

CRATFIELD NEWS

November 2025



THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone for your kind words of condolence and offers of help. Everyone has been wonderful.

I am pleased that the coal found a few new homes.

Also thanks to everyone who has been giving a new home to the items left at the end of the drive.

Thanks to Gary and Shaun for their help depleting the wood stocks!!!

I am down to 9 new sheets of chipboard (OBS) 18mm thick, 2440mm x 1220mm (8ft by 4ft). All free to a good home (garage/shed). It is self service!

If anyone wants various 2x2, ? 2x4? 6ft, 3ft lengths, let me know. I can't get to them yet...

Thanks Anna Sugden

01986798760

anna.m.sugden@gmail.com

Farefield House.

ST MARY'S – HELP!

Firstly the **autumn churchyard clearance** will be taking place on **Saturday November 8th** from 10.00am onwards. As usual please bring your own equipment, strimmers, rakes, secateurs, barrows etc. If you do not wish to be outside there is work available in the church cleaning brass, clearing cobwebs (if you have a very long brush!) etc. Drinks and biscuits provided.

Secondly St. Mary's will be selling **raffle tickets for a Christmas Hamper** (or two) at the Christmas Fair in the village hall on **Sunday December 7th**. (If you aren't around on that day we will also be selling tickets at the Pop-up pub on Friday 5th.) As with many congregations in rural areas ours is sadly dwindling, thus we receive fewer contributions to fill the hamper. So we are asking for your help and generosity. If you would like to donate a festive item/treat that you might like to find in a Christmas hamper then it would be much appreciated. The proceeds of the raffle are restricted to the upkeep of our village heritage building the church of St. Mary. Any donations can be left with Sue at Crane's Cottage, School Corner from now until December 5th (if no-one at home the porch is a safe place) or she is happy to collect if you call 01986 798725.

Many thanks in advance St. Mary's PCC

THANK YOU – from Paul

Once again the generosity of Cratfield folk has allowed me to make a donation to the Hospice of £1055! Thank you everyone and a special thank you to the guest artists who so kindly gave their musical services for free.

Cratfield Act of Remembrance - Ringing the changes

This year the village Act of Remembrance is being brought in line with most of the rest of the nation and we will hold a short ceremony at 11:00 am on Remembrance Sunday at the Village Sign, a more publicly visible location.

The rationale behind the 1800 hrs church service in Cratfield is lost in the midst of time (though there are some memories from childhood about Mrs Bloom the RBL standard bearer not being available in the morning!)

There are many other good reasons for bringing this event in line with the rest of the nation and it is important that we do not forget those from our village who have given their lives in the service of our country.

The plan for the revised act of remembrance is;

All invited to congregate at the village sign from 10.45

Use the words of the National act of Remembrance at 10.50 including wreath laying

Observe the two minute silence at 11.00

End with the reveille (trumpet call) at 11.02 (Any buglers out there?)

There will be an opportunity to make a donation to the work of the Royal British Legion.

We would like to invite any village organisation to lay a wreath - so if you feel this applies to your group then please get in touch

If the weather is particularly bad then we might have to make last minute arrangements and retreat to the church but the running order and tone will be much the same.

In the evening at 1800 hours there will be a short reflective "Vigil for Peace" in the church for any one who wishes to bring their personal meditations or prayers together in community but this will not be the full act of remembrance we have held in the past.

Rev. Clive Mobbs 07340 838639

WELCOME

A very warm Cratfield welcome to Andrew, Kirsten, Ethan and Noah, not forgetting Bonnie the dog, who have recently moved into Meadowside House (the black house).

and also to Poppy and Daniel who have moved into one of Poachers Cottages.

We hope they will soon feel at home here in our great, friendly village and get to know who we are and what we have to offer!

**Thursday 23rd November
Village Hall 10-12 noon**

Craftfield Coffee Morning

**Come along and enjoy a chat over tea, coffee & cake
All Welcome!**

We are running a monthly coffee morning at Village Hall. If you would like to help or are in need of a lift please contact Sinead on
07516588060

Interfaith Work: The Work of the People of God?

