CRATFIELD NEWS

July 2026



MIDSUMMER MADNESS



Saturday July 11th

from 19·00



MILLENNIUM MEADOW



Music Bar BBQ

cash only





THANK YOU

Chrissie would like to thank those of you who gave donations for the bric-a-brac she was selling at the top of her drive. The money went to charity and Chrissie has received a letter from Battersea Dogs and Cats home expressing thanks for the £30 donation which will help give a little more comfort to the animals which need it most.

WELL DONE AND THANK YOU

What a huge amount of work must have gone on in the churchyard on June 13th. I wasn't there this time, but the splendid results are to be seen if you just take a walk around. On behalf of the village I'd like to express thanks to all who turned up to help keep the grounds of our beautiful church looking so well cared for.

CRATFIELD OCCASIONAL CYCLING CLUB

The aim of the Cratfield Occasional Cycling Club is to enjoy, in no particular order, cycling, Suffolk and socialising. All sizes and shapes of bicycles and cyclists are welcome.The next outing will be at 0900 on Saturday 25 July. The route is yet to be decided but will be about 2.5 hours, including a coffee-break.If you would like to join in and are not already in the WhatsApp group please let me know.

Charlie Wilson Potters Roost 07880 654113 charlie@wilson.org

THANK YOU !

Sue, who is 'Miss Careful' and requires me to complete a 4 page Risk Assessment if I wish to climb a matchbox; managed to fling herself from a sitting position on a kitchen chair and fracture her right femur. She was treated speedily and efficiently at Ipswich Hospital and is now recovering well at home.
We are both grateful for the professional skill, care and service but have been especially thankful for the many friends and neighbours in Cratfield who have been so very good in offering help and assistance, particularly in ferrying me to and from Ipswich, and providing personal care for Sue.
We have been surrounded by people wanting to help and have been reminded yet again that Cratfield is both a pleasant and good place to live.
A huge thank you, all the kindness and thoughtfulness has been very much appreciated.

Peter Baker

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Cratfield History

Further to the communication from Tony Creasey in April's magazine regarding his family and its place in Cratfield history I had a few questions for him. One of the graves in our churchyard belongs to Philip Creasy who sadly died shortly before his 3rd birthday, here is what happened to the little boy.

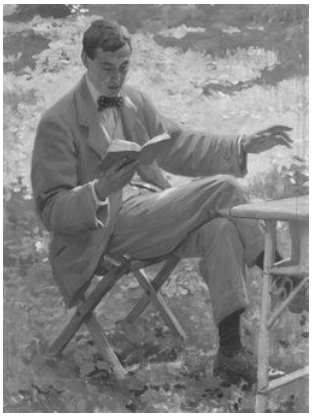


INQUEST AND FUNERAL.—An inquest was held on Saturday evening by Mr. G. E. Burne, Coroner for the Liberty of the Duke of Norfolk, on Philip L. Creasy, the son of Mr. Noel L. Creasy, aged two years and ten months, who lost his life by falling into a pond at the Moat Farm. The lad was playing in the yards with two brothers just after seven o'clock on Thursday evening and on being missed was found by Mrs. Creasy floating in the pond. Mr. Creasy at once pulled him out and summoned medical aid. Artificial respiration was resorted to but without effect. The Jury after hearing the evidence returned a verdict of accidental drowning, they also passed a vote of condolence with the bereaved parents which the Coroner feelingly endorsed.—The funeral took place on Monday afternoon at Cratfield churchyard. The mourners were Mr. and Mrs. Creasy (father and mother) Dorothy Creasy (sister) Willmot and Noel Creasy (brothers) Misses Minnie and Zoe Symonds (aunts) Mr. R. Symonds (grandfather), Mr. and Mrs. Noah Creasy (great uncle and great aunt), and Mr. Noah Creasy (uncle). A number of the Parishioners were present at the church including Mrs. A. E. Johnson, Mrs. R. Sillett, Mrs. Donaldson, and Mr. and Mrs Mobbs.

Tony also wrote about several other tragedies in the Creasy family……..

