

CRATFIELD NEWS

June 2025



**SUNDAY JUNE 8TH; 2PM - 5PM AT CHURCH FARMHOUSE,
Heveningham Rd, Cratfield**

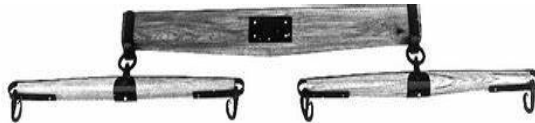


Just a reminder that I will be holding a plant sale plus refreshments and a chance to stroll round the garden and remember Caroline. I have been baking cakes, so I am clearly taking this seriously! (Any cake and plant donations most welcome)

Please bring plenty of cash to splash; all proceeds will go to St Mary's Church.

Looking forward to seeing you on the 8th! Paul

WHIPPLE TREE COTTAGE



After 18 years of the successful running of her holiday cottage business at Whipple Tree and following the recent tragic fire Chrissie has decided to cease trading. She would like to thank everyone in the village who has supported her business over the years by introducing friends and family to the cottage

Nick and I can vouch for the fact that several friends and family of ours have had great times at Whipple Tree, a unique and cosy cottage.

Sue (Ed.)



STRAWBERRY FORECAST NOT LOOKING GOOD!



Hi There everyone and particularly those of you who have enjoyed buying strawberries from the gate at the Long House. What with the very dry spring weather, hungry rabbits and pesky deer the strawberry crop has been decimated. I doubt I will have m(ANY) strawberries this year. Certainly not my usual regular supply. I live in hope but apologise in advance for any disappointment. Clive

MOLLIE

I would like to thank everyone who gave me cards, flowers and kind words when my dear friend and companion Mollie the Collie passed away. She was a huge part of my life and I miss her immensely.

She has left an empty space in my home which I have found hard to cope with, so I now have a cat called Teddy, he is seven years old and he came from a cat rescue home.

He is quite a handsome puss, big, grey and fluffy.

I think Mollie may have had something to do with Teddy being here with me as Mollie passed away on April 24th and Teddy also left his family home on the 24th. I guess something spiritual was going on that day.

Pam



THANK YOU



Very many thanks to Keira and Ivor who have very kindly volunteered to take over the delivery round which will ensure that everyone in the village will continue to receive the Cratfield News.

MORE THANKS

Thank you to all those who donated a raffle prize for the Cratfield Dog Show. Rebecca secured some fabulous prizes from a variety of suppliers and along with these the generosity of Cratfield residents and some local businesses we had 17 wonderful raffle prizes contributing to the success of the day.

Caroline Hay Davison



I was lucky enough to win one of the prizes themed as 'Time for Tea' which Caroline had made up into a presentation box and both Tess and I were delighted with it!

Sue (Ed.)



Melvyn Tan, Guy Johnston, Ben Goldscheider & Sacconi Quartet at Concerts at Cratfield 2025

Concerts at Cratfield is bringing another unforgettable summer of chamber music to St Mary's Church, bringing some of Europe's finest musicians to our corner of East Suffolk. All our concerts begin at 3pm, and you can check out the season and make sure of tickets through our website www.concertsatcratfield.org

We begin on Sunday July 6th with the brilliant horn player Ben Goldscheider, violinist Ofer Falk and pianist Reiko Fujisawa playing Mozart and Brahms, followed by the internationally renowned Barbican Quartet on July 20th for a programme including Haydn and Mendelssohn.

Our concert on August 3rd brings together two of Britain's most acclaimed classical musicians – cellist Guy Johnston and pianist Melvyn Tan - while two rising stars join us for our ROSL Gold Medal Winners' concert on August 17th - classical accordionist Ryan Corbett and classical guitarist Jack Hancher.

Japanese violinist Coco Tomita and pianist Simon Callaghan who join us on August 31st are a growing presence in international concert halls, and bring a dazzling range of music to Cratfield including Beethoven's "Kreutzer" Violin Sonata. The season will close on September 14th with a piano quintet featuring the much loved Sacconi Quartet accompanied by the outstanding pianist Anna Tilbrook.

We are immensely grateful for the generous support of the church and the village, and especially for the magnificent tea team whose hard work is a highlight of a visit to Cratfield for our concertgoers and who raise important sums for the upkeep of this magnificent building. We are also grateful to David & Claire Sillett for the generous use of their field for parking, Sue Eade for helping us to publicise the season and to our brilliant concert manager Lottie Ackerley.

