CRATFIELD NEWS

September 2026



WELCOME

A very warm welcome to Holly, Martin, Scout (the dog) and Huckleberry (the cat) who have recently moved into Linstead Farm Cottage. We hope they will soon settle into the village and enjoy Cratfield life. Plus, many congratulations to them on their wedding which takes place on September 1st.

CRATFIELD VILLAGE TALKS- WILD ABOUT SUFFOLK 2

Many of you will remember Paul Taylor's remarkable illustrated talk on Cratfield wildlife back in September 2022.

Paul returns by popular demand to give us a second chance to meet our furry and feathered friends.

This Talk will be held in the Village Hall on October 10th 2026, 7pm for 7.30pm. Again, it will be illustrated with pictures and video clips. Don't miss this second opportunity to see our wildlife in action.

Please reserve your place by emailing cratfieldvillagehall@gmail.com

£6 per person, pay at the door on the evening. There will be light snacks included and the bar will be open. As you know, numbers are limited so I suggest you book as soon as possible.

CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING AFTERNOON

Cratfield Village Hall – Saturday November 7th 2pm

Come along and enjoy a relaxing afternoon creating your own Christmas wreath; get into the festive (slightly early) spirit of the season.

All materials will be provided, plus Mulled Wine and Mince Pies
The cost will be £55 per person.



If you are interested and would like to book, please email Kirsten at k_asbury@sky.com
and pay a deposit of £10 to secure your place.

FIRE

I'm sure we've all had enough warnings, and the majority have taken heed in these tinder dry times and not lit a bonfire, however it was noted, that on one of the hottest, over 30º days, smoke could be seen rising from behind a property in the village. Need I say more.

SUFFOLK CHURCHES RIDE AND STRIDE

SATURDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 2026

9.00am – 5.00pm

Join Ride and Stride and sponsor your cycle or walk to raise money for Suffolk's wonderful church buildings.



Sponsorship money raised will be divided between Suffolk Historic Churches Trust and the church or chapel chosen by the participant.

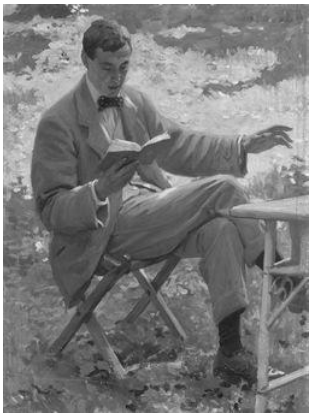
Local organiser from whom sponsorship forms are available Anne Scoones 01379 586238 or at the back of the church

Cratfield Occasional Cycling Club

The aim of the Cratfield Occasional Cycling Club is to enjoy, in no particular order, cycling, Suffolk and socialising. All sizes and types of bicycles and cyclists are welcome. The next outing will be at 9.00 on Saturday 12th September. The route is yet to be decided but will be about 2.5 hours, including a coffee-break. If you would like to join in and are not already in the WhatsApp group please let me know.

Charlie Wilson – Potters Roost – 07880 654113 – charlie@wilson.org

SIR ALFRED MUNNINGS, R.A. ATTENDED LAXFIELD DAMES' SCHOOL IN 1882



Pictured: Alfred Munnings circa 1911 by Harold Knight

'Although very young, my brother and I were away at a sort of dame's school at Laxfield, Suffolk. This was kept by two sisters, Miss Jane Read and Miss Alice Read. Jane was stoutish and wore a fringe, Alice was turning grey and had a red face. Both were kind.

'We were there, I believe, because of our mother's illness at the time. I was nearly four, and went about with Randolph Caldecott's picture in my mind, for the Misses Read had the Christmas number of *The Graphic* of the early eighties [1880's], and I remember those pictures even more than the landscape around Laxfield. So when my father came to see us [*they were obviously boarders*] on my fourth birthday, bringing with him a beautiful toy horse, a dun coloured horse with a black mane and tail and a head that nodded up and down, being full of Caldecott, I called it Merrylegs; the name taken from *The Graphic* Christmas number wherein Caldecott had pictured a country wedding with snow, grey horses, postboys, wedding bells and breakfast and the young lady who got married going to the stables to say goodbye to her horse Merrylegs.



Pictured: Diana Wood's Wedding: Returning from Church by Randolph Caldecott

'I can see the Misses Read, my father, ourselves, and the [toy] horse on the table, with its head nodding up and down.

