

CRATFIELD NEWS

June 2024



Try something different at
June's 'Pop-up pub' evening

Condolences

As most of you will know we very sadly lost Don Peacock recently. Our sincere condolences go to Jean, Quentin, Sarah and their families. Don was a much respected and admired member of our village community, well known for his sense of humour and also his architectural expertise which made him a key figure in St. Mary's Church.

A private family funeral will have taken place by the time this is read, but there will be a memorial service at St. Mary's church to celebrate Don's life on August 2nd at 12pm.

THE 100 CLUB **YOU HAVE TO BE IN IT TO WIN IT!**

Subscriptions for the 100 Club are due for 2024/2025 year and the entry forms are in this magazine!

What is a 100 Club? It is a form of private lottery, for a monthly amount you are entered into a draw to win one of three prizes each month - £15, £10 or £5

How much does it cost? Just £1 a month - £12 per person for the whole year!

Can I enter more than one person per household? Yes. Carry on with more details on the reverse of the form. So, if you are a couple, you have double the chance of winning – or why not enter everyone in your family?

How do I pay? Cash, Cheque or BACS (Bank Transfer - details on the form) Cash or BACS preferred by our treasurer!

Why should I enter? Alongside the chance of winning a small cash prize each month for the year, you are helping support improvements at the Village Hall. Over the years, the 100 Club has helped pay for items such as water heaters, kitchen appliances and furniture – to name just a few.

How do I enter? Return the form that is in this Magazine to Helen at Yew Trees – Bell Green. If paying by cash or cheque, you can include this in the envelope. If you are paying by BACS you can indicate this on the form, please ensure you use the same surname as on the form in the payment reference section when setting up the bank transfer.

Jennifer Pike & Jeneba Kanneh-Mason headlining Concerts at Cratfield 2024

Concerts at Cratfield is getting ready to launch another extraordinary season, bringing some of the best known classical musicians in the world to St Mary's Church on Sunday afternoons from June 30th to September 8th. The famous Cratfield bookmark is included in this edition of Cratfield News with full details. You can also check out the season and make sure of tickets through our website www.concertsatcratfield.org

This year we're welcoming the world-famous violinist Jennifer Pike – the youngest ever winner of the BBC Young Musician of the Year at the age of just 12 in 2002; pianist Jeneba Kanneh-Mason, one of the extraordinarily talented Kanneh-Mason family of musicians; the dynamic Meliora Collective; two of Britain's rising musical stars - cellist Tim Posner playing together with pianist Mishka Rushdie Momen; and ending the season with two of the UK's most renowned quartets, and old friends of Cratfield, the Fitzwilliam and Heath Quartets.

We were greatly saddened by the death of Don Peacock, our staunch friend and supporter over so many years. We are hoping, with his family's blessing, to celebrate Don's life by dedicating one of this summer's concerts to his memory.

We're so grateful to everyone at Cratfield for making the whole season possible and for making us feel so welcome, including the amazing tea team, whose fame is now spreading nationally; David & Claire Sillett for their generous and crucial loan of the field for parking; Sue Eade for her endless encouragement and practical support through the newsletter, everyone at St Mary's, and many more.

2023 was a fantastically successful season with many sell out concerts and this year is looking even stronger. Last year we launched a scheme to offer any remaining £15 seats to Cratfield residents for just £8 and we are keen to do so again where we have space – just make your self known at the box office table and we will do our best to fit you in.

We're looking forward to seeing you in June.

Jonathan Birt, Chairman, Concerts at Cratfield.



History Corner



Sad tale of a young soldier

By the time you read this Laxfield & District Museum will have already opened its doors to visitors for the 2024 season. One of our new acquisitions is the Peasenhall School Honours Board showing children, who had earned the privilege of Head Boy, listed as *Sir Galahad* and Head Girl, described as *Maid of Honour*, followed by a list of Senior Prefects from 1929 until war broke out in 1939. We have put the board on display downstairs in the Parish Room. You will probably recognise many familiar local names here. The museum team started researching the names that appear on the board and one particularly poignant story

emerged: that of a Senior Prefect in 1936, Richard Stiff. We were given photographs of Richard, which show him as a young boy tending his horse and then in army uniform.

