

CRATFIELD NEWS

December 2024



CRATFIELD CHRISTMAS FAIR

SUNDAY 1ST DECEMBER 10AM - 1PM

CRATFIELD VILLAGE HALL

COME ALONG FOR BREAKFAST

15 INDEPENDENT MAKERS & CRAFTERS

STOP PRESS

Suffolk Historic Churches Ride and Stride:- total raised by Cratfield cyclists Caroline Wisby-Brown, Andy Edmonds, Andrew Scoones **£918.40** before Gift Aid.

“Chapeau” (Cyclist speak for “Hats off all round.”)

POLITE NOTICE

Dog mess.....

Recently we have had a large number of hall users complaining about the increasing amount of dog mess on the grass area around the village hall. Please could you ensure that you do pick up after your pooch and also ask any visitors/friends staying to do the same. There is a dog poo bin handy by the village hall, on the road side – so it’s not like anyone needs carry it far to find a bin in which to put it.

We do spend a huge amount of time and effort putting on a wide range of events to appeal to everyone and also to pay the bills to keep the village hall feasible and open/available for the community, so if you could help by picking up after your pooch it would really be appreciated.

Village Hall Committee and its users

Further to this nearby residents have also been finding dog mess on their verges which is particularly unpleasant when not noticed until the lawn mower blades send it flying in all directions, not to mention having to clean the blades.

ACORN FOOT HEALTH

Roger Griffiths has now retired, so if you were using Roger you may be pleased to know that some of his clients in the village have found a replacement, Angela Moore, ‘NEAT FEET’. Angela is happy to come to Cratfield and has recently treated several people here, she has been booked to return, so there’s a recommendation.

If you are interested please see the ad on page 20

Not so “King of the Road”

In the early hours of the morning, Saturday 9th of November, I found a very injured cat. Ambrose had made his way to my conservatory with injuries to his jaw and right leg, loose teeth were stuck to his chin in a bloodied mass. After a night at the 'Hilton', Melton and me with a very much lighter purse I collected him with a course of morphine and antibiotics which have helped although he is still limping.

During the summer months tractors would hoot to try and hoot him out of the road. I knew it was inevitable that this accident would happen. It meant nothing to him to stretch his length on the tarmac, yawn and hold up a queue of traffic all mouthing the unprintable. If the hedges were kept in order maybe he would use the footpath!

This time Ambrose defied the 9 lives rule.

My message to you all.... would it be possible for drivers of all vehicles to drive carefully through our villages. Many dog walkers, horse riders, Mums with prams let alone a few moggies try and dodge the free-way. Thank you.

It's very upsetting to see an animal in pain.

Chrissie Kitchen

MOBILE LIBRARY REPLACEMENT

“The contract for delivering the mobile library service in Suffolk is due to end on 31st May 2025, and Suffolk Libraries has submitted their tender for the delivery of the service from June 1st 2025 onwards. Should Suffolk Libraries win the contract, one thing they will need to do is replace the current ageing mobile libraries. We want to prepare for this now by asking mobile library customers some questions about the service. Your responses will help us when making decisions about the service, should we win the contract.”

This is a service we are likely to lose if it is not supported, so If you are a user of our local mobile library please make sure you complete the survey. If not a current user perhaps you might consider becoming one. The mobile service is invaluable to those unable, for whatever reason, to use our local branch in Halesworth, it would be unfortunate, to say the least, to lose it.

few generations longer.

However, the Ipswich Journal sings the praises of the local topography:

Ubbeston is a parish of great antiquity... Lying as it does adjacent to Laxfield and Badingham, and abutting in another direction upon Heveningham and Sibton, those who are conversant with the topography of the county will see that it is very happily placed, bordering in the one instance the fertile woodland district of the county and in the other the beautiful tract which has been aptly termed 'the garden of Suffolk'. The scenery of the neighbourhood is equal to any that Suffolk, or indeed many other English counties can show. The drive to Ubbeston from Darsham and Yoxford is through a succession of park-like scenery quite equal to scenery of the best points on the River Orwell. The land in this neighbourhood breaks into bold undulations, and, as the soil produces admirable timber, these are clothed with woods, some of which are of considerable extent...

