

CRATFIELD NEWS

NOV 2021

REMEMBRANCE DAY



DORIS COOK

I'm sure everyone who knew Doris will have heard of her passing on Monday 27th September at the grand age of 97. Her funeral will have taken place by the time you read this, on Monday 25th October at Seven Hills Crematorium, Ipswich. Doris was a long standing member of our community who, over the years, played an active part in village life, she was a member of many clubs, including the gardening club, art club, carpet bowls club and the WI. She was also a member of the Fressingfield and District Royal British Legion; she had played her part in WWII by joining the Land Army, a period of her life which, despite the war, she found most enjoyable. Needlework and gardening were Doris's hobbies and she also very much enjoyed cooking and baking.

Doris had lost her husband Eric not very long after they moved to Cratfield, but being the independent lady she was she forged a life for herself here. I think the word 'feisty', in the best possible meaning of the word, would sum up Doris's character. Whenever we offered to help she would say, "I'll do it while I can and when I can't I'll ask." She was an excellent neighbour and became a very good friend to us (and many others) over the years. She was a great instigator, organising Christmas get-togethers in our lane, making sure we all took it in turn to play host and setting up a little sewing group in her home, amongst other things. I'm sure all who knew Doris will have their own fond and happy memories of her. It was a sad day in September 2018 when it was felt that Doris was no longer able to cope alone at home. The care home that she went to in Stowmarket kept her safe throughout the pandemic and prior to Covid we had been able to visit her fairly frequently. Unfortunately her sudden, but peaceful death meant this would never happen again, something which we will always regret.

Sue

WELCOME

A very warm welcome to Charlie and Susanne Wilson who have recently moved into Potters Roost. We hope they'll be very happy here in their new home. They are looking forward to meeting people in the village, so if you see them at the pop-up pub on November 5th make sure you say hello.

HELP NEEDED

Is there anyone in the village who would like to help keep our beautiful church looking clean and tidy. Two hours work a week, hoovering and dusting, is all it would take, choose your own times. Hourly rate £10.00 which would amount to £1,000 a year approximately!

Please contact Jean on 01986 798275 or Sue 01986 798725

FREE FIREWOOD SEE PAGE 21

A Little Cratfield Conspiracy Theory

In Cratfield and its environs, and beyond I would like to suggest that there is a group of mainly older, weather-beaten men, who meet each morning in secret rural spaces at the wheels of bulky vehicles whose sole intention is to cause traffic mayhem by blocking roads.

At these meetings they plan long, slow drives to cause maximum delays. The vehicles are disguised as farm machinery with fake ploughs and seed drills etc., but their intention is deliberate disruption.

Off they set each morning– the speed governors on their engines turned down to ten miles an hour – fanning out all over Suffolk – aiming to cover a cunning mixture of narrow lanes and A Roads. Narrow lane blocking is mainly done by individuals – co-ordinated convoys deal with the A Roads.

Each driver drives for at least fifty miles until turning up a random farm entrance. But, the farm is a dummy destination – after five minutes they continue their long infuriating journeys, smiling relaxed, malevolent smiles.

As for whether there is any evidence for this theory I would say – dear reader – look around you!

Nigel Cousins

Village Walk

It was great to see a good turnout for the village walk on 17th October. The weather could not have been better and about 24 people and several dogs enjoyed about an hour's walk through the lanes and across the fields of Cratfield before finishing up for tea and cakes in the sunshine back at the church. Some people knew the tracks and paths already but for others it was a bit of an adventure into uncharted territory. Thanks to the cake bakers and tea makers and if you did not manage to join us this time we hope you will be able to join us some time soon as now we seem to be emerging from lockdowns and social distancing we hope to make them a more regular occurrence.

Clive

Cratfield Play Area – New Outside Bench

Please note dogs on leads are allowed on the concrete area of the Play Area so their owners can sit on the new bench.

Dogs are not allowed on the grass or near the play equipment .