Thursday 13th November 2025 7pm at Brundish Village Hall

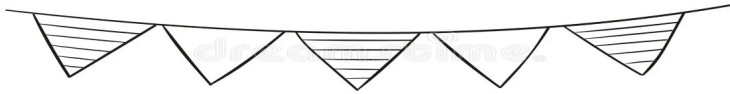
**You are invited to meet with Reverend Tom Mumford,
Vicar of Ipswich Minster, who is also the Diocesan Interfaith Advisor.**

Please join us as we explore prayerfully what interfaith work looks like, and how we might better build relationships and understanding between people of all world faiths.



Reverend Clive Mobbs will also be joining us to share his experiences of interdenominational work in his role as Chaplain at Sizewell C.

**Brundish Village Hall
The Thoroughfare,
Brundish
Woodbridge
IP13 8AZ**



Crafting and cake!

Our Village Hall bunting is looking a little worse for wear, and we'd love your help to freshen it up - using upcycled/left over fabric, your creativity, and just a bit of community spirit. Could you join us for a fun, relaxing afternoon of crafting, chatting, and reviving our Village Hall's bunting?

Details

When: 2:00pm – 5.00pm, Saturday 15th November.

Where: Cratfield Village Hall, Manse Lane

What's Happening

Help us transform left over or pre-used fabric into colourful bunting. Don't worry if you're not a seasoned sewer—we've got a task for everyone:

- **Sewers with machines:** Bring your sewing machine and sew triangles for our bunting.
- **Colour stylists & cutters:** Help pick fabric combos, cut to template, and pin ready to stitch (template and pins provided).
- **Detail finishers:** Trim, tidy and iron ready for attaching the sewn pieces to the bunting string.
- **Fabric donors:** Have you got scraps of pre-used or left over fabric from a project (at least 50cm x 50cm), unpicked, washed and ironed that you would be happy to donate?
- Free tea, coffee, homemade Cratfield cake (of which no Cratfield event is complete without!) - and a celebratory glass of Prosecco to toast our team effort!

All ages and abilities welcome - this is an inclusive, community-loving event.

If you would like to take part, have any fabric donations or any questions please email: c.hay-davison@sky.com as soon as possible.

MICHAEL OLIVER

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If you would like to litter pick please contact:

Cllr Dan Elford Tel: 07870 462189 - Village collection

Cllr Richard Chivers Tel: 07900 187350 - Silverleys Green collection

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ICS

REGISTERED MEMBER OF THE INSTITUTE OF CHIMNEY SWEEPS

“Cricket, lovely cricket”¹

I have always been a passionate lover of cricket – the great gift my grandfather gave me when I was 7 or 8 and which is still strongly alive today, 75 years later. One of the most enjoyable things my naval career gave me was the fun of playing cricket, often at a very good standard, in a variety of unlikely places. Of course there were plenty of cricket matches against very decent local teams in such Commonwealth countries as Bermuda, Gibraltar (where I once represented the British Forces against the Gibraltar national side), Singapore (on the beautiful and famous *Padang*), Australia, South Africa, the Bahamas and the West Indies, and even against expatriate West Indian communities in Florida and in the American Virgin islands, where enthusiasm amongst these expatriate communities was always very high. Large and usually very chatty, but always very knowledgeable, crowds would come and watch.

But cricket somehow seems to percolate into places that other beers can't reach – amateur cricket and beer have always been close companions! Although, unlike some of my submarine colleagues, I haven't played at the North Pole on an ice pitch, I have played in the Falkland Islands, watched by penguins. Rather more unlikely was a match played in Hawaii², under the shadow of Diamond Head, against a mixed English and American team, whose bowling and batting techniques were rather more rooted in baseball than in English cricketing manuals, with the roar of the Waikiki surf always audible in the background. I have even played on a small Fijian Island (the subject of a much earlier story in this series), with bats made from palm trees and rather unusual balls, for which few of the Laws of Cricket were relevant!

