

THE BRADFIELD GRAPEVINE



March 2021

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Firstly, an introduction, my name is Debbie Thomas and I feel very privileged to have been asked to join Margaret Lovick in editing the village magazine. Peter and Margaret Newlands have given this village so much support in the years they have lived here; they will be sorely missed, Margaret (L) has written on this later in the magazine.

Also, we must thank Mike Morley for his contributions over the past few years, I for one have thoroughly enjoyed and learnt from his writings, and will miss reading them. It's fascinating that with all the scientific advances both in crops and machinery, the balance between a good year and a poor year is so dependent on the one thing out of our control – the weather! I expect that Keith's report this month will have some interesting statistics. Val has provided some insightful information on the month of March. She's so right about that early birdsong lifting the spirits.

I have deliberately not mentioned the 'P' word, the phrase 'it is as it is' or the word 'unprecedented' – I'm feeling optimistic that you will all be reading next month's Grapevine, at the very least, in the garden with family and friends. I look forward to all our village events starting up again, when we can meet old friends and welcome in the new neighbours who have moved into the village in the past year.

Margaret Lovick
Tel: 01284 386662

Debbie Thomas
Tel: 01284 386302
Email: debbie_thomas60@hotmail.com

Remember Census Day – Sunday 21st March

Dear Friends

I am very much looking forward to the Spring and warmer weather - particularly after the last week or so of icy cold winds and snow! I know that many of you will feel the same, and that you are also looking forward to the time when you can meet up with friends and families without fear of contracting the Coronavirus. I must admit to feeling slight 'vaccine envy' as I hear of many in our local community receiving their vaccine. But I know that I will get my turn, just as many others will as the vaccination programme works through the population. It has been a fantastic feat by the NHS to get through so many people so quickly, and gives us all hope for the future.

In the Church we are also looking forward to being able to meet again for worship and fellowship. Of course we will not be able to do so in the way we did pre-Covid for quite some time, but we are already planning for the eventual return to an almost-normal way of life. We may even be able to hold a service on Easter Day.

The pandemic has felt in some ways akin to a very long Lent, where we have been able in some ways to reflect on all that we do as human beings. So as we enter the real Lenten period, so very much associated with fasting and denial, let us reflect on what life could be like after lockdown. Will we go back to old ways and habits - or will we try to do things differently? I think this is very much an opportunity to make changes in our lives - perhaps to make them simpler and to prioritise what is really important to us?

Whatever you have planned for the next few weeks, may God bless you.

Yours in Christ

Sharon

For more details on any of our services or activities then please contact:

Canon Sharon Potter at revsharon2@gmail.com or
Telephone 01284-828599 or 07825 086063

Rota of services for March 2021

Sunday 7th March - Third Sunday of Lent	10am Morning Prayer via via facebook
Sunday 14th March - Mothering Sunday	10am Family@Church via via zoom/facebook
Sunday 21st March - Passion Sunday	10am Holy Communion at home via zoom/facebook
Sunday 28th March - Palm Sunday	10am Worshipping Together via facebook

All online services can be access via
<https://www.facebook.com/cockfieldbenefice/live/>

For a zoom invitation to the services see the website or email Canon Sharon. There will be no morning prayer at Cockfield on Tuesdays until further notice.

Please check the benefice website at www.cockfieldbenefice.com for up-to-date details of services



Bradfield St Clare Church – Update

Welcome to one and all to a quick update confirming, due to excellent village support, St Clare Church will remain under the Governance of our own village, as part of the Cockfield Benefice. Great news, John, Keith and myself (the existing PCC members) look forward to new members joining at the Extra-ordinary Parish meeting on 25th February, to endeavour to continue the good work by former members.

Watch this space for more information and introduction to the changing face of the PCC in next month's edition of the Grapevine.

We look forward to meeting 'old' and 'new' faces to share our beautiful Church.

Mike Morley

A Fond Farewell to Peter and Margaret Newlands

We are saying goodbye to Peter and Margaret as they journey on to pastures new.

They have both worked unstintingly for this village, joining all the committees. Margaret did a sterling job as a Church Warden and was also a member of the Parish Council.

Peter crafted this magazine into what we have today.

We thank them both for all that they have done for our village, and sincerely wish them every happiness in their new home.

Margaret Lovick



The Library Van *Current Service Summary*

All libraries will remain shut until further notice. **Read the news release.** The mobile service and home library services are suspended until further notice. Contact: help@suffolklibraries.co.uk 01473 351249
Fines and loan return dates – we have extended all loans until 1st March 2021 and overdue charges are also suspended.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your current loans our customer service team will still be available and happy to help (you can leave a message at weekends and during bank holidays)

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MARCH

As in the Roman year, so in the English ecclesiastical calendar used until 1752, March was the first month and the legal year commenced on 25th March. Scotland changed the first month to January in 1599. This month was called Martius by the Romans, from the god Mars, and it received the name 'Hlyd Monath' meaning 'loud' or 'stormy month', from the Anglo Saxons. Days of note: March 1st – St David's; March 12th – St Gregory; March 17th – St Patrick; March 25th – Lady Day.