"Albert Symonds (older brother of my grandmother Kate) drowned in 1880 at the age of about 7. Also, in an old book containing birth dates etc of members of the Creasy family there is reference to an ancestor called Creasy, William Lummis who was found drowned in 1873 . He was the son of Sarah Creasy born in 1786 in Southolt. Then in about 1940 my sister Ann fell in the pond at Holly Tree farm. If it hadn't been for the screams of her older sister Yvonne, which made my mother come running from the house to see what had happened, she too may have drowned in a pond. She was apparently lying face down in the water with her coat floating on the surface holding her up. She was rescued just in time!"

SIR ALFRED MUNNINGS, R.A. ATTENDED LAXFIELD DAMES' SCHOOL IN 1882



Pictured: Alfred Munnings circa 1911 by Harold Knight

'Although very young, my brother and I were away at a sort of dame's school at Laxfield, Suffolk. This was kept by two sisters, Miss Jane Read and Miss Alice Read. Jane was stoutish and wore a fringe, Alice was turning grey and had a red face. Both were kind.

'We were there, I believe, because of our mother's illness at the time. I was nearly four, and went about with Randolph Caldecott's picture in my mind, for the Misses Read had the Christmas number of *The Graphic* of the early eighties [1880's], and I remember those pictures even more than the landscape around Laxfield. So when my father came to see us [*they were obviously boarders*] on my fourth birthday, bringing with him a beautiful toy horse, a dun coloured horse with a black mane and tail and a head that nodded up and down, being full of Caldecott, I called it Merrylegs; the name taken from *The Graphic* Christmas number wherein Caldecott had pictured a country wedding with snow, grey horses, postboys, wedding bells and breakfast and the young lady who got married going to the stables to say goodbye to her horse Merrylegs.



Pictured: Diana Wood's Wedding: Returning from Church by Randolph Caldecott

'I can see the Misses Read, my father, ourselves, and the [toy] horse on the table, with its head nodding up and down.

'Another Laxfield scene. The wide village street. Its church and Wolf Inn and a country crowd at a fair. My first ride on a dapple grey horse, which I clothed in beauty and sacred wonder. I even dreamt about it. The Steam Horses they were called.'

Text from Munnings *An Artist's Life* 1950

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"There, but for the grace of God……"

Some of you may recall that when I was the navigating officer of HMS Naiad we completed a ten month foreign service commission which included visits to Madeira, to Recife and Rio de Janeiro accompanying Her Majesty in the Royal Yacht and exercising with the Brazilian Navy, Tristan da Cunha, South Africa, six weeks on the Beira Patrol, Christmas in Mombasa and Nairobi, the Seychelles, three months as the Gulf Guardship and finally a spell in the Far East Fleet before coming home[1].

The last part of our deployment included visiting Japan, including Ominato, a quiet country town at the northern tip of Hokkaido, Japan's main island, where we enjoyed a few days of relaxed protocol and rest. Amongst other things, my friend Terry the helicopter pilot and I, with a couple of others, played a tennis match, billed as England v Japan and televised locally! Not surprisingly since we had not even held a tennis racquet for several months, we lost rather comfortably.

All good things come to an end, and after five days we sailed to join up with other ships of the Far East Fleet. We moved out into the Sea of Japan to join up with our sister ships and head south towards the Straits of Tsushima where, in 1905, the Russian Battle Fleet, after sailing round the world from the Baltic via the Cape of Good Hope and the Malacca Strait on a voyage marked by disasters of various sorts, was engaged, destroyed and largely sunk by the Japanese Battle Fleet, under the command of the outstanding Admiral Togo, aka "the Nelson of the East."[2]

We had hoped to see the narrow straits and islands of the battle site but as we approached Tsushima a thick fog descended with visibility of less than 100 yards. The Commander of our group, the Captain of HMS Ajax, was an old-fashioned destroyer captain, keen on traditional high speed close-quarters manoeuvring. He didn't regard dense fog as an obstacle, but rather as a ship handling challenge for his commanding officers. So, perhaps we should not have been surprised when a significant change in formation was signally, despite the fact that none of the ships could actually see each other.

When steaming in company, a "fleet speed" is promulgated at which the ship nominated as "guide" proceeds, together with a stationing speed some knots faster for changing station, and ships are expected to move "snappily" when a change in formation is ordered. Accordingly, we increased to 25 knots and set course for our new station. The Captain and the officer of the watch were looking forward out of the bridge, seeing nothing. Something told me that I, the navigating officer, should closely watch the radar (which to complicate matters showed relative, not true, course and speed).

