

CRATFIELD NEWS

April 2021



MEA CULPA

The buck stops with the Editor

My apologies to all for the omission of the Village Hall News and 100 Club results in last month's issue of the Cratfield News. Please let no aspersions be cast upon the *volunteer*, who *voluntarily* produces the copy for this page every month and *absolutely always* submits said copy for the deadline date which is the 20th of the month (as stated on the back page), for the non-inclusion of the March Village Hall News and 100 Club results. This volunteer has produced a page, if not more, of Village Hall News for several years now and throughout the last year despite there having been no events taking place has magically continued to do so. Amazing! There was a lot of extra copy last month which may have helped to account for the omission. Memo to self: 'must brush up on proof reading skills'.

A second apology to those of you who received what can only be described as a 'garbled' edition of the March magazine. Gremlins were at work indeed. If there was an article which you absolutely needed to read and were unable to, please feel free to email me for a copy; as noted above there was quite a lot of extra, interesting 'stuff' last month. Please remember we are all human, although maybe not the Gremlins!

Now - This month please rush to the centre pages to read the Village Hall news, it's looking good, all things being equal. After all this time I'm sure most of us can hardly wait to get back to 'normal', see friends socialise and enjoy life as before.

Sue

Ditto. I must also take my share of the culpa. Sorry. — Pete

Note to the Editor

Just to say what a very heart warming letter from John Horsman. We're trying to do our bit for hedgehogs and wildlife. We have several sorts of bird boxes, but can't achieve as much on our 2/3 acre plot as John will be able to, so hurrah! If more insects are a result of his endeavours then they might not be able to feed our spotted flycatchers and blue tits but they should help feed the Cratfield swifts, who we are hoping will eventually occupy our waiting nest boxes.

We would much enjoy a farm walk in the summer months, when allowed.

Sue Seabon and Peter Baker

Any Old Tom, Dick or Harry

Here is another quiz to try during lockdown. Each answer has the first name Tom, Dick or Harry.

1. Jerry the mouse is always pursued by this cat.
2. He used to be in One Direction before leaving to follow a solo career.
3. A playwright who wrote Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are dead.
4. This cartoon character has a dog called Muttley.
5. He won the 6th series of Strictly Come Dancing and went on to star in the West end in Top Hat.
6. A San Francisco police officer played by Clint Eastwood in a series of films.
7. A British crime writer who was also a former jockey.
8. A footballer who plays for England and Spurs.
9. A highwayman who was executed in York.
10. A welsh singer and also the hero in a novel by Henry Fielding.
11. He played a cheery chimney sweep in the film Mary Poppins.
12. A former doctor and now tv presenter of TV Burp.
13. The boy wizard who attended Hogwarts.
14. An American comic strip character created by Chester Gould.
15. The lead singer of the Heartbreakers who died in 2017.
16. He became mayor of London and often appears in pantomime with his cat.
17. A former footballer and manager who was crowned "King of the Jungle."
18. An actor who starred in Shirley Valentine alongside Pauline Collins.
19. A Jamaican-American singer dubbed the "King of Calypso."
20. A British army officer who raised money for the NHS in the run-up to his 100th birthday.

Sue Askew

Easter egg cookies

Makes 20



Ingredients:

175g butter, softened
200g light brown soft sugar
100g golden caster sugar
1 tbsp vanilla extract
1 large egg
250g plain flour
½ tsp bicarbonate of soda
50g white chocolate, chopped into chunks
100g bar dark chocolate, chopped into chunks
100g mini chocolate eggs, lightly crushed with a rolling pin. Leaving some larger pieces to decorate

Method:

Step 1

Heat oven to 190°C/170°/gas 5. Line two baking sheets with baking parchment. Tip the butter, sugars and vanilla into a bowl. Beat with a hand-held electric whisk until pale and fluffy. Add the egg and beat again. Tip in the flour, bicarb and a pinch of salt, then use a spatula to mix together before adding the chocolate chunks and about half the crushed mini eggs (set aside the larger pieces) and mix again until everything is combined.

