

CRATFIELD NEWS

June 2021



???

Have you ever done something that feels perfectly logical to you, only to discover other people are baffled by it? Confused neighbours keep asking why I now park my car sideways across my drive rather than on the usual nose-forward, rear-to-the-road axis.

Suggestions offered include, 'Has your hand-brake started to fail?' 'Are you trying to block delivery vans reversing into your drive?' and 'Are you worried about reversing straight onto the road these days?'

It's nothing to do with driving or reversing, but is all about the dogs. My pooches are gradually ageing. My Labrador, Lark, is rising seven and as dog owners will know, arthritis is a sad side-effect of being a Labrador. She's fine at the moment but has recently started to refuse to jump into the back of the car, putting her paws on the tailgate and letting me do the rest of the work for her. Having a history of back pain myself, I'm reluctant to heave her 30kg-plus weight twice a day. I'm also concerned about the dogs jumping out onto a hard surface when we come back from a walk. The cumulative pressure on joints builds up.

So, my solution is to park with the rear of my car against the grassy bank at the side of my drive, which means Lark can get in under her own steam. When we come home, both dogs can jump out onto a soft surface. Hopefully, it staves off arthritic changes for a while.

I promised those who asked that I would reveal my reasoning in this issue of the mag. I haven't gone mad yet.

Natalie, Field Cottage

I am also very pleased to be enlightened, Natalie. We too had been wondering. Is it rather sad that, of late, the quirks of our neighbours are all that we have to occupy our minds? Or was it ever thus? Anyway you remain the 'not-so-mad' dog lady of Cratfield!
Sue (Ed)

Apologies for the typographical error in the tribute to Dianne Bullock which appeared in last month's magazine. It should of course have read: 'She was one of the world's really *good* people whom it has been a privilege to know.'
Sue (Ed)

CRATFIELD PLAYING FIELD

Although we had to wait a little longer than planned the landscaping and rearrangement of fencing around the new playing field shelter has now been completed. The Parish Council is pleased with the way the work has been done and with the finished result. Comments so far suggest that people are in agreement that the project is a major improvement on what existed previously. It is planned that a small bench and a couple of flower tubs will be placed on the hard standing. The cost of the project has been met almost entirely by a generous grant from the Heveningham Hall Country Fair Trust and by another grant arranged by Councillor Stephen Burroughes from East Suffolk Council. The Parish Council is grateful for both these grants of significant financial support.



CHARITY PLANT STALL for ST. ELIZABETH'S HOSPICE OPEN DAILY at the LONG HOUSE, SWAN GREEN LANE

The flowers and Sweet Peas are back and now with added extras. Petunias, Lobelia, Lupins, Cosmos, Trailing Geraniums and much more. Come and take a look and fill those gaps in your beds, borders and tubs.

Got any spare plants you would like to donate? Contact Clive on 01986 798030

Walking Group

I am investigating the possibility of creating a Walking Group to take effect sometime later in the year when, hopefully, it will be safer for small groups to meet outside. My eventual ambition would be for this initiative to include all the parishes in the Four Rivers Benefice.

My hope is that enjoying the wide open spaces in which we live, a bit of fresh air and some good cardio-vascular exercise will encourage us all to open our minds and hearts in some great conversation and companionship. Something, I know, we have all missed so greatly this last year or so.

Although it will be a church-based initiative, I am fervently hoping that the church's involvement will not dissuade any non-church goers from including themselves. There are so many things to talk about and it does not have to be all faith-based.

If it all takes off, I may have to think about the fact of vicarious liability and the possibility of public insurance. We will have to see what happens and when and if the church has a responsibility to consider this.

In the meantime, if you are interested in helping me with the setting up of this group and/or joining us when we start, please let me know. I will need all the input I can get. You can call me on 01728 628063 or 07881481745. Both lines have voicemail. My email address is djmulrenan@gmail.com I shall look to hearing from you. With thanks.

