CRATFIELD NEWS

August 2026



Special promotion see page 5

FOR SALE

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YOUR VISION OF THE FUTURE FOR CRATFIELD

Following the invitation in March's Cratfield News, and the initial meeting in May (kindly summarised by Alan Simms in June's edition), we hope to have a further brainstorm this summer (hopefully this month!) to start moving forward with initial thoughts on updating a plan for Cratfield. The idea is to capture the attributes of the village (its history, landscape, biodiversity and amenities) so that current villagers' priorities and views are documented as and when challenges (such as, but by no means limited to, planning applications) arise. If you have a view about what is important in the village, or would like to get involved, or just want to come along to find out what this is all about, please do contact us by dropping an email to alan.simms.uk@gmail.com or helenjerry@outlook.com. It is YOUR village!

PONY WELFARE

Today I received a visit from an RSPCA inspector following a complaint that had been made about the condition of my pony. I can report that the inspector found no cause for concern in the way she is being cared for.

It was obvious from the information provided that the person who made the complaint lives in the village. My pony has been unwell for a number of weeks, her care is under veterinary supervision and she is being given prescribed medication. If the person had bothered to ask me, I would have told them that. Instead, they have wasted the inspector's time and caused the RSPCA unnecessary expense.
Gloria Steward

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12 Sep — **The Mancunium Consort**
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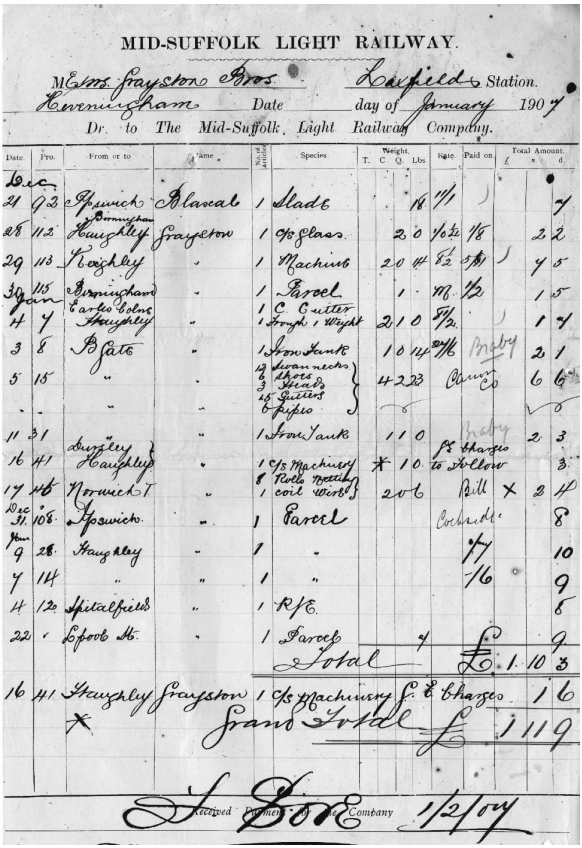
14 Nov — **Tamsin Waley-Cohen and Huw Watkins**
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Local History - Grayston Bros.



MID-SUFFOLK LIGHT RAILWAY.

Messrs Grayston Bros Laxfield Station.
Heveningham Date day of January 1907
Dr. to The Mid-Suffolk Light Railway Company.