Step 2

Scoop golf-ball-sized mounds of cookie dough onto the baking sheets, making sure you leave plenty of space between each one. (You should fit 4-6 cookies on each, so you'll have to bake in batches to make the total 20 cookies.) Push the remaining mini-egg pieces into the tops. *Can be frozen at this point for up to three months. Defrost thoroughly in the fridge before baking.* Bake for 15-18 minutes, swapping the sheets around halfway through. For soft chewy cookies, the cookies should be golden around the edges but still pale and soft in the middle. If you prefer a biscuit texture, you will need to bake a little longer.

Step 3

Remove from the oven and leave to cool for 10 minutes before transferring to a wire rack, then bake the second batch. Continue until all the cookies are baked. *Will keep in an airtight container for up to a week.*

One of the many things that I love about rural Suffolk is the glorious lanes, that wind their own narrow, mysterious way round fields and copses and are rarely straight for more than a few yards, nor wide enough often to pass another vehicle. I tell those of my friends who don't know Suffolk (which is most of them) that it is always twice as far from A to B by road as it is by crow. But I think I am wrong. It is more like three times as far by road! However, I wouldn't have it otherwise. Nor would the poet GK Chesterton whose well known poem "The Rolling English Road" celebrates this wonderful feature of English, and especially Suffolk, rural life. He was really writing about the south of England but, as you will see in his poem, he might easily have been a Suffolk man. For my part, I am mightily grateful that, after full lockdown, we can once again roam these lovely lanes before the winter comes.

"Before the Roman came to Rye or out to Severn strode,
The rolling English drunkard made the rolling English road.
A reeling road, a rolling road, that rambles round the shire,
And after him the parson ran, the sexton and the squire;
A merry road, a mazy road, and such as we did tread
The night we went to Birmingham by way of Beachy Head.

I knew no harm of Bonaparte and plenty of the Squire,
And for to fight the Frenchman I did not much desire;
But I did bash their baggonets¹ because they came arrayed
To straighten out the crooked road an English drunkard made,
Where you and I went down the lane with ale-mugs in our hands,
The night we went to Glastonbury by way of Goodwin Sands.

His sins they were forgiven him; or why do flowers run
Behind him; and the hedges all strengthening in the sun?
The wild thing went from left to right and knew not which was which,
But the wild rose was above him when they found him in the ditch.
God pardon us, nor harden us; we did not see so clear
The night we went to Bannockburn by way of Brighton Pier.

My friends, we will not go again or ape an ancient rage,
Or stretch the folly of our youth to be the shame of age,
But walk with clearer eyes and ears this path that wandereth,
And see undrugged in evening light the decent inn of death;
For there is good news yet to hear and fine things to be seen,
Before we go to Paradise by way of Kensal Green."

Jeremy Blackham

¹Baggonet – the original name for what we now call bayonets.

MICHAEL OLIVER

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Pigeons



Picasso would have loved Cratfield - not because of the light, the big skies and the association that East Anglia has with artists like Gainsborough and Constable. He liked pigeons – those loud plump grey things that are, even as I write, performing some of the more specialist positions in the birdie Kama Sutra, on the trellis outside my window. He liked pigeons a lot; and Cratfield has a lot of pigeons. When Picasso painted a bird, as often as not, it was a pigeon; when I look at our garden and see a bird, as often as not, it is a pigeon.

Picasso's father, Jose, was an art teacher and a mediocre artist who specialised in painting pigeons. He was president of the Barcelona pigeon fancier's society and each year he would paint a portrait of the pigeon of the year. There is a story that when Jose's eyesight began to fail, he could not finish one of his pigeon paintings - he could not see to get the claws right, they were the trickiest bits to paint – so he asked young Pablo to paint them in while he went for his evening stroll. When he returned the young Pablo had painted the claws so well that his father vowed he would never paint again and handed over his palette to his son. Pablo Picasso went on to become a great artist - but never forgot pigeons. If you look carefully at Picasso's paintings whenever he supposedly paints a dove, he has actually depicted a pigeon. He drew the iconic image of a dove of peace for the First International Peace conference that became world famous – in fact, it was no dove, it was a pigeon. The popular Picasso print, **Child with a Dove** is actually a picture of a girl holding a pigeon. Like his dad, Picasso was a colombophile; he liked pigeons.

