

CRATFIELD NEWS

July 2025

Midsummer Madness Returns!

Cratfield Millenium Meadow

Saturday 5th July

Music from 18:30

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♪ Station 366 ♪

♪ Paul Marfleet ♪

♪ Murphey's Law ♪

R.I.P.

It is with great sadness we announce the passing of Anna- Louise Pasque. Anna-Lou lived for many years at Field House. Over the years many people got to know her, helped raise money for her treatment and helped with her exercise routine. She could be seen on her tricycle or out walking with her mum and the dogs. Although she had moved away to Ipswich she visited Cratfield regularly.

Her health had been declining over recent months and she died in hospital after a short illness, she will be greatly missed.

Andy and Julie would like to thank people for their kind words and cards and all those who helped with Anna-Lou over the years.

Her funeral will be on July 2nd at 11.15am at 7 Hills Crematorium

Well, well, well!

The wonderful residents of Cratfield have done it again. You have supported another Cratfield event and enabled it to be an astonishing success. I'm talking, of course, about the plant sale, tea and chat and stroll around my garden on Sunday 8th June. I just wanted to be able to let everyone enjoy the garden which was really all Caroline's work over the 8+ years since we moved to the village and for all to simply get together. I thought that I could sell some of the cuttings etc I had been growing and be able to donate a sum to the St Mary's Church fund. I had not quite anticipated the extraordinary generosity shown by all! Your kindness has allowed me to pass all the money raised to the Church Fund - a total of £772.41! Thank you so much everyone and especially those of you who donated cakes, Susan for serving teas etc and Tim and Sue who took over the plant sales (please see the article regarding the famous Nepalese Nettle). Finally, thank you to my long-suffering children Sam and Emily and granddaughter Isobel for non-stop work over the weekend.

Paul Marfleet

Welcome

A very warm welcome to 'RED' who has recently joined Dan, Linzi and Nell

He's a very handsome boy. Jn !t vsf !Of mxx jntcf !t i px joh!i jn !u f !spqf t !gds of yulzf bst ! Cf t uDsbu f re!Eph "

*Boe-!b!journ!cf rbuf erz-x f rdpn f !brnp!up! NP[[JF !x i p!i bt !sf df ouz!dpn f !up! jnvf !x ju !Sf cf ddb-!Spcf suboe!Cvh/!!Bt !Ji bwf o ut f f oli jn !zf uJdbo u dpn . n f oup!i jt !pp! t !cvuJn !t vsf !i f !jt !f r vbnz!pavf e!!Kvt un f ui jn -!i f t ! i boet pn f !upp"!!!!!!!!!!!!!!Tvf !)Fe/**

The history of the rare Nepalese Nettle.

'It was my great grandfather on my mother's side who had an interest in insects and plants but mainly the latter. He was an avid collector apparently and being quite wealthy was able to fund many trips to collect rare plants. He travelled widely and especially to mountainous regions. He left his collection to his son, Melville deMellow who spent most of his life in India although retired to Ipswich! When he died, some of the collection had been lost but many seeds were passed to an uncle of mine who had no interest in botany at all. However, he did leave tiny envelopes of labelled seeds to all his nephews and nieces. Thus, I inherited six seeds with spidery writing on the envelope "Nepalese Nettle'. I was intrigued and researched as best I could. There were many rumours regarding this very rare plant which grew only in harsh conditions above some 4,000 feet. It was said to have remarkable healing properties as a poultice but other stories seemed to imply that when eaten 'neat' was hallucinogenic. I decided last autumn that I would try and grow this elusive plant from my six seeds. Just one of them sprouted and the result was a single Nepalese Nettle. Being unwilling to explore its' hallucinogenic qualities I added it to the plant sale table, warning Tim and Sue Ackerly that they should be sure that they obtained a suitable price but that the nettle must only be sold with warnings as to its nature.

So, one of you lovely Cratfield residents is now the proud owner of the exceedingly rare (possibly the only surviving specimen) of the Nepalese Nettle. Please take good care of my nettle!

Paul Marfleet

Plant Sale

Next June 2026, Cratfield Village Hall will be running a plant sale, with perhaps a few extra stalls and the usual excellent refreshments. But, mostly plants for sale for your garden.