Date.	Frt.	From or to	Name.	Number of Articles	Species	Weight. T. C. Q. Lbs	Rate.	Paid on	Total Amount. £ s. d.
Dec 21	93	Ipswich	Manual	1	Sladt	18	1/1		7
28	112	Birmingham Haughley	Grayston	1	C/s Glass	2 0 1/2	1/8		2 2
29	113	Haughley	"	1	Machine	2 0 14	8/2	3/1	4 5
30	115	Birmingham	"	1	Parcel	1 · 16	1/2		1 5
Jan 4	7	Earles Colne Haughley	"	1	C. Cutter Steph. Weight	2 1 0	7/2		1 7
3	8	B Gate	"	1	Iron Tank	1 0 14	2/6	Baby	2 1
5	15	"	"	19 2 2 8 5	Iron mech. Shoes Heads Fillers	4 2 23	Carriage		6 6
"	"	"	"	6	Pipes				0
11	31	Swaffham	"	1	Iron Tank	1 1 0		Baby	2 3
16	41	Haughley	"	1	C/s Machinery	1 0	5/- charges to Hollow		3
17	46	Norwich T	"	8 1	Rolls Netting coil wire	2 0 6	Bill	X	2 4
Dec 31	108	Ipswich	"	1	Parcel		Cobbold		8
Jan 9	28	Haughley	"	1	"		7/		10
7	14	"	"	1	"		1/6		9
4	12	Spitalfields	"	1	R/C.				6
22	·	Ipswich	"	1	Parcel	7			9
					Total			£	1 10 3
16	41	Haughley	Grayston	1	C/s Machinery		£ & charges		1 6
					Grand Total			£	1119

Received Payment for the Company 1/2/07

In the 1850s William Robert Grayston set up a blacksmith's business in Heveningham. By 1910 the firm had also opened up for trading in Laxfield at the far end of the High Street. The business soon extended to tinsmiths, agricultural and horticultural engineers and agents, motor engineers, plumbers and heating engineers, and private car hire operators.

They sold household appliances, gardening equipment and bulbs, animal feed, DIY and much, much more. Their motto was that no job was too big or too small. Compare the 6d charged to Mr Bryenton of Heveningham in 1937 for charging a battery, with the sale of a large tractor in the same year to a client in Haddiscoe for a sum worth over £10,000 in today's money.

Grayston Bros, at one time Grayston & Sons, was managed by five generations of the family, the last being Neil Grayston, who has recently retired and closed the business. Neil has gifted the museum many receipts, invoices and ledgers, some of which are on display.

Graystons relied on the Mid Suffolk Light Railway, the Middy, to transport goods for their business from all over the country. Various receipts from the railway show

goods coming from as far away as Birmingham and Liverpool.

The railway began for goods in 1904 and then passengers in 1908. Graystons were using the railway as far back as 1906.

This receipt was from 1907 and shows the final destination to be the original Heveningham branch of the business before



Concerts at Cratfield - free tickets for Cratfield residents on August 30th

As a thank you to the village, Concerts at Cratfield is offering a limited number of tickets to residents of Cratfield for its afternoon concert on Sunday August 30. The concert features the internationally renowned oboist Nicholas Daniel and pianist Huw Watkins for a celebration of British chamber music.

Nicholas Daniel OBE has long been acknowledged as one of the world's great oboists and is one of Britain's best-known musicians. He records and broadcasts widely, and recently signed an exclusive contract with Chandos Records. Having sung in the choir of Salisbury Cathedral as a boy, Nicholas was put directly into the spotlight at the age of 18 when he won the BBC Young Musician of the Year competition. He was honoured in 2012 by Queen Elizabeth II with the prestigious Queen's Medal for Music and cited as having made "an outstanding contribution to the musical life of the nation".

Tickets are for all areas of the church except the Nave, and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis – if you would like to attend please email concertsatcratfield@hotmail.com stating your name and how many tickets you would like.

MICHAEL OLIVER

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A Damned Close-Run Thing in PE – Another Useful Lesson Learned

HMS Naiad's final major port of call on leaving the Far East in August 1969 was a five day stop at Port Elizabeth[1]. This was later extended to ten days so that we could join up with HMS Decoy to return home, exercising together. Those extra five days were to be very important to me, for it was during them that I first met Candy at a municipal reception given for us. Our arrival there, however, was slightly fraught.