One of the most unusual series of matches I played in was played in Central America during HMS *Rothsay's* visits there in 1965/6. We played in Mexico City against a club formed of the local British diplomatic and business community, watched over by Popocatepetl, and at an altitude of well over 7000ft, where running a quick single or bowling fast left one very breathless, since we had come straight up from sea level at Acapulco. From there we played the British Club teams in El Salvador (where, embarrassingly, we won by over 200 runs and I scored only my second century), and in Managua, the capital of Nicaragua where thankfully the game was much more even. Finally we played in the small town of Almirante on the Atlantic coast of Panama on a matting wicket on top of rolled sand, in a clearing in the banana trees which are the city's main export. The ball certainly did some strange things and if you trod on it whilst fielding, it disappeared into the sand!

Easily the most enjoyable cricket I came across during the course of my seagoing time, however, was that of the Bahraini and Kuwaiti cricket

leagues, played on matting wickets laid on a rolled oil/sand base. In Bahrain there were, in the 1960s, a dozen teams made up from the large English, Australian, Indian and Pakistani communities who worked in the oil business and in a wide range of banking, telecommunication, trading and public service industries. The standard of play was high, and the highlight was the annual all day “Test Match” played between England/Australia and India/Pakistan which always produced tough cricket, and a strong competition but played in a spirit of friendship as well. It was similar in Kuwait although there were fewer teams. I was lucky enough to play in these “Test Matches” in both countries and was always rather sorry that we never managed to have a full Bahraini Select XI play a Kuwaiti Select XI – that would have been quite something and would have produced a testing two or three day game. Of course, in those far-off days cricket had neither the razzmatazz of the contemporary highly commercial entertainment that some of it has become. Nor did it have the levels of corruption that so bedevil the modern international game. Rather, it was a genuine unifying feature amongst those who played it, and for those of us far from home (and in those days the Gulf was far from home in every sense of the words) a happy reminder of the English summer. Even today it is still a happy and nostalgic memory which still gives me a great deal of pleasure.

Jeremy Blackham

1. The opening lines of the famous West Indies Victory Calypso at Lords in 1950 after their first Test Match victory in England.
2. Serendipitously, in Hawaii I also saw my first opera of many – La Boheme

MOBILE LIBRARY DATES

Silverleys Green 14.00 – 14.20 The Poacher 14.30 – 14.45

November 25th, December 23rd

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VILLAGE HALL UPDATE – NOVEMBER

CRATFIELD POP UP PUB - Friday 7th November 6pm-10pm

The FIRST (*who spotted the, ahem, “deliberate” error last month?!*) Friday of the month means it's time for an evening at the Cratfield Pop Up Pub! Always a great way to catch up with neighbours and friends from around the village - and to meet new people. There will be a barrel of local beer – together with a choice of wines plus cider, lager, soft drinks, G&T and all that's cheering on a cold evening. An essential monthly date for the diary! Bar takes cards & cash.

And Cratfield Kitchen will be back at the ovens, serving their wonderful food to keep the November wolves from the door (for one night anyway!). Cash only for food.

CRATFIELD VILLAGE HALL 100 CLUB – NOVEMBER WINNERS

This month's winners are: first prize (£15) number 3 – Bronwen Warner; second prize (£10) number 23 – Andy Edmonds; and 3rd prize (£5) number 90 – Sara Saunders. Draw by D Britton. Many congratulations to the winners!

INDOOR BOWLS AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Last dates for 2025: 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 VILLAGE HALL AGM – 13th November 2025

Open Forum AGM at 7pm, followed by the Committee Meeting – come along, have your say about how the village hall is used, and, if you would like to get involved, stand for a role on the friendly committee.

Looking ahead...

CHRISTMAS FAIR – 7th December

Not long now until the wonderful Cratfield Christmas Fair returns for 2025 – a lovely festive way to get your present shopping sorted - with bacon baps, cake and hot drinks to provide sustenance as you browse!

