

Useful Local Contacts

Anglian Water Emergencies		03457 145145
Borough Council:		
- St Edmundsbury Offices		01284763233
Local Member Sara.Mildmay-White	Sara.Mildmay-White@stedsb.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

THE BRADFIELD GRAPEVINE



**March
2020**



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What a month we have just experienced! No gentle breezes, no cold but bright winter sun – just gales and rain and yet more rain! February has more than lived up to its rural appellation of “February fill dike” – ‘overflowing’ would have been a better expression. It has also made us so aware of how much technology has overtaken our daily lives – no power or broadband for so many in the village and for so long – and poor Sue Leal with a falling tree taking such a liking to her car.

At the end of January we were so sad to learn of the death of Douglas Balaam, he will be such a great loss – a real ‘man of the village’. Margaret has written a tribute to him further on in this edition. Our thoughts are with his family and friends.

Of course the recent weather has posed great challenges for our farmers and Mike writes about how he has had to adapt to try to keep things going.

The Kit Café continues to be a very important part of keeping our community in touch – there is always something different to enjoy and exciting things are planned for the next event.

Finally, a warm welcome to Howard and Arianne Barnes who are in the process of moving into the village.

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



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

Cockfield Benefice Services – March 2020

Sunday 1 March 1st Sunday in Lent	9.30am Communion CW	Bradfield St George
	11am Communion CW	Bradfield St Clare
	6pm Six2seven - Stephen Griffiths talking about the work of West Suffolk Hospital Chaplaincy	Felsham Village Hall
Sunday 8 March 2nd Sunday in Lent	9.30am Communion BCP	Gedding
	11am Communion CW	Cockfield
	4pm Evening Prayer CW	Bradfield St Clare
Sunday 15 March 3rd Sunday in Lent	8am Said Communion BCP	Cockfield
	9.30am Family Service	Felsham
Sunday 22 March 4th Sunday in Lent / Mothering Sunday	9.30am Morning Prayer CW	Gedding
	9.30am Worshipping Together	Bradfield St George
	11am All Age Mothering Sunday Service	Cockfield
Sunday 29 March 5th Sunday in Lent / Passion Sunday	10am Benefice Communion	Bradfield St Clare

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

A service of Celtic Evening Prayer is held 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

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March Bin Collection Dates

Wednesday 4 th March	Black bins
Thursday 5 th March	Brown bins
Wednesday 11 th March	Blue bins
Wednesday 18 th March	Black bins
Thursday 19 th March	Brown bins

April 2020 Advertisements

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

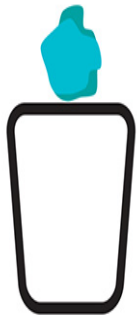
**Payment to Bradfield St Clare Village Hall Account
Contact: Peter Newlands or Margaret Lovick**



HM Government



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News from St Clare Church

Working hard to plant the new hedge!



Good news and some less good news from St Clare Church! The good news is the wonderful new hedge we have around the churchyard. It was donated by Mike and Lorraine Morley and planted by them with help from John Kirk and David Roe. A huge thank you from all who care for our lovely village church and its historic setting. The less good news centres around Pat Hipwell's resignation from the PCC after well over 30 years of membership and service to St Clare Church. Many of those years were as Church Warden, Electoral Roll Officer, Secretary and always an organiser of so many enjoyable fund raising events. I am going to miss her inspiration, companionship and support on our PCC management group. I know you will all join me in wishing her well.

The Commonwealth War Grave Commission sign has now been attached to one of the church gates and as always we are indebted to Ernie Warren for his speedy repairs – we lost 15 roof tiles in the recent storm. The external church lights have to be turned off as our winter permit ceases at the end of February, since the bats begin to come out of hibernation and the lights can interfere with their feeding patterns.

The first Sunday in Lent is on 1st March (St David's Day) and Mothering Sunday falls on 22nd March. We have no Easter Sunday Service this year but there will be one on Good Friday and several days before that in Holy Week.

Margaret Newlands (Church Warden)



"By the community for the community"

As always it was a lovely friendly atmosphere for our February opening. Around 30 people attended which was very good bearing in mind Storm Dennis was busy doing its worst. The hall looked beautiful; decorated out with a Valentine theme and, as we were approaching Shrove Tuesday, we served pancakes and waffles both sweet and savoury.

