

Useful Local Contacts

Anglian Water Emergencies		03457 145145
Borough Council:		
- St Edmundsbury Offices		01284763233
Local Member Sara.Mildmay-White	Sara.Mildmay-White@stedsbcc.gov.uk	01359 270580
Bradfield St Clare Book Club	Mrs Val Nunn	388830
Bradfield Grapevine Magazine:		
- Editors	Mr Peter Newlands	388637
- and	Mrs Margaret Lovick	386662
Bury Stray Cat Fund		388455
Charity for the Relief in Sickness:		
- Secretary	Mrs Vicky Spall	386357
County Council:		
- Suffolk County Council Switchboard		01473 583000 -
Local Member Karen Soons	karen.soons@suffolk.gov.uk	07864 601887
Dentist (Emergency) – by appointment, Saturday and Sunday afternoons		0300 130 3065
Doctor – for Suffolk Doctors on Call out of hours service ring own doctors’ surgery or		
-NHS Choices		111
Electricity	UK Power Networks Supply Faults	0800 783 8838
Footpath Warden	Mrs Fenella Fraser	388310
Gospel Hall	Mr Keith Arknett	01359 240910
Mobile Library	Mr Carl Bell	07721 879855
Member of Parliament	Mrs Jo Churchill	752311
	www.jochurchill.mp@parliament.uk	
Neighbourhood Watch Contact	Mrs Dianne Bullard	386598
Parish Council Clerk	Mrs Nicola Smith	07817170906
Parish Council Website:	http://bradfieldstclare.onesuffolk.net	
Police	101 (non-urgent), 999 or 01473 613500	
	Twitter Name: @stedspolice	
Post Office	Bury Delivery Office	358201
Schools and Colleges:		
Cockfield Primary School		828287
Thurston Community College		01359 230885
West Suffolk College		701301
St Clare Church		
- Rector – Rev. Sharon Potter		828599
- Church Warden Mrs Margaret Newlands		388637
St Edmunds R C Church	Fr Mark Hackeson	754358
Suffolk Wildlife Trust	Bradfield Woods	01449 737996
Village Hall – Bookings	Mrs Val Nunn	388830
- Secretary	Mrs Isobel Payne	386169
- website	www.bradfieldstclare.onesuffolk.net	
West Suffolk Hospital		713000
Women’s Institute Secretary	Mrs Enid Hunt	386565

THE BRADFIELD GRAPEVINE



**Dec 2019
Jan 2020**



177

Already the festive season is well and truly on its way! However life doesn't stop on the farm as Mike explains and sometimes our weather doesn't help, as we can all see. What a surprise to see Sheepgate Lane returning to its historic role – more about that later. Staying on the theme of things in the past, you will find a couple of enjoyable recollections of bygone Christmases spent in wartime Wales and France.

Just to add to your appetite and to encourage you to try something different in the holiday period, you could make one of the two recipes – indeed one made a big hit at the Kit Café and comes all the way from Norway!

This year the Carol Service at St Clare will be in the afternoon on 15th December and will be held in the beautifully redecorated church. It looks truly outstanding. Although at Christmas time we will be celebrating being with family and friends, we do need to remember those who have so much less. As always St Clare Church will use the collection to offer support and the Food Bank boxes will be in church and outside St Clare Cottage. Another way of helping will be joining in The Great Big Christmas Quiz – more details elsewhere in this edition!

Finally, seasons greetings and thank you to all our advertisers who support this magazine and to Dianne and Gerry Bullard who distribute it. Most of all to you – have a wonderful, joyful Christmas and a Calm and Peaceful New Year.

**Margaret Lovick
Linden House
Bradfield St Clare
Tel: 01284 386662**



**Peter Newlands
Dairy Farmhouse
Bradfield St Clare
Tel: 01284 388637
pjrmrn@aol.com**

Cockfield Benefice Services – December 2019



Sunday 1 st December Advent Sunday	10am Communion	Cockfield
	3pm Drawing of Christmas Raffle & Refreshments 4pm Christingle	Felsham
Sunday 8 th December 2 nd Sunday of Advent	10am Communion	Felsham
	4.30pm Carol Service	Gedding
Sunday 15 th December 3 rd Sunday of Advent	10am Communion	Bradfield St George
	3.30pm Carol Service	Bradfield St Clare
Monday 16 th December	7pm Carols by Candlelight	Lt Whelnetham
Tuesday 17 th December	7pm Carols on the Green	Cockfield Great Green
Wednesday 18 th December	7pm Carol Service	Felsham
Sunday 22 nd December 4 th Sunday of Advent	10am Carol Communion	Cockfield
	3.30pm Carol Service	Bradfield St George
Tuesday 24 th December Christmas Eve	3pm Crib Service	Cockfield
	9pm Christmas Communion	Felsham
	11.30pm Midnight Communion	Cockfield
25 th December Christmas Day	10am Christmas Day Communion	Gedding
	10am Family Communion	Bradfield St George
29 th December Holy Innocents	10am Carol Communion	Bradfield St Clare