Most of our concerts in 2024 sold out and this year looks equally encouraging. Once again we'd like to offer any remaining £17 seats to Cratfield residents for just £10 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 July
Jonathan Birt, Chairman, Concerts at Cratfield.

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Sunday 14th September 2025 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

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A Grecian Interlude

After Trieste, we were firmly established in our Adriatic role and spent our time showing a naval presence¹, watching carefully and making operational plans for the various tasks we might have been called on to perform. Showing a presence was a bit tricky because we were restricted by our political Rules of Engagement from going into Croatian or Montenegrin waters. Since Croatia owned a rocky island with a lighthouse in the middle of the Adriatic and many islands off her coast, this not only prevented us from being seen much² but also prevented us from doing any reconnaissance within 50 miles of Split, our most likely operational area – a serious disadvantage, but still had to make appropriate plans.

Then, slightly surprisingly, we were given a five-day stand-off in Athens. I had been there before a couple of times and, because my academic background is chiefly in the ancient world (I studied exclusively Latin, Greek and ancient history in my last two years at school), I always enjoyed berthing in the small harbour of Piraeus where the Athenian fleet was built and based and whence the Athenian fleet departed on their fatal expedition against Syracuse in 415 BC – the subject of my Masters degree thesis, so it was a thrill to see the actual site of those events. For them, with their triremes only about 40 metres long it was a comfortable harbour to manoeuvre in, but for an aircraft carrier turning in the small basin and berthing stern first was a much more interesting problem, though not as alarming as that windy day in Nasau³. I was greeted there by the UK naval attaché in Athens, an old friend who had marched up the hill to the college at Dartmouth with me on our first day in the Navy in September 1961, who greeted me with the news that Candy was flying out that night and that she and I would be staying with him and his wife whilst in Athens – since his wife was Australian and Candy South African we had always all got on quite well.

It was an visit, with a chance to meet our NATO allies in the Hellenic Navy and visit some of the great monuments of ancient Greece and elsewhere, which had fascinated me ever since I started to learn ancient Greek when I was 11. I had had little chance before to see these places before; you may remember that on my previous visit to Athens in 1984 in HMS Nottingham, I had been invalided home for a very lengthy treatment. I now had a chance to compare my very clear schooldays picture of all these places with the real thing which didn't always turn out to be the same.

We left Athens to return to the Adriatic after five days, with a quick return to

reality. The harbour entrance/exit at Piraeus is very narrow for modern ships and we were, once again, confronted with a strong wind from the starboard beam which pushed us sideways at quite a rate. Once again, I had to shut my eyes to the harbour speed limit and leave harbour at some speed to avoid an unscheduled meeting with the harbour wall; this was becoming a bit of a habit!

As we rounded the bottom of Greek Peloponnese to head north into the Adriatic we encountered, quite by chance, an Italian submarine *en route* to its own home port of Taranto. This was too good a chance to miss. Our Sea King anti-submarine helicopters had had no chance to exercise their submarine tracking and attack skills since we left Portsmouth. A few signals exchanged with the submarine and with our friend Admiral Mariani in Rome, and we had agreed that the submarine would dive and we would spend four or five hours as we steamed rapidly towards the Adriatic with our Sea Kings attempting to find, track and “attack” the submerged submarine whilst the submarine performed various evasive manoeuvres. Perhaps a shade basic and artificial, but still useful and much needed refresher training for both parties and a good example of NATO *ad hoc* cooperation.

Then it was back on patrol in the Adriatic, refreshed by the break, but in many ways pleased to be back in very familiar surroundings, and able to pick up our mail from Bari airport. Of course, all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy!