I quickly became worried as the radar echo of another ship seemed to be converging with us and so I asked the Captain to slow down. But the "blob" continued on a collision course and I said "Stop the ship please, Sir". The "blob" still closed and I

shouted out “Go astern, please Sir.” As we juddered to a halt, the dim outline of HMS Ajax appeared through the fog heading across our bow. We stopped short at what seemed and felt about a cable (a cable is two hundred yards) from her, as she continued across our bow at 25 knots.

There was a rather stunned silence on the bridge and a combined release of breath from everyone there. Then the Captain, who was in fact a very good ship handler, said “Thank you, Pilot[3]. Please take up your new station, Officer of the Watch.”

The Captain and I never spoke of this again – we didn’t need to. We had both had a salutary lesson, and we both knew what could have happened. I blamed myself, because the Navigating Officer is responsible for the general conduct of the Bridge. Rather more surprisingly, and despite our fears that our squadron commander in HMS Ajax might have some harsh words for us, we never heard a whisper from him. Indeed, it subsequently became pretty clear that they had not seen us and didn’t even know how near disaster we had been. We never enlightened them. And I treated myself to a strong gin at dinner time and chalked one up to experience.

“There but for the grace of God……..”

Jeremy Blackham

1. Cf January 2021 – June 2021 Cratfield Magazines

2. The Battle of Tsushima was a copy book battle between major fleets, only Jutland in 1916 (the last such battle) being bigger, though less decisive.

3. The navigating officer of a naval ship is usually addressed as “pilot” and does in fact perform the duties of a ship’s pilot when entering or leaving harbours.

MOBILE LIBRARY DATES

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I'll be there in the Wind

It is not so that the wind cannot read,
I am here in the wind, I am keeping
my word,
And as I pass, it is my need,
To be assured that you have heard,
That in my darkest hours, the care,
You gave me reached into my heart
And there remains; and that where'ere
You chance to be I am a part,
So now from my celestial sphere,
My friend the wind intones this psalm;
There is no pain, there is no fear,
Just blessed peace, Elysian calm.

Gerry Marfleet August 2005



VILLAGE HALL UPDATE - JULY 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 last month'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 PLANT SHOW

A big thank you to everyone who contributed plants, bric a brac and/or cakes (and other deliciousnesses) for the inaugural Cratfield Summer Plant Sale – as well as a big thank you to everyone who came along and ate, drank and – most importantly – purchased! This is (as inaugural implies!) a new venture for the village and the sale was a great success, raising valuable funds for the Hall. Even the weather smiled on us on the day.

CRATFIELD POP UP PUB - Friday 3rd July

The countryside is at its best this month so join us at the **July Cratfield Pop Up Pub**, 6pm-10pm at the village hall. Catch up with neighbours and friends and meet new people in a relaxed and friendly village environment. For July's pop up we will have bar snacks for sale – delicious scotch eggs and sausage rolls (plus vegetarian sweet potato non-sausage rolls) thanks to our friends at The Huntingfield Arms, as well as crisps and – it is summer, after all! – strawberries and cream! Yum! And all perfect with a pint of local beer from the barrel – or with the choice of wines, cider, lager, soft drinks, G&T etc on offer. The bar accepts card & cash payment.

Next month we welcome back popular local music legends The Acronyms, as well as our summer BBQ. What a summer!

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

July 21st ///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 - a date for the Diary:

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

Paul Taylor returns to share more wonderful pictures captured around Cratfield. A definite date to hold in your calendar!

More event dates follow in the autumn so keep checking Cratfield News for all the latest!

CRATFIELD VILLAGE HALL 100 CLUB – JULY WINNERS

To kick off the new 100 Club year, this month's 100 Club winners are: first prize (£15) number 3 – Bronwen Warner; second prize (£10) number 89 – Sandra Taylor; and 3rd prize (£5) number 82 – Anna Sugden. Draw by D Britton. Many congratulations to the winners!