CARGATE engineering

Septic Tank Emptying and Servicing

- *Septic Tank and Cesspool Emptying* • *Tank and Drain Cleaning Service available* • *Reliable and Competitive* • *24/7 Emergency Response*
- *Treatment Plant Service available* • *New Tanks installed*
- *Vehicles Covering East Anglia*

Cargate Engineering Ltd.
Felsham Road, Bradfield St George,
Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP30 0AG

E-mail: n.milson@cargate-engineering.co.uk
www.cargateengineering.co.uk






01284 386538 (Head office)



December 2019 Bin Collections

Wednesday 4th December BLUE
 Wednesday 11th December BLACK
 Thursday 12th December BROWN
 Wednesday 18th December BLUE
***Tuesday 24th December** BLACK
***Friday 27th December** BROWN

January 2020 Bin Collections

***Thursday 2nd January** BLUE
 Wednesday 8th January BLACK
 Thursday 9th January BROWN
 Wednesday 15th January BLUE
 Wednesday 22nd January BLACK
 Thursday 23rd January BROWN
 Wednesday 29th January BLUE

** Indicates change of day due to holiday dates*

Bradfield Woods



Dec/Jan



**PLEASE BOOK
FOR
ACTIVITIES**

**For more information
and to book your place
on event go to:**

www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org

or 'phone 01473 890089

Mondays Dec & Jan - Wild Tots

Outdoor play for families with children under 5 years including snack and hot drink
10am - 11.30am £5 per child, £4 for block bookings

Fri 20 Dec & Sat 21 Dec

Solstice lantern walk for families
Make a lantern & follow a lantern lit trail through the woods. Finish with hot chocolate by the fire
3.30pm-5pm £4 child/ £2 adults

Mon 23 Dec

Stickman's Christmas adventure
Stickman trail, activities & toasting marshmallows
10am-11.30am £4 child/ £2 adult

MON 23 Dec

Last minute Christmas presents
Make candle holders, bags and more
For 11-16 year olds
1pm-4pm £10

Fri 10 Jan

Wild and well
Enjoy woods in winter, mindfulness and nature connection.
Warm up with refreshments in the centre after.
10am-12noon £10

News from St Clare Church



Thank you Gerry for such an enjoyable talk about your sailing adventures around Great Britain – a great way to end this year's fund raising events!

The church has been totally redecorated and looks lovely. Our Carol Service is at 3.30pm on 15th December so please do come along and see for yourself. Thank you so much Ernie Warren for the incredible transformation you have achieved. Following this service there will be mulled wine and mince pies – a perfect way to begin your Christmas celebrations.

Our traditional Carol Communion will be held on 29th December at 10am giving everyone a chance to sing seasonal carols together. Please bring with you contributions for the Gateway Food Bank in Bury St Edmunds. Items such as long life milk and juices, tins of custard and canned meat are particularly welcomed. At this time of the year, 'Christmassy' things like Christmas puddings, biscuits, chocolate and wrapping paper are great treats! As well as the collection box in the church there is one outside Clare Cottage in the village.

This is the time of the year when we like to snuggle up by a warm fire and plan our family giving. Can we open our hearts and include people in need. As always the Parochial Church Council will be pleased to donate the collection from the Carol Service to help others. This year we have chosen to contribute to the Drop in Centre in Bury St Edmunds.

*"All glory be to
God on high
And to the earth be peace;
Goodwill henceforth
From heaven to men
Begin and never cease"*



- Margaret Newlands (Church Warden)

Christmas Memories



England has been my country for 45 years now and my memories of Christmas are somewhat fuzzy. With memories being very selective, I only remember the best bits as fleeting images passing through my mind.

My early years (till 9) were spent in Algeria and Christmas there was muted for obvious reasons and anyway, it was too warm to really feel the traditional atmosphere and be festive. As a family we gathered round the fireplace and put some cotton wool and live candles (no health and safety then) on some imitation Christmas tree but it was simply too warm and we quickly retreated to the garden to sit in the sun.