1. In a word, deference

2. Each island was entitled to territorial waters which prevented Ark Royal getting near the mainland until military operations were ordered. I was, however, able to use the frigates I had to patrol off the coast of Montenegro, at that time an ally of Serbia so I believe our presence was indeed noticed and we also gained some useful intelligence

3. See “*A Damned Close Run Thing in Nasau*” *Cratmag* November 2024

Jeremy Blackham

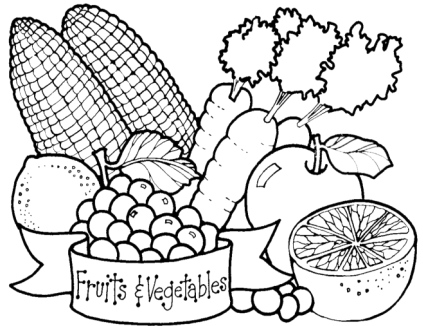
Mobile Library Dates 2025

Silverleys Green 14.00-14.20 The Poacher 14.30-14.45

Jun 10th, July 8th, August 8th, September 2nd, 30th. October 28th,
November 26th, December 23rd

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VILLAGE HALL UPDATE – JUNE

POP UP PUB – FRIDAY 6th June 6pm-10pm

Come along for something to drink (& eat!) 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.

Food available:

June and July - *Pizza Van* // August - *Village BBQ* // September - *Oli's Mexican Night*

CRATFIELD VILLAGE HALL 100 CLUB – JUNE WINNERS

This month's winners are: first prize (£15) number 70 – Richard Turbeville; second prize (£10) number 49 – Robert Sannick; and 3rd prize (£5) number 94 – Dennis Rockall. Draw by J Carlebach. Many congratulations to the winners!

INDOOR BOWLS AT THE VILLAGE HALL – ALTERNATE TUESDAYS

Dates for 2025: June 3rd and 17th//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!

CRATFIELD DOG SHOW – Sunday 4th May

A big thank you to everyone who made the 2025 Cratfield Dog Show such a success, particularly Rebecca and Robert Sannick, without whom the event could not have taken place. A mention also to the tireless volunteers manning the reception, microphone, raffle and refreshments – not to mention all the fabulous pooches who took part!

The Village Hall Committee would especially like to thank all the kind Cratfield residents who donated raffle prizes and cakes – THANK YOU! What a great village!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES!!!

CLASSIC CAR EVENT – Sunday 14th September

CRATFIELD TALKS – 25 October 2025

The village's own Natalie McKay will talk us through **A Murder At Cratfield Towers** – one not to be missed!

PLANT SHOW – 7 June 2026 - details to follow!

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

FOOD AND MURDER MYSTERY NIGHT – date TBC

Apologies for the confusion. Owing to circumstances beyond our control this event has been postponed for now and a new date will be circulated in due course.

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 last month's edition of Cratfield News or text Helen on 07818046955 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!

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Strawberries & cream blondies

(If you can just find a few of Clive's strawberries, why not try this!)

Ingredients

200g butter
200g light brown soft sugar
100g caster sugar
200g white chocolate (chopped into small chunks
pinch of salt
3 eggs
1 tsp vanilla bean paste
275g plain flour
50g clotted cream

For the compote

200g strawberries (hulled and halved or quartered if large)
75g caster sugar
1 tsp lemon juice

Method

1. Mix the compote ingredients in a small pan over a medium heat and cook for 10-15 minutes until jammy, stirring often. When ready, the fruit will be soft but still hold its shape. Leave to cool.
2. Melt the butter in a pan over a medium heat until foaming and lightly golden, then remove from the heat and stir in the sugars, 150g of the white chocolate and a large pinch of salt. Stir until the chocolate is melted and smooth.
3. Heat the oven to 190°C/170° fan/gas 5 and line a 20 x 30cm brownie tin with baking parchment. Whisk the eggs and vanilla into the chocolate mixture, then *sift* in the flour. Fold until you have a smooth batter, then fold in the rest of the chocolate.
4. Pour the batter into the tin and smooth the surface. Alternately dollop over spoonfulls of the clotted cream and strawberry compote, then gently swirl together using a skewer or knife. Bake for 45-50 minutes until the edges are golden, set and coming away from the tin. The middle will look gooey, but will firm as it cools. Cool before cutting into squares.
5. Serve at room temperature, or chill for fudgier, set blondies

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ball before. He managed to obtain a football (one from a game in which Aberdeen beat Rangers 2-1, no less!) and took it to the eagerly awaiting children of St Kilda, where he taught them football. He later said, "When we went back one month later, they showed *us!*" The same trawlerman also introduced the first mirror to St Kilda! ...But in 1926, 3 islanders, ignoring the warnings from the crew, boarded a visiting trawler to collect newspapers. The crew were suffering from the 'flu and this infected the St Kildans, whereupon the entire village came down with it 2 or 3 days later. The village was paralysed, and the resident nurse and a few others lit a bonfire on a hilltop, hoping to attract a passing vessel; but this was at the time of the General Strike, so no ships passed - and four islanders died.