I was, you may recall, the Navigating Officer. For a couple of days we had steamed down the South African coast, in the middle of the Agulhas Current, a strong, south-flowing warm water stream of three to four knots so we seemed to have plenty of time in hand. The First Lieutenant (second in command and, as it happened, a very experienced navigator)[2] decided that this provided an opportunity to stop and paint the ship's side. So, for a whole afternoon, we drifted southwards at about three knots, and everyone had a jolly time painting the ship's side. When we finished, I set course for Port Elizabeth again, calculating that we needed to make good about fifteen knots and so decided to steam at twelve knots, given the strong favourable current underneath us.

Now you should know that when an RN ship says it will arrive at a particular point at 0800, that means "on the dot", not 0759 or 0801. Of course, I had assumed this in my calculations, and we steamed gently (and in my case over confidently) on. That evening one of my fellow officers and I were playing in the ship's cribbage competition against a team from the Petty Officers' mess, As usual they were also trying to get us mildly tipsy on beer with neat rum chasers (the Petty Officers were issued their rum neat and so it could be [illegally] stored)[3]. They must have been at least partially successful because when I went to the bridge at about 2200 to check on things, before turning in to sleep until I took over the watch at 0345, the officer of the watch told me that we now needed to make fifteen knots for our ETA, and we were only making about eleven. In my "befuddled" state, I was assuming that we still had a strong current under us and said, without making any proper investigation, "Increase to fourteen knots." But we had now left the Agulhas current. Sadly, he did what I told him!

When I came on watch at 0345 and had become a little more with it, I discovered that we now needed around twenty-three knots for our ETA and so increased speed to twenty-five knots. Soon afterwards we turned towards Algoa Bay (the huge bay on which PE lies). PE is known as "the

windy city" and almost immediately we ran unto a strong wind and rough sea so that, at twenty-five knots, we were taking quite a hammering and the water was hitting the front of the bridge screen where the Captain's cabin was, with something of a thump. Almost immediately the Captain's buzzer went and a sleepy voice said "What speed are we doing, officer of the watch?" "Twenty-five knots Sir." He continued "Is the navigator happy?" "Oh yes, sir" I said and heaved a sigh of relief as he fell asleep again, seemingly not having recognised my voice.

A much less calm First Lieutenant arrived on the bridge at 0630 and said "What on earth are you doing at this speed? You're washing all my new paint off." Well, I think that was the expurgated gist of what he said. I had to confess and there was a very heavy silence.

Fortunately, soon after that we were caught up in the excitement of arrival, mooring, and getting ourselves established alongside a jetty which was fortunately high enough to hide most of the ship's side. Then came the usual bits of formal protocol and ceremonial on arriving in a foreign port, and the First Lieutenant was sufficiently occupied with all these formalities to allow him to forget the paint!

For my part, I worked (read "hid") in my charthouse for the morning and didn't reappear until the ship was full of official visitors. It was indeed a damned close-run thing but, as I indicated at the start of this story, my luck improved greatly during the visit!

Jeremy Blackham

1. Today known as Gqueberha. A prize for anyone who can tell me how to pronounce it correctly.

2. That is to say an officer fully qualified to navigate and pilot large groups of ships; I had simply qualified to navigate frigates and destroyers.

3. See the tale "Up Spirits" in Cratmag April '23, for details of the rum ration and its eventual abolition.

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MOBILE LIBRARY DATES

Silverleys Green 14.00 -14.20 The Poacher 14.30 – 14.45

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Poet: John Imrie

'Tis lessons from the past we borrow,-
To-day is ours, but not to-morrow;
Then, smile to-day, leave care and sorrow
One day a-head, say - "Yes, to-morrow"

Make friends to-day for use to-morrow,
They'll help to drive away dull sorrow;
And from their friendship sweetness borrow
To bless each day and crown each morrow.

"To-morrow never comes" but each "to-day,"
Links out life's chain from cradle to decay!



VILLAGE HALL UPDATE - AUGUST 2026

CRATFIELD VILLAGE HALL 100 CLUB – TIME TO RENEW!

Subscriptions are now due for the club's 2026-2027 season.

For just £1 per month for the year subscribers are in the draw to win *£15, £10 or £5 prizes* EACH MONTH! So, fill out the form enclosed with May's magazine, or get a form by contacting helenjerry@outlook.com, for a chance to be part of this wonderful village effort.