We came back to what we called Metropolitan France just before Algeria's independence. That winter of 1961/62 was the coldest in years and we endured weeks of ice and snow. So, it was at last my first white Christmas surrounded by a large family.

The Christmas festivities started in the evening of the 24th for 'Le Reveillon' (the Reveillon is a dinner held before or after the Midnight Mass and is repeated on New Year eve) always oysters, foie gras, escargots, sometime white pudding and cheeses. The 'piece de resistance' was the 13 desserts, which symbolise Jesus and the 12 Apostoles, some desserts were simple with dry fruits, biscuits, creme brûlée, chocolate mousse etc....but always a Bûche de Noel (Yule log).

This feast was followed in some families by going to the nearest or warmest Catholic Church for midnight mass.

The next day we would start all over again soon after midday. The main event being a turkey or goose pretty much like here in England. As a child I was only allowed a small glass of Champagne and a drop of red wine to colour my glass of water but I did catch up in the later years!

JOYEUX NOËL à tous. – Gérard

Cockfield Benefice Services – January 2020

Sunday 5 th January Epiphany	9.30am Communion	Bradfield St George
	11am Communion	Bradfield St Clare
	6pm Six2seven	Felsham
Sunday 12 th January Epiphany 1/Plough Sunday	9.30am Communion BCP	Gedding
	11am Plough Sunday Service	Cockfield
	4pm Evening Prayer	Bradfield St Clare
Sunday 19 th January Epiphany 2	8am Communion BCP	Cockfield
	9.30am Family Service	Felsham
Sunday 26 th January Epiphany 3	9.30am Morning Prayer BCP	Gedding
	9.30am Worshipping Together	Bradfield St George
	11am Communion	Cockfield

A service of Celtic Morning Prayer is held every Tuesday at Cockfield at 9am

A service of Celtic Evening Prayer -every Thursday at Bradfield St Clare at 5pm

All are welcome – these services are approximately 15 minutes in duration.

Please note these services may be subject to change – for up-to-date service times see the benefice website at www.cockfieldbenefice.com

February 2020 Advertisements

Advertisements for the February issue of The Bradfield Grapevine should be sent to either of the two Editors, whose names and addresses appear on the front page by Wednesday 22nd January. The cost is £4 per insertion for small ads, £36 per year for half page boxes or £20 for 6 months.

***Payment to Bradfield St Clare Village Hall Account
Contact: Peter Newlands or Margaret Lovick***

OTHER CHURCH SERVICES



Roman Catholic Church

St Edmund King & Martyr - Westgate Street, Bury St Edmunds

Mass times for St Edmund KM Parish

24th December

09.30 Mass at St Edmund's Church

18.00 Children's Mass at St Edmund's Church

23.30 Midnight Mass at St Edmund's Church

19.00 'Midnight' Mass at Our Lady Immaculate, Lawshall

25th December

08.30 Mass at St Edmund's Church

10.30 Mass at St Edmund's Church

10.30 Mass at Our Lady Immaculate, Lawshall

26th December

11.00 Mass at St Edmund's Church

Gospel Hall

The Gospel Hall, Bradfield St George

Christmas Service - Sunday 15th December at 4.00pm

Every Sunday at 10.30am: Sunday Breaking of Bread.

Every Sunday at 2.30pm: Sunday School and Bible Class

Every Sunday at 6.30pm: Gospel Meeting – all welcome.

Every Wednesday at 6.45pm Young People's Club

A Yuletide Message from Bradfield St. Clare Parish Council



Now 2019 is drawing to a close and again we are entering the season of cheer and goodwill to all. The members of the St. Clare Parish Council would like to take this opportunity, not only to wish all parishioners a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year, but to reassure you that we will continue to strive, to the best of our ability, to do the right and best thing for our lovely peaceful and rural village during 2020 and onwards. We would also like to thank parishioners for their continued support over the years.

- Your Parish Councillors



CHRISTMAS BISCOTTI



200g Plain flour

50g Self-raising flour

220g Caster sugar

2 eggs

Vanilla essence – to taste. I like lots

50g raw unsalted pistachios

50g dried cranberries or cherries

Whisk sugar and eggs together well until combined. Add flours, essence and fruit and nuts.

Knead dough on a heavily floured surface.

Form into two logs about 12 inches long.