David Mulrenan, Assistant Curate

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JUNE QUIZ - Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk

1. Where in Norfolk was Admiral Horatio Nelson born?
2. Which town in Suffolk is known for brewing and malting Greene King IPA?
3. Where in Essex was the 1st wireless factory opened in 1899?
4. Which author lived at Montague House, Southwold from 1832-41?
5. Where can you find the longest pleasure pier in the world?
6. What is the North Norfolk steam railway known as?
7. Which is the oldest recorded town in Essex?
8. What breed of animal is a Suffolk punch?
9. Where is the largest seal colony in England?
10. Where are the annual world snail racing championships held in Norfolk?
11. Where does the District Line (London Underground) start from in the east?
12. Which composer was born in Lowestoft and is connected to the Aldeburgh festival?
13. Which town in Norfolk is famous for crabs?
14. Who is the MP for Witham in Essex and is the Secretary of State for the Home Department?
15. 'The Dig' is a recent film about which historical discovery?
16. Which football teams have home grounds of : Carrow Road ?
Portman Road?
17. Which Harry Potter actor was born in Harlow?
18. Who tested his prototype hovercraft on Oulton Broads in the 1950s?
19. Which town in Essex has a large 'Hollywood' style sign welcoming you?
20. Where is the highest point in Norfolk?

SUE ASKEW

MICHAEL OLIVER

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Cllr Richard Chivers Tel: 07900 187 350 – collect from Silverleys Green



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Dolly the Hedgehog

We recently rescued a hedgehog we found in our garden, lying in the grass in daylight hours, not a good sign as they are nocturnal animals. We fed the hog with cat food which they love, but she was shaky when walking and didn't travel far so we boxed her up, fed/watered her and kept her on a heat pad to combat the effects of dehydration, but she didn't improve, so we ended up taking her to Debenham's Vets (Vets don't charge for wild animal rescue). The vet discovered she was really unwell with chemical burns to her chin and belly, most likely from weed killer, so she was on pain killers for 5 days and antibiotics for two weeks. She is now with a hedgehog rescue centre and putting weight back on. The plan is to re-release her in our garden in a few weeks time as an area she knows. There are several hedgehog rescue centres in Suffolk which we have used in the past, but Dolly was so ill she was an emergency requiring the vet. I am not preaching, but thought our local gardeners would benefit from knowing the possible impact of the use of weed killers – hedgehogs face so many dangers.

David - 'Homelands'

St. Elizabeth Hospice Great Garden Trail

Bev and Gary's garden at 4 The Street, Cratfield is open on
Sunday 4th July 11am – 4pm

All welcome, including well behaved dogs on a lead.

Our allotment is also open to wander round

There will be a stall with some Suffolk Craft Shed glass items for sale
with a percentage of all sales going to the Hospice.

Please come and support this worthy cause.

Helen and Elliot are also opening their garden on the same day at

Yew Trees, Bell Green

So come and make a day of it!

Look forward to seeing you!

The Arrival of Spring, Cratfield, 2021

Cold and dry in April, wet and cool in May. Hasn't the weather been awful this year? Spring crept up so stealthily I hardly seemed to notice it. Then scrolling through my online newspaper, I came upon an enthusiastic and copiously illustrated review of **The Arrival of Spring, Normandy** – an exhibition at the Royal Academy by David Hockney. Spring erupted in all its joyful colour on to my computer screen. The pictures, made on an iPad in his 83rd year by the artist are bright, evocative and capture the spirit of Spring perfectly – look them up if you haven't seen them. They are well worth it.

These pictures made me think about how like an artist Spring is. Whilst I have been drearily measuring the days looking at the BBC weather app Spring has been marking its arrival in Cratfield by splashing colour all over the many shades of green.

All along The Street, Cratfield trees blossomed – white, crimson, pink. The weather has been dismal, but it has been a great year for blossom. The hedges were covered with blooming blackthorn and wild cherry which looked as if it had been slung across them like scarves. The green towers of the horse chestnuts are alight with pale candles. The tangle of green lanes, edged with ditches that surround us have been fringed first by primroses and then by cowslips. This year the cowslips seem fatter, more vivid, and even yellower than ever. There have been dandelions in all their stages. From yellow stars to puffy pale dandelion clocks. And bright yellow buttercups. I remember us holding them under each other's chins to 'see if we liked butter' – which, of course, if the vivid reflections were anything to go by, we invariably did.

As I write this, the borders of the lanes are lined with crowds of elegant cow parsley - tall and slender, bearing flowers of pure white lace that could have been created by Monet.

