

CRATFIELD NEWS

Oct 2021



Harvest Festival Sunday October 24th 6.00pm
St. Mary's Church

YEMEN

The day may have started dull but, as the wonderful people of Crafield came with their hearts open for Yemen, our spirits lifted. Alone we can do so little but TOGETHER we did so much more.

Your generosity of time & donations far surpassed anything we could have hoped for. Memories and moments were made. Every small act of kindness made a difference from putting up tents & posters, baking cakes, running stalls, providing rosettes to running races. TOGETHER we raised an incredible £1,950.00. It's unbelievable. The ache for home lives in all of us, the safe place we can go to. TOGETHER we have enabled Médecins Sans Frontières to carry on providing life saving medical care for the Yemeni people irrespective of who they are. MSF don't work for governments.. they provide that 'safe place'.

Events like this are what makes our community so special....we care.

THANK YOU

Thank you

A huge thank you to everyone who made cakes for the cake stall on 30th August. My table was overflowing with delectable cakes of all descriptions! Thank you also to Milly from Cantley Bakes for the beautiful Lemon cake she made for the raffle. We raised a fantastic £190.00 from the stall and another £80 from the cake raffle.

Caroline Marfleet

Missing!

Missing boxes – I had three large, rigid, plastic boxes, 15" x 23", with navy and green lids. They were left in St. Mary's after the Yemen coffee morning. I'm sure someone has just borrowed them. So, if you read this, could you please return them and leave them at the back of the church so I can put my paperwork (which is all over my bedroom floor) back in. **They are much used boxes**

Thank you M.T.

Autumn Village Walk

Let's get this show back on the road....or footpaths. Several people have asked when we can have another village walk now that we are out of lockdown, so we thought we would see if we can squeeze one in before the clocks change for the winter.

We will start out from the Church at 14.30 on Sunday 17th October. Route to be decided, but hopefully ground conditions will be such that we can take to the paths around the village. Previously walks have been a great way to catch up with friends and neighbours old and new and we hope to serve tea and cakes at the end (offers of cakes always welcome). As usual we will try and organise it so that an easier 'road' walk can happen in tandem or if you just want to come along and be sociable with a cup of tea towards the end we will be back at the church from 15.30ish.

For more information or offers to help contact
Clive 01986 798030
Margaret 07906 509302

St. Mary's Church Cratfield

Saturday 30th - Sunday 31st October

10.30am – 4.00pm

History of Cratfield

Photographs, Memorabilia,
Information from Laxfield Museum

Chronicles of Cratfield

Coffee & Cake

If you have any information in any format
about your house or anything that happened
in the village please bring it along to
share.

Would you like to be the
Local Recorder for:
CRATFIELD



The Suffolk Local History Council runs a Recorders Scheme throughout Suffolk. We administer a network of volunteers to ensure that the '*present*' is adequately recorded at local level for the '*future*'.

A Recorder will note significant happenings in their parish and collect their local parish magazines, leaflets, election pamphlets and newspaper cuttings. At the end of each year, they are asked to submit a short report summarising the activities of their parish. The reports are deposited at the Suffolk Record Office and available to future researchers together with the collected items.

If you are interested, please look at the Recorders Pack by visiting www.slhc.org.uk to acquaint yourself with the guidelines of the scheme. You do not need to be a historian; you do not need any qualifications other than an interest in your parish. In return you will receive a copy of the SLHC Newsletter and be invited to the annual conference specifically for Local Recorders. To volunteer to help in this important work, please contact recorders@slhc.org.uk

Cratfield Quiz Art and Literature Sue A

- Who created the art installation My Bed in 1998?
- Which artist painted The Night Watch?
- What is the family's surname in Little Women?
- Which bear admitted to "having very little brain."?
- Where does Sherlock Holmes live?
- In which city is the Uffizi gallery?
- Which French artist is famous for his paintings of Tahiti?
- Who created Inspector Morse?
- What shade is the paint colour gamboge?
- Which Irish poet wrote The Lake Isle of Innisfree?
- In the novel 1984, what was in Winston Smith's room 101?
- Which novel features the character Catherine Earnshaw?
- Where can you see the Mona Lisa?
- Which novel was the subject of an obscenity trial in 1960?
- Who wrote the poem Ode to a Nightingale?
- Who created the sculpture Mother and child in 1934?
- The Handmaid's tale is a novel by which author?
- Which style of art is Picasso famous for?
- In which county is Jamaica Inn by Daphne du Maurier set?
- What is the name of the statues on Crosby beach by Antony Gormley?