RICHARD WILLIAM STIFF (1923-1943) Richard Stiff was born in 1923, the son of Lily Ethel Stiff and later, stepson of George Albert Pearce, who was born in Sibton. George was living in Peasenhall when he and Lily married in 1930 and went on to have two children, half siblings to Richard. In 1939 Lily and George, a farm worker, were living with their two youngest in Peasenhall at the Bungalow Fruit Farm which appears to be near Manor Farm or Punchard's Farm. Richard was just thirteen years old when his name was added to the Peasenhall School Honours Board as a Senior Prefect in 1936. He subsequently joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve during the war, where he served as Flight Sergeant 1335635 in the 423 Squadron. Tragically, he lost his life in a plane crash over the Irish sea in November 1943, aged only twenty. The aircraft was flying a

convoy escort mission when the crew reported engine trouble and their intention to return to base. But strong sea conditions were reported at the time and the aircraft was lost without trace. Richard's body was never recovered, but his death in honourable service is commemorated both locally, on the Peasenhall War Memorial, and also on the Runnymede Memorial in Egham, Surrey, dedicated to more than 20,000 men and women from the air forces of the British Empire lost in air operations during the war. A sad tale, indeed.

Museum opening times are 2-5 every Saturday & Sunday & Bank Holiday

June Facts

June was called 'sera monath' by the Anglo Saxons which translates into "dry month". June used to be the fourth month in the year. Before Julius Caesar came to power, the calendar year only had 10 months. In 46BC he created the Julian calendar by adding two more months to the year, which made June the sixth month.

June is the month with the longest daylight hours of the year in the Northern Hemisphere, and conversely, June has the shortest daylight hours of the year in the Southern Hemisphere.

National Fish and Chip Day is celebrated on the first Friday of June.

The UK's biggest festival – and largest "greenfield music festival" in the world is the famous Glastonbury Festival.

In the states 'Juneteenth', also known as Freedom Day, is observed on the anniversary of June 19th, 1865 when some 2,000 Union troops arrived in Galveston Bay, Texas. The army announced that the more than 250,000 enslaved black people in the state were freed by executive decree. This day came to be known as 'Juneteenth' by the newly freed people of Texas.

MICHAEL OLIVER

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The Privilege of Command

I was appointed in command of HMS Ark Royal in July 1992. To join her, I had to fly to Gibraltar where she was lying in Gibraltar Naval Dockyard and I still remember boarding the trooping flight at, of all places, Luton Airport for the most exciting and daunting journey of my life. There is no greater honour or challenge than command of one of HM Ships.

As on previous similar occasions I was to join the ship at 1030am for a brief chat with my predecessor who then left an hour later, leaving the new boy in command, but with no detailed knowledge of his new charge. Ideally, I would have met him over dinner a month or so earlier, but in this case Ark Royal was already deployed abroad, so I had had no opportunity to do so, although I knew my predecessor quite well.

I had spent the previous night with the Flag Officer Gibraltar, the Naval Commander who was also the Commander British Forces Gibraltar, in his lovely house, The Mount, halfway up the Rock, looking out over Algeciras Bay. I hadn't slept well and had been woken at dawn by the very raucous sea birds that circled round the Rock in the early morning. Slightly apprehensively, I donned my formal white tropical uniform and set off down to the ship. As we entered the dockyard, I found myself daunted by the size of the great ship for whose crew and performance I was to be personally accountable. I can't remember much about my chat with my predecessor, but by midday I was in command and wholly accountable for the ship, her crew (about 1000 with aircraft embarked) and her mixed air wing of Sea Harriers and Sea King helicopters and I was wondering how I would ever find my way around and get to know all their names.

But firstly I assembled the whole crew as I had done on previous occasions of taking command and introduced myself to them, explained our forthcoming programme and the way I liked to run things, and then addressed myself to the task of meeting the very experienced and capable Heads of Department, some of whom at least I already knew, before spending the afternoon learning to find my way to the bridge and the operations room, deep in the bowels of the ship, ten decks below the bridge. Happily, my excellent second-in-command and his fellow departmental heads had invited me to dinner that night (we were to sail the next morning) at a long-time favourite haunt of naval officers in Gibraltar, the Restaurant La Bayuca which I had known for many years and we spent a happy evening getting to know each other, helped by Spanish brandy!