The 100 Club has benefitted the village for many years, contributing towards items such as a glass washer, water heaters and a boombox to make Cratfield events at the Village Hall better than ever.

Don't forget – you have to be in it to win it!!!

CRATFIELD POP UP PUB - Friday 7th August

This summer has been a scorcher so come along and quench your thirst at the **Cratfield Pop Up Pub**, 6pm-10pm at the village hall. This month it is our summer BBQ – perfect for relaxing with a local pint, glass of chilled wine, G&T…. you get the picture! We have access to the wonderful space around the hall, glorious on summer evenings with the view over the fields to St Mary's. Frankly, it'd be daft to miss it!

(Apologies, the Acronyms actually played last month so will not be with us in August – but we very much hope to have another smashing evening with them again soon!)

INDOOR BOWLS AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Just turn up at the door and join the friendly regulars for carpet bowls at the village hall, 7pm on

August 4th and 18th /// September 1st,15th and 29th /// October 13th and 27th /// November 17th and /// December 8th.

No prior experience needed. Suggested small donation for use of the hall.

Village Hall Events - dates for the Diary:

CRATFIELD TALKS – 10 October 2026 – "Cratfield Wildlife 2"

Paul Taylor returns to share more wonderful pictures captured around Cratfield. Definitely a date you should mark on your calendar!

CRATFIELD CHRISTMAS FAIR – 6 December 2026

It's never too early *(really?!?)* to start thinking about Christmas…. Always a popular event, the Christmas Fair returns on the first Sunday of December. This means the pressure to do any festive shopping can be shelved for another 19 weeks!

CRATFIELD VILLAGE HALL 100 CLUB – AUGUST WINNERS

This month's 100 Club winners are: first prize (£15) number 63 – Wendy Thomas; second prize (£10) number 22 – Hugh Vass; and 3rd prize (£5) number 69 – Tracey Aryaeenia. Draw by D Britton. Many congratulations to the winners!

VILLAGE HALL FOR HIRE!

Don't forget our hall is available for hire for a very reasonable price! For any future booking enquiries please contact us on cratfieldvillagehall@gmail.com

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THANK YOU

A huge thank you to Sue and Tim for once again organising (and it does take a lot of organising) an immensely successful Midsummer Madness,. Also thanks to all those who helped in the setting up, erecting marquees is no mean feat, carting bales, transporting chairs, tables, barbecue, food and drinks etc. and to all who helped on the night, cooking burgers and hot dogs, serving drinks, taking money. All your hard work is very much appreciated. Despite the slightly cool evening it was apparent that everyone was having a great time enjoying the music, the drinks, food and above all the community spirit which an event like this promotes.

(Sue ed.)

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LAMMAS CELEBRATION

Four Rivers Benefice, Bedfield, Brundish, Cratfield, Laxfield, Monk Soham, Tannington, Wilby, Worlingworth

Wilby Church

Sunday 2nd August





09:30 | HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE

11:00 | LAMMAS CELEBRATION SERVICE

Guest Preacher
The Very Reverend
Joe Hawes, Dean of
Bury St Edmunds Cathedral

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED FROM 10:15
AND AFTER THE CELEBRATION SERVICE

WHAT IS LAMMAS?

Lammas or 'Loaf-mass' is an English feast in origin, as a thanksgiving for the first-fruits of the grain harvest. Traditionally, a newly baked loaf from the harvest was presented before God. While the ceremony ceased at the Reformation, reference to Lammas Day continued in the Prayer Book calendar, and the practice has been revived in more recent years.