We are asking those in the village with green fingers to grow a few extra plants for us. Whether you are sowing this autumn, splitting bulbs or even if you won't get going until after the crocuses are out next year, anything you can raise for us will be gratefully received. There will be more information to come as the plans are refined. For further information or ideas, talk to Natalie McKay or any member of the Village Hall Committee

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Cllr Richard Chivers Tel: 07900 187350 - Silverleys Green collection

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Home is the Sailor, Home from the Sea.....

Around about the end of January or early February 1993, I was told that I was to be promoted to Rear Admiral and would have to return to UK to take up in May the new post of Director General of Naval Personnel Policy and Services, based in Portsmouth – a bit of a mouthful, but now happily changed to something much briefer and clearer. I had rather mixed feelings about this. Of course, it was a great honour, but it meant that my time in Ark Royal, which I was so much enjoying, particularly since we were leading a naval task group on a live operation, would be ending rather earlier than I had hoped. Important though my new job was, it did not compare with sea command. Moreover, it meant that my sea-going days were coming to an end, although I would have the occasional day or two at sea. But since my great love in the Navy was ships, it was a sad as well as a proud moment.

My successor, a former Fleet Air Arm pilot whom I knew well, was going to join us in Naples, which meant a few days in that very exciting city, so we left the Adriatic again for a week and berthed in the centre of Naples. Initially the visit was a standard one – an official reception, followed by dinner in a marvellous sea front restaurant where I had the pleasure of sitting next to the charming and very entertaining widow of the composer, Sir William Walton,¹ who continued to run their music college and concerts on the island of Ischia in Naples Bay. A couple of days later, however, my successor, Captain Terry Loughran, arrived and the emphasis changed. As well as introducing him to the key people in the ship, I took him to meet the British Admiral commanding NATO Naval Forces in the Mediterranean, and then to Rome to meet Admiral Mariani, the Commander of the Italian Fleet. As we drove to Rome, we passed the famous monastery on Monte Casino, the site of a major WW2 battle and a reminder that we had serious business on hand.

A couple of days later, with mixed emotions, I “signed the ship over” to Terry and with my second in command, Roger, climbed up to the Flight Deck where I found the whole ship’s company mustered to say farewell. I made a short speech, thanking them for what they had done and for being so happy and friendly a crew and wished them well for the remainder of their deployment. They eventually returned to Portsmouth in August after taking part in NATO’s air strikes against Serbia. A few years later I had occasion to entertain Admiral Mariani in my house at the Fleet Headquarters in Northwood and was able to ask him what he had thought about it all. As ever, he was very courteous and correct!

Then I got into the red Jaguar for the last time and was towed by a party of lady sailors to the aircraft lift and taken down to a boat to be rowed ashore by my heads of department. Almost before I knew it, I was on my way to the airport and a future naval career mainly ashore. At the airport, I confess I felt rather lost. So lost, indeed,

that I mislaid my boarding pass and nearly missed my flight! I had always loved being at sea and in company with some fine people many of whom I was proud to be able to think of as friends, as well as professional colleagues. I cannot imagine working with better, more motivated and more skilled people, with a greater sense of commitment, collaboration and camaraderie than those shipmates I had met in the Navy. Everyone knew their job was vital to the success of the whole ship and that the lives of their colleagues might depend on them doing their bit successfully. It was a sad moment.

Almost before I knew it, I was at Gatwick with a short leave ahead before starting a rather different kind of naval life and a different challenge. And to bring me down to earth again, the airline had left some of my baggage in Naples!

1. Perhaps best known for composing the wonderful incidental music for Lawrence Olivier's film of "Henry V", made as a morale booster during WW2 and for a fine violin concerto.

Jeremy Blackham

Mobile Library Dates 2025

Silverleys Green 14.00-14.20 The Poacher 14.30-14.45
July 8th, August 8th, September 2nd, 30th. October 28th,
November 26th, December 23rd.