Thank you

Cratfield Parish Council



**Would YOU like to be part of the Cratfield Nativity trail?
Here's how you may be able to help....!**

If you live on the route from the Village Hall to the Church please can you light your front garden with fairy lights or even better, a star to light our way from 5pm on the 12th December – put the date in your diary now! Do not worry if you do not have outside lights, a candle in a jam jar (or two, or three!) would be perfect too!

Do you have old curtains or duvet covers suitable for costumes, or curtain cords for sashes or check tea towels for head dresses. Calling any seamstresses who can help to make costumes. We need you! We also need....a large baby doll, big toy sheep, an old perfume bottle and ointment bowl, battery Church Pillar candles and a portable CD Player. Anyone or a family that would like to take on a solo Carol at the service or play an instrument.

For more information or for offers of help for any of the above please Ring Margaret on 07906509302.

THANK YOU !

CRATFIELD NATIVITY TRAIL
12th December 2021

Following the huge success of last year's Carols around the Tree and the light switch on at the Church, we have something even bigger and better for you to enjoy!

Come along with lanterns & torches & join a Nativity Trail through the village.

We will leave the Village Hall at 5pm where you will be led by narrators through Nazareth to the city of Bethlehem where the children will act & sing the nativity story - stopping at 4 venues along the way - and finishing around the manger at St. Marys Church.

Then join together for carols around 5.30 with the Bonfire & the lighting of the Christmas Tree - followed by sausages & mulled wine!



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Cratfield Parish Council

Please help clean & tidy up your village

Cratfield Parish Council has now purchased litter picking equipment which can be borrowed anytime.

Your support would be greatly appreciated!

If you would like to litter pick please contact:

Cllr Gloria Steward Tel: 07791 515 016 - collect in village

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



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Almost Going to War.....by Accident!

Halfway through my year in HMS Beachampton, I was admitted early one morning to the RAF hospital at Muharraq to have my wisdom teeth removed (which you may feel explains a lot!). It so happened the same morning that Beachampton was due to be moved from one berth to another for some essential engineering work. Since her engines and generators had already been stripped down and we were without autonomous power, a 'cold move' was necessary using a tug. Normally the Captain's presence would not be required.

Imagine then my horror, when later in the day I awoke feeling very groggy, to find my First Lieutenant and Navigator standing rather sheepishly at the end of my bed, waving a copy of the dreaded Form S232 – the epitome of a Captain's untransferable accountability,¹ They needed me to sign it before its despatch, and somewhat embarrassed, explained what had happened. The tug, a local Bahraini vessel, had arrived and secured alongside Beachampton. By convention, a move by tug uses the tug's wires and ropes. The move had started when suddenly the ropes parted – they apparently looked very, well.... "ropey." Moreover, my First Lieutenant had, reasonably enough, decided not to prepare an anchor for letting go in an emergency because there was no ship's power and it would have been almost impossible to weigh anchor should it be dropped. There were no alternatives immediately available and the ship, thus freed but unable to steer, sailed serenely on across the basin and, in best naval tradition, rammed the starboard side of a Saudi Arabian Navy gunboat, moored alongside the BASREC² slipway and repair yard. Despite travelling very slowly on impact it was enough to cause some fairly significant damage and considerable kerfuffle ensued. Eventually new, sound ropes were passed to the tug and Beachampton was moved to her new berth, safely secured and everybody had heaved a sigh of relief.

While I was still comatose under general anaesthetic, a little later that same morning, a bewildered Commodore's Secretary in the Bahrain Naval HQ had been telephoned by the First Secretary at the British Political Residency, telling him that the Residency had received a formal diplomatic protest from

¹Form S232 –“Report of Collision or Grounding” is rendered to the Commander in Chief whenever one of these disasters befalls a ship – fortunately infrequently. The Captain is always wholly responsible, whether or not he is present, because under Queen's Regulations he may only delegate command or control of his ship to an officer “of whose competence he has completely satisfied himself.” In my career I submitted three!