Curiosity – thoughts on a rainy Saturday

I have always loved Tennyson's poem "Ulysses",¹ in which the aged Ulysses (he must have been about my age, 78) sitting idly, after all his travels, in his tiny island kingdom of Ithaca looking back over his life, remembering incidents as I have been doing recently in this magazine, bemoans his present immobility and is full of restlessness. He longs to make one last trip with his former companions.

*"'Tis not too late to seek a newer world.
Push off, and sitting well in order smite
The sounding furrows; for my purpose holds
To sail beyond the sunset, and the baths
Of all the western stars, until I die."*

And why?

*"To follow knowledge like a sinking star,
Beyond the utmost bound of human thought."*

I have always shared this Ulyssean view of life, although the flesh is now much weaker, if still very willing. I share his wish to "die with his boots on", which is why I keep on working, travelling, writing, and mentoring where I can. Above all teaching a Masters Course at London University. Teaching is easily the best way to learn and I have learned so much from my students – almost certainly much more than they have learned from me. I am very sad to have given it up this year when impersonal remote internet teaching removed the main point of it – the human contact. Curiosity is one of the greatest gifts given to humankind. I have always been driven to know what lies round the corner if we go just a little further. I can't see a book on an obscure subject without wanting to read it; I can't see a new language without wanting to study it and see how it works; I can't walk past the end of a path without wanting to walk down it and see where it goes. Worst of all, from Candy's point of view, I can't drive past a narrow forest track or rocky mountain road without having to take it and discover where it comes out. This has often led to rather formal "debates" as to the wisdom of following the track and whether it comes out at all or whether we shall need to reverse many miles back. So far, the tracks always have come out, even if we didn't know where we were. Usually, we have finished up on speaking terms! Besides, Candy mostly shares this curiosity. Let the poet James Elroy Flecker (born in our London Borough of Lewisham) have the last word from his wonderful play *Hassan*.

*"We are the Pilgrims, master; we shall go
Always a little further: it may be
Beyond the last blue mountain barred with snow,
Across that angry or that glimmering sea,
There lives a prophet who can understand*

¹See <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/45392/ulysses>

MICHAEL OLIVER

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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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VILLAGE HALL UPDATE – OCTOBER

Pop Up Pub dates – 6pm -10pm - with food by Cratfield Kitchen

Huge thanks as always to all the volunteers and committee members behind the scenes who enable this to happen.

The next pop up dates are....

Friday 1st October / Friday 5 November / Friday 3 December

Cratfield Kitchen will also be offering their usual fantastic range of food (last month's Choux Buns were literally the best EVER!) keep an eye on the village facebook page where we will endeavour to put the menu up in advance.

Cash or Card? We are nearly there with getting a card machine for the Village Hall – until we announce this please continue to bring plenty of cash, as we are unable to offer a tab – apologies.

Coming soon – to a Village Hall near you....

The Internet has landed!! Huge thanks to Fram broadband and Charles Glennon for setting this up. If you are at an event now at the Village Hall you can use the Wifi for free – the Wifi code is displayed on the notice board. This will also enable us to set up a card reader for the Pop Up Pub's and also enable stall holders at the Christmas Fair to take card payments if they have a card reader.

Photographic Competition open evening – Saturday 16th October 7 – 9pm

Many thanks to everyone who submitted photos – we cannot wait for the open evening to see all the photos displayed and the winners in each category. The bar will be open and next year's categories will be announced so don't forget to pop along and take a look.

Pie & Pud evening – Saturday 13th November – 7pm / £12.50 per head

We already have a number of bookings for this evening, so make sure you get in quick!!! 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.

IF YOU HAVE ALREADY RESERVED PLACES PLEASE CONTACT REBECCA TO CONFIRM YOUR MENU CHOICE – THANK YOU!