'Another Laxfield scene. The wide village street. Its church and Wolf Inn and a country crowd at a fair. My first ride on a dapple grey horse, which I clothed in beauty and sacred wonder. I even dreamt about it. The Steam Horses they were called.'

Text from Munnings *An Artist's Life* 1950

CRATFIELD COFFEE MORNINGS





The Cratfield Coffee Mornings in the Village Hall, run by our wonderful volunteers, are moving to the **third Friday of each month** (in general) 10am to midday, in the hopes this will enable more people to attend.

We will run our September coffee morning for Macmillan Cancer Support and hope you can join us and support this wonderful charity.

The full dates for the year's coffee mornings are:-
Friday 18th September 2026 (Macmillan fund raiser)
Friday 16th October 2026 (with the Rural Coffee Caravan)
Friday 20th November 2026
No coffee morning in December
Friday 22nd January 2027
Friday 19th February 2027
Friday 19th March 2027 (with the Rural Coffee Caravan)
Friday 16th April 2027
Friday 21st May 2027
Friday 18th June 2027
No coffee mornings in July or August

If you can help, whether by setting up, serving or baking for any of these events please do come along and get involved in helping to combat rural loneliness.

EVERYONE is welcome at these mornings so enjoy a tea or coffee, a piece of cake and chat with your neighbours! Donations and contributions are voluntary.



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An opportunity missed in Porto Venere

This month marks our 65th anniversary of joining Dartmouth and those of us still standing will gather with our wives (and some of our widows) to celebrate that. A time to remember then, and I recently found myself recalling one of the many enjoyable parts of our training.

Whilst at Dartmouth for our third year, we were expected to do an approved "leave activity" in between terms. My greatest (and oldest) naval friend David was studying Italian, and I was studying Spanish (we both subsequently qualified as interpreters) and we decided to spend a fortnight in April in one or other country. I lost the toss so Italy it was, but I was allowed to choose the area. I chose the Cinque Terre, in those days five small, little known and unspoilt villages huddled in small coves in the cliffs of the Ligurian Riviera near La Spezia, which could only be reached by train, boat, or a lovely but steep track winding between two thousand year old vineyards perched precariously above the sea.[1] They were famous for a delightful but rare sweet white wine known as Sciacchetra or "the chatterer", said to be named after the effects of imbibing too much.[2]

We drove to Montreux, where David had a girlfriend (as he often did) and I played gooseberry. Then on, over the Grand St Bernard pass, in David's aged Morris Minor convertible, whose registration was TUM 7. This excited great interest in Italy where, at the time, all registration numbers started with the first three letters of the town where they were registered. Everyone wanted to know where in England TUM was! We eventually found ourselves very comfortable accommodation in a small but lovely family run hotel where we were the only guests, in the pretty little town of Porto Venere just outside the Cinque Terre proper. There we spent our days visiting the five enchanting villages of Riomagiore, Manarolo, Corneglia, Vernazza and Monterosso, trying the wines and walking tracks the Romans knew well. It was an idyllic break,

Each evening, we returned to Porto Venere to sit on our hotel balcony trying the day's choice of wine and cheese as we watched the sunset. On the fourth evening we noticed a largish and very smart yacht lying at anchor off the town, flying a "red duster."[3] Sniffing an opportunity, we walked into the town and separated ourselves by 50 yards or so, calling to each other loudly in English – well, we were young and foolish. And it worked! As I passed a bar an Englishman in very smart yachting rig came out and asked if we were English and what we were doing in such an unlikely place. We said we were

Naval Officers (well, we were, if only Acting Sub Lieutenants aged 20) and they promptly invited us back on board their yacht for a drink and supper.

It was a very expensive yacht with excellent cuisine and wine; they were very wealthy people. They explained that they were making a leisurely cruise down a less frequented part of the Italian coast, but finding that the demands of navigation were interfering with their social life and they asked if we would care to go along as working crew members – it is, I suppose, just possible that we had slightly exaggerated our naval expertise. Sadly, we had to explain that we were coming to the end of our leave and had no choice but to return home in a couple of days. Overstaying one's leave, we had to explain, was (and is) a hanging offence in the RN[4].

So, a few hours later we found ourselves, very much the worse for wear, being rowed back to the town and lamenting the extraordinarily lavish lifestyle we had briefly tasted, but had felt obliged to decline, although we hoped we had upheld the RN's drinking reputation. A day or two later, TUM 7 was headed back up the beautiful Vale of Aosta towards Switzerland and home, wondering what might have been if we had been free agents, although of course if we had not been in the Navy, they would not have invited us to join them. And, moreover, we managed to see David's Genevieve again and still got back to UK before our leave expired.