Lachlan Macdonald, who had only just finished his schooling, was one of the few able-bodied young men on the island and it was up to him and one or two others to make coffins for the dead. He later recalled his experiences: "We had to make a coffin for this old lady and there wasn't any wood. We had to use the wood from her own ceiling." Lachlan had never made a coffin before but he knew that by half-cutting the wood and pouring boiling water over it, the sides could be bent where the shoulders went. By 1928, there were only 7 able-bodied men to do the sheep-dipping work (the rest being either too young or too old) and the crops had fared badly too. By mid-October 1929, there had been an outbreak of wet eczema and medical supplies were urgently required. With endless problems affecting the islanders' subsistence, and with irregular postal deliveries making it impossible to stay in touch with family and friends who had left St Kilda (for there was now a small Post Office), morale was at an all-time low. In January 1930, a trawler called in and found a depressed community: Mary Gillies was ill with acute appendicitis and, when the alarm was raised, officialdom reacted slowly. By the time help arrived it was too late: Mary was taken to a Glasgow Hospital, but she died two days later at the age of 21. That was it. Islanders were now openly talking about leaving St Kilda; older people who wanted to stay knew it would be impossible without fit menfolk to climb the rocks and haul boats out of the water. The 36-strong population were neither of the right age group, nor in sufficient numbers, to make the demanding St Kildan way of life work any more. After many emotional discussions in the nurse's house, the island's missionary was eventually asked to write a petition: "We the undersigned, the natives of St Kilda, hereby respectfully pray and petition HM Government to assist us all to leave the island this year and find homes and occupations for us on the mainland." A proud community, who had lived like no-one else for thousands of years, had finally admitted defeat.

Next month: Part 9 - The evacuation of 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

Letter from the Vicar

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

What glorious weather we enjoyed during May – almost as if summer came early! However, living in the rural community, I cannot help but voice concern for our farmers who must be hoping and praying for precipitation and to which, I add my prayers too.

Well, the Annual Parochial Church Meetings (APCMs) for our eight parishes have been completed within the venues at Worlingworth and Laxfield. I have learnt much about the process and am determined to get it right for all parishes next year! Many thanks to those who have been so supportive.

During May, I have been continuing with study having been invited to the Suffolk Ministry Development Programme (SMDP) and from which I graduated on 11th May at the end of the classroom weekend. I have also been invited to the new incumbents' course and am off to that soon after finishing this article. I had never heard of Pleshey in Essex but now it seems like a second home! An excellent venue for retreats!

I am excited to be able to offer an opportunity to study the Nicene Creed together following Trinity Sunday. This builds upon our studies together in Worlingworth and Laxfield in respect of 'Living Hope' the Lent Journey. As it says in the introduction, 'For Christians, the Nicene Creed is one of the most enduring statements of faith. It unites believers across time and space in a shared confession of who God is and what he has done in Jesus Christ.' So, watch this space and the beneficent news for dates and venues! God bless all and may he keep you safe and strengthen our faith even when we cannot see the full picture!

Amen.

JUNE CRATFIELD CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 8th	Sunday 22nd
9.30am	9.30am
Village Worship	Holy Communion
Acts 2:1-21 Romans 8:14-17 John 14:8-17, (25-27)	1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7), 8-15a Galacians 3:23-29 Luke *:26-39

MAY BENEFICE SERVICES

JUNE	1st	8th	15th	22nd
Bedfield		10.30am Morning Praise		10.00am Holy Commun- ion
Brundish			10.30am Holy Commun- ion Stuart Batten	
Laxfield	10.30am Morning Prayer	10.30am Holy Com- munion	10.30am Morning Wor- ship	6.00pm Hartismere House
Monk Soham	11.00am Family Service	11.00am BCP Morning Prayer	11.00am CW Holy Comm	
Tannington		12 noon Holy Com- munion		
Wilby	10.30am Holy Commun- ion		10.30am Vil- lage Worship	10.30am Morning Pray- er
Worlingworth	11.00am Holy Commun- ion		6.00pm Let's Celebrate	11.00am Morning Pray- er

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Cratfield News

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