²Bahrain Ship Repair and Engineering Company, a small ship repair business where, amongst other things, all the ships of our squadron were hauled up a slipway for regular underwater inspections and repairs.

the Saudi Embassy alleging that a Saudi naval vessel had been “attacked by the British Navy,” causing some alarm.

Now, still feeling disoriented, I heard my nervous and apprehensive officers asking me to sign a Form S232, describing the incident, thus admitting my personal liability for almost starting hostilities with a previously friendly nation. I must admit that, for a few minutes at least, I almost lost my sense of humour! However, very quickly a different sort of sense prevailed, and I duly signed the form and told them both to have a drink back on board at my expense, before, before falling asleep again.

Surprisingly, I heard nothing more about it. I never found out exactly what Their Excellencies, the British Political Resident (presumably on the advice of the Commodore Naval Forces Gulf) and the Saudi Ambassador might have discussed, but I think they must both have had a sense of humour. Nonetheless, I felt it prudent not to make further enquiries when I returned to the ship the following day. In the event, war with Saudi Arabia did not break out although we did make a wooden plaque listing our (very unofficial) sole battle honour as “The Battle of Basreq 1970”! I should explain that all HM Ships are awarded official battle honours, some dating back to the Spanish Armada, which remain linked to the ship’s name and automatically transfer to later ships of the same name. They are normally proudly and prominently displayed. Ours was displayed rather more discreetly. It hung in the officers’ heads³ as a permanent admonition to take “seaman-like precautions” before embarking on any evolution.

With hindsight, the incident might have been avoided, at the risk of breaking the normal conventions. RN captains are never allowed to assume that other parties are properly skilled, nor to hand over control of their ship to them. An example perhaps of why Britain is sometimes accused of hubris, but also a very sound principle, which might have been applied here. Happily, in those days young officers in small ships were assumed to be “learning on the job,” and on this occasion we certainly did.

Today’s world would, I fear, be less forgiving.

Jeremy Blackham

³“Heads” is the naval term for loos.

Cratfield Quiz Films

Can you identify the film from these quotes?

1. Nobody puts Baby in a corner. (1987)
2. I'll be back. (1984)
3. You talking to me? (1976)
4. You're gonna need a bigger boat. (1975)
5. Here's Johnny. (1980)
6. Frankly my dear, I don't give a damn. (1939)
7. Toto, I've a feeling we're not in Kansas any more. (1939)
8. Love means never having to say you're sorry. (1970)
9. I'm gonna make him an offer he can't refuse. (1972)
10. They may take our lives, but they'll never take our freedom. (1995)
11. That'll do, Pig. That'll do. (1995)
12. I'm having an old friend for dinner. (1991)
13. Say hello to my little friend. (1983)
14. Houston, we have a problem. (1995)
15. To infinity and beyond. (1995)
16. I see dead people. (1999)
17. I'm also just a girl, standing in front of a boy, asking him to love her. (1990)
18. Play it again, Sam. (1942)
19. I wish I knew how to quit you. (2005)
20. I am the King of the world. (1997)

Brundish Christmas Fair 2021 2.30pm, Saturday 27th November at Brundish Village Hall

Brundish Christmas Fair is back! We will have all the old favourites which are synonymous with this popular get-together, plus Father Christmas, lashings of mulled wine and, who knows, something different!

Like many other communities we have been hard hit by a number of setbacks which have had a serious effect on our ability and willingness to congregate and enjoy each other's company of late. The Christmas Fair has always been a key event in our village year and we are hoping that will be all the more true this year. Whether you are from Brundish or any of our friendly neighbouring villages, you would be most welcome to join in all the fun at our warm and cheerful village hall.