And we learned a lot about how the wealthy live although we have never joined them!

Jeremy Blackham

1. Sadly, today there are roads joining them and camping sites as well – no longer unchanged and unspoilt.

2. In fact, the name comes from two words in the Ligurian dialect – Sciac (press) and Tra (pull) and is a delightful, but very rare, wine which is a UNESCO heritage wine.

3. The Red Ensign which can be worn by any British vessel without further approval, unlike the White and Blue Ensigns.

4. cf "Let the Punishment Fit the Crime", Cratmaf March 2026



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Heveningham Hall Country Fair 2026

What a fantastic two days we had at the end of June at this year's event! Over 12,000 visitors across the weekend enjoyed watching the Monster Trucks, Birds of Prey and the Spectacle of Equitation (horse display) amongst many other events. Music rang out around various areas, with food and drink a plenty for all to enjoy! Our younger visitors enjoyed trying their hand at golf or rugby, before enjoying the Punch & Judy and Andy the Clown! Something for everyone to enjoy!

A huge "Thank You" to all our visitors, and to all the volunteers that help over the weekend! We couldn't do it without you! Once again, we will be delighted to be able to give substantial funds to worthy Charities in our area! Not been involved yet and would like to come on board as a volunteer, please drop me an email julie.collett@countryfair.co.uk. We would love to have you on board! Julie Collet



VILLAGE HALL UPDATE - September 2026

CRATFIELD POP UP PUB - Friday 4th September

The very popular **pizza van** returns to sort your Friday night dinner quandaries at the **Cratfield Pop Up Pub**, 4th September, 6pm-10pm at the village hall. We are lucky enough to have access to the wonderful space around the hall, glorious on summer evenings with the view over the fields to St Mary's – where better to enjoy relaxing with a pint of local beer, glass of chilled wine, G&T and slice of oven-fresh pizza? Perfection! There aren't many better ways to end this glorious summer.

So don't forget to ***bring cash for your pizza*** supper. The bar accepts card and cash payments.

INDOOR BOWLS AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Just turn up at the door and join the friendly regulars for carpet bowls at the village hall, 7pm on

September 1st,15th and 29th /// October 13th and 27th /// November 17th and /// December 8th.

No prior experience needed. Suggested small donation for use of the hall.

Village Hall Events - dates for the Diary:

CRATFIELD TALKS – 10 October 2026 – "Cratfield Wildlife 2"

Paul Taylor returns to share more wonderful pictures captured around Cratfield. Definitely a date you should mark on your calendar!

ACOUSTIC NIGHT RETURNS – November 2026

Watch this space and elsewhere in the magazine for details of this Autumn event!

CRATFIELD CHRISTMAS FAIR – 6 December 2026

Always a popular event, the Christmas Fair returns on the first Sunday of December 10am-1pm. There will be a fabulous range of goods on offer as well as refreshments served up by our team of friendly volunteers so make sure you save the date.

CRATFIELD VILLAGE HALL 100 CLUB – TIME TO RENEW!

Subscriptions are now due for the club's 2026-2027 season.

For just £1 per month for the year subscribers are in the draw to win *£15, £10 or £5 prizes* EACH MONTH! So, fill out the form enclosed with May's magazine, or get a form by contacting helenjerry@outlook.com, for a chance to be part of this wonderful village effort. *Don't forget – you have to be in it to win it!!!*

CRATFIELD VILLAGE HALL 100 CLUB – SEPTEMBER WINNERS

This month's 100 Club winners are: first prize (£15) number 30 – Nick Eade; second prize (£10) number 83 – Carolie Wisbey-Brown; and 3rd prize (£5) number 50 – Dan Elford. Draw by D Britton. Many congratulations to the winners!

VILLAGE HALL FOR HIRE!