I am not sure where I stand on colombophilia. Many birds live in our garden or pop in for a visit. Especially at this time of year, the air is filled with the liquid notes of their song. Among others there are sparrows, dunnocks, long tailed tits, bright goldfinches, robins, yellow hammers, blackbirds, pheasants, crows, rooks and even the occasional duck. But it is the unglamorous pigeon with its thick dull bubbling cooing noises and its

portly, aldermanic strut that seems predominant.

They act as if they own the place. They sit fatly in the middle of the birdbath, hogging it so the littler birds do not get a look in, leaving a poo souvenir in the water when they finally move off. Pigeon poo is plentiful, repugnant, and omnipresent. When fresh, on our path it is a slippery pedestrian hazard.

Birds are shy, flighty creatures. It is part of their charm. Not so pigeons. In our garden most birds fly away like little fairy folk when humans draw near. But not pigeons. Unlovely, prosaic as a Monday morning at work, seemingly insensitive to the finer feelings that make other birds flee - when you approach a pigeon it just continues to sit fatly where it is, showing no fear. If you go right up close to it will finally, make a move, but very grudgingly.

I do not find pigeons beautiful, mysterious, or alluring. But they live here and share our garden with us. They are always here, and their unmusical notes are always to be heard. And so, I suppose, they belong here. Like old friends with embarrassing habits, they will always, if somewhat regrettably, be welcome.

Nigel Cousins



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VILLAGE HALL UPDATE – APRIL
‘THERE IS A LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL’
(let’s just hope it’s not a train....)

The Village Hall committee met via zoom on Wednesday 10th March and following the governments ‘roadmap’ they have tentatively managed to set a few provisional dates for some events later this year. Please note these are only provisional dates – so keep an eye out in the magazine and on the village Facebook page for updates. We will of course have to follow government advice so things may be subject to change at short notice.

Pop Up Pub – 26th June / 31st July / 28th August (all Saturdays) with BBQ

We have taken the decision for the summer months to move the Pop Up Pub to the last Saturday in each month. Moving it to a Saturday means we can start slightly earlier to spread out the amount of people who may come along over a longer period of time and be outside. By starting earlier you can also bring your family along if you have younger children as we will be running the very successful BBQ again.

Rota – ever fancied propping up the bar from the other side and fancied yourself as a Peggy Mitchell from The Queen Vic or Alan Turner from The Woolpack? If so, then please do contact Paul Marfleet as he oversees the rotas for the Pop Up Pub and emails them around to fill the vacancies. It really is a lot of fun working behind the bar and only takes a small amount of time out of the evening to be involved. Paul can be contacted on marfleets@doctors.org.uk to get yourself on the list to receive the Rota.

Photographic Competition – Saturday 9th October

There is certainly no excuse not to enter as this is now a whole year later than originally planned! We are hoping to be inundated with 2 years’ worth of entries for the below categories. Don’t forget we can only accept printed entries – of either 6”x 8” or 12”x 8” and entries can be portrait or landscape. The entry form and submission date will be coming out towards the summer and we also have plans afoot to make the evening preview more of an event – so watch this space....The categories are - Suffolk Transport / Black & White Cratfield / Suffolk Skylines / Fun category – Suffolk Seaside

Pie and Pud evening – November – date TBC

Back by very popular demand is a planned 'Pie and Pud' night – a sell out in previous years, so keep an eye out for the confirmed date and menu options. Huge servings of delicious pies from The Huntingfield Arms rounded off with an individual generous sponge pudding – perfect hearty winter fayre!

Christmas Fair – Sunday 28th November / AM

Again – another event back by popular demand following its success over the past few years. Richard will be running his usual 'big breakfast baps' (or brunch dependent on when you staggered out of bed!) We will have the usual variety of stalls selling locally sourced products, gifts, toys and decorations.

100 CLUB – 100 Club numbers drawn by members of the Cratfield Village Hall Committee

February –

1st Nigel Cousins No: 81 £15.00 / 2nd Candy Blackham No: 104 £10.00 / 3rd Mary Cousin No: 39 £5.00

March –

1st Carolyn White No: 36 £15.00 / 2nd Jean Peacock No: 5 £10.00 / 3rd Lesley King No: 85 £5.00.

Congratulations to all the winners for both months!