Thank you to everybody who lends a hand in the kitchen, bakes cakes or helps to set up. We couldn't do it without you. This month however a special big thank you has to go to Margaret Lovick who started cooking at 10 am and didn't stop making the most delicious pancakes ever. Also to Felicity and mum Bobby who worked non-stop to create some tasty waffles. All this, plus tea and coffee making as well as washing up meant there was always at least four people in a kitchen the size of a small shed!

It is very rewarding to see so many people enjoying spending time together over cups of tea and tasty treats. It is especially lovely when those who have moved from the village come along to catch up with old friends and neighbours. This is exactly what the KIT Cafe set out to achieve 18 months ago. So thank you all for continuing to come along. We realise it is often difficult to enter a room if you feel you don't know anybody but for those of you who may be new to the village please do give it a try. The Cafe is a great way to get to know everybody and you can be sure of a warm welcome.

For our March opening, the day before Mothering Sunday, as well as serving some delicious tasty treats we shall be presenting all the ladies present with a small gift. But don't feel left out gents as we are already making plans to spoil you on our June opening to celebrate Fathers' Day.

KIT Cafe opens from 11 am - 1 pm Saturday, 21st March. We look forward to seeing you there.

- Val, Debbie and Margaret

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WHIST DRIVE



February
2020

Seventeen people attended our February Whist Drive, eight gentlemen and nine ladies so that gave us four tables plus one lady player sitting out when they reached the fifth 'flirt' table where they were awarded seven points for that round. As always we had a lovely friendly fun evening and the time just seemed to flash by.

For the ladies Margaret won first prize with a score of 167, beating daughter Jus into second place (how could you?) with 162. Well done you two. Gina came a very close third on 161. The booby prize went to Carolyn with 145. For the gentlemen Gerry had his first win with a very impressive 176! (well done Gerry); Jim came second on 170 and Steve took third place with 162. John took the booby prize with 140 points.

£41 was raised from the draw, so many thanks for the lovely prizes that were donated this month and for all who bought tickets.

- Val Nunn

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In tribute to Douglas Balaam

Doug was a great part of this village; a quiet, kind man always ready to do his bit.

He produced leeks for the Hunger Lunches, always stacked the wooden Village Hall chairs because he could reach high, mowed the churchyard grass, held the highest score of anyone at whist and could curve a massive hole at the beet factory with his bulldozer.

His great love was caring for his dear wife, something he did for many years.

We were so fortunate to have had him in our village for so long.

- Margaret Lovick

Bradfield Weather



***'The pessimist complains about the wind;
the optimist expects it to change;
the realist adjusts the sails'***

- William Arthur Ward

The latter part of January remained largely dry until the very end when a further 12mm fell bringing the total for the month to 53mm, just above the average of 49.8mm.

After a little rain on the first day of February, we experienced about a week of cold, sunny days and frosty nights. Then the storms arrived; Ciara one weekend followed by Dennis the next. Whilst we were spared the amounts of rain experienced by other parts of the country, we did have some severe winds but again not too much serious damage I have heard about unless you happen to be the unfortunate owner of a BMW severely damaged by a falling tree in Bury Road. (sorry Sue). This also resulted in the loss of broadband to the main part of the village, which is yet to be restored 10 days later. Rainfall to date is actually 35.5mm, with an average at 43.2mm but with a forecast of more to come this weekend.

- Keith Payne 20th February 2020



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THANK YOU!

Sue and Clive Leal would like to say thank you to all the friends and neighbours who rallied round and helped when storm Ciara dealt us a vicious blow on Sunday 9th. February.

A very large poplar tree, which stood opposite our driveway was blown over, blocking the road completely. It broke through the electricity supply line for all the houses in our part of the village and also destroyed the telephone and internet cabling. On a more personal note, the tree landed on Sue's car and badly damaged it.

Within an hour an army of people were out in diabolical conditions helping to clear up. Many neighbours were affected and many waded in to help.

Special thanks must go to Glyn and Andy - from the other side of the village - who turned up with a tractor (with lifting front gear!) and a chainsaw. Within a couple of hours the tree was cut up and cleared and the road re-opened.

Sue's car was taken away on a Manchett's lorry.

Power was restored by 4.30pm.

Once again the British communal spirit of getting stuck in when needed came to the fore and we are very grateful for that.

- Sue and Clive Leal



During our February meeting members enjoyed an informative and amusing evening listening to the experiences of Janet Brown who lived on a narrowboat for an extended period of time.

Next month, on 11th March, we welcome Vicki Hease who will talk about 'Patchwork and Quilting'.

Sue Smith will take the chair and Sue Last will provide the draw prize.