Christmas Fair - Sunday 5th December / AM

We are thrilled to be almost fully booked in terms of stallholders – **with plenty of new stallholders booked up too!!** So whether you are looking for a present or just a stocking filler or two do come along. The kitchen will be open and serving 'Richards big baps' again – so come along for breakfast and a tea or 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.

100 CLUB –

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

1st Emma Loades No:34 - £15.00 / 2nd Elliott Levy No:66 - £10.00 / 3rd Caroline Wisbey-Brown No:83 - £5.00. Congratulations to all the winners!

Your Village Hall needs you!

The Village Hall committee is a small group that meet 4 times a year to organise the events and running of the hall. There are a number of long standing committee members who will be inevitably looking to step down in the future and we are looking for some new people to join the committee to enable the events to continue into the future. Please note - without some new Committee members then the number of events and pop up pubs will have to be reduced.

We would particularly like to hear from you if you have an administration background and/or are highly organised as we could specifically do with a village hall secretary. If you would like to find out more about the joining the committee, then please do contact our Chair - Natalie Lloyd Evans on 01986 798790 or Vice Chair - Richard Turberville on 01986 798346.

Some questions that are often asked by people enquiring about joining the committee....

Do I need to come and mow the grass at the weekend?

No - we have use of the Church ride on lawn mower and a marvellous volunteer or two (however, we could always do with more if you fancy using a ride on lawn mower?)

Do I need to don a pair of marigolds and push a vacuum cleaner around?

No - not unless you want to re-enact Freddie Mercury in the Queen video for 'I want to break free'... Anyone who hires the hall leaves it in a clean and tidy state as part of their booking contract - we also have a cleaner who does a regular more thorough clean and comes out on an ad-hoc basis as and when extra cleaning is required

Do I need to join a working party to come and tidy up the grounds?

No - we are grateful to Gary Kimpton who strims, weeds and keeps the paths and gutters clear

Do I need to climb a ladder?

No - see above

Do I need to work a shift behind the bar also?

No - a sub committee organise the pop up pub - with a range of volunteers who assist with running these nights. (but if you would like to then we have no problem!)

Do I need to organise my life around the village hall?

Absolutely not - (and no one on the current committee does!) there are just 4 meetings a year (on average 1.5 - 2 hours long) and a few other sub committees who organise the events - and these usually meet up over a bottle or two of wine to organise and plan, just once or twice a year. There are often apologies at committee meetings due to members being away on holiday, work commitments and so forth.

How long would I need to be on the committee for?

However long you feel able – we have some members who have been on for a long time, and some who join for a year or two – why not give it a go and see?!

Answers to Quiz

1.Tracey Emin 2. Rembrandt 3. March 4. Winnie the Pooh 5. 221b Baker street 6. Florence 7. Paul Gauguin 8. Colin Dexter 9. Yellow 10.W.B Yeats 11. Rats 12. Wuthering Heights 13. Louvre Paris 14. Lady Chatterley's Lover 15. John Keats 16. Barbara Hepworth 17. Margaret Atwood 18. Cubism 19. Cornwall 20. Another Place

HEVENINGHAM HALL EVENTS RETURN

We are excited to announce that our **Fireworks Event** will be going ahead this year. It will be held on Saturday 6th November. You can expect all the usual stalls and fairground attractions and the ever popular LED Drummers. Our headline music act this year is RAZORLIGHT whose hits include 'Somewhere Else', 'In the Morning' and 'America'. Sharing the stage will be Freddie and the Freeloaders and the Norwich band Little Red Kings.

The gates will open at 4.30pm and the spectacular firework display by Full Effect Fireworks will start after 7.30pm.

Tickets are £35 per car in advance of £40 at the gate, if you walk in £5 per adult and £5 per child (4-14). Tickets from Halesworth Golf Club, Laxfield Coo-op, Halesworth Wine Shop, The Huntingfield Arms or www.suffolk-fireworks.co.uk/tickets

Our **Christmas Market Event** will be held Saturday 4th December from 12pm till 8pm. There will be a synthetic ice-skating rink and a train ride cross to see Father Christmas in his grotto. This event will now be moved to the Orangery at the back of the Hall

No date has as yet been set for the Country Fair.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

These events rely on our amazing volunteers. Duties are varied and include patrolling an area, helping car parking, litter picking, assisting the public and helping in the tea room. The length of the shift is dependent on the number of volunteers and the size of the event.