Many thanks to 'The Firs – Countryside Retreat' for sponsoring the March page of The Cratfield Calender. Don't forget to consider them if you are looking for extra accommodation for visiting family or friends after lock-down is lifted.

And finally..... many thanks to all the volunteers who have helped to move and re site the many bulbs and plants donated over the years in the Village Hall Flower Bed, the preliminary work has mostly been completed and we look forward to moving onto stage 2.

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2021 Mobile Library Dates

Nothing here as yet.

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A Speck in the Ocean

HMS Naiad left Rio for Cape Town, 3800 miles and 13 days steaming away. En route, we saw only one other ship, some magnificent friendly albatrosses that followed us for days, and the tiny island of Tristan da Cunha - a speck in the ocean 2000 miles from Rio. The Southern Ocean is, as Coleridge's Ancient Mariner wryly observed, a silent, lonely place. We first detected Tristan's towering peak¹ on radar, 120 miles away, the 7000 foot tip of an immense undersea volcano rising over 17,000 feet from the seabed. We were to spend three days there, the first warship to visit for many years and had to anchor, quite literally, on the side of the mountain.

It was, and doubtless remains, an extraordinary place. Originally settled by a tiny group of people in 1811, then in 1815 turned into a barely used supply base for the RN, Tristan is 1500 miles from St Helena, the nearest inhabited place and the nearest airport too! During WW1, they were unvisited for 5 years and only knew the war had ended when a Naval vessel dropped by in 1919 to tell them.

There were when we arrived, and still are, approximately 250 Tristanians. We were greeted by the elected Chief Islander and the Administrator (one of 9 Brits providing medical, educational, engineering and other services, including ecclesiastical). We did all we could to help the islanders, using explosives to remove a volcanic lava bar from their tiny fishing harbour, rebuilding a derelict barn and supplying new faces at the Village Hall dance² and cinema night, where we provided the film. Sadly, we balked at rounding up cattle from the far side of the island, which had escaped and gone feral following an emergency evacuation of the whole Tristanian community in 1961, when a small volcanic cone erupted suddenly in the middle of their settlement, Edinburgh of the Seven Seas.

They were 5 years back from their evacuation. They hated UK – imagine never having met the noise, bustle, traffic, pollution and crowding of modern “civilisation”; or never having seen a shop and finding yourself in a modern shopping mall. To the Foreign Office's annoyance, they unanimously demanded to return. They were close-knit and closely related, all belonging to one of 9 families. We did, however, spot a couple of red-headed children, products of a visit by a passing ship – a practice Tristanians tacitly encouraged for practical genetic reasons. I've no idea whether Naiad helped!

They lived simply, chiefly off potatoes, turnips, seaweed, and fish, virtually their sole topics of conversation. You can't talk about things you've never known, and they knew nothing of life outside Tristan. They were visited by

¹Only the peak, because radar cannot follow the earth's curvature.

²Dances like the Valeta and St Bernard's Waltz, which I learned at school but few young people today would know. Try these links: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AUNhF793uqA> and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y6HmXvC_tSA

a small South African ship about 6 times a year, the only way on and off the island – a seven-day trip. Their only income came from a fish cannery which exported its products to South Africa. Some had never seen an aeroplane. The main excitement came when whales surrounded the island 'blowing' - a frequent occurrence.

On our last afternoon there was a '*the dansante*' (fish finger and potato snacks!) My friend Terry, the helicopter pilot you've already met, suggested he and I join the party by helicopter which we duly did, clad in white mess kit! This caused great excitement; it really was the first aircraft to land in Tristan for many years. Naturally, all the girls wanted to dance with Terry.....at the same time. However they quickly exhausted his knowledge of potatoes and fishing despite his Irish background. Conversation was limited! Nonetheless it was very jolly until Terry remembered we were supposed to land onboard before dark because, of course, night flying arrangements didn't exist. We hurried back to the helicopter and just made it – definitely against all the rules. Fortunately, our Captain kept his telescope to his blind eye in good Nelsonic tradition, unwisely trusting us to know what we were doing. What an extraordinary, almost surreal, experience it was, like travelling back in time, a break from the real world. Such a remote, unchanged place; it made rural Suffolk look positively urban. It was amazingly peaceful and calm to a fault. Did we want to stay? Emphatically not. From Tristan we sailed to Cape Town, for me the first of many visits to South Africa, although it was months before I realised that.