We have never been fastidious gardeners. If pretty weeds pop up, we tend to leave them for our enjoyment. Our patches of grass – I hesitate to call them lawns - have never sported elegantly mowed stripes. This year we are doing **No Mow May** and they are looking scruffier than ever. But amongst the lush grass the colours of Spring have been allowed free rein. The little white heads of daisies are popping up everywhere – how lovely the way each one clenches up its tiny petals to mark the close of day. We have not cut down one of our prize cowslip specimens, allowing our late Spring garden to glory in the profusion of the fat yellow udders of their flowers. As always, we have let our cow parsley thrive – we cherish it for its lacy flowers and its sculptural shape. Our bits of lawn are becoming a meadow – threaded through with friendly bees.

Roll on June with the hope of warmer weather and the coming of the roses.

Nigel Cousins



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VILLAGE HALL UPDATE – JUNE

Many thanks for all the lovely comments and feedback on the renovated Village Hall Flowerbed – please do bear with us till the planting is more established, which should take around a year or so. Now the weather is improving, a huge thank you to Dennis Rockall for his many hours wielding the mower at the village hall – it makes such a difference and is really appreciated.

The Cratfield Arms / Pop Up Pub 26th June / 31st July / 28th August (all Saturdays) with BBQ !!!

Everything seems to be going to Boris's plan and (fingers crossed) we are really looking forward to seeing everyone and catching up in person! Please note for 3 months only the pop up pub will be on a Saturday with an earlier opening time - **bar opens at 5pm** and **BBQ available from 6PM**. We really hope we can spread outside if the weather is good – so please do bring your own outside / picnic chairs if you have them.

Please remember to bring cash – we are slowly getting there with being able to (hopefully!) take card payments – but this may still take a while....

Photographic Competition – Saturday 9th October – evening.

Now we are all getting out and about a lot more don't forget to take your camera (or make sure your phone has plenty of charge if it has a camera!) in case you can snap something that falls into the following categories – Suffolk Transport / Black & White Cratfield / Suffolk Skylines / Fun category – Suffolk Seaside

Photos can be portrait or landscape but must be printed out at 6" x 8" or 12" x 8" – you can do this in many 'Boots' stores (other stores available!) or via the internet. Don't forget - children can enter for free too!

Pie and Pud evening – Saturday 13th November.

We now have a confirmed date – with the same delicious pies as in previous years followed by traditional steamed pudding. There will be several options including vegetarian, so pop the date in your diary now and keep an eye out for details of the menu and how to book nearer the time.

Christmas Fair with breakfast or brunch – being re scheduled – date to be confirmed

We already have several stall holders booked and enquiring – if you, or someone you know, would like to take a table – you can enquire now via e mail to cratfieldvillagehall@gmail.com

100 CLUB -

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

1st Mick Hargood – No:22 £15.00
2nd Simon Woolward – No:77 £10.00

3rd Carolyn White - No:32 £5.00
Congratulations to all the winners!

Next Committee Meeting – proposed 17th June

Either by Zoom or outside at the Village Hall dependent on weather / COVID regulations at the time.

Open Forum from 7 – 7.15 for anyone who has any questions about the running of the Village Hall / events and so forth. If you have something you would like to discuss / ask the committee during open forum please email cratfieldvillagehall@gmail.com We will keep you updated as to whether the meeting is to be held via Zoom (and send you a link for the open forum) or outside at the Village Hall.

Committee meeting from 7.15 onwards.

Many thanks to 'Oaklands Leisure Pool' near Bungay for sponsoring the May page of 'The Cratfield Village Hall Calendar' and to Louise Love also, for her photo of the barmen at the Swing Concert back at the Church in May 2018 under the title - "That's another fine mess you've gotten me into!"

Quiz Answers

1. Burnham Thorpe
2. Bury st. Edmunds
3. Chelmsford
4. George Orwell
5. Southend on Sea
6. Poppy Line
7. Colchester
8. Horse
9. Blakeney Point
10. Congham
11. Upminster
12. Benjamin Britten
13. Cromer
14. Priti Patel
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19. Basildon
20. Beacon Hill

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2021 Mobile Library Dates

Nothing here as yet.

But watch this space!