PLANT SHOW – 7th June 2026

A call to all keen Cratfield gardeners! Next year we will hold a village plant sale to raise money for the village hall. So, as you tidy your garden ready for the first frosts, don't forget to pot up those extra seedlings and maximise the use of your propagator, ready for a fun filled day (OF COURSE there will be coffee and cake!) of horticultural hurrahs and frenzied plant buying next June.

CRATFIELD VILLAGE HALL 100 CLUB

If you have submitted your form/paid your subscription but have not yet had an acknowledgement, please text or call Helen on 07818046955.

Me and my Big Mouth

There is a well-known piece of advice along the lines of “make sure your brain is engaged before putting your mouth in gear”. I sometimes wish I had followed this. For example.

I was at a dinner-party and was sat next to the hostess. The conversation got round to literature and she turned to me and asked, "Do you like Dickens?"

"I don't know," I replied, "I've never been to one."

We got on very well after that.

Charlie Wilson

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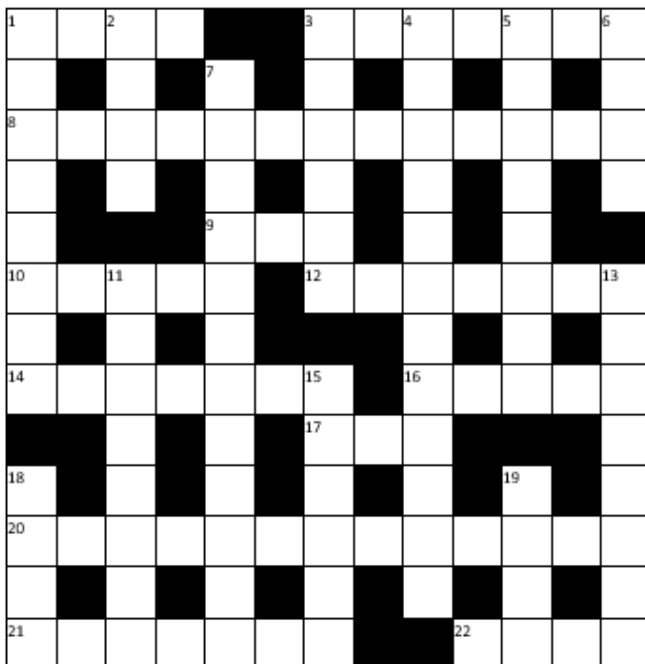


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Across:

- 1 Exalt leading ladies in film trailer (4)
- 3 Coward's affronted as held to be yellow (7)
- 4 Exercised cadet must hurt to make the grade (3, 3, 7)
- 9 Prompt in heading costs' urgent evaluation (3)
- 10 Sounds like bet could be rare, perhaps (5)
- 12 Love in trig is running amok (7)
- 14 Chaos or scene cries again and again
- 16 Sounds like bracket's key operative is pivotal (5)
- 17 It's not ID that is needed for one's identity (3)
- 20 They dropped Wallis's bouncers (3, 3, 7)
- 21 Twisted, sick, bad ride (7)
- 22 Ruddy cheek! (4)

Down:

- 1 The French breed Eastern game (8)
- 2 Capital fellow examines the entertainment. That's fair! (4)
- 3 Will's lease has a short date this season (6)
- 4 Designer's model home (7, 5)
- 5 Recoil from containment of gunfire actionable (8)
- 6 Swelling returns in treated oncological problem (4)
- 7 Draughty place? It's there in black and white (12)
- 11 Furthermore, principle emblematic token characters uncut (2, 6)
- 13 Neat island? (8)
- 15 Rock bottom? Quite possibly (6)
- 18 Butt? There are butts about it! (4)
- 19 Substitute first name for last in nought but a fiddler (4)