For further details please call Sandra on 01728 628607 or David on 07881 481745

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Chris Kitchen tel. no. 01986 798 764, email: chrissie.kitchen@yahoo.com or write to Bell Green Cottage, Cratfield, Halesworth, Suffolk, IP19 0BI

VILLAGE HALL UPDATE – NOVEMBER

Pop Up Pub first Friday of each month / 6 – 10pm with food by Cratfield Kitchen

Friday 5th Nov & Friday 3rd Dec - Huge thanks as always to all the volunteers and committee members behind the scenes who enable this to happen. Don't forget Cratfield Kitchen offer a fantastic range of food, so whether you just want a drink to celebrate the end of the week or just don't fancy cooking do pop along. We aim to put their menu up on the village facebook page a few days beforehand. **We have a card machine on order for the bar so watch this space!**

Photographic Competition open evening

Congratulations to all the winners! We made a slight change to the proceedings and the judge stayed on after judging so he was able to explain why he selected the winning photos. Everyone appreciated the feedback – and many took the opportunity to talk to him and take advantage of his experience and advice on how to improve for next time! Special mentions to Chrissie Kitchen for winning not only 2 categories but also by having one of her photos selected for the calendar front cover and to Evie & Zach Malin for their two photos which were selected by the judge for the calendar too – it does just show you, you do not need an expensive camera or to be a professional photographer to just have a go and take part. The categories for next year have been announced as....

CRATFIELD FLOWER POWER / SUFFOLK TEXTURES / SUFFOLK PERSPECTIVE

If you enjoyed this event please do remember we have one or two long standing committee members who wish to stand down in the near future – without any new people coming forward we may have to look at cutting back on some of these events.

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION CALENDAR – RESERVE YOURS NOW!

Last year we sold out of calendars – we only get once chance and price for printing so reserve your calendars now to avoid disappointment. Book yours now via Rebecca Sannick - 01986 799006, an ideal Christmas present!

Pie & Pud evening – Saturday 13th November – 7pm / £12.50 per head CUT OFF DATE FOR BOOKINGS FRIDAY 5TH NOVEMBER

There are only a few places left – if you would like to come along please book with Rebecca Sannick ASAP on 01986 799006 and state your selection from - **One Main per person** – (all come with peas, carrots & dauphinoise potatoes) Steak & Mushroom Pie / Chicken, Leek & Bacon

Pie / Vegetable Cottage pie (a mix of vegetables and lentils) **One Pudding per person** - Sticky Toffee Sponge or Syrup Sponge (with lashings and lashings of Custard) Drink – BYO – however, the bar will be open before the food is served with a small selection of bottles of wine, beer and cider to buy by the bottle.

Christmas Fair - Sunday 5th December / 10am – 1pm

We are thrilled to be fully booked in terms of stallholders – **with plenty of new stallholders booked up too!!** We have a wide range of new stallholders this year – to name just a few...Park Lane Jewellery, Body Shop, The Suffolk Craft Shed and Seaglass Creations. We also have a table of local products from Hill Farm, Stokes & Scarlett and Mustard - with all profits going to the Foodbank and Laxfield Pre School and the church have a table of lovely homemade festive goodies. Breakfast will be available from the kitchen with delicious fresh coffee too!

Village Hall AGM & Committee Meeting – Thursday 18th November

Open forum - 7.15pm / AGM - 7.30 then Committee Meeting following. The open forum is a chance for anyone with any questions about the village hall to come along and talk to the committee. If you would like to find out more about joining the committee please contact the current chair Natalie on 01986 798346 or vice chair Richard on 01986 798346

100 CLUB –

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

1st Sue Seabon; No - 46 = £15.00 / 2nd Bernice Muskett; No - 14 = £10.00 / 3rd Bryan Leveratt; No - 61 = £5.00. Congratulations to all the winners!

We received a lot of positive comments on how professional the renovated photographic display boards looked at the recent photographic competition – this was funded by the 100 Club. It enabled us to purchase Velcro receptive fabric and Velcro 'dots' for the back of the photographic mounts. This made hanging the exhibition so much easier and less time consuming and was a very well received project as has updating an existing part of the village hall. Another example of not only how you can win one of the cash prizes by entering the 100 Club, but how the funds raised are used to improve the facilities at the Village Hall – thank you!