If you would like to volunteer or find out more please email juliecollett@gmail.com

All proceeds from these events go to Heveningham Hall Country Fair Trust, charity no. 1095403

HM THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE 2-5 JUNE 2022

CAN YOU HELP?

Next year, all being well, the nation will be celebrating an unprecedented event in our history. The first ever Platinum Jubilee.

A few people have got together to study the feasibility and practicality of staging a Benefice wide fun event on Thursday 2nd June 2022. For those of you who are not conversant with The Four Rivers Benefice this includes Bedfield, Brundish, Cratfield, Laxfield, Monk Soham, Tannington, Wilby and Worlingworth-cum-Southolt.

It is hope the day will include various games, competitions and communal events which will be geared to the whole family enjoyment. The venue is yet to be decided, but that will have to be carefully considered for accessibility and on-site amenities.

Having the event on the Thursday will ensure it will not clash with the Suffolk Show earlier in the week and will leave the competing villages Friday free, maybe to plan their own parochial celebrations. Also it will ensure we don't clash with the televised national events proposed for the Saturday and potentially and church based celebrations on the Sunday.

Such an event will require sponsorship for the upfront costs and maybe prizes, but we are praying for generous assistance of local businesses, perhaps those who advertise in our local newsletters. This may not have to be expensive if many pitch in, as this is not a fund raising event.

Also we would be looking for representatives from each village who would be able to co-ordinate help and contributions and it could be that each village might be responsible for something relevant to be organised on the day.

If you would be willing to put some time aside for this exciting and truly communal exercise please contact Catherine Bacon on 01379 388808 or e-mail Baconcatherine@hotmail.com or David Mulrenan on 07881 481745 and djmulrenan@gmail.com Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

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cratfieldpc@gmail.com

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Arskit – A Shaggy Dog Story

Every ship in the 9th MCM Squadron in Bahrain was the proud owner of a ship's dog. In Beachampton we had a young dog of indeterminate breed who had joined the ship before I arrived, having been found abandoned, when apparently he looked more like a woolly lamb than a puppy. He got his unusual name soon afterwards when some wag asked his mate what the dog was called. "Ask it" was the reply he got, and so Arskit the dog became.

By the time I arrived, Arskit had been advanced to the rank of Able Dog and had certain specific duties in the ship. One of his greatest skills was to learn very quickly, and then to recognise, all 38 of the ship's company. This meant that whenever the gangway was unmanned, as it sometimes was because the on-duty Quartermaster was away doing rounds of the ship during the night, or attending to other urgent business, Able Dog Arskit would "man" the gangway. He would allow any Beachampton crew member onboard, at any time of the day or night, greeting them with a tail wag and a lick. However, any strangers unaccompanied by one of his own people would be stopped with a growl and a loud bark to summon the Quartermaster back. This occasionally caused problems if another ship was berthed outboard of us, but since all the ships' dogs had their idiosyncrasies, it was accepted. Besides, Able Dog Arskit was universally popular.

There had been problems elsewhere; the dog belonging to HMS Gavinton had bitten the base Chaplain on one famous occasion, necessitating an unpleasant rabies inoculation – a real case of insubordination for which the Captain of Gavinton¹ was threatened with ex-communication (jocularly I am sure, for the Padre was a very good chap who often came to sea with us all). Happily, Arskit never went that far. He was looked after by a Petty Officer Stoker, one POME² Spurling, who became known as the Dog Petty Officer and gave a great deal of time to his personnel responsibilities for Arskit.

Now it happened that in May 1970 we were given our annual break from the Gulf. We, together with two "chummy ships" Gavinton and Brereton, were allowed a five-day R and R visit to Karachi as a break from the rigours of the Gulf (although of course, Karachi was a "dry" city just like Bahrain). Even though the time on passage each way was longer than the visit, and we would go straight on patrol as we left Karachi, it was too good to miss and we were much looking forward to it. But a few days before we were due to sail, a very worried looking POME Spurling arrived at my cabin door. "I am afraid we can't go to Karachi, sir" he said. "Oh, why not?" "Well, sir, Arskit needs some vaccinations before we go or he won't be allowed back into Bahrain, but the vet won't do them. I can't prove he is over 6 months old, because we just found him, sir, and I don't know his birthday."³ All this was said with a straight face and in a very lugubrious tone. He really meant it.