Laxfield & District Museum is now closed for the Winter and reopens on Good Friday 2025

HOW TO COOK A TURKEY **Some seasonal advice!**

Buy a turkey
Have a glass of wine
Stuff the turkey
Have a glass of wine
Put turkey in oven
Relax and have a glass of wine
Turk the bastey
Wine of glass another get
Hunt for meat thermometer
Glass yourself another pour of wine
Bake the wine for four hours
Take the oven out of the turkey
Tet the sable
Grab another wottle of bine
Turk the carvey

Well I thought it was funny! (Sue)

MICHAEL OLIVER

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Cratfield Parish Council

Please help keep your village clean & tidy

Cratfield Parish Council has litter picking equipment which can be borrowed anytime.

Your help & support would be greatly appreciated!

If you would like to litter pick please contact:

Cllr Dan Elford Tel: 01986 798649 - Village collection

Cllr Richard Chivers Tel: 07900 187350 - Silverleys Green collection

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Royal Connections

On our return from the USA to the Portsmouth Naval Base in December 1992, we were to undertake a rather unusual task for an operational warship. We were to host the Royal Navy's Banquet to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne. All the senior members of the Royal family would attend a dinner for over 250 people in the ship's hangar, with a special menu cooked by the ship's excellent chefs in special temporary kitchens set up in the hangar which was decorated to look like a major banqueting hall, with special lighting commissioned and presented by Sir Donald Gosling¹ for the occasion. This was to be matched by magnificent wines fit for the occasion. A Royal Marine band would play, and it would be an evening "no-one would ever forget." A special plate would be made to commemorate the occasion, which every attendee would take away with them.

My ship's company rose magnificently to the occasion, and I felt hugely proud of them and all the hard work they had done in so short a space of time to create a spotless and fairy-tale venue, as I stood at the gangway to salute Her Majesty when she boarded the ship with all her family to join the other guests in full ceremonial rig in the hanger.² It was a wonderful occasion that went like clockwork with no snags. The Royal Family, and especially the Queen and Prince Philip had a close link to the Royal Navy and always felt relaxed and comfortable on board their ships.

None of this happened by accident. I decided early on that we would have a full-dress rehearsal, including eating a slightly watered down version of the splendid meal that was to be served on the night, but cooked in our temporary kitchens by the same chefs, and served by the same stewards who would do it at the real event. We chose 250 or so of our sailors to be the guests, a female officer to play the part of the Queen and others to represent the other members of the Royal Family (which naturally led to them, especially "The Queen" and "Prince Philip" receiving a lot of teasing from their mates) and we ran through the whole programme exactly as it would take place on the night, from the moment the royal motorcade arrived at the bottom of the gangway to the moment they left after the dinner. I and my senior officers were lined up at the top of the gangway to meet, greet, and escort the Royal party to the dinner. The only significant difference was that we conducted our rehearsal at lunchtime although the actual event was, of course, an evening event.

There was one minor hiccup. The day before the rehearsal my excellent, but slightly worried looking second in command came to my cabin to ask what those sailors attending the rehearsal lunch would drink. I replied "What are we drinking on the night, Roger?" "Why, wine of course" said he. "Well" I said, "I did say we would do a full dress rehearsal." He asked me if we should seek formal approval and I replied "Roger, it's a very good

naval principle never to ask a question unless you know the answer in advance. Just do it.” I did however agree that we should use rather cheaper wines from the Wardroom bar stock than those to be drunk on the night, would restrict our people to just one glass (it was lunchtime after all) and would hide the cost within the budget we had been given by the Admiralty Board (don’t ask!). And that is what we did, and a most successful rehearsal it was too, which allowed us to sort out any minor snags and gave us full confidence that we knew what we were doing.

It was all wonderfully worthwhile; a very splendid occasion which none of us who were there will ever forget and a great privilege for the Fleet Flagship, HMS Ark Royal. But it also reflected very well on the Royal Navy as a whole, and we were very aware of being representatives of the Fleet at large. To this very day, I still have the special commemoration plate hung on my wall at home, and I still have the Queen’s “bread and butter letter,” which of course I treasure.

Jeremy Blackham

1. Able Seaman Don Gosling founded, after the war, National Car Parks and became very rich, but he was a huge benefactor to the RN and in particular to

HMS Ark Royal. After doing a huge amount for the benefit and welfare of RN

Personnel of all ranks, he became (to his surprise and great delight) an honorary Admiral.

2. In naval parlance a “rig” is the particular form of dress to be worn on any occasion from, daily work to full ceremonial dress. Each rig has a number, although those numbers have changed since 1992. The rig for this event

was

at that time no.6 – Ball Dress.