Jeremy Blackham

Answers to Tom, Dick or Harry Quiz

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Tom | 11. Dick Van Dyke |
| 2. Harry Styles | 12. Harry Hill |
| 3. Tom Stoppard | 13. Harry Potter |
| 4. Dick Dastardly | 14. Dick Tracy |
| 5. Tom Chambers | 15. Tom Petty |
| 6. Harry Callahan (Dirty Harry) | 16. Dick Whittington |
| 7. Dick Francis | 17. Harry Redknapp |
| 8. Harry Kane | 18. Tom Conti |
| 9. Dick Turpin | 19. Harry Belafonte |
| 10. Tom Jones | 20. Sir Tom Moore |

Cratfield Parish Council Meeting Dates 2021

Tuesday 9th March 2021 at 7.30pm
Tuesday 11th May 2021 at 7.30pm – APM & AGM
Tuesday 13th July 2021 at 7.30pm
Tuesday 14th September 2021 at 7.30pm
Tuesday 9th November 2021 at 7.30pm

The Planning meetings are arranged as and when required.

The meeting's agenda is displayed 3 days before the meeting on the

noticeboards & website: www.cratfield.onesuffolk.net

The meetings are currently held via Zoom (*until further notice*) contact the Clerk for the link or in the village hall.

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Mace

Dear friends,

Well I hope you have/are/will be enjoying your Easter eggs. Due to the vagaries of the timing for this magazine you might be reading it after a after/before/ or during Easter. So I thought I would write a catch all introduction and hope you are not all too confused. Anyway Happy Easter!

This is the most important of all Christian Festivals. Easter is important because it is the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus from the dead, thus promising to all of us eternal life and ultimate salvation. There will come a time when all our burdens of sin and guilt will be lifted from us and God will welcome us home as his beloved children. What is it that we can do to earn our place in heaven with God, well the Good News is we can't. God gives it freely through his great love for us.

'So we can just sit back and do nothing' you might say. Well yes you could but when someone shows extravagant love towards us we may feel beholden to them, we want them to know that we appreciate the love that we have been shown. We might even want to say thank you.

A little boy came home from Sunday School on Easter Sunday and said to his mum, 'I can understand about Christ but not the roses.' Then he asked his mother 'Why was Christ a rose?'

A priest was walking along the cliff tops near Eastbourne one Easter afternoon and he met a fisherman, one of his congregation. The old fisherman greeted him with 'Christ is risen parson. The priest was intrigued by the old man's faith. How do you know Christ is risen?' he asked. The fisherman paused and then pointed to some isolated cottages near the cliff tops. 'See those cottages, well when I am far out at sea, I know the sun has risen by the light that is reflected by their windows.

Likewise I know Christ is risen when I see him reflected in the faces of some people I meet, which in turn reminds me of the glory I feel in my own life.

Christ is risen, he is risen indeed.

David

St. Mary's Church Services – April 2021



CHRIST
IS RISEN

| Sunday 4th Easter Day | Sunday 18th |
|---|--|
| 8.00am Holy Communion | 9.00am Village Worship |
| Sidesperson A. Edmunds | Sidesperson A. Edmunds |
| Reader P. Baker | Reader M. Powell |
| | Acts 3:12-19 1 John 3:1-7 Luke 24:36b-48 |

We're back!! Please come along and join us. Remember to wear your mask and we will be sitting socially distanced.

DIRECTORY:

| | | |
|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Doctor's Surgery | Fressingfield | 01379 586 227 |
| | 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 |
|------------------------|--|--------------|

| | | |
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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 |
|------------------------------------|--|--------------|

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--|--------------|
| Vice Chair - Richard Turberville | | 01986 798346 |
|----------------------------------|--|--------------|

| | | |
|--------------------|--|--------------|
| Bookings - Jo Nunn | | 01986 799181 |
|--------------------|--|--------------|

| | | |
|---|--|--------------|
| Laxfield School Head of School- Mrs Minns | | 01986 798344 |
|---|--|--------------|

| | | |
|------------------------------|--|--------------|
| Nova Group - Heather Hargood | | 01986 798180 |
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Please contact Sue, Graham or Peter for more information