Bake on oven tray for 30 minutes at 180C, 350F, Gas 4

Cool for ten minutes then slice diagonally using a serrated knife into ½ inch or 1 inch slices. (A bread knife is ideal)

Place slices on tray in single layer and bake again at 150C, 300F, Gas 2 for 30 minutes or until dry and crisp, turning over halfway through baking.

Perfect for dunking in your coffee!

Variation

Gingerbread biscotti – add 1tsp cinnamon, ¼tsp ground cloves, 3tsp ground ginger. Can add chopped ginger in syrup.

- Isobel Payne



A War Time Christmas



I was 7 years old in 1939 and up to then Christmases had been pleasant, happy but uneventful events but all that was about to change. This 1939 Christmas was spent in a deconsecrated but **not** renovated nor modernised old Methodist chapel right on the tip of the Gower Peninsula in Wales. My family lived in Surrey right under what was to become the flight path of the German bombers and not far from the coast where the invasion was expected to occur. My father, who had served throughout WW1 had signed up for the territorials. They were the first to be called up and in fact he went off on the Friday prior to the declaration of war on the Sunday, in our bright yellow little Austin Seven tourer (known as the 'yellow peril') with three friends to operate a searchlight unit on the Isle of Grain in the Thames Estuary. The wife of the senior partner in the firm where my father was a junior partner had very recently acquired for the princely sum of £50 the said chapel and offered it to us the use of it to evacuate ourselves.

So off we set early on Saturday morning with a few possessions in a couple of suitcases, collecting my aged grandmother on the way – driven by a friend in an Armstrong Siddeley on our way to deepest, darkest Wales! We drove non-stop, our aim being to reach the Aust-Chepstow car ferry crossing of the River Severn; no road bridges in those days. We arrived late in the evening to see the last ferry just leaving, so undaunted we detoured via Gloucester, arriving in the wee small hours of Sunday morning in Middleton, a hamlet a few miles from Rhossili – a very remote isolated area. Ten hours later war was declared.

Having come from a relatively modern house for those days – my grandfather had it built for Ma and Pa as a wedding present in 1930 – the shock was considerable to put it mildly. No running water, water collected from the stream – no loo, just an earth closet in a shed in the yard. Electricity – yes! Cooking in another shed on an ancient electric cooker. The only heating in the chapel was an enormous tortoise stove in the middle of the cavernous hall, either burning hot or freezing cold. Neither my Mother nor Grandmother had ever laid or lit a fire in their lives. There were no partitions of any kind, a low stage at one end with a curtain on which we slept – two iron bedsteads and a camp bed for me. My 3 year old sister slept on top of a mattress on a chest of drawers! There was a trestle table and old deck chairs to sit on. No curtains at the high windows; two small areas curtained off containing a washstand with a jug and bowl for our ablutions – that was it!

Having said all of this it was a huge glorious adventure – I was sent up to the local school on the Bryn – two classrooms, one for boys and one for girls,

TOMLINSON GROUND CARE

Sales • Service • Parts • Repairs
1 Brettenham Road

Buxhall, Stowmarket, IP14 3DL
www.tomlinsongroundcare.co.uk

01449 736060

Opening Times

Mon– Fri 7.30 am to 5.00 pm

Saturday 7.30 am to 12.30 pm

Visit our **LARGE SHOWROOMS**



This advert is too small to be able to show you all we have to offer, please visit our website or come and have a cup of tea/coffee and discuss your requirements.

Main Al-Ko and John Deere Dealers

PARKERHOME

PROPERTY REFURBISHMENT AND RENOVATION

Local, family-run business with 30 years experience

- Electrician 24hour call out
- Part P Certified
- Testing & Inspection
- Lighting for Home & Garden
- Re-Wires/Consumer Units
- Domestic Alarm Systems
- Home Refurbishment & Modernisation
- Home Extensions
- Fitted Kitchens & Bathrooms
- Garage Conversions
- All staff CRB checked

01284 386899

www.phihome.co.uk

“Lovely guys who were very professional and knowledgeable. Would have no problem recommending you to our friends and neighbours”

DKC PLUMBING

Oil Boiler Specialist

- Oil Fired Boilers Servicing
- Boiler Breakdowns
- Boiler Installations and Repairs
- Oil Tank Installations
- Radiator Power Flush
- General Plumbing
- Heating Systems
- Domestic and Commercial
- 24 hour call out
- Fully Insured
- OFTEC REGISTERED