MOBILE LIBRARY DATES

TUESDAYS

Silverleys Green 14.15 – 14.35

The Poacher 14.45 – 14.50

December 24th

A Christmas message from Jenny Riddell-Carpenter Labour MP for Suffolk Coastal

As Christmas approaches and 2024 draws to a close, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible privilege of being elected to serve as your Member of Parliament. It's been a remarkable year, and I've been truly moved by the spirit of community across our constituency.

This time of year reminds us of the importance of looking out for one another, and I'm especially grateful to our local charities and army of local volunteers whose dedication brings hope and light to so many lives. Since I was elected, I've had the privilege of visiting so many charities and organisations supporting our communities— and I'm both appreciative and inspired by your work and service to provide support to those in need.

I'm deeply thankful for the trust you've placed in me, and I look forward to working hard for you and representing Suffolk Coastal in the year ahead.

Wishing you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Jenny Riddell-Carpenter MP.

Cratfield Allotment to Rent

*CPC has a large allotment available
from the 1st October for Cratfield residents.*

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VILLAGE HALL UPDATE – DECEMBER

SUNDAY 1 DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS FAIR – 10AM- 1PM

We have 15 independent crafters, makers and bakers – with a waiting list if any drop out. Come along for a huge range of stocking fillers, gift and decoration ideas for everyone, whatever your budget. We are also offering breakfast (or brunch dependent on what time you make it along!) – with a delicious range of fresh breakfast rolls, all using local ingredients – and fresh ground coffee / tea and home-made mince pies.

POP UP PUB – FRIDAY 6th DECEMBER 6PM

Watch out on the village Facebook page for the menu – usually posted up the Monday before. If you would like to go on the rota to help behind the bar, please do let us know on caroline@wisbey-brown.co.uk

CRATFIELD VILLAGE HALL 100 CLUB – DECEMBER WINNERS

The 100 Club winners for December are;
1st prize (£15) number 17 - Carole Loades; 2nd prize (£10) number 26 - Pam Goodey; and 3rd prize (£5) number 30 - Nick Eade.
Draw by D. Britton. Congratulations to our winners!

INDOOR BOWLS – ALTERNATE TUESDAYS

The dates for 2024 are - Dec 10th

Dates for 2025 = January 7th + 21st, February 4th + 18th, March 4th + 18th, April 1st + 15th + 29th, May 27th, June 3rd + 17th, July 1st + 15th + 29th, August 12th + 19th, September 2nd + 16th + 30th, October 14th + 28th, November 25th, December 9th.

Do come along and have a go – no experience required – all good fun!

Tea & Coffee available and there is a suggested donation of £2 to play.

Any queries please contact Nigel 07445351861 or Elliott 07963676207.

CRATFIELD VILLAGE HALL MEETINGS – 7.00pm

Thursday 13th February, 15th May, 14th August, 13th November
+ Open Forum/AGM/Committee Meeting

EVENTS FOR YOUR 2025 DIARY !

Village Hall Talks - Saturday 12th April Saturday 25th October

We have another 2 fascinating topics and speakers for you lined up.

Pop the dates in your diary now, more details next month.

Dog Show - Sunday 4th May

Following the huge success of the 2024 Dog Show it is back for 2025.

A great spectator event - even if you do not own a four-legged friend!

Murder Mystery & Food Night - Saturday 19th July

Yes – you read it right!

We are combining our ever-popular food night with a Murder Mystery evening...

Classic Car Event - Sunday 14th September

With such a great turnout for the recent ‘Classic Cars & Breakfast’ event

we are going to put on an even bigger and better event in 2025

On behalf of the village I'd like to offer a huge vote of thanks to all new, present and past members of the village hall committee for everything they do throughout the year to provide us with such a range of activities and entertainment. Without these our village would be very different place, lacking in spirit and community. Keep up the good work, you are all very much appreciated. Sue (Ed)

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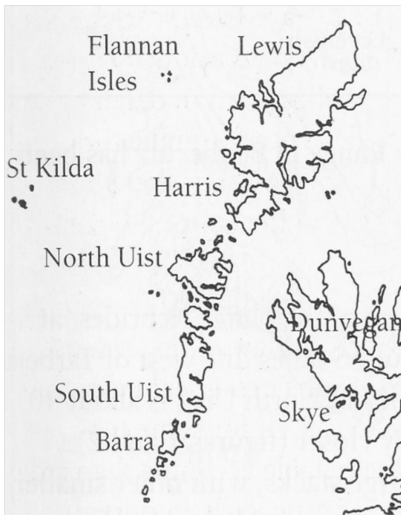
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Exploring the Scottish Islands – with a collapsible bike!
St Kilda (Population: 0 – last inhabitants evacuated in 1930)
Part 2: Boreray and the Stacs