Cratfield Parish Council Awarded Grant to Improve Play Area

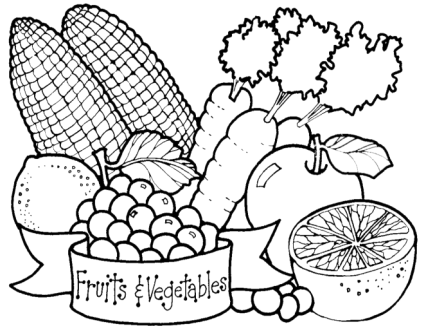
Cratfield Parish Council is pleased to announce it has received a grant from East Suffolk District Council's Outdoor Playing Space Fund.

The funding has been used to replace the two swing seats and chains in the village play area and to purchase additional rubber chipping. The new chipping will be laid beneath the play equipment in the autumn to improve safety and ensure a softer landing surface for children.

The Council is grateful for this support, which will help maintain a safe and welcoming space for families in the parish.

Cratfield Allotment to Rent

CPC has a large allotment
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VILLAGE HALL UPDATE – JULY

CRATFIELD POP UP PUB

Come along for something to drink (& eat) at the Cratfield pop up pub in the Village Hall on the first Friday of every month. The pop-up pub is a great way to catch up with neighbours and friends - and meet new people from around Cratfield.

Friday 4th July 6pm-10pm

For July pop up the **pizza van** will be back offering a delicious range of pizza options, so ditch the turkey twizzlers and don't miss out!

Then plan ahead!

We are delighted to be featuring live music at the pop up on Friday 1st August. Laxfield band the Acronyms play feelgood covers and always go down well. Teamed with great weather (we are due some) and a fantastic barbecue, it's an evening not to be missed!

Plus, we have Oli's Mexican night in September before the return of Cratfield Kitchen who will keep us going through the winter!

CRATFIELD VILLAGE HALL 100 CLUB – JULY WINNERS This month's winners are: first prize (£15) number 63 – Wendy Thomas; second prize (£10) number 26 – Pam Goodey; and 3rd prize (£5) number 47 – Sue Ackerley. Draw by J Carlbach. Many congratulations to the winners!

INDOOR BOWLS AT THE VILLAGE HALL – ALTERNATE TUESDAYS

Dates for 2025: July 1st, 15th and 29th//August 19th//September 2nd, 16th and 30th//October 14th and 28th//November 25th//December 9th. Come along and have a go – no experience needed, just have fun! Tea and coffee available. Suggested £2 donation for use of the hall. All enquiries to Nigel 07445351861 or Elliott 07963676207 - or just turn up!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES: ___ An exciting Autumn ahead...

CLASSIC CARS, MOTORBIKES & BREAKFAST - Sunday 14th September

Last year's event was so successful, we're going for 'bigger and better' this year, doubling (at least) the number of classic cars, and inviting classic bikes as well. We're also extending the event by an hour (ending at 2pm), so you

can buy that extra bacon or sausage bap you always promised yourself! Come to the village hall to see some stupendous machines in all their gleaming glory, and enjoy breakfast or brunch with your friends and neighbours! Tea, coffee, soft drinks and Duckhams also available! *Do you (or does a friend) have an interesting vehicle to display? Please book early via cratfieldvillagehall@gmail.com to reserve a place.*

ACOUSTIC NIGHT SPECIAL - Saturday 18th October. This popular Cratfield event returns with a twist: performers will all be a surprise – to be revealed on the night! All proceeds will go to St Elizabeth Hospice so this definitely deserves a place holder in your diary.

A MURDER AT CRATFIELD TOWERS – Saturday 25 October. Cratfield Talks proudly presents the village's own Natalie McKay. Another excellent reason not to leave the village this autumn!

CRATFIELD VILLAGE HALL MEETINGS – 7pm on 14 August and 13 November (with Open Forum and AGM)

CRATFIELD VILLAGE HALL 100 CLUB – TIME TO RENEW!

Subscriptions are now due for the club's 2025/2026 season. Don't forget for just £1 a month for a year, you are in the draw to win £15, £10 or £5 prizes EACH MONTH.

So fill out the forms which appeared in May's edition of Cratfield News, text Helen on 07818046955 or pick up a spare form at the pop up if you have lost yours.

The 100 Club has benefitted the Village Hall for many years, contributing towards such items as the glass washer, picnic benches and water heaters.

