guys of all ages always wore shorts. I was chatting to one man who proudly told me:

'I put my shorts on in the Spring and don't change them till October.'

Hoping that he did not mean that literally, I decided to take a leaf out of

his book.

I felt that the traditional dress of Suffolk man in summer was shorts. To be brown-legged, hale and hearty, even on cooler days seemed a relaxed thing to do. To me they represented my move from an existence in the Big City to living in the countryside. Les Murray, the Australian poet, a proud shorts wearer, wrote fulsomely in favour of wearing them: 'Now that everyone who yearned to wear long pants has essentially achieved them,

.....
it is time perhaps to cherish the culture of shorts'

And that is what, in my Cratfield summers, I fully intend to do.

Nigel Cousins



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Dear Friends,

Joseph Williamson was born in Liverpool in 1769 he was a rich man and supported the poor and provided work for the unemployed. He caused long tunnels and chambers to be quarried out of the stone beneath the city. He even lived partly underground himself.

Williamson once invited some Liverpool gentry to dine with him in one of his excavated chambers. To the dismay of the guests, the chamber was bare rock, the only furnishings a trestle table and chairs, and the meal simple - porridge and ship's biscuits. Some guests showed their disgust by leaving immediately and were seen out by a courteous footman. When it was obvious no other guest was going to leave a signal was given and for those who remained, a curtain was pulled back and a further chamber was revealed, richly decorated and containing a lavish banquet.

In Jesus day many people came out to see him and hear him preach. Many expected to find a great leader dressed as a prince and travelling in the finest style. Some were gravely disappointed and fell away returning to their homes believing this Jesus to have been another flash in the pan and without substance.

Those disciples could not have been blamed if they had decided to leave Jesus, as some of Williamson's guests had done. In fact, it is fairly certain that many did. One can imagine them being quite excited at first, thinking that God's blessing meant that Jesus was going to give them gold and food. How disappointed some of them must have been when he didn't turn stones into bread - neither did he overthrow the Roman occupation and give everyone a tax rebate.

Many people live lives that are full of disappointment, for some it may be because they feel they have not made a difference. Many want to see tangible results from their faith, perhaps a church grown from nothing to a thriving multi faceted community. Or they think they should make many people turn to Christ simply by listening to the words they preach. Many feel the need of a sign that will affirm their discipleship and let them know God is pleased with them, that they are God's right arm on earth.

It is not surprising we are obsessed by celebrity today you only need to listen to the contestants of X factor to hear how for them celebrity is all and how life ends when they are rejected. Some at the great age of 16 are devastated at not making it. Something they may have wanted all their short life. However being a follower of Christ does not mean we will be celebrated or feted by kings and governors. Our lives could be bleak and filled with anguish or even, God forbid ordinary. Jesus promises nothing for this life but he promises everything for the life to come.

We are told to keep the faith to believe and we shall be rewarded just as those guests of Joseph Williamson supper were rewarded.

David

ST. MARY'S CHURCH - NOVEMBER SERVICES

SUNDAY 12TH	SUNDAY 19TH	SUNDAY 26TH
6.30pm Remembrance Ser- vice DB	9.30am Village Worship C Mobbs	8.00am Holy Communion DB
Reader Liz Dix	Reader A. Edmonds	Reader P. Baker
Sidesperson A. Edmonds	Sidesperson A. Edmonds	Sidesperson D. Peacock
To be arranged	Zeph. 1:7, 12-18 1 Thess 5:1-11 Matthew 25:14-30	Ezek 34:11-16, 20- 24 Ephesians 1:15-end Matthew 25:31-end

If you cannot fulfill these requirements please contact Margaret
Thompson

News from St. Mary's

Join us for a community walk on Sunday 19th November, leaving church at 2.30pm and finishing back there with a hot drink and toasted tea-cake. Maybe a bonfire!

There will be activities for children and dogs are welcome.

Read our piece about Rix Petroleum elsewhere in the magazine

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Stradbroke 01379 384 220

Local officers:

Church Rev. David Burrell 01986 798 136
'The Vicarage, Noyes Avenue, Laxfield
theparsnips@googlemail.com

Church Wardens:

Andy Edmunds 01986 798523
Lay Elder for Cratfield - Margaret Thompson 07906 509302
Parish Council - Lotty Barbour 01986 798099
PC Clerk Sally Chapman 01379 855486
PC Website www.cratfield.onesuffolk.net
Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator—Bob Stratford 01986 798143

Village Hall:

Chair Person - Rebecca Sannick 01986 799006
Vice Chair - Richard Turberville 01986 798346
Bookings - Jo Nunn 01986 799181
Painting Club - Mick Chave 01986 798771
Laxfield School Act. Head Teacher - Mrs Hammond 01986 798344
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