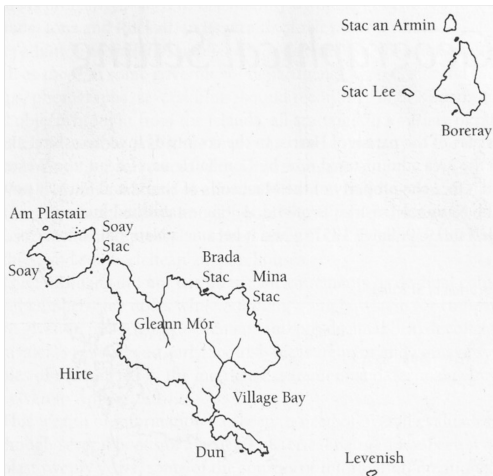
The setting of the St Kilda archipelago could not be more dramatic: the islands are the remains of an ancient volcano which played a part in the opening up of the North Atlantic, 65 -52 million years ago during the Paleocene era. At this time, many continents were linked with land bridges, and South America, Antarctica and Australia were yet to separate from each other. 75% of all dinosaurs had been wiped out (caused by what is accepted to have been an asteroid) and mammals were just starting to come out of the evolutionary shadows.

Back to the present! Sailing westwards from the Outer Hebrides (which can be an experience in itself!), the excitement mounts when land is first spotted. The island of Boreray, and its two attendant sea stacs, are the first assault on the senses. Boreray is

verdant and you can see Blackface sheep, now feral, grazing there (these are descended from North Atlantic short-tailed sheep, associated with neolithic farmers thousands of years ago): the sheep were left behind when the St Kildans abandoned their way of life in 1930.

...But what steals the show are the two sea stacs, standing guard either side of Boreray. Stac Lee and Stac an Armin take your breath away; both are like giant fangs rising dramatically and arrogantly out of the sea, and stabbing the sky above you. Everything you look at is vertical and awe-inspiring, the skies filled with wheeling seabirds - and you soon get neck-ache; one minute gazing upwards to

the impossible heights, the next minute down to the sea as you trace the numerous gannets plunging out of the stratosphere, becoming airborne darts homing in on an unfortunate fish beneath the waves. Every piece of land in the archipelago had a purpose - it was harvested for what it had to offer, no matter how dangerous expeditions were. Many islands were near-impossible to get onto, due to the absence of landing places or mooring points, violently heaving seas and slippery seaweed adorning every surface. Men and boys were lost in seafaring, and climbing,



accidents, yet every scrap of land was used for something: subsistence farming was the only way to survive in this beautiful, yet devilishly harsh environment. As you crane your neck to look up at these monstrous, vertical fangs, it seems impossible that anyone could ever get a toehold on one, let alone harvest seabirds and eggs from them. It then seems utterly ridiculous to learn that there are dry-stone bothies (shelters) on all of these islands, including the stacs: some have been dated way back to the Iron Age. *The Iron Age!!* Just as well, because there have been times when a boat has been wrecked and people stranded on these pinnacles, sometimes for months at a time, as happened in 1727. Everything about St Kilda is so dramatic, that much of it seems scarcely believable!

Passing Boreray, the other islands come into view: Hirta was the main island where the St Kildans lived (the abandoned village is still there to this day, in what is called 'Village Bay'). The population waxed and waned over time, affected by infant mortality, other deaths (such as accidents & illness) and occasional emigration. In 1700, there were 180 inhabitants, but this dive-bombed in 1727 with an outbreak of smallpox: this meant that a rescue mission for the 3 men and 8 boys stranded on Stac An Armin could not be mounted. (They had gone to the stac to collect young gannets and feathers: instead, they had to over-winter there in a small dry-stone bothy on a ledge 125m above the sea, from August 1727 until mid-May 1728 when the island factor found them. They survived on little more than raw eggs and rainwater.) The smallpox outbreak decimated the island, leaving just four families supporting 26 orphans, which seems hardly viable in such a hostile environment. However, some immigration occurred in following years and the population then hovered at between 80 – 100. In 1852, 36 emigrated to Australia, but there was disease and death during the voyage: just 19 survived the voyage and one large family ended the voyage reduced to just 6 orphans. (A seaside district of Melbourne is called 'St Kilda' named after its immigrants from the archipelago.) The islanders were devastated when news of the deaths of family and friends reached them: moreover, they never received



a full explanation of what had really happened. *The St Kilda story is full of hardship, danger and tragedy...*

Stac Lee: On a ledge, 120 m up, there's a bothy – complete with small sleeping area and fireplace!