We duly sailed the next morning - an interesting experience for me, never having personally manoeuvred a ship that size before and I confess that our exit was a shade slow and cautious, but happily

uneventful. My first duty as Captain was to “bury” the ashes of a former naval officer at sea off Gibraltar where he had apparently spent some time. This is quite a common thing and is always done with due ceremony, with the ship’s Chaplain officiating and a formal bearer party, in a place which is then marked on a chart and presented to the family. What they might not have known was something that I had learned by hard won experience – namely that it is important to open the casket, put a heavy weight in it and drill a couple of holes just to make sure that it actually sinks! But this man received a lovely formal Committal Service and a perfect burial with nice photographs and in due course we received a very kind and grateful reply from the family, to whom I had written after the event. Then we headed for Portsmouth with me ordering frequent exercise drills and experiments in ship handling so that I could “get the hang of it”, and further tours round those parts of the ship which are rarely visited but whose condition can tell you a lot about the way it is run.

One thing I forgot to say is that this was my first encounter with “women at sea”. We had 120 young women as part of the permanent crew, and it was a very new and informative experience. More about that later!

Jeremy Blackham

June Recipe
Courgettes and Ricotta on toast
serves 2

Ingredients

1 tbsp olive oil	1 tsp fennel seeds
¼ – ½ tsp chilli flakes	3 garlic cloves, finely sliced
2 large or 3 medium courgettes, sliced into 1cm thick slices	
250g ricotta	Finely grated zest and juice of 1 lemon
2 thick slices of ciabatta	

Method

Heat the oil in a large saucepan over a medium heat. Add the fennel seeds and chilli flakes and cook for a minute or so until sizzling and fragrant. Add the garlic and courgettes and cook over a medium heat for about 30 minutes, stirring every now and then until the courgettes have collapsed, become jammy and browned in patches.

When the courgettes are almost ready, toast the ciabatta. Stir the lemon zest into the ricotta and spread it over the toasts. Stir the lemon juice into the courgettes, season and spoon on top of the ricotta. Serve straight away.

Messy Church

Brundish Village Hall and our next get together is on Sunday 9th June, 3 to 4.30pm.

This is church but not as you know it! We have tea together, and we make things as we listen to stories. We sing and we pray together - all very informal. It doesn't matter if you are late or need to leave early. Come and join us and have fun. It started in April and there will be bi-monthly sessions on the second Sunday of the month, so also 9th June, 11th August, 13th October and 8th December this year. Just turn up, you don't need to book, but it will help with our planning if you let us know if you are coming. For more information, contact Sheila Pipe on bridge4rivers@gmail.com or 07579 002043

Forest Church

In the alternate months we have introduced **Forest Church**, at Charlotte's Wood in Wilby, which began on 12th May when we explored the wind and made paper windmills, collected sticks for streamers and listened to stories. We enjoyed a short walk followed by home made biscuits and squash and coffee. For more information about Forest Church, based in Wilby, also 3 to 4.30pm on Sundays 14th July, 8th September and 10th November, contact Revd Clive on rev.clive.mobbs@gmail.com
Again, no need to book.

All ages are welcome from primary school upwards! Children must be accompanied by parents/carers. These activities have been developed by 'The Bridge over The Four Rivers' a Lightwave initiative involving all our local churches.

Thank You

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to the churchyard clearance and church spring clean on Saturday 18th May. Strimmers were buzzing their way around the graves and edges, hedges were given a short back and sides, weeds were pulled and cobwebs and dust were swept away. We left some area untouched so there is still room for the wildlife but the overall impression is of a building and church yard that is loved and cared for. Many of the volunteers commented on how much they had enjoyed mucking in and bringing their own particular skills to bear – a real community effort, so thank you.

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VILLAGE HALL UPDATE – JUNE

THANK YOU - THANK YOU - THANK YOU!