Don't forget - You have to be in it to win it

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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LAMMAS CELEBRATION

Worlingworth
Church

Sunday 3rd August

09:30 | HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE

11:00 | LAMMAS CELEBRATION SERVICE

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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Exploring the Scottish Islands – with a collapsible bike!
St Kilda (Population: 0 – last inhabitants evacuated in 1930)
Part 9: Evacuation



So determined were the St Kildans to leave their island that, in 1930, no-one bothered to sow their crops that year – except one person: Neil Ferguson was running the little Post Office, which, as well as dealing with mail, sold items to tourists such as socks, scarves and postcards. The business was doing well (*for the Horizon computer system had yet to be invented*) and he wanted to stay – but even he realised, eventually, that the end had come. The St Kildans' petition to leave was not entirely unexpected, but it nevertheless caused some hand-wringing and then urgent planning at Government level; eventually, 29th August was selected as the evacuation date (any later and the weather would deteriorate). Nurse Williamina Barclay had seen her role

change from island nurse to advisor, and she became hugely important in convincing the St Kildans that, for the sake of their children, they should leave. She consoled the islanders when the tears streamed down their faces as realisation set in, and she acted as a major organiser in the evacuation itself. She advised the St Kildans to take with them only a few items which would be of most use to them in their new life. Nevertheless, large quantities of wool were taken aboard; it would be a waste not to, and would be a useful source of income. The St Kildans had knitted and weaved for generations, and they planned to continue. Over 650 sheep had



been transported for sale in Oban previously and the Scottish Department of Agriculture sent 2 shepherds with their dogs to round up the remaining sheep at evacuation time. It was not easy, with many sheep plunging over the cliffs and those on Boreray having to be abandoned for eternity. But 500 sheep were rounded up and then the hard work of loading

them onto the steamer started: it took many hours, as boatloads of a dozen at a time were ferried across until the early hours. At 3am, in the Fergusons' house,

there was a short reading, a short prayer and a few verses of a psalm were sung, in the last act of reverence to the Almighty: at daybreak, the remaining sheep had to be loaded aboard the steamer. In the morning, the very last mailbags were loaded aboard and a final St Kildan mailboat was launched: inside, there was a single post-card addressed to the islands' owner at Dunvegan, Skye: it read, simply, "This is the last mail from St Kilda." The islanders prepared for departure. They stoked up their fires with fresh coal and peat, and they put on their best clothes. Family prayers were said for the last time and, as was the custom among Gaelic people, a Bible was left open in each house. And then the doors were closed for the last time.

The crossing was to be a calm one. As their steamer drew away, all the St Kildans gathered at the stern of the boat in silence. Flora Gillies, then a 10 year old schoolgirl, later said, "It was really quite sad to see the chimneys and knowing we would never be back again." Several hours later, when the smoke from the chimneys petered out, it was probably the first time there hadn't been a fire lit on St Kilda for over a thousand years. The eldest islanders left with the heaviest of hearts: many of them had never left the island before and could speak no English. They were also uncertain of where they were going, and whether they would be kept together as a community. All the male islanders had been offered a job with the Forestry Commission. None of them had seen a tree before and didn't know what one was.

Most of the St Kildans were settled in Lochaline in the Morvern district, opposite Mull. It was chosen for its sparse community and close proximity to the sea – but they had much to get used to: working for a boss, regular hours and earning a wage were all foreign to a community that decided its own hours and shared everything out equally. In later years, some St Kildans revisited their old homes; a reminder of times gone by. Their existence on the island may have been tough, brutal and extreme – but it was home.



Former residents in 1980, back on St Kilda for the 50th anniversary of its evacuation

Next month: Part 10 – Voyage to St Kilda
Andrew Weight

Cratfield Parish Council

Meeting Dates 2025

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

- Tuesday 14th January 2025 at 7.30 pm
- Tuesday 11th March 2025 at 7.30 pm
- Tuesday 13th May 2025 at 7.30 pm
– Annual Parish Meeting & Annual Parish Council Meeting
- Tuesday 8th July 2025 at 7.30 pm
- Tuesday 9th September 2025 at 7.30 pm
- Tuesday 11th November 2025 at 7.30 pm

The agenda is displayed on village noticeboards and on CPC's website (<https://cratfield-pc.gov.uk>) three days before the meeting. Planning meetings and additional meetings may be arranged as needed.