"Well," I said, "This is a serious situation; but we can't let the whole ship down. Let's see. How long have you been on board the ship, POME² Spurling?" "Oh, well sir," he replied, catching on, "I joined last October. sir." "So," I said "let's assume you have known Arskit all that time, then you must have known him for 6 months. And he was already a few months old when he joined"

Spurling frowned. "Arskit hadn't actually joined when I arrived". "But I don't suppose you can remember exactly when that was" I said; "So if I sign a formal letter to the Vet saying that Arskit has been known personally to you for about 9 months, that should be close enough for government work." "Oh, I reckon so," said POME Spurling, smiling for the first time. It struck me that we had been discussing Arskit as if he were an ordinary member of the crew, not a dog!

So Able Dog Arskit got his jabs, we got to Karachi and a good time was had by all. On such vital personnel matters hang the morale and efficiency of warships.

And I promise that the story is absolutely true!

Jeremy Blackham

¹The Captain of Gavinton's surname was Grace which probably saved him!

²POME = Petty Officer Mechanical Engineer, the more modern name for stokers. It has more recently become something even more outlandish but doubtless more "woke" since we now have lady "stokers".

³It may have been more than six months, but I can't remember the exact age now. The vaccinations were for such things as distemper, hardpad and, especially, rabies. There may have been others, but the memory fades over 50 plus years!



2021 Historic Churches Ride 'n Stride

The annual Historic Churches Ride 'n Stride is a great day to see some important and interesting buildings in the county. Recently it has provided an opportunity to find out how different communities are getting on with Covid and how they value their places of worship and contemplation. Some participants look after their local church and meet and refresh the visiting walkers and cyclists. I have stated in previous years how important it is for visitors to find an open door, a friendly face and something to drink. Cake is a bonus! So a big thanks to Anne Scoones (my mum) and her supporting team of volunteers who welcomed all the visitors who came to Cratfield Church. A few of us also ventured out on our bikes As well as myself, Caroline, Hugh and Sara, Andy and perhaps a few others got on their bikes to make the most of the open churches and raise some funds for their upkeep. My own route took me from East Bergholt to Framlingham (I plan a new route each year to see how many different Suffolk churches I can visit). On a sunny September day it was a pleasure to be out in the country lanes. Most churches were open (unlike 2020) – only one closed door – with people greeting us in even the most remote, redundant churches. And some good cake! There were some special places along the route (let me know if you would like a full report) and generally a high enthusiasm amongst local communities for their churches and real friendliness towards the visitors after this period of isolation. As a general observation it was interesting to see how many new stone-carved saints are appearing over entrance porches. Should Cratfield have theirs back? Finally a special thank you to all the sponsors, particularly the crowd who were pounced on by an unknown at the pop-up pub the night before and who gave so generously. With the other riders, it is estimated that we will raise £500 in total – a record? So keep sending in your contributions. Cratfield church benefits directly and Suffolk is smiling again. And a lovely concert in the church the following day to top it off.

Andrew Scoones September 2021

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John Stuart Anderson



Some long-standing locals were chatting to me about remarkable characters who have lived in Cratfield – the one who stood out was **The Actor**. He lived in Bell Cottage on the corner of Manse Lane and opened a Theatre in The Barn. Here, I was told, he staged short plays that served largely as an excuse to parade around in a range of florid and bizarre costumes. The plays puzzled the locals who neither liked nor understood them much. **The Actor** strode around the village swathed in a cloak, looking with disdain at Cratfieldians who he regarded as 'bumpkins' and 'morons'. After a year or two of life among the Philistines he sold up – flouncing out of the village forever. A far-fetched, fascinating tale – I had to follow it up.



Sue Seabon knows all there is to know about goings on at Bell Cottage over the years. She kindly gave me all the information she had. I followed her leads and was able to piece together a remarkable story.