Call: 07740 272791



theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN



At our November meeting we celebrated our 55th birthday! Amazing 'small but beautifully formed' we are still going strong – relatively! We did without a speaker. Sue Smith took the meeting and told us of the launch of the celebrations to mark 100th anniversary of Suffolk West WIs next year. There will be many exciting things to look forward to. Everyone provided some food to make a buffet, including things like cheeses straws, meringues and delicious cakes and a magnificent Yule Log, which we raffled. We were visited by Brenda Dyer our County Adviser and finished the evening with a quiz. This year our Christmas Lunch will be at The White Horse in Whepstead and several of us will be going to the WI Carol Service at St Mary's Church in Bury St Edmunds. The Bradfield St Clare WI would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

with the loos across the yard. Believe it or not we had slates and chalk and no books – all very primitive.

But it was glorious Autumn weather. The 'cottage' was set at the head of a valley leading down across fields and cliffs to the most glorious bay. Mewslade Bay was and still is the most beautiful place, full of rocks, caves, pools and streams etc. It is washed clean every day by the tide – heaven- so every day after school we would pack a picnic and off to the beach – idyllic! By this time my six-year-old cousin Roger had joined us and along with some of the farm kids we just roamed the fields and cliffs enjoying total freedom. Looking back I am sure my Ma was totally 'shell shocked' – poor love she had led a very sheltered genteel life – trades people calling every day. Imagine she admitted she didn't know how to sign a cheque or pay bills. She was plunged into this totally alien environment with no mod cons and a 2 to 3 mile walk to the shops, coupled with the worry of not knowing how my Pa was and how the war would develop.

Anyway time passed and Christmas Tide was upon us and joy, my father had a weeks leave, arriving on Christmas Eve all fine and dandy. Carols etc., no tree but a branch decorated with homemade paper chains etc. My Ma and Pa were sleeping in a B&B (no privacy) but we had a tremendous storm that night with high winds and torrential rain. We woke up on Christmas morning to find a torrent coming through one window, flowing across the stone floor and out of the door. I can still see my ancient (or so she seemed to us) grandmother with her voluminous nightgown tucked up, a pair of willies 3 or 4 times too big, and her very long plait of white hair down her back rather than piled up like Queen Mary. She was trying hard to stem the tide! Ma and Pa joined us and we bailed out as much as we could. After a scratch breakfast – you try making toast on a tortoise stove – we trudged up the road to the church where we celebrated Christ's birth – the singing being in Welsh and glorious! We had left a chicken in the oven in the shed. The trouble was that the electricity was spasmodic at best. We should have twigged as the lights in the church went out half way through the service. We got home to a stone cold chicken in the stove and a cold oven but 'Season of Good Will' the farmer next door took pity on us and we joined them for a truly Dickensian Christmas with all the trimmings in a huge farmhouse kitchen. We ended up round the piano singing carols and Welsh songs. My father had a really lovely voice so he was accepted as an honourary Welshman. When we had first arrived we were viewed with some suspicion - these strange people from outside Wales but this Christmas broke the ice and our remaining months before we moved on to more salubrious accommodation were very happy.

P.S. I can't remember what became of the chicken!

- Pat Hipwell



"By the community for the community"

The lure of bacon butties proved irresistible to more than forty friends and neighbours who dropped into the Kit Cafe on November 16th. Many thanks to our ever-willing helpers, Margaret, Lorraine and Doreen, who cooked up a storm with 3.5 kilos of bacon and 55 rolls, and to the ladies who brought delicious cakes!

The next Kit Cafe will be on December 21st when we'll be celebrating Christmas with mince pies, sausage rolls and cake! (And perhaps, just a little seasonal music!)



A busy time, I know, but please come if you can and share a Christmas cuppa before the big day.

The New Year Kit Café will be on 18th January when we have all recovered from our seasonal celebrations!

- Val, Debbie and Margaret

We raised a further £10 from the sale of jewellery for MacMillan and £15 for Children in Need – Thank You!



Whist Drive



Bradfield St Clare Village Hall

Friday 6th Dec/3rd Jan

7.30pm

**Entry £2.00 including refreshments,
tea or coffee.**

If preferred, bring your own drinks.

Cash Prizes & Draw

Raffle Prizes Welcomed!

In aid of Village Hall funds



How I Gave My Cat a Pill!

My cat had been ill for 3 weeks and she has been to the Vets 4 times – each time she has had different pills and drops – so I bought a pipette so it would be a piece of cake to administer.