What a fantastic day we all had at the Dog Show on Sunday 12th. Now in its 11th year, the Dog Show has gone from strength to strength and is vital in helping to meet the overheads of running the Village Hall. It takes one big event like this just to cover the annual insurance costs so that the hall remains there for anyone in the village to use, attend Bowls club, hire or to come to any of the events that are put on by the committee. Special thanks to... Rebecca Sannick, without whom there would simply be no dog show – she organises the judges, paperwork, licences, registration forms, running order and so forth to ensure it is run correctly and in accordance with The Kennel Club rules for the pedigree classes. Carolyn & Suzie who registered everyone and took the money and then Suzie who jumped into Chef mode at the BBQ. Helen who rallied the bakers and provided a sea of 20 delicious home-made cakes. Dan & Linzi for ensuring the grass and surroundings were trimmed and strimmed perfectly. Andrew, Robert & Andrew who got to play with all the cars and get them parked. Susannah for organising the raffle and everyone who donated a raffle prize. Robert Sannick who dug the marquee out of storage and helped put it up with Derek and a number of willing volunteers, Richard & Jamie who put the ring out along with signage and bins. Maisie, Jon, Caroline W-B, Tim & Sue and Charlie who kept the bar stocked, jumped on the till, cut cakes, did endless rounds of washing up, cut rolls, filled rolls, cooked bacon and last but not least, Natalie and Jo who out-performed the meaning of ‘multi tasking’ on the day! Also, we must not forget our treasurer Graham who had to count all the pennies late into the night. And ANYONE who helped put the marquee up, take it down or that I have forgotten to mention!

POP UP PUB – 7TH JUNE – PIZZA NIGHT!

We look forward to welcoming a **PIZZA VAN** for our June pop up pub – serving delicious fresh home-made Neapolitan hot pizzas to order with a range of toppings from 6.30pm! Doors open 6.00pm – food from 6.30pm

July – Creole night / August – BBQ / September– Oli’s Mexican Night

CRATFIELD VILLAGE HALL 100 CLUB

1st prize (£15) no.12 Sara Vass, 2nd prize (£10) no.46 Sue Seabon, 3rd prize (£5) no.90 Sara Saunders. Drawn by Diane Britton. Congratulations tot the winners.

INDOOR BOWLS – ALTERNATE TUESDAYS

The dates for 2024 are - June 11 & 25 / July 23 / Aug 6 & 20 / Sept 3 & 17 / Oct 1 & 15 & 29 / Nov 26 / Dec 10. 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.

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CRATFIELD PHOTOGRAPHIC – PREVIEW FRIDAY 11TH OCTOBER **CLASSIC CARS, BREAKFAST & COFFEE - SATURDAY 12TH OCTOBER** **10am – 1pm**

The 3 categories are -

Cratfield Hobbies – what do you do to relax and enjoy as a hobby? Do you bake, write, sew, garden, read, play video games, walk or dance? (my own personal hobby is shopping....!) Think about how you could capture this activity as a photo – the tools or equipment you use as you use it, or resting ready for the next time you return to your hobby or the view as you carry out your hobby. It could be an insight into what the hobby entails, what it means to you or a hobby/project part way through or completed.

Suffolk Street Scenes - either deserted or busy, look all around you next time you are in a bustling town or our own quiet village. It could be a classic car parked up outside a terrace of cottages, a busy town on market day or a night time shot of a high street with all the shops shut waiting for the morning.

All Suffolk Creatures Great & Small – any Suffolk creatures count! Whether a household pet snoozing in an armchair or in front of a fire, birds on a fence / birdfeeder or cattle grazing in a field.

We are also holding a 'peoples choice' award this year – where everyone who attends the preview evening on Friday 11th October will vote for their favourite photo in the competition.