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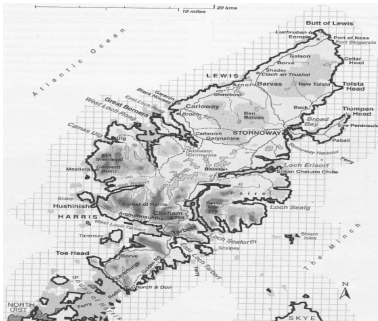
Lewis (683 square miles – Population about 20,000)

Explanatory note: Last year, we hopped across to St Kilda a month early, leaving behind the final chapter of the Outer Hebridean story, ie Lewis. Here, then, is that story:-

As I explored Lewis, my folding bicycle stayed firmly in the car boot: the largest of



the Western Isles, this is an area the size of Lancashire! Despite the concentration of population around Stornoway (about 12,000), nevertheless, if the land was fairly shared out, every man, woman and child could each claim 27 acres – because beyond Stornoway (situated half-way up the E. coast), most of the land is a wet desert of inland lochs, moorland, peat bog and barren rock, most of which can't be cultivated. Nevertheless, these islands have not been short of hugely-rich investors: Sir



James Matheson, who profited from his Chinese opium business, bought 'the long island' in 1844, whereupon a Skyeman informed him that he had bought "miles and miles of b*gger all." Undeterred, he built Lewis Castle, importing boatloads of soil with which to plant his woodland: he also set about developing harbours, bridges and roads. However, as one writer put it, "Those who dispense largesse are not always accepted with open arms." Lord

Leverhulme, buying Lewis & Harris in 1918, also invested vast sums, hoping to turn Stornoway into a European-leading fishing port: canning factories were built and Mac Fisheries was born... but he faced fierce resistance, the crofters not wanting their way of life to be interfered with. He died in 1925, another rich landowner whose ambitious dreams had fallen, literally, on rocky ground.

Courtesy of Viking invaders, Lewis was once part of the Norse Kingdom and today's dialect of Gaelic still bears heavy hallmarks of Old Norse. Harris tweed production is now centred here which, together with fishing, crofting and occasional work for the oil industry, makes up the Lewis economy. There is a strong Presbyterian tradition, peat is still cut for fuel, and the Sabbath is strictly observed where everything is shut and no-one does anything! Apparently, the younger generation enforce a day of rest upon themselves by getting blind drunk the night before, rendering themselves incapable of doing anything on a Sunday, even if they wanted to!

The map of Lewis reveals just what a barren, soggy, untamed piece of land this is: the road from Harris stays on the eastern side and leads straight to Stornoway. Only a couple of offshoots traverse across the wild peat bogs, linking up to the hardy fishing and crofting communities on the west coast, which take the full brunt of everything the Atlantic can throw at them. However, Stornoway people will never forget what happened on New Year's Day, 1919: their menfolk - those few who had miraculously survived the traumas of the First World War - were returning home from service when their ship hit rocks just outside Stornoway Harbour. Families awaiting the return of their loved ones could only watch helplessly from the pier as the ship sank in front of them: 205 passengers (out of 283) drowned, taking almost the entire remaining young male population of Lewis.

For the explorer, in addition to stunning beaches and seascapes, there is much history to be found. One of the beaches revealed a 12th century Norse chess set carved from walrus ivory. There are ancient standing stones at Callanish, which is regarded as the second greatest prehistoric stone circle in Britain, at 4,000 years old. They appear to be aligned to the moon whereas, intriguingly, Stonehenge relates to the sun. At Garrannan, on the west coast, an entire village street of blackhouses has been preserved. Further up the coast, at Arnol, it's possible to visit a preserved blackhouse, complete with authentic interior, where you can breathe in the peat smoke for yourself; these dimly-lit houses – with walls 2m thick, and thatch and turf roofs roped and weighed down with rocks – were perfect refuges from the howling storms outside. Finally, you run out of road at what feels like World's End: the Butt of Lewis. On my arrival, a sea fog had descended providing added chill (as if it were needed!) and the towering, brick-built lighthouse loomed out of the murk, like something out of War of the Worlds. Closeby, you find a small island called Luchruban where a pygmy race of people were believed to have lived. (Yes, I know that sounds ridiculous!) Beyond here, there is nothing but wild sea until you reach The Faroes 200 miles to the north.