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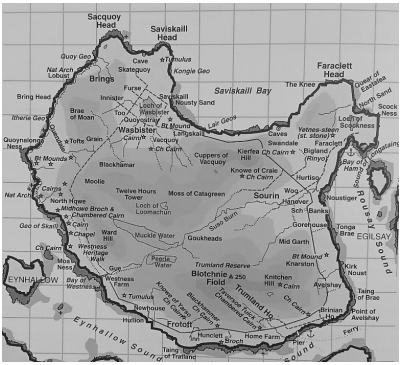
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Exploring the Scottish Islands – with a collapsible bike!
Rousay (4 miles across, Pop. 240)



Just north of Mainland, Rousay is a hilly island, with most of the population living around the coastline. If Orkney is a historical paradise, Rousay is the cream of the crop, absolutely stuffed full with archaeological treasures. (It's also another island good for bird-watching and it accommodates the highest number of otter families in Orkney.)

There are many burial cairns on the island, dating back to the Neolithic and Bronze Age: these are ancient burial mounds of stones placed around a grave to serve as a monument, but also solving the problem of the ground being too hard and/ or shallow to dig down in, the stones protecting a body from wild animals and the elements. **Taversoe Tuick** has two storeys and separate entrance passages. **Blackhammer** has seven divisions in the chamber and in 1936 two skeletons were found inside. **Knowe of Yarso**, with 4 compartments, yielded, in 1934, the bones of 21 humans, 30 deer, some sheep and a dog.

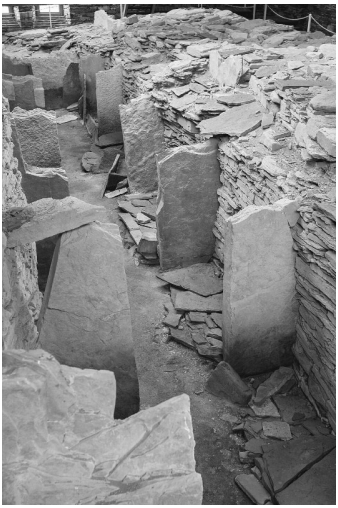


The finds here are so abundant that the island has been nicknamed 'Egypt of the North' and new sites have been accidentally stumbled upon: someone once chose a knoll as a viewpoint, installed a seat and this revealed the 'knoll' to be a 5,000 year old burial cairn, with a subterranean earth house alongside. In 1963, a farmer dug a hole to bury a cow and unearthed a Norse grave: inside, a young woman had been buried with 3 silver brooches dating from the 9th and 10th century.

At Faraclett Head (top N.E. of Rousay) there is even a stone age village called **Rinyo** which has been dated to 3,700BC – and elsewhere in the island we find the old manor of **Tofts**, the oldest domestic house in Orkney. However, the most significant archaeological site on Rousay is **Midhowe**, which is a vast chambered cairn with twelve chambers flanking a passageway 77 ft in length. The chamber walls rise to a height of 6.½ ft and the walls still rise to a height of over 8 ft. Like most tombs in Orkney,

the original roof is gone, but Midhowe is so significant, the entire site is protected by a modern hangar-like structure. The original roof might have consisted of flat slabs of flagstone at a height of 10ft or alternatively, it may have been even higher, vaulted to a height of almost 16 ft. The cairn appears to have been intentionally filled with debris after hundreds of years of usage beginning early in the third millennium BC.

Seven of the twelve chambers have stone benches or shelves and the remains of at least 25 individuals were discovered inside, the bodies being found in groups on most of the shelves. Several of the skeletons were found in a crouched position, with their backs to the side wall and heads resting against the supporting pillars. The placement of other bones suggested that earlier burials had been moved to accommodate later ones.



A variety of animal bones were also found, including ox, sheep, skua, cormorant, buzzard, eagle, gannet, and carrion-crow. Even fish bones were found, including bream: this was a fascinating discovery, because bream are not found this far north today, suggesting that the waters around Orkney during Neolithic times must have been several degrees warmer than today.

Midhowe is an amazing place where, like many sites in Orkney, you can walk around ancient structures and experience the stone age for yourself.
...And that's just scraping the surface: you could easily spend 2 or 3 days here exploring the world of our ancient ancestors, or a week if you fancied some hillwalking and seeing the extensive birdlife around the beautiful lochs, also found on this amazing island.