But my cat has not read the instructions! One quite large capsule (which would do a human proud) had to be given with water. The pipette holds water, so I filled it and put the pincers at the end, got the cat, prised open her mouth, grabbed the pipette and put it in as far into her mouth as I could. Water went everywhere and I found the capsule under the radiator, so I filled the pipette with water and added the capsule and went to find the cat. This time I got the water and she got the capsule so I then had to make sure she had some water. I'm not sure who got most water so to the next pill, which was at least small and round and white but very chalky and dry. It took on average four times to get it down - on two occasions my son held her for me but **"I have cracked it!"** by just smearing a very little Marmite on the pill so it slips down first time – three days on the trot – **Whow!** We only have three more days to go.

I refrained from the beer and whisky – I cannot stand either of them, besides I felt I had to stay sober while she was so ill. And what do you think my cat's name is – **MARMITE** – either you love her or you hate her!

- Helen Gilbert

WHIST DRIVE

November 2019



Due to holidays and bonfire night celebrations only twelve people came to our November Whist Drive and for once the men outnumbered the ladies. Bryan agreed to play as a lady and was called 'Belinda' all night. So thanks for being such a good sport Bryan. It was a lovely friendly night as usual and having three complete tables of four meant nobody had to sit out any of the rounds. For the ladies Bryan (aka Belinda) scored a very impressive 175 to easily take the first prize. Val N came second on 162 and Jus third with 154. Gina took the wooden spoon on 141.

For the gentlemen John K came first with 169 some way ahead of Keith in second place on 157 and closely followed by Ian with 156. Jim took the wooden spoon this month on 149.

The draw raised £37 for village hall funds. Thanks to all who donated prizes and bought tickets. All entrance fees are handed out in prize money and only the proceeds from the draw go to village hall funds.

- Val Nunn

Bradfield Weather



Sunshine is delicious, rain is refreshing, wind braces you up, snow is exhilarating; there is really no such thing as bad weather, only different kinds of good weather.'
- John Ruskin

The final week of October brought one further day of heavy rain, bringing the monthly total to 111.5mm, against the average of 55.8mm. The end of the month brought the first frosts of the Autumn, but with sunny days to follow. Over the past 26 years the village has had very few months with over 100mm of rain and this is the wettest since May 2014.

November has brought a real feel of Autumn going into Winter. A couple of days of heavy rain, but nowhere near as bad as other parts of the country. In addition, misty mornings, some lovely sunny but cold days, with frosty nights and lots of leaves on the ground. Rainfall to date has been 50mm against our average of 66mm.

- Keith Payne 22nd November 2019

The CleanPlumber 
experience the difference

Installations, Service & Repairs Domestic & Commercial...

- Gas, Oil and LPG Boilers
- Central Heating
- Power Flushing of Radiators
- Gas Safe and Oftec registered
- Showers & Bathrooms
- Property Maintenance

A leaking tap to a brand new system – we can help you

Call us now on

01284 765453

www.thecleanplumber.co.uk

www.thecleanplumber.co.uk

The Great Big Christmas Quiz



Something a little different for Christmas this year to keep the little grey cells active! Something to keep you occupied during the long empty weeks leading up to the Great Day – in your dreams! Just a bit of fun for all the family – even the little ones can have a go. There are well over 60 questions on Food, Entertainment, Traditions, Carols etc. with 100s of points to be won. It has been devised by Pat Hipwell and Margaret Fayers.

We are doing it to raise money for charity and as this time of year is all about getting together with family and friends meeting up in cosy, comfortable surroundings we thought it would be appropriate to raise money for CRISIS at Christmas and the Ipswich Night Shelter. Both of these charities open their doors and extend a warm welcome to the homeless, the jobless and rough sleepers. They provide a bed, shower, clean clothes and meals all over the festive season. They also provide counselling to help people get back on their feet. So please donate a minimum of £2 to obtain your copy of the quiz either from Pat at St Clare Cottage (01284 386636) or Margaret at Windy Willows (01284 386437). They are also available at Cockfield Post Office, all Churches, The Kit Café, the WI and Whist Drive.

It will be launched on 1st December and entries must be in by Twelfth Night (6th January). The winner will be notified. The answers will be in the February editions of Green Links and The Bradfield Grapevine or from Pat and Margaret.

So let's get quizzing and good luck!

HAVE FUN!