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John Stewart Anderson Remembered



I read the article in October's *Cratfield News* on John Stewart Anderson. I remember him very well. He was a very handsome chap dark haired tall and slender. The barn was indeed converted into a very small theatre Ricky Church was his manager.

'*Wicky*' or Ricky was round and short in plain clothes but was equally dramatic in a quiet way. For example, he once asked could I make the buffet for their next performance. Fifteen people for a ridiculous sum - £10! '*Wicky*' wanted sausage rolls, quiche and sandwiches.

"I can do it," I replied, "but it would have to be three times that. I was working at the time too. This would be 1987/8.

'*Wicky*' left my front room without a word I watched him, head held aloft, stride along the path (he had short legs). He rounded on me and said "Extortionate!" twice - chin wobbling.

Then he spun around and simply marched off. I felt at the time he was emulating John, but it was so comical I almost burst out laughing. It would have made a good black and white Laurel and Hardy film. But it would have been me left scratching my head! Another fine mess etc.

As a 'moron' of the village I was approached one day and asked if I would like to be part of his acting team along with the Reverend Geoffrey Arrand from Halesworth - who was as confused as I was by the script.

I was duly handed the script - even upside down I could not comprehend it. So perhaps a play within a play.

I was dressed in black with John's long flowing cape. John whispered in my ear just as I was entering stage right, "You look like the young Callas!"

I was confused as she was an opera singer, and I could not see the similarity.

However head held high, straight backed, I strode in struck a pose and stared out into the audience - it was full but that meant 15 people. Very loyal if not supportive.

I minced forward, chin up, with long deep breaths. (Stone me I thought this deserves an applause for all that) if not a titter rippling throughout!

I read this, this - I don't know - piece- which started "THEY CAME, THEY VENTURED..."

To be serious it was exceedingly difficult, but I managed to pull it off.

I focused on a row of teddy bears, many of them stuffed into a hay rack. Somehow that got me through. The bewildered audience had as much of a clue as I did.

I guess I likened myself to the late Florence Foster Jenkins-ish.

As she too, didn't really have a clue - well until too late.

“Oh my dear, my dear girl!” (well it was the 80’s) UMMWAH, KISSES FROM BOTH HANDS.

White gloves on, wiping away a solitary tear, bouncing around, gesticulating with his hands, head on one side, introducing me to the very quiet gathering.

‘**Wicky**’ (Ricky) “You must join us for supper, he is the most in the kitchen darling girl.”

I accepted. Dinner was lovely everything was delicious - the wine flowed. Wonderful.

I was feeling better. As the only guest I wondered about the right time to leave. All of a sudden, the parrot in a cage in the corner squawked.

Silence, then it came TOSCA right from the parrot’s beak interspersed with a CRYING BABY.

“Oh too much,” I mumbled, “I really should go.” (If only, to crack my sides with laughter outside in the dark). I bade them farewell and exited. I am not sure whether I bowed or bopped upon closing the door.

Strike me, I still don’t know to this day what it was all about.

John and Ricky moved to Eye and took the name SOMERSHEY (the name of the house at the time) with them.

Good to hear what happened to them.

Funny, I am smiling now as I write.

Chrissie Kitchen

Film Quiz answers

1. Dirty Dancing
2. The Terminator
3. Taxi Driver
4. Jaws
5. The Shining
6. Gone with the Wind
7. The Wizard of Oz
8. Love Story
9. The Godfather
10. Braveheart
11. Babe
12. The Silence of the Lambs
13. Scarface
14. Apollo 13
15. Toy Story
16. The Sixth Sense
17. Notting Hill
18. Casablanca
19. Brokeback Mountain
20. Titanic

2021 Mobile Library Dates

2nd November, 30th November, 28th December

Silverleys Green 14.15 – 14.35

The Poacher 14.45 – 14.55

Cratfield Parish Council

Meeting Dates 2021

Tuesday 14th September 2021 at 7.30pm

Tuesday 9th November 2021 at 7.30pm

The Planning meetings are arranged as and when required.