Visitors are welcome – please get in touch with Enid Hunt for further information:

Secretary Enid Hunt – 01284 386565



The Library Van

NEXT VISITS: 9.40 – 9.55 am on Wednesday 11th March
To contact Carl Bell on the mobile library van: 07721 879855

March Dates for your Diary



- Friday 6th March – Whist Drive – 7.30pm – Village Hall
 - Saturday 21st March – Kit Café – 11am to 1pm – Village Hall
 - Tue 24th March – Book Club – 7pm – Village Hall
 - **EARLY NOTICE (more information later)!**
- Open Gardens – Bishops Farm – Wed 17th June - 11am to 8pm



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Saturday 25th April 7 for 7-30pm
Bradfield St George Village Hall IP30 0AS
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Tickets Steve Smith: 01284 388311
email: calafell@btinternet.com

Alix Barabas: 01284 386305
email: alixbarabas@hotmail.com

Jan Golding email: janblof@aol.com



*Bradfield
Woods*

March



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Arable Farming at Bishops Farm



“Blowing away the Winter Blues”

Well we have certainly had enough wind to do that, with numerous trees down. Four mature ash trees have fallen in Bromley Wood; all suffering from Ash Die-back. The timber is notoriously black through the centre – a clear sign of the disease.

One of the wettest winters on record has posed different challenges to farming here, although we have not suffered as badly as the north and west of the country. A wet and windy winter but an unseasonably mild one.

Our winter crops look reasonably well. Winter barley on the Tower field has tillered well (producing many side shoots on each plant) and will soon require a spray of plant growth regulator, manganese, magnesium and a fungicide to control mildew disease that is the thick canopy. Our other field is not so advanced, as areas of the headlands have been flooded during the winter.

Nitrogen fertiliser is required soon as all the winter cereals to promote tillering and root development. This year all the autumn sown crops are very shallow rooted with all the roots close to the surface as the deeper soil is waterlogged. Problems will occur if we experience very hot and dry conditions in the summer, as the plant roots will not be deep enough to extract moisture from the subsoil.

The winter bean crop did not get planted and it is too late to sow winter beans now, so spring beans will be sown instead when the field is dry enough.

A wet winter with no significant frosts to fragment our clay soil means it is going to be difficult to produce good, fine seedbeds this spring, meaning a bit more work for the power harrow.

Well the sheep mentioned in my last report were on the farm for about a month, munching their way through the cover crop. The field ploughed very well and we hope for a successful crop of sugar beet. It is great having sheep on the farm and we look forward to their return in the autumn.

After dreadful conditions lifting the sugar beet, ploughing was equally challenging. Usually my New Holland 175 horsepower tractor pulls a

five furrow plough but to plough the heavily compacted land I had to remove the back furrow and only pull four furrows. This meant less spinning of the wheels and being able to travel faster and plough to a deeper depth.

Usually we have finished ploughing by the end of November but this year I ploughed very late in January; ploughing the stubble on the field that was destined for winter beans. The ground was so waterlogged that ploughing was the only option so that the soil has a chance to drain and dry out.

Our soil on the farm is mainly Hanslope Clay but on some fields strips of sand run through the clay. When the clay becomes waterlogged the sand becomes a bog. The clay soil ploughs well but when you cross the sand the tractor sinks in and you have to lift the plough to continue travelling and water pours into the open furrow.

Challenging times! The last wet winter we experienced being in 2012. The past four years have been relatively dry and we tend to forget how wet this land can become and how important drainage is.

In the meantime machinery needs servicing, new parts to put onto the plough to replace the worn metal, cleaning the combine and grain stores now all the grain has left the farm.

When we get slightly better weather, less wind and no rain there is hedge and tree planting to do. Doing our bit for the environment, 200 metres of wild hedging to plant, which includes hawthorn, blackthorn, field maple, hazel, dogwood, dog rose and crab apple as well as 50 trees of oak and hornbeam. Some of this is already planted around the Church; the next is to the south of Sheepgate Lane along the line of the new ditch, with the remainder along the track where it crosses the lane. Hopefully this will tick some of the boxes in the new Agricultural Policy, with its intention for the industry to become carbon neutral by 2050 – we have a long way to go.

As daffodils come into bloom and roses burst into leaf, Spring is certainly on its way. Let's hope the winds drop and it stops raining soon.

We are relatively lucky here; our thoughts and prayers should be with those less fortunate, with flooded houses, farms and land in the north and west.

No matter how bad the weather seems, there is always a seed time and a harvest. We just have to take advantage of windows of opportunity whenever they may occur,

- Mike Morley