Next month: Eday

Andrew Weight

Cratfield Parish Council

All meetings are held in The Village Hall, Manse Lane, Cratfield, IP19 0DJ

Meeting Dates 2026

Tuesday 13th January 2026 at 7.30 pm

- Tuesday 10th March 2026 at 7.30 pm
- Tuesday 12th May 2026 at 7.30 pm – Annual Parish Meeting & Annual Parish Council Meeting
- Tuesday 14th July 2026 at 7.30 pm
- Tuesday 8th September 2026 at 7.30 pm
- Tuesday 10th November 2026 at 7.30 pm

Agendas (3 days before the meeting) are on the noticeboards & website:
www.cratfield.onesuffolk.net
Planning meetings are arranged as and when required.

~ Members of the Public are Welcome to Attend all Meetings ~

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Mace

Dear Friends,

Many of you know that my favourite books of the New Testament are around St John. James and John were brothers and they once asked Jesus if they could call down fire from heaven to consume a Samaritan village that rejected them and so their journey from fiery "Sons of Thunder" to humble, loving leaders offers a powerful lesson on speech! Rather than seeking to destroy or criticise those who opposed them they learned to replace vengeance with grace and focus on building others up. It is so easy to disguise our personal pride or anger as "righteous indignation." Jesus rebuked them, reminding them that His mission was to save lives, not destroy them. Perhaps, when we feel critical, we should evaluate our motives to ensure we are acting out of love rather than wounded ego. In Matthew 20, James and John (along with their mother) asked for the highest seats of power in Jesus' kingdom. This immediately caused tension and arguments with the other disciples. Criticism often stems from a desire to exalt ourselves at the expense of others. By teaching them that the greatest must be the servant of all, Jesus reframed how we view people—moving us away from judging peers and toward lifting them up. Ultimately, the harsh, critical edges of these disciples were smoothed. John, famously known for wanting to destroy his enemies, transformed into the "Apostle of Love". He earned this title due to his extensive writings emphasising Christ's love and the commandment to "love one another". In his later writings, he emphasises that if we claim to love God, we must also love our brothers and sisters rather than tearing them down. There is a lot to ponder here that should keep us reflecting throughout the summer. Keep cool!

Prayers and blessings! Revd Chrissie 07803 134301 – rev.chrissiesmart@gmail.com

Churchyard records

Dear Cratfield Villagers,

I have recently undertaken an audit of the churchyard at St. Mary's with Revd Clive and Andy Edmunds. We are aware that there have been a number of plots reserved over the last fifteen years and we are not confident that we have details of them all.

We want to make sure the records are perfectly up to date and so I would be grateful if you could let me know if you have reserved a plot and the details of who you booked it with.

Thank you so much for your help!

Prayers and blessings,

Rev'd Chrissie Smart

August Services Cratfield

Sunday August 9th	Sunday August 23rd
1 Kings 19:9-18 Romans 10:5-15 Matthew 14:22-33	Isaiah 51:1-6 Romans 12:1-8 Matthew 16:13-20
9.30am Village Worship	9.30am Holy Communion

BENEFICE SERVICES

August	Sunday 9th	Sunday 16th	Sunday23rd	Sunday 30th
Bedfield	10.30am Holy Communion	11.00am Morning Service		
Brundish		11.00am Holy Communion		3.00pm Hymns & Pimms
Laxfield	10.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Pet Service at Chatty Church	6.00pm Hartismere House	
Monk Soham	11.00am BCP Morning Prayer	11.00am Holy Communion		
Tannington				
Wilby		9.30am Celtic	10.30am Holy Communion	
Worlingworth		11.00am Let's Celebrate	11.00am Morning Prayer BCP	11.00am Celtic Communion

Benefice @ Wilby Sunday 2nd Holy Communion 9.30am
Lammas Service 11.00am B4R + Dean Jo
Tuesday 4th Worlingworth 9.30am Midweek Celtic Communion
Friday 7th Monk Soham 7.00pm Choral Compline

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