The agenda is displayed 3 days before the meeting on the noticeboards & website: www.cratfield.onesuffolk.net

The meetings are held in Cratfield's village hall.

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

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Free Firewood

Over the Autumn/winter I hope to take down the straggly (and environmentally inappropriate) Leylandii trees on my boundary with Tongs Lane. Once I have cleared the ground I plan to replace them with a more fitting hedge of native species more in keeping with the Suffolk countryside. Firewood experts will know that the wood from the old conifers will not be any good for open fires as it sparks too much, but it does throw out a lot of heat on a wood-burner once it's been seasoned for a year or so and especially if it is mixed in with some good hardwood logs. So, if for the effort of helping me clear up the trunks you want the free firewood do get in touch. (**Clive 01986 798030**) – I have already got quite a heap of logs to chop up from my earlier war on the Leylandii trees that lined the borders of the old nursery!

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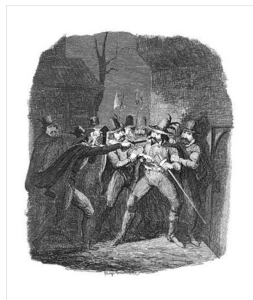
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Dear Friends,

We are coming up to a season of remembering.

Remembering is as tainted by our fallen human nature as any other activity. It's so easy only to remember that Germany provoked two world wars and spawned perhaps the most evil ideology that there has ever been. It's harder to remember that no German under the age of 90 can possibly be held responsible for World War II or Nazi doctrines, and should therefore not be pilloried or caricatured for evermore. We also need to remember that heroism and suffering were not confined to the Allies.

As well as remembering the fallen at our special services on Remembrance Sunday we also remember this month Guy Fawkes. We often forget that he and his fellow plotters were motivated by genuine grievances, but these were ignored because of what we should now call the terrorist plot to blow up the Houses of Parliament. Modern plotters should most definitely 'Remember, remember the Fifth of November'. The cause of Roman Catholic emancipation was set back for two centuries because of public outrage.

Many churches hold Requiems on All Souls Day, November 2nd, during which the names of the congregation's loved ones are read out. In this benefice we carry out this act of remembrance during Advent (details in next month's Magazine). But it is not only we who remember those whom we love but see no longer, or all those who fought for their country. God remembers. The writer of Psalm 88 might say pessimistically 'I am... like the slain that lie in the grave, like those whom you remember no more, for they are cut off from your hand'. He had no concept of life beyond death. The thief on the cross, on the other hand, begged Jesus to remember him. He was saying more than he knew. We believe that God remembers, holds in his mind and heart for good, all his human creation living and departed, until the day when our souls and bodies are reunited.

David

St. Mary's Church Services November 2021

| Sunday 14th | Sunday 21st | Sunday 28th |
|---|---|--|
| 6.00pm Remembrance Service | 9.00am Village Worship | 9.00am Holy Communion |
| Sidesperson A.Edmunds | Sidesperson D. Peacock | Sidesperson A. Edmunds |
| Reader M. Powell | Reader P. Baker | Reader D. Peacock |
| Readings 1 Samuel 1:4-20 Hebrews 10:11-14 (15-18) 19-25 | Readings 2 Samuel 23:1-7 Rev 1:4b-8 John 18:33-37 | Readings Jer 33:14-16 1 Thess 3:9-13 Luke 21:25-36 |

Please come along and join us on Remembrance Sunday

See our double page spread and book the date in your diary for our really special Christmas Nativity Walk. There are many ways in which you can help make this a community event. We would appreciate any offers of help to be part of the team.

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| | | |
|--|--|---------------|
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| | Stradbroke | 01379 384 220 |
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Advertising rates p/a: Full page £60; half page £30; quarter £20.

Please contact Sue, Graham or Peter for more information