CLASSIC CARS, BREAKFAST & COFFEE - SATURDAY 12TH OCTOBER **10am – 1pm**

As the photographic competition takes a huge amount of work to put on, we are responding to feedback it would be nicer for the exhibition to be up for a little while longer – with another type of event so people can come back with other family or friends. Therefore, on the Saturday after the Friday preview evening, we will be arranging a collection of classic cars – and providing breakfast rolls and tea / fresh coffee. If you have a classic car you would like to bring along please do let us know on cratfieldvillagehall@gmail.com

CRATFIELD VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE MEETINGS – 7.00pm

Thursday 8th August / Thursday 21st November (and AGM)

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Exploring the Scottish Islands – with a collapsible bike! Eriskay (2.5 x 1.5 miles)



Hanging off the bottom of South Uist, Eriskay is a small island with a population of 130 strung along just over 3 miles of road: nevertheless, this little dot is well known for many reasons!

Prince Charles Edward Stuart (*'Bonnie Prince Charlie'*) was born in Rome to the exiled Stuart court: he spent his early life there, but in 1745 he first set foot on Scottish soil at Eriskay (landing there on a French vessel) in his quest to restore the monarchy to the Stuarts. His supporters were the Jacobites (named after his

grandfather, James VII of Scotland and II of England: 'James' in Latin is *Jacobus*) – and, after several successful battles, Charles was finally defeated at Culloden. Following the defeat, he took refuge in the Outer

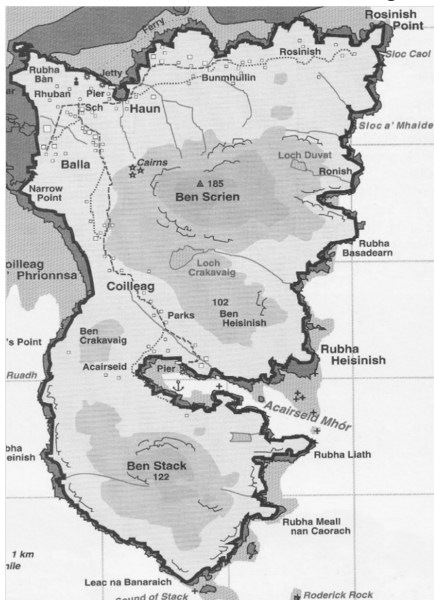
Hebrides, and 23 year old Flora MacDonald helped him to evade government troops, setting sail for the mainland with Charles disguised as an Irish maid: Flora was subsequently arrested and sent to the Tower of London.

The unscrupulous Colonel John Gordon of Cluny (referred to last month) bought Eriskay in 1838 and he allowed a few of the crofters whom he had evicted from South Uist to settle there – but only because the land was considered too poor even for sheep to survive.

The island was once forested: proven by the fact that, at very low spring tides, tree trunks are exposed in the sand on one of the beaches. Also, Eriskay has its own pony and is 'the last remnant of Scotland's native

horse.' Fewer than 300 survive.

The most famous story of all has to be that of the steamship 'The Politician': like many of today's politicians, it hit the rocks! The cargo included 264,000 bottles of whisky and one account states "Before long, nearly every living creature on the island, including the ponies, was blind



drunk!" Then, HM Customs & Excise arrived with the police and began searching the crofts, whereupon the whisky miraculously disappeared, being homed in stacks of peat and items such as hot water bottles! 36 islanders actually ended up in court, 19 were imprisoned. But the funnier moments were the inspiration for Sir Compton MacKenzie's book *'Whisky Galore!'* which was, of course, made into an Ealing Comedy, filmed on nearby Barra in 1948. The stern of the ship, undoubtedly still containing some of the whisky cases, can still be seen at low tide, buried deep in the sandy bottom. Little known fact: In response to the setting up of the missile testing station on South Uist, MacKenzie wrote a sequel called 'Rockets Galore!' This was also filmed at Barra and included a 27 year old Ronnie Corbett.

The residents on the island are mostly fishing folk and many women knit fishermen's jerseys in distinctive Eriskay patterns. (One sombre reality is that individualised jerseys can also help to identify a body following an accident at sea.) A fondly remembered islander is South Uist-born Father Allan McDonald who amassed a collection of Gaelic folk-tales: in addition, he wrote a dictionary of Gaelic phrases, and also poems. He died at the age of 46, and his manuscripts found their way into the wrong hands: however, many were subsequently rescued by John Lorne Campbell (with his American wife, Margaret Fay Shaw) and they became part of the world-renowned Gaelic collection now housed at their island home of Canna (Inner Hebrides).