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‘Jack will always be Jack’ – a Tale with a Happy Ending
or
“All the nice girls love a sailor” (Music Hall song of 1908)

If you happen to have a strong view about the terrible behaviour of young folk these days, then maybe this story isn't for you, but life comes in all sorts of ways and, well, you know what sailors are, as the song says. Traditionally in the Navy, sailors are known as Matelots. But if you want to talk about sailors collectively, you use the collective name “Jack”, as in “Jack enjoys a few wets (drinks)” or “If Jack isn't grumbling, you know he is unhappy.” Jack is the salt of the earth; brave, bright and professional, cocky, hard-working, witty, quick to spot an opportunity, mischievous with an eye for the ladies, but utterly reliable, trustworthy and a wonderful colleague and companion.¹ He must be trustworthy because in any conflict a whole ship can be at risk if just one person fails. I have never had such fine work colleagues and friends anywhere else.

When, in late 1968, HMS Naiad had been in Simonstown (the naval base near Cape Town) before her Beira patrol stint, I found myself Duty Officer on the first day in harbour. This meant that I was in charge of the ship, its safety and routine administration, discipline and welfare during my 24 hours of duty; effectively the Captain's deputy. Amongst the duties was to be around the gangway late in the evening when Jack started to return from his “run ashore”² after a longish time at sea and see if anyone was the worse for wear and, if they were, make sure they were properly looked after by their mates, and sometimes charged if they were “several sheets to the wind”

I was standing by the gangway around 2300 as sailors trickled back on board, talking to the Quartermaster who manned the gangway full time, one Leading Seaman Hudson. Slightly to my surprise, I found that he kept answering the ship's phone, making notes of the conversation. I asked him what was up and he said “Well sir, it's been going on all day. Young ladies ringing up, ordering a matelot for an evening out, a party, a weekend away and the Lord knows what, sir. They describe exactly what sort of fellow they want and I find someone suitable!”³ I remarked that it must be very frustrating for him, watching all his mates go off on dates while he was stuck on board. “Don't worry sir,” he said “I've got a young lady lined up for tomorrow night when I'm off duty.”

I next saw him three days later and asked him how he had got on. “Oh, it was great sir,” he replied. “She is a lovely girl. We went to a great restau-

¹Later in my career, I commanded ships with significant numbers of women in the crew. They were every bit as good as, and often better than Jack, albeit in different and more civilised ways. For instance a lot of young men stopped eating chips and started eating salads!

²The traditional name for any shore leave (even from onshore establishments), usually granted to those not required on board from the end of the working day to 7.30 the next morning.

³We should remember that large numbers of young English women always appear in Portsmouth when big American warships visit.

rant in Cape Town, had a few wets and then I took her home and was invited to stay because it was too late for the train to Simonstown. There didn't seem to be anyone else in the house or they had gone to bed, so the coast was clear, as you might say, sir." I should perhaps add that he was unmarried.

"Well sir, in the morning (!) there was a knock on the door and a very nice lady came in with two cups of tea. I admit that I was a bit bleary and embarrassed, but my young lady sat up and said brightly 'Thanks Ma. Meet Trevor.'" Then he stopped for a bit and said, "Well, sir, I was a bit taken aback, but then I thought that after all I was there, so why be shocked. And I got a great breakfast."

About 15 years later, I met Trevor Hudson again at a naval training establishment in Portsmouth. By this time, he was a Fleet Chief Petty Officer (a Warrant Officer, First Class in Army terms) obviously doing very well and still with the tall dark good looks he had always had. After chatting about life for a while, I asked if he remembered the visit of HMS Naiad to Simonstown. "I certainly do, sir" he replied, "and I've got a wife and two kids to remind me of it every day." A story with a very happy ending, showing just how smart and full of ingenuity Jack is.

As I said, Jack will always be Jack.

Jeremy Blackham



Cratfield Parish Council Meeting Dates 2021

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

The Planning meetings are arranged as and when required.

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

noticeboards & website: www.cratfield.onesuffolk.net

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

For further details contact the Clerk email: cratfieldpc@gmail.com

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Mace

Dear Friends,

It is interesting when we read our newspapers and watch the TV to see how easily others are condemned, vilified and made out to be monsters. No one can deny that Radovan Karadzic did evil things but can we take the moral high ground and say we had nothing to do with it. NATO forces saw what was being done but were not allowed to intervene, Colonel Moammar Gadhafi was not condemned whilst it suited the West for him to stay in office. Should the West shoulder some of his guilt?