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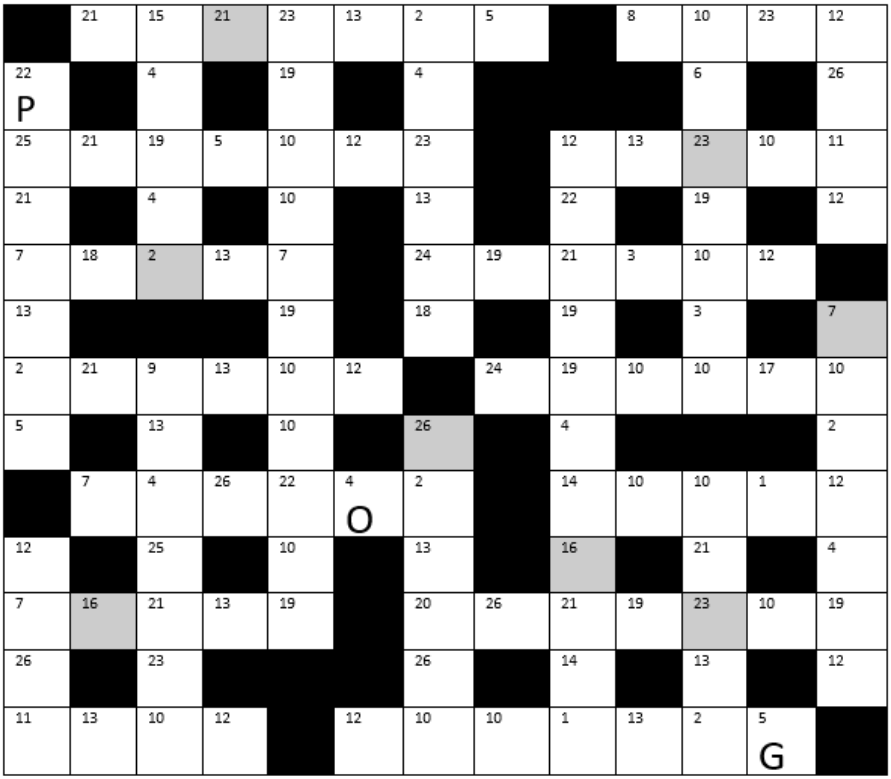
Codeword Puzzle

Solve the codeword and then rearrange the letters in the grey shaded squares to reveal a garden bird.

The codeword is a coded crossword in which every letter is represented by a number; all letters of the alphabet are present in the solution.

As a starter 3 letters have been entered. So, every square that contains 22 will be replaced with a "P"; those with a 4 replaced by "O", and 5 replaced by "G".

As a further clue, two of the words in the solution are also the names of birds that might visit a garden. Other words are not bird related.



1	2	3	4 O	5 G	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22 P	23	24	25	26

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Stronsay lies N.E. of Shapinsay (which itself is slightly N.E. of Mainlaind): the island is known as Orkney's 'Island of Bays', owing to its irregular shape with miles of coastline, and with three large bays separated by two isthmuses.

The Orkney islands are riddled with ancient history and Stronsay is no exception. Two flint arrowheads discovered at a site in April 2007 are believed to date from the late Paleolithic or early Mesolithic periods some 10–12,000 years ago; they could be the earliest human artifacts found in Scotland.



On the eastern coast, spectacular rock formations include the Vat of Kirbister; this has nothing to do with taxation, but is, in fact, Stronsay's famous natural rock arch, often described as the finest in Orkney. The coastline features white sand beaches, numerous dramatic caves, flagstone rock platforms and sea stacks, including a formation called Tam's Castle, reputed to have once housed a hermit on its flat summit.

While the landscape has few trees, the fertile soil supports a wide variety of wildflowers, including the rare blue-flowered oysterplant, frog orchids, adder's tongue, and also a naturalised population of Patagonian ragwort.

The island is home to an enormous winter population of wildfowl, and Stronsay Bird Reserve is said to be one of the best sites in Europe to spot rare migrant birds, with twitchers excitedly reaching for their binoculars: the sheer number of birds that can be seen here is quite extraordinary.

The kelp burning industry was started by James Fea of Whitehall in 1727, and thrived during the remainder of the 18th century, lasting into the early 19th century; some of the kiln ruins can still be seen. James Fea's legacy remains, as "Whitehall" is the name given to the main settlement and ferry port on the island.