Eriskay is also famous for its 'Love Lilt': a delightful and spell-binding performance of this can be heard on YouTube, where the adult Aled Jones sings a duet with himself singing the same song as a child. It's 3 minutes of absolute joy - go on, have a listen!

Finally, Eriskay has a bumpy, uneven football pitch with breath-taking views of neighbouring islands and the ocean beyond, into which many a ball has landed! The pitch can't be played on during the winter: it becomes waterlogged and "there isn't enough daylight or sunshine to dry it out!" At one time, it even had 5 corners!! With such quirkiness and outstanding beauty, FIFA (the world governing body of football) credited it as *'one of the 8 most remarkable places to play football in the world'*. The football team's strip mimics the green hoops of Celtic and upon it is emblazoned two words: "The Politician."

Next month: Barra

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

Dear Friends,

I had the pleasure recently of catching up with my childhood friend. We got around to talking about the toys we played with as children and the difference between then and now and wondered what would be the situation if as grandparent and great aunt we insisted that the children only play with those that were popular back in the 1950s and 1960s? This led me to thinking about how our church services were back then. I remember the lady Deacon who kept us youngsters up to speed with where we were in the Holy Communion service. What stands out for me were the words, as we approached the consecration of the sacrament, *"We are now approaching the most important part of the service when we must be very quiet."*

So, all of this led me to think about how our church services also have changed. There is the opportunity now to worship together online, to join in with the live stream of morning prayer with our bishops, and still to meet in church. I cannot help but think that if we are to attract folk to our churches in the Four Rivers Benefice, that we must look outside of the box – perhaps, just as an example, explore, *'New Patterns of Worship?'*

But all in all, what is important is how, as a benefice of eight parishes we ask our communities what they are looking for so that we can respond appropriately and responsibly to those generations who may not know what the church is for and why it might be important. I know that one parish is considering undertaking a survey to find out what their community wants from the church and so, I am hoping that all parishes will join in this venture to try and establish what may help to fill the places in our churches. Father in heaven, clear our eyes and give us the gift to discern what action we should be taking. Amen.

God bless you all,

Reverend Chrissie.

Dates for your diary

Harvest Supper October 5th (Church)
Beetle Drive November 16th (Village Hall)
See also p10.

June Cratfield Church Services

Sunday 9th	Sunday 23rd
Genesis 3:8-15 2 Corinth 4:13-5:1 Mark 3:20-end	Job 38:1-11 2 Corinth 6:1-13 Mark 4:35-end
6.00pm Evening Prayer CM	9.00am Holy Communion EP

June	2nd	9th	16th	23rd
Bedfield	9.00am Holy Communion CS		10.30am Family Service CS	
Brundish		10.30am Village Worship SP		10.30am Holy Communion CS
Laxfield	10.30am Celtic Service LE	10.30am Morning Praise LE	10.30am Holy Communion CS	10.30am Fourth Sunday FS team
Monk Soham		11.00am Morning Prayer RA	11.00am Holy Communion RA	
Tannington	11.00am Morning Prayer BS			
Wilby	10.30am Village Worship SP	10.30am Holy Communion CS	10.30am Village Worship SP	10.30am Morning Prayer EP
Worlingworth	Support Tannington	11.00am Let's Celebrate BS	11.00am Holy Communion RO	11.00am Morning Prayer RA

Zoom services Celtic Prayer – 7.00pm Wednesdays, 9.00am Fridays
To join us mail rev.chrissiesmart@gmail.com and you will be sent details

Thursday 6th June DD Service at Worlingworth RO and CS
Sunday June 30th Benefice Communion 10.30am Monk Soham

DIRECTORY:

Local Officers:

Church:

Priest in Charge of the Four Rivers Benefice
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The Vicarage, 15 Noyes Avenue Laxfield IP13 8EB
Assistant Curate Rev. Clive Mobbs 07340 838639

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Parish Clerk Sally Chapman 07774 734411
Parish Council Website www.cratfield.onesuffolk.net
Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator Nick Eade 01986 798725

Village Hall:

Chairperson Andy Barringer 01986 798346
Vice Chair Jo Cerullo 01986 798656
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