HOME & GARDEN HELP



Reliable lady, DBS checked
Available to do all the jobs you don't have time to do

GRASS CUTTING
GARDENING
HOUSEWORK
DOG WALKING
£12.50 per hour

House Sitting £30 per night

CONTACT JUSTINE – 07594617087

AVON

the company for women

Hi, I'm Rachel

Your local AVON Representative

*If you would like to see a brochure please
get in touch.*

07568 074210

or

Rachelhassall@googlemail.com

THE LOG STORE

F I R E W O O D M E R C H A N T

100% Kiln Dried Ash logs
Logs split and cut to 25cm in length
Less than 20% moisture

01284 388468

simon@thelogstore.com

Supplied in hand stacked crates which can be delivered directly into a garage or carport to avoid unnecessary handling

YOUR RELIABLE LOCAL ELECTRICIAN

City & Guilds

Lee Jardine
Electrical Services



- All Domestic Electrical Work
- Rewires/New Installations
- New/replacement lights and sockets
- Electric Showers/Hobs and Ovens
- 24 Hour Emergency Call Out
- Landlords Compliance Certificates

Tel: 01284 361 986

Mob: 07444 272 472

Email: lee.jardine@outlook.com

ELLEN'S APPLE CAKE



150g butter
125g sugar
250g plain flour
2 tsp baking powder
2 tbs cream
2 egg yolks
5-8 apples depending on size
Ground cinnamon

Mix the soft butter, sugar, flour, baking powder, cream and egg yolks in a bowl or mixer.

Press the dough into a buttered/floured cake tin. A loose bottomed tin is good.

Peel and slice the apples. Pile the apple slices all over the top of the dough.

Sprinkle with cinnamon and a bit of sparkly sugar - or Demerara sugar if you like.

Put into the middle of a medium oven, 180C, 350F, Gas 4 for around 45 minutes to 50 minutes until golden.

If you have any plum or apricot jam, it tastes good with a little layer under the apples before cooking.

- Ellen our Norwegian Visitor

Thank You

Pat and Peter would like to thank all the many friends and villagers for all their help over the last year and especially in recent months - Anno Domino is really catching up with us both I am afraid. We do so appreciate your kindness, help and friendship. We would like to wish you all a very Joyous Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

- Pat and Peter Hipwell

Bradfield St George Village Hall - Bradfield Nights

CHRISTMAS DINNER



6th December

£6 main course £3 pudding

Food from 7pm

(I will aim not to run out as I am cooking for 50 this time because 40 was not enough in October!)



The Library Van

NEXT VISITS: 9.40 – 9.55 am on 18th December & 15th January

To contact Carl Bell on the mobile library van: 07721 879855

December/January Dates for your Diary



- Friday 6th Dec/ 3ed Jan – Whist Drive – 7.30pm – Village Hall
- Tue 17th Dec/14th January – Book Club – 7pm – Village Hall



“HAVE A FAMILY HOLIDAY ON THE BEAUTIFUL”



ISLE OF WIGHT

**SELF CATERING 5 BEDROOMED HOUSE – SLEEPS 9
IN QUIET RESIDENTIAL ROAD IN FAMILY FRIENDLY RYDE
ONLY 5 MINUTES WALK TO SUPERB BEACHES
THE HOUSE IS VERY WELL FURNISHED AND EQUIPPED
HAS A LARGE GARDEN WITH TWO OUTDOOR EATING AREAS
A GAS BARBEQUE IS SUPPLIED
BICYCLES ARE AVAILABLE IN THE GARDEN SHED
OFF-ROAD PARKING**

VISIT

www.myiowholiday.co.uk

M.BAIRD DIGGERHIRE & GARDEN SERVICES



- Mini Digger Hire + Operator
- Garden Clearance Services
- Patio and Driveway Laying
- Strimming Grass/Hedge Cutting
- Turf Laying/seeding
- Fencing and Treework

ALL GROUND AND GARDEN MAINTENANCE UNDERTAKEN

Visit :-

www.mbairdlandscapes.co.uk

CALL MARK on 01284386865 or 07725625760

ORGANISE YOUR INVOICING

- ✓ Free To Use. Register Today.
- ✓ Print Invoices
- ✓ Track Payments
- ✓ Contact Management
- ✓ For Self-Employed and Small Businesses

brightinvoicing
Making Invoicing Easy



Visit www.brightinvoicing.com



tldesignworks

Start your website today

Small Business/Personal/Club/Association
hosting - design - backup

01983 613237

www.tldesignworks.co.uk

hello@tldesignworks.co.uk



Our Beautiful Newly Decorated Church

Arable Farming at Bishops Farm



“From Drought to Deluge!”