Today, Whitehall is a modest little place, but from the 1600s, when originally exploited by the Dutch, it ultimately became the capital of the herring industry, employing up to 5,000 people. At its peak, there were fifteen fish-curing stations, forty pubs(!) and a constant traffic of ships delivering the catch and exporting the finished products, mostly to Baltic markets. The industry declined and was revived in the 1920s and 1930s: the last attempt at revival was in 1960, with the plan of securing a white fish market for export to the USA, but it just didn't take off. Large, two-storeyed houses and two piers are now the sole reminders of days gone by; of prosperous fishing, and bustling families and lodgers filling the houses - swelling the population to well over 1,000. Like many settlements on the islands, Stronsay has boomed and is now, sadly, a shadow of its former self.

At the top end of the island, a stone's throw across the water from Whitehall, lies **Papa Stronsay** which is little more than half a mile across in all directions. Despite its diminutive size, this tiny island played a significant part in Stronsay's economy, with its fertile soil producing luxuriant crops of grain. From the 1600s until 1914, it was also part of the booming fishing industry, with – despite its small size – five fish-curing stations. In 1841, the population stood at 28 (5 houses), dwindling over time until the population was just 4 in 1961. By 1981, the island was unpopulated, and then a London vintner bought the island on impulse in 1988. Once his euphoria had worn off, the island was then purchased in 1999 by the Transalpine Redemptorists (Sons of the Most Holy Redeemer), a Catholic order of monks. The population now consists of priests, monks and novices, living in a monastery and working the farm there to maintain self-sufficiency: the population fluctuates from around 9 to 26. They share the island with landmarks of prehistoric man, two medieval chapels, several derelict crofts - and a number of piers and a quay: relics of this small island's commercial heyday.



The Vat of Kirbister, Stronsay

NN

Next month: Rousay

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

Letter from the

Vicar

Whilst on leave from the Four Rivers Benefice, I have been reflecting upon the benefit of going off into a quiet place and can quite understand why our Lord recommended that we do this. There are many verses in both the Old and New Testaments that explain the importance of doing so. This break away is giving me the opportunity to think more deeply about our churches as there is not the challenge of starting one job before panicking that I have not completed the whole list! So, what am I learning? I am finding that a few quiet moments spent with him is making me strong enough to fulfil the assignments he has planned for me, and I can see more clearly the path that he is leading me along.

We know that our bodies need a time to refresh, but more importantly our spiritual and our emotional lives need much the same thing as our physical lives do. When we don't allow time to rest and regroup from the stresses of life, we allow ourselves to become emotionally and spiritually fragile. We keep going at break-neck speeds, rarely slowing down long enough to be refreshed. So, I pray that you too are going to be able to make time to recharge your batteries and get away for some quiet, reflective time this summer. If you have been away already, I hope that you are reinvigorated. Just remember, Mark 6:31 “... he said to them, 'Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.”

Prayers and blessings – Rev’d Chrissie Smart – 07803 134301

July Services Cratfield

Sunday July 12th	Sunday July 26th
Isaiah 55:10-13 Romans 8:1-11 Matthew 13:1-9,18-23	1 Kings 3:5-12 Romans 8:26-end Matthew 13:31-33,44=52
9.30am Village Worship	9.30am Holy Communion

BENEFICE SERVICES

July	5th	12th	9th	26th
Bedfield	9.30am Holy Communion		11.00am Pet Service	
Brundish			11.00am Holy Communion Rev'd Canon Mark Haworth	
Laxfield	10.30am Celtic Morning Prayer	10.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Chatty Church	6.00pm Hartismere House
Monk Soham	11.00am Family Service	9.30am BCP Morning Prayer	11.00am BCP Holy Communion	
Tannington	11.00am Holy Communion			
Wilby	10.30am Village Worship		9.30am Celtic Morning Prayer	10.30am Holy Communion
Worlingworth		11.00am Holy Communion Rev'd Canon Sharon Coburn	11.00am Morning Prayer	11.00am Let's Celebrate

Saturday July 18th Wilby Choral Evensong 6.30pm

DIRECTORY:

Local Officers:

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Assistant Curate Rev. Clive Mobbs 07340 838639

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Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator

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Vice Chair Jo Cerullo
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