There was indeed an actor who bought Bell Cottage in 1984 and lived there for a year or two with Ricky Church his partner, whose profession was, the title deed states, **Impresario**. The name of **The Actor** was John Stuart Anderson - his signature is a stylish flourish. As a newspaper cutting attests they opened a theatre in the Barn - **The Somershey** - the smallest Theatre in England, seating around fifteen people. It even featured on BBC TV.

John Stuart Abernethy Anderson was born in Burma in 1927 to a Scottish Father and Australian mother. He grew up in Cyprus before moving to the Highlands of Scotland. He attended St Andrews University and served in the Air Force before beginning his theatrical career. He formed his own Mime Company and studied Ballet with the legendary Karsavina who danced with the Diaghilev Ballet Company. He appeared on BBC TV in a series of Mime Plays he had devised.

He had a long and eventful acting career. He was the first actor to appear in Coventry Cathedral where he performed at the consecration of the Cathedral in **Daniel in Babylon**, a monodrama based on the Book of Daniel. It is a measure of the esteem that Anderson was held in that the other work commissioned for Coventry Cathedral was Benjamin Britten's **War Requiem**. He appeared in 1966 at the Carnegie Hall in the American debut of **Billy Budd** which was conducted by George Solti – Anderson took the role of the Narrator. In 1973 he played Christ in the **York Mystery Plays** – there is a dramatic photograph of him in the role being taken down from the cross. He appeared in Stratford, Ontario in a Shakespeare Festival

on the same bill as Sir John Gielgud.

John Stuart Anderson has had good reviews. Of *Daniel in Babylon* The Guardian wrote '**One of the most impressive solo performances I have seen...**' The New York Times said, '**A superb piece of theatre...held his audience spellbound whilst he transported them into a new world of atmosphere and imagination.**'

He toured America for years – appearing 'in theatres and Universities from New York to Hawaii and Alaska, from the Arctic Circle to the deep south of Texas.' From 1976 to 1984, just before moving to Cratfield, he lived and worked in the USA.

There are marvellous stagey stills of him available online – so typical of the theatre of those times - in many different roles. They were romantic, spiritual, and highly dramatic. He was good looking and loved to strike a pose. He did a one-man performance of his own adaptation of *The Picture of Dorian Grey*. He appeared in a one man show based on *Richard III*. He is pictured in togas, Elizabethan clothes, and immaculate evening dress. He dramatized many bible stories as one man plays. There is a splendid photograph of him as *Akhenaten*, the troubled Egyptian King who unsuccessfully tried to introduce a new religion with only one God. And very fetching he looks in costume too – complete with gold wig and Pharaonic kilt, legs akimbo with a stern yet faraway look in his eyes. You can see him with the marks of crude surgery on top of a square head as *Frankenstein's Monster*. He loved writing and performing one man plays based on Gothic Themes.

I managed to hear a recording of one of his performances. He made an LP called *Stereoterrific* in 1968. It probably does not represent his best work. John Stuart Anderson takes all the parts, including narrator in a self-penned gothic horror tale, based on *Dracula*. Anderson has a mellifluous and melodious actory voice with an old fashioned stagey upper-class accent. Whether he is playing the role of Igor the manservant, Dracula, or a cheeky chambermaid there is no change at all in Anderson's sonorous tone, accent, and delivery. This is unintentionally comic. The production values of the LP do not help either – the spooky organ that accompanies the performance sounds like a badly amplified stylophone.

Reading between the lines of his career gives a picture of a talented man mostly out of tune with the times. Realism in the theatre was all the rage – whereas John Stuart Anderson trod a solitary, romantic path. He was a bit lost – a Lord Byron or Sir Henry Irving in the days of kitchen sink drama. The programme for the 1985 season at *The Somershey* hints of his artistic isolation – it talks of '**an intimate, private theatre with an exciting policy of presenting dramatic works of quality, which in the opinion of the directors are not likely to achieve production in the commercial theatre under the existing artistic climate.**'

The first production at the tiny new theatre was '*CORONA MUNDI (this world's crown) by Daniel Hassan*' the programme says it consisted of '**48 miniature drama for one actor alone.**' It goes on to say '**The author has no desire to present everyday life as it is too often endured on stage today. He has written, he has heard, and as we intend to interpret, of a mysterious world of silence, stillness and of solitude. But also of life, love and hope.**' No kitchen sink for John Stuart Anderson.