Next month: Part 3 – The St Kildan Way of Life

Andrew Weight

Cratfield Parish Council

Meeting Dates 2024

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

- Tuesday 12th March 2024 at 7.30 pm
- Tuesday 14th May 2024 at 7.30 pm
– Annual Parish Meeting & Annual Parish Council Meeting
- Tuesday 9th July 2024 at 7.30 pm
- Tuesday 10th September 2024 at 7.30 pm
- Tuesday 12th November 2024 at 7.30 pm

*The agenda is displayed three days before the meeting in the village noticeboards and on CPC's website: www.cratfield.onesuffolk.net
Planning meetings are arranged as and when required and extra meetings may be scheduled if necessary.*

~ Members of the public are welcome to attend the meetings ~

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Mace

The Right Rev'd Martin Seeley, the Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, is delighted to announce that the Rev'd Chrissie Smart has been appointed as Priest in Charge of the Four Rivers Benefice.



A licensing date will be confirmed in due course. Chrissie is presently Associate Priest in the Four Rivers Benefice.

Please pray for Chrissie as she prepares for her new role.

Dear Friends,

Firstly, I must thank you all for your kind messages of condolence at the loss of my dear partner, Michelle. At a time when we were celebrating my appointment as Incumbent at Four Rivers for the next two years, it seems impossible that she has gone yet I know that she wanted me to continue despite her failing health.

As we enter the season of Advent and the purple array, it is time to stop and think about the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ – to reflect upon all of the wonderful things that God our Father intended for us. Yet as we look around the world, we can see that humankind still has a lot to learn. Perhaps it is a time to stop talking about one another and instead talk to one another face to face? There was a lovely saying I heard the other day, and it seems so relevant at the present time for many reasons. *'There are three sides to every story: your side, my side, and the truth. And no one is lying. Memories shared serve each differently.'*

Wishing you all a happy and joyous Christmas.
Prayers and blessings for all,

Rev'd Chrissie

DECEMBER CRATFIELD CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 8th	Friday 20th	Sunday 22nd	Christmas Day
6.00pm Evening Prayer	6.00pm Carol Service	9.00am Holy Communion	10.00am Village Worship
Malachi 3:1-4 Philipp 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6		Micah 5:2-5a Hebrews 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-45(46-55)	

DECEMBER BENEFICE SERVICES

Dec	1st	8th	15th	22nd	Christmas Eve	Christmas Day
Bedfield	10.30am H Comm			10.30am Morning Praise	11.30pm Midnight Mas	
Brundish					6.30pm Carols 11.30pm Midnight Mass	
Laxfield	10.30am Celtic Service	10.30am Morning Praise	10.30am H Comm	6.00pm Hartismere House	4.00pm Carol Service	10.30am Family Comm
Monk Soham		11.00am BCP Morning Prayer	2.30pm Carol Service			10.30am Family Service with short H C
Tannington	11.00am H Comm					
Wilby	10.30am Village Worship	10.30am H Comm	10.30am Village Worship	6.00pm Carol Service		9.00am Family Comm
Worlingworth	Support Tannington	11.00am Morning Prayer	11.00am H Comm	3.00pm Carol Service	3.00pm Crib Service 9.00pm 1 st Comm	

SUNDAY 29TH 10.30AM BENEFICE HOLY COMMUNION - LAXFIELD
Saturday 14th 3.30pm Carols by candlelight Bedfield
Friday 20th 6.30pm Carols Southolt, 7.00pm Carols Tannington

DIRECTORY:

Local Officers:

Church:

Priest in Charge of the Four Rivers Benefice

Rev'd Chrissie Smart rev.chrissiesmart@gmail.com 07803 134301

Assistant Curate Rev. Clive Mobbs 07340 838639

Parish Council:

Chairperson Lotty Barbour 01986 798099

Parish Clerk Sally Chapman 07774 734411

Parish Council Website www.cratfield.onesuffolk.net

Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator

Village Hall:

Chairperson Andy Barringer 01986 798346

Vice Chair Jo Cerullo 01986 798656

Bookings Robert King 01986 798975

Laxfield All Saints C of E Primary School

Head of School Mrs Minns 01986 798344

Doctors' Surgery

Fressingfield 0379 586227

Stradbroke 01379 384220

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