My friends in Hertfordshire always took the mick about my travels until one confessed that he was actually quite interested; since then, there have been regular trips to various islands with small parties of friends. One of our tours took in a boat trip around Stornoway. Half-way through the trip, without a word, the crew started to land fish in a plastic bucket and, as we returned to the harbour the boat slowed. One of the men lowered a ramp and started to slap the water with a fish. "There he is!" The head of a grey seal bobbed up, swam right up to the man and took the fish from his hand. The crewman then retreated into the centre of the deck, holding another fish and, to our utter amazement, the seal landed itself onto the ramp. The crewman dropped the fish to the floor and we watched, open-mouthed, as the seal hauled itself aboard until it was at our feet. It set about the fish, chewing it side-on, just like an aquatic labrador: now we know why they are nicknamed 'dogs of the sea'! Now *that* was a party-trick we'll *never* forget!

Next month: The Isle of Skye
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 ~

For further details contact the Clerk:

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Mace

Dear Friends,

I am writing this whilst away on holiday where I have had the opportunity to reflect upon our relationship with God. Last month I wrote about the sadness I feel at people's intolerances for one another and the other day, I read an article that focused upon Genesis 1:27: "*So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them*". The author of the article spoke about their journey on a crowded train and how they had broken the 'unspoken rule of train travel and looked at the faces of everyone in the carriage,' whilst alert to a whisper from God, 'Made in my image.' Crumbs! What if we take a moment to look at the faces of the people we meet this week and take a good look at the faces of the congregation you may meet with next weekend and recognise that every single one is made in the image of God? And you know, it wasn't just Christians that he made in his image; he made every single person on the earth! So, let's get used to praying for one another irrespective of race, creed and denomination. We are all God's people made in his image.

I mentioned Advent study in last month's magazine and am pleased to say that we will be following the Church of England's 'The Joy of Christmas.' I look forward to seeing you either at Worlingworth Community Centre or the Vicarage in Laxfield at the end of the month. Further details can be found elsewhere in this publication. And I finish with one of my favourite verses from the Bible, '*I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.*' (John 13 v 34)

Prayers, peace and blessings to all, Revd Chrissie 07803 134301 – rev.chrissiesmart@gmail.com

November Services Cratfield

Sunday 9th	Sunday 23rd
10.45am Act of Remembrance at Village Sign 6.00pm Vigil for Peace	9.30am Holy Communion
Job 19:23-27a 2 Thess 2:1-5,13-end Luke 20:267-38	Jeremiah 23:1-6 Colossians 1:11-20 Luke 23:33-43

BENEFICE SERVICES

November	2nd	9th	16th	23rd
Bedfield		Remembrance at Worlingworth		10.30am Holy Communion
Brundish		10.45am Remembrance	10.30am Holy Communion Rev'd Richard Stainer- Kagera	
Laxfield	10.30am Celtic Morning Prayer	10.00am Remembrance Baptist Chapel 4.00pm Holy Communion	10.30am Morning Wor- ship	6.00pm Hartismere House
Monk So- ham	11.00am Family Service	Remembrance at Worlingworth	11.00am BCP Holy Communion	
Tannington		Remembrance at Worlingham		
Wilby	10.30am Holy Communion	10.45am Remembrance	10.30am Vil- lage Worship	10.30am Morning Prayer
Worling- worth	4.00pm Souls and Saints Taize style	10.45am Remembrance	11.00am Holy Communion	11.00am Let's Cele- brate

Saturday 1st November All Souls' Services both at Laxfield and Bedfield 5.30pm

Tuesday 11th November Remembrance with Bedfield School 10.45am

Sunday 30th 10.30am Advent Sunday Benefice Communion Laxfield

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