Don't forget our hall is available for hire for a very reasonable price! For any future booking enquiries please contact us on cratfieldvillagehall@gmail.com

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‘Quite an easy quiz!’ – all answers are first names beginning with the given letter

1. Henry V111 had three wives called by this name. A
2. This Welsh singer died recently. B
3. The Queen. C
4. A member of the Dimbleby family. D
5. 1990 film about an unfinished humanoid given blades for hands. E
6. English explorer and privateer. F
7. 1st US President. G
8. Her face launched a thousand ships. H
9. Youngest daughter of Nigel Farage. I
10. A major biblical prophet. J
11. Actress who played a tomboy footballer in ‘Bend it Like Beckham’. K
12. American conductor, composer, pianist b.1918 – d.1990. L
13. Fictional Native American woman, lover of Hiawatha. M
14. Food writer and TV cook. N
15. Cartoon character created in 1919 by C. Segar, boyfriend of Popeye. O
16. Wife of Odysseus. P
17. English cartoonist, illustrator and children’s writer. He has illustrated many Roald Dahl books. Q
18. King of the Scots from 1306 to 1329. R
19. There are at least 7 people of this name in Cratfield! S
20. American actor famous for performing his own stunts. T

Answers on page 22

Mobile Library Dates

Silverleys Green	**The Poacher**
14.00 – 14.20	**14.30 – 14.45**

September 1st, 19th, October 27th, November 24th, December 22nd

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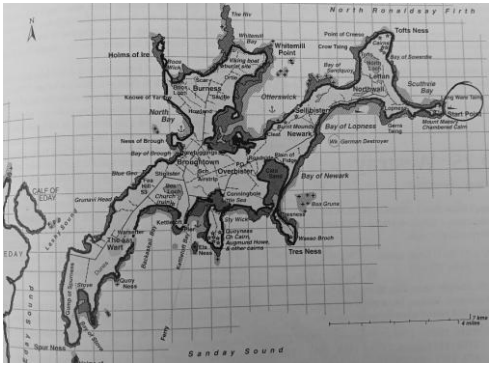
Exploring the Scottish Islands – with a collapsible bike!

Eday and Sanday



Eday (8.5 miles long, Pop: 102)

Eday and Sanday lie to the N.E. of the Orkney island group, with Eday being the closest to Orkney Mainland, at 13 miles away. Though 8½ miles long, Eday is just 500 metres wide at its narrowest. So dispersed is the population (mostly coastal farms) that nowhere even gets 'village' status. Like many Orkney islands though, there is no shortage of Neolithic chambered cairns (tombs) to explore, together with relics from the Bronze and Iron ages. In 1632, John Stewart, Earl of Carrick, was granted Eday and he constructed **Carrick House** at Calfsound, at the N.E. of the island. In 1725, Carrick House saw some action when a pirate called John Gow tried to mount a raid. Gow, a pirate known for his ineptitude (and imaginatively going under the alias of "Mr Smith") hadn't realised what the tide was doing and he ran aground. He struggled for control in full view of Carrick House and by the time he made it ashore, James Fea (owner of Carrick House and also an old schoolmate of John Gow) was waiting for him. Gow was handed over to the authorities and his ship's bell is still impounded in Carrick House!



Sanday (19.5 sq. miles, Pop: around 500))

This island does what it says on the tin, because its name was given by the Norse in recognition of the beautiful white sandy beaches found here: in common with many of these islands, abundant birdlife is also attracted here (in fact, too many to mention). Interestingly, the island appears to be growing as the sea deposits more sand around the coastline. It's a very low-lying island, almost invisible from the sea and, before radar and with no island peat for fuel, Sanday positively welcomed regular shipwrecks which would keep the home fires burning. It is said that prayers in church asked for the Lord's assistance in providing a new shipwreck when one was needed!

Another kind of shipwreck was discovered in 1991 when the shifting sands revealed a **Viking ship-burial**, dated to 875 - 950 AD. Although half the ship had already gone to the sea, the remaining part of the ship contained a compartment with the skeletal remains of a man, woman and child. With the man was a sword, a quiver of arrows and

some bone gaming pieces. The woman had some yarning equipment, a bone comb, a pair of shears and a brooch.

The Neolithic **Quoyness chambered cairn**, dates from around 2900 BC and it's surrounded by an arc of Bronze Age mounds. Excavations of another mound in 1991, as part of a road development, discovered two burials with some cremated human remains from the Early to Middle Bronze Age. Notable finds were a piece of drift wood from the Americas and soapstone vessels. Soapstone is not natural to Orkney and analysis revealed that the material came from Shetland; people or goods were therefore moving between the two island groups at that time, even though they're 60 miles apart.

In March 1633, Marion Richart of Sanday was accused of **witchcraft**. Her grandson James Fisher said that he had seen her and another woman at an empty house, sitting beside the devil. Other witnesses accused her of charming a fisherman's bait, healing a sick woman with a charm, and charming milk from cows on Stronsay. She was tried at Kirkwall, found guilty, strangled and burnt. With grandsons like that, who needs enemies?!



In more recent times...