Alas *The Somershey* had all too short a lease. Within a year John Stuart Anderson and Ricky Church sold up and moved on – maybe the Philistines of Cratfield were too much for them. Indomitable trooper that he was, Anderson continued performing until the year he died. The journeyings of John Stuart Anderson and his companion and impresario Ricky Church continued and ended on a suitably romantic note. In 1997 the pair moved to the small harbour village of *Kioni* on a Greek Island where he lived until his death in 2002, making new friends and finding an appreciative audience. Fittingly the Greek Island where John Stuart Anderson washed up was the last resting place of the wandering Odysseus – *Ithaca*.

Nigel Cousins

2021 Mobile Library Dates

Tuesdays 5th October, 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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Mace

Dear Friends,

In the old Celtic Calendar October 31st was New Years Eve, and was thought to be a time when the unquiet spirits those who had died came back to the places they knew as home. Bonfires were lit in the hopes of dispelling these spirits and also to beg the sun not to desert the world completely over winter.

We celebrate October 31st as Halloween. These celebrations can be great fun with the making of pumpkin lanterns and ghostly parties, but there is a more important thing to remember. Halloween (All Hallows Eve) does what it says on the tin, it celebrates the eve of All Saints day. By following a day in which we indulge in dressing up as witches and devils with a celebration of the saints we are proclaiming Christ's victory over all that is evil. Under his love we are all safe for his power comes directly from God.

That is why traditionally Christians used to cross themselves, when afraid or when being blessed. The sign of the cross was a protection as well as a reminder who it is cares for us.

Halloween can become a celebration in itself, and if your celebration finish there then you have only part of the story and you have left out the good news. After all Halloween is the anticipation of Christ's love. There is nothing wrong with celebration Halloween, especially with party food, buns on strings, apple bobbing and blind man's buff because it is followed by All Saints Day which tells us we are loved by Jesus Christ our friend and God.

David God Bless you

St. Mary's Church Services October 2021

Sunday 10th	Sunday 17th	Sunday 24th
6.00pm Evensong	9.00am Village Worship	6.00pm Harvest Festival
Sidesperson A.Edmunds	Sidesperson D. Peacock	Sidesperson A. Edmunds
Reader m. Powell	Reader A. Edmunds	Reader D. Peacock
Readings Heb 4:12-16 Mark 10:17-31	Readings Isaiah 53:4-12 Heb 5:1-10 Mark 10:35-45	Readings Jer 31:7-9 Heb 7:23-28 Mark 10:46-end

**Please come along and join us for Harvest Festival on Sunday
24th October at 6.00pm**

Also 30th/31st October for the History Weekend

DIRECTORY:

Doctor's Surgery	Fressingfield	01379 586 227
	Stradbroke	01379 384 220

Local officers:

Church Rev. David Burrell		01986 798 136
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'The Vicarage, Noyes Avenue, Laxfield

theparsnips@googlemail.com

Church Wardens:

Andy Edmunds		01986 798523
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Lay Elder for Cratfield - Margaret Thompson		07906 509302
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Parish Council - Lotty Barbour		01986 798099
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PC Clerk Sally Chapman		01379 855486
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PC Website	www.cratfield.onesuffolk.net	
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Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator - Nick Eade		01986 798725
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Village Hall:

Chair Person - Natalie Lloyd-Evans		01986 798790
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Vice Chair - Richard Turberville		01986 798346
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Bookings - Jo Nunn		01986 799181
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Laxfield School Head of School- Mrs Minns		01986 798344
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Nova Group - Heather Hargood		01986 798180
------------------------------	--	--------------

Magazine Editors:

Sue Eade, Cranes Cottage, Cratfield, IP19 0BN		01986 798725
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suecratmag@aol.com

Treasurer - Graham Nixey		07748 907099
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Production Manager -

Peter Sparrow, 2 The Street, Cratfield, IP19 0BS		01986 888505
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peter-sparrow@outlook.com

All information must arrive by 20th of the month.

Advertising rates p/a: Full page £60; half page £30; quarter £20.

Please contact Sue, Graham or Peter for more information