It seems like a different year now; when in June we were praying for rain and thankfully received 100mm that made such a difference to the harvest. Then a dry start to September to allow preparations for the new year's crops to be planted. Since then over 5 inches of rain have fallen making this one of the wettest Autumns since 2012.

Planting crops has been very difficult with soils becoming waterlogged. I managed to plant winter barley in late September between rains and the Tower field has grown well; sprayed with pre-emergent chemical to control blackgrass and post-emergent spray of manganese, magnesium trace elements and an aphicide to control green aphids that carry barley yellow dwarf virus. This disease shortens the crop and reduces yield by up to 40%. Until this year we had no problem with this disease as 'Deter' seed dressing controlled aphids but this was a Neonicotinoid chemical now banned by the EU. This means we need to spray the young crops two or three times during Autumn, not easy this year with waterlogged soils. Two fields of wheat we planted in early October. Two attempts to plant the Church field with KWS Zyatt and this has now emerged and looking well.

Behind the Rectory I have planted a new variety, KWS Extase that has high resistance to the major wheat disease, Septoria. This is a fungal disease attacking the plant's leaves during the growing season. Again two attempts to plant this field – the rain just keeps coming!

With all the pre-prepared land planted, I then had two fields of wheat to plant at Dairy Farm. In early November a four day break from rain allowed ploughing, harrowing and drilling to be carried out. Thanks to help from Tom and John we managed to get both fields planted before the next downpour arrived. November is getting late for planting wheat, so you need to increase the seed rate to compensate for worsening soil conditions. At present I still have 33 acres of winter beans to plant, hopefully before Christmas if the weather allows.

Dare I mention sugar beet! I must apologise to everyone who uses Felsham/St George Road for the excessive amount of mud. All the sugar beet was lifted by last weekend. The plans were to lift the Rectory field into a Maus heap next to the road; that worked well. Then to lift 20 acres behind the Church, cart it across the road and have a Maus heap next to the road on the headland of the Tower field. All would have been well in dry weather. Two harvesters lifting beet and two large trailers carting the beet across the

road and me with a tractor and loader scraping the road after every other tractor and trailer returned to the field empty. All going reasonably well until one of the tractors ran over a piece of metal off the other trailer punctuating the rear tractor tyre – 8pm in the dark. A change of field; next to Bishops Farm where harvesting continued until midnight. Sunday morning, a 5.30am start and all the beet lifted by 11am. With the punctured tractor still on the Tower field the remainder of the beet from behind the Church had to be carted down the roads to the concrete pad at Bishops Farm putting more mud on the road. I tried to scrape up as much as possible off the road and thank you to Peter Squirell for sweeping the road with his JCB. There are now some very large mole hills on the verges of Felsham Road.

Monday the lorries arrived to cart the sugar beet to the factory – another day of chaos! An empty lorry got stuck going up Felsham Road and I had to tow it up to the water tower with the plough tractor. Then a lorry reversed at Bishops Farm into our diesel tank, knocking the tap completely off the tank. Catching 1200 litres of diesel in a loader bucket is not something I would recommend but very little diesel was spilt – it could have been an environmental disaster.

Then the last load of the day was forced off the road by a car at 7pm, getting both front and back wheels stuck in the verge 15 inches deep - another pull out using the plough tractor. So this year sugar beet has been a bit of a nightmare. We await the final yield tonnage and sugar content from the factory. I am now struggling to plough the rutted fields.

Over the past three years we have been experimenting with growing cover crops. These crops, planted immediately after harvest, quickly cover the fields in lush green material that can later be ploughed in as a green manure. We have used mustard for the past two years. Last harvest we had a yield monitor fitted to the combine which showed what a good green manure mustard is. The area of the field previously planted with mustard yielded 1tonne/hectare more spring barley than the rest of the field. However sugar beet crop where mustard had been planted severely yellowed during the summer drought. This shows mustard locks up nutrients in its growth and thick stems of cellulose, which takes more than a year to break down in the soil and re-release the nutrients back into the soil. This year we planted an area of mustard, 12 acres and the remainder of the 30acre field with vetch and phacelia. At present 200 sheep are grazing the field returning the green crop nutrients back into the soil. I can't remember sheep on the farm before. The sheep are known as a 'flying flock', owned by Andy King of Whepsted and moved around from farm to farm for grazing. Please keep dogs on the lead when walking down Sheepgate Lane.

Hopefully everything will be done by Christmas! The challenges of farming are ever changing, mainly due to the weather. You cannot change it; you just work with it.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year - Mike Morley