Start Point Lighthouse stands on the neighbouring tidal island of Start Point and was completed in 1806 by engineer Thomas Smith. It was the first Scottish lighthouse to have a clockwork-driven reflector creating a sweeping beam. Since 1915, it has been painted by distinctive black and white vertical stripes which are unique in Scotland and very rare elsewhere.

The Sanday Light Railway was a privately owned ridable miniature railway of 7¼" gauge. It was started in 1999, but the line closed after just 7 years, with some rancour between the owner and the Council. It was the most northerly passenger carrying railway in the British Isles, and although it was primarily the owner's hobby it did become a tourist attraction during its brief lifetime.

The Scottish islands... always full of surprises!

Next month: Westray and Papa Westray

Andrew Weigt

Cratfield Parish Council

All meetings are held in The Village Hall, Manse Lane, Cratfield, IP19 0DJ

Meeting Dates 2026

Tuesday 13th January 2026 at 7.30 pm

- Tuesday 10th March 2026 at 7.30 pm
- Tuesday 12th May 2026 at 7.30 pm – Annual Parish Meeting & Annual Parish Council Meeting
- Tuesday 14th July 2026 at 7.30 pm
- Tuesday 8th September 2026 at 7.30 pm
- Tuesday 10th November 2026 at 7.30 pm

Agendas (3 days before the meeting) are on the noticeboards & website:

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Mace

Dear Friends,

Well here we are at the door of autumn and hoping that the severe heat of this summer dissipates, and that next year we will return to something that we are more used to. I remember the summer of 1976 and recall the torrential rain that arrived to herald the end of the hot weather! I was camping at the time and awoke in the small hours to discover that I was afloat on my lilo! Happy days!

And now we look forward to the famous 'Suffolk Ride and Stride' that is the main source of income for Suffolk Historic Churches Trust. Over the last two years, two of the churches in our benefice have benefitted, namely St Nicholas, Bedfield and St Mary's, Worlingworth. If you are riding or striding, I suspect that you will have your sponsor form already and are aware that 50% of what you raise goes to your church and the remainder to SHCT. The SHCT is delighted to announce that its Annual Service of Choral Evensong is to be held at Holy Trinity Blythburgh at 6pm on Sunday 6th September. Blythburgh, with its angel roof, is considered to be one of the great churches of England and the guest preacher will be none other than the Revd Canon Rich Henderson, Archdeacon of Suffolk who by repute will certainly do justice to this great occasion. We will be lucky enough also to hear the Blythburgh Singers, a choir of cathedral standard, who sing at Holy Trinity every month. Might see you there then?!

Looking forward to the Harvest Festivals across the benefice which are heralded to begin on 12th September at St Margaret's, Southolt.

Prayers and blessings,
Reverend Chrissie Smart – 07803 134301 – rev.chrissiesmart@gmail.com

Answers to quiz

1. Anne 2. Bonnie (Tyler) 3. Camilla 4. David
5. Edward (Scissorhands) 6. Francis (Drake) 7. George (Washington)
8. Helen (of Troy) 9. Isabella 10. Jeremiah 11. Kiera (Knightly)
12. Leonard (Bernstein) 13. Minnehaha 14. Nigella(Lawson)
15. Olive (Oyl) 16. Penelope 17. Quentin (Blake)
18. Robert (The Bruce) 19. Susan 20. Tom (Hanks)

September Services Cratfield

Sunday September 13th	Sunday September 27th
Genesis 50:15-21 Roman 14:1-12 Matthew 18:21-35	Ezekiel 18:1-4,25-end Phillipians 2:1-13 Matthew 21:23-32
9.30am Holy Communion	6.00pm Harvest

BENEFICE SERVICES

September	Sunday 6th	Sunday 13th	Sunday 20th	Sunday 27th
Bedfield	9.30am Holy Communion		11.00am Harvest	
Brundish			3.00pm Harvest 4.00pm Archdeacon Rich	
Laxfield	10.30am Celtic Morning Prayer + baptism	10.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Chatty Church	6.00pm Hartismere House
Monk Soham	11.00am Family Service	11.00am BCP Morning Prayer	11.00am BCP Holy Communion	
Tannington				
Wilby	10.30am Village Worship		9.30am Celtic Morning Prayer	10.30am Holy Communion
Worlingworth		11.00am Holy Communion	11.00am Morning Prayer	11.00am Harvest

Saturday September 12th Southolt 2.30pm Harvest Festival
Friday September 25th Monk Soham 7.30pm Harvest Festival Evensong

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