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

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Mace

Dear Friends,

I am writing this following Trinity Sunday and reflecting upon how we are at a watershed in the church's year. We can look back to recall everything that we have celebrated since Advent Sunday 2024 including the prophecy of the Messiah's coming, his life, his death and resurrection, his ascension, and the coming of the Holy Spirit who leads us into all truth. The penultimate Sunday in June heralds the beginning of the 'Green' Sundays of the year, which serves to prepare us for the rest of the liturgical year, until Advent 2025. This is the time of year when we are encouraged to grow our communities in Christ and I am looking forward to watching how we nurture our churches and at the same time, look to see what we might grow alongside all of the traditional services that are well known and loved. So far this year we have celebrated what I call the 'Rural Services' being Plough Sunday at Cratfield, Rogation Sunday at Wilby and in August, we will be celebrating Lammas at St Mary's, Worlingworth.

At the next edition of the magazines, many folk will be off on holiday and the schools will be breaking up in July and there will be time for us all to reflect upon what it is that we would like to see happen in our churches, in our communities. The START course held at the Royal Oak in Laxfield for those exploring faith has worked well and I am looking forward to being able to extend this in the benefice during the autumn. The big question is what we might do in our churches during the week – thoughts on a postcard please!!

I have enjoyed the return of Tea at the Vicarage since January this year which takes place on the last Thursday in the month. I am also looking to see how this might be extended across the benefice to other venues in the autumn making it accessible, particularly during the winter months for people in Monk Soham, Bedfield, Worlingworth and Tannington.

Prayers and blessings to all, Chrissie

The Reverend Chrissie Smart Priest in Charge Four Rivers Benefice

07803 134301

Forest Church

Coming closer to God through nature

Where: The Vale, off Vicarage Rd, Laxfield
what3words: ///sailed.advances.engraving

Limited parking on site, so if you are more mobile, please meet by All Saints Church at 2.45pm and we will ferry you from there

When: Sunday 13th July 3pm to 4pm

Contact: Rev. Clive Mobbs: rev.clive.mobbs@gmail.com 07340 838639

Forest Church is for people of all ages. Nature-inspired activities, informal outdoor worship and refreshments.

No need to book. Please wear suitable clothing and footwear for being outside in all weathers Bring a chair if you want to sit down.

This event is organised by the Bridge4Rivers project, part of Suffolk's Lightwave community.

JULY CRATFIELD CHURCH SERVICES

| | |
|--|---|
| Sunday 13th | Sunday 27th |
| 9.30am | 9.00am |
| Village Worship | Holy Communion |
| Amos 7:7-end Colossians 1:15-28 Luke 10:38-end | Hosiah 1:2-20 Colossians 2:6-15(16-19) Luke 11:1-13 |

JULY BENEFICE SERVICES

| JULY | 6th | 13th | 20th | 27th |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|---|---|-------------------------------|
| Bedfield | | 11.00am Pet Service | | 10.30am Holy Communion |
| Brundish | | | 10.30am Holy Communion Bryan Bayman | |
| Laxfield | 10.30am Celtic Morning Prayer | 10.30am Holy Communion 3.00pm Forest Church See ad opposite | 10.30am Pet Service | 6.00pm Hartismere House |
| Monk Soham | | 11.00am Morning Prayer | 11.00am Holy Communion | 11.00am Family Service |
| Tannington | | | | |
| Wilby | 10.30am Holy Communion | | 10.30am Village Worship | 10.30am Morning Prayer |
| Worlingworth | 11.00am Holy Communion | | 11.00am Let's Celebrate | 11.00am BCP Morning Prayer |

DIRECTORY:

Local Officers:

Church:

Priest in Charge of the Four Rivers Benefice

Rev'd Chrissie Smart rev.chrissiesmart@gmail.com 01986 743339
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Assistant Curate Rev. Clive Mobbs 07340 838639

Parish Council:

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Parish Clerk Sally Chapman
clerk@cratfield-pc.gov.uk

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Parish Council Website

www.cratfield.onesuffolk.net

Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator

Village Hall:

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Vice Chair Jo Cerullo

01986 798656

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