When the woman was caught in adultery Jesus asked the people in the crowd who were ready to stone her to death that he who is without sin should cast the first stone. Each one in the crowd melted away there was no-one who could cast the stone. None of us are guiltless. "I have done nothing wrong," you may say but can you really claim that? We all say and do things that hurt others whether meaning to or not. It is part of life, we rub against one another, get things wrong, make mistakes; it would be a very fortunate person who travelled through life without causing some upset. The point is we none of us are in a position to cast the first stone. Don't get me wrong, perpetrators of evil should be tried and found out in their guilt, but any verdict or judgement should be tempered with the knowledge of our own culpability.

'The Last Supper' by Leonardo Da Vinci took seven years to complete and all the figures, apostles and Jesus Christ, were painted from live models and there is a thought provoking story that goes with it. It may be true or it may be not!

Jesus was chosen first, a young man of nineteen and Da Vinci took six months of painting before he was satisfied. Over the next six years other characters were added with just one space left, that of Judas Iscariot, the betrayer, and Da Vinci searched hard for a person who he considered to have the looks of such a person who could betray his best friend.

Finally he found him, a prisoner in a dungeon in Rome facing a death penalty for murder and other crimes. He was unkempt and had a face that displayed a character of viciousness and greed.

Da Vinci worked on him for months until at last he finished and told the guards to take him away for the last time. Suddenly the prisoner broke free from his guards and rushed up to the artist. "Don't you know who I am?"

"No I don't know you," answered Da Vinci. "I'd never seen you until you were brought from your dungeon that first time."

"Oh God, have I fallen that low." The prisoner cried. "Look at me again; I am the same

person you painted just seven years ago. I modelled for Jesus Christ."

Now you may argue that we all make choices in life and all have the opportunity to choose rightly or wrongly, and the vast majority make the right choice, but I wonder if that young man who posed as the person of Christ would have recognized and acknowledged the man who posed as Judas. They were the same person with only a wrong choice between them. It is so easy to condemn but thank God you have not been tested to the extreme, and acknowledge that there but for the grace of God go you or me.

David



Services for June 2021

Sunday 13 th 6.00pm Evensong	Sunday 20 th 9.00am Village Worship	Sunday 27 th 09.00am Holy Communion
Sidesperson A. Edmonds	Sidesperson A. Edmonds	Sidesperson A. Edmonds
Reader P. Baker	Reader D. Peacock	Reader M. Powell
Readings 1 Sam 15:34, 16:13 2 Cor 5:6-10, 14-17 Mark 4:26-34	Readings 1 Sam 17:32-49 Cor 6:1-13 Mark 4:35-41	Readings 2 Sam 1:1, 17-end 2 Cor 8:7-15 Mark 5 21-43

Please come along and join us. Our aim is to have our services, weather permitting, outside. But, just case, please bring a mask and we will be socially distanced inside.

DIRECTORY:

Doctor's Surgery	Fressingfield	01379 586 227
	Stradbroke	01379 384 220
Local officers:		
Church Rev. David Burrell		01986 798 136
'The Vicarage, Noyes Avenue, Laxfield		
theparsnips@googlemail.com		
Church Wardens:		
Andy Edmunds		01986 798523
Lay Elder for Cratfield - Margaret Thompson		07906 509302
Parish Council - Lotty Barbour		01986 798099
PC Clerk Sally Chapman		01379 855486
PC Website	www.cratfield.onesuffolk.net	
Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator - Nick Eade		01986 798725
Village Hall:		
Chair Person - Natalie Lloyd-Evans		01986 798790
Vice Chair - Richard Turberville		01986 798346
Bookings - Jo Nunn		01986 799181
Laxfield School Head of School- Mrs Minns		01986 798344
Nova Group - Heather Hargood		01986 798180
Magazine Editors:		
Sue Eade, Cranes Cottage, Cratfield, IP19 0BN		01986 798725
suecratmag@aol.com		
Treasurer - Graham Nixey		07748 907099
Production Manager -		
Peter Sparrow, 2 The Street, Cratfield, IP19 0BS		01986 888505
peter-sparrow@outlook.com		

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