Sayings

"So many misties in March.
So many frosties in May"

"March hack ham
Comes in like a lion
Goes out like a lamb"

"March'll search ye, April try ye,
May'll tell whether live or die ye"

This month some of our summer visiting birds begin to arrive. The first one usually heard is the chaffinch. Right now birds are very busy singing in earnest to establish their territories and attract a mate. If you fancy learning a new skill during lockdown you might enjoy learning to identify our birds by their song. It is easy to find bird songs on the internet these days so if you start by perhaps learning one new birdsong a day (chaffinch and wren are good ones to start with) and the song thrush is quite easy as he repeats his song about three times (hence the old name Thrustle meaning thrice song). It's a lovely thing for children to learn to do too. By the end of one week you could have learned seven birdsongs. It's a good idea to choose birds that are common in your area. Then you can put your knowledge into practice by counting how many different species you can identify whilst out for a walk.

*And hark! How blithe the Thrustle sings
He, too, is no mean preacher;
Come forth into the light of things
Let Nature be your teacher.
Wordsworth*

Val Nunn

News from Homefield



I've just started my writings earlier than usual this month due to the snow. I went out about 7am, let the chickens out, fed and watered them and stood back. They have a covered, netted area under the house which is dry and fairly cosy, however to get to this area they have to put one foot in the snow, the look on their faces said it all! In the end, after their initial 'chickening out' (sorry about that), out they all fell. I don't know if the cockerel was being gallant or wimpish but he was the last one out. I put up extra boards, sheets of tin etc. to keep the snow out but a 1/2inch gap seemed to let enough snow drift in to build a snowman. The sheep didn't seem phased by the weather, they can get in the dry and out of the wind and so long as they get fed their hay and sheep nuts they are fine. There have been a few foot problems with the wet ground, but so far have been easily rectified once I catch them. I managed to borrow a ram last year, he arrived in early December, and without putting too fine a point on it, was busy within a day. He was a breed called Texel, a meaty, muscly animal who looked like he spent most of his time working out (funny I'd never noticed him down at the gym). He didn't have a name when he arrived but has several unrepeatable ones when he left. For the first three months he respected the electric fence and was no bother. Then he decided to run straight at the fence and pop out the other side. He was no trouble to get back but it was the principle of the matter. I'd stand at the kitchen door looking out, and he would escape, as soon as he heard the kitchen door click open he'd jump back in, very amusing the first twenty

times...but just which is in charge here! He returned to his home at the end of January so hopefully in five months time we will have some lambs. I just they don't inherit some of his traits.

The allotment is under snow at the moment but somewhere there are swedes, turnips, beetroot, leeks, parsnip and sprouts, thankfully the row markers are higher than the snow so you know where to dig. It will soon be time to start planting up again. Will the rotavator spring into life at the first pull? Will the two or more pieces of seed packet fit together to identify the variety that great so well last year? I do keep a diary of seed variety that I have planted and the date sown but I haven't remembered to shut the book each time so the sun on the polytunnel has bleached the pages. It will all come out right in the end. My silage stocks are dwindling fast now, there is not much around this year and demand is high. Last year I made double the amount but so did everyone else, it was halved this year, hence the demand. What a difference a year makes (could be a good song title). Thankfully I don't sing and you maybe surprised I don't work out either.

***Regards
Glyn***



BRADFIELD ST CLARE WEATHER



‘The promise of spring’s arrival is enough to get anyone through the bitter winter’

Jen Selinsky

Firstly, a warm welcome to our new editor and very best wishes to her in her new role.

The latter part of January continued to be cold and wet, with rainfall reaching 90mm, as against our average of 51.8mm. But then I never did buy into the concept of a dry January!

The main weather news in February so far has been the arrival of a significant amount of snow. (From a memory that isn’t as good as it used to be, the most significant amount for several years – 2012?) Whilst building work was done, we had to move out of the house for 5 days, to enjoy the delights of Lavenham and a mediaeval – and draughty – cottage. In Lavenham there was at least 6 inches of snow, probably more than in our own village. The snow came with temperatures to match, barely above freezing for several days and at night well below, but as I write we are promised 16C for the weekend. Is the worst of the winter past.

Rainfall and melted snow for February to date is 32mm compared with an average of 45.7mm.

Keith Payne 18th February 2021

PS:

As a result of your generosity following my request for funds to provide a leaving present for Peter and Margaret Newlands, we were able to give them £390 before they left.

It was given to them with the hope that they would buy something for their new home that would act as a reminder of their time spent here in Bradfield St Clare.

Betty Potter

It is with great sadness, we report the passing of Betty. She spent nearly all her life in this village, only moving away a few months ago.

Betty was married to Billy, they had two daughters and grandchildren, a family she loved and was very proud of.

She worked on the local fruit farm, and many other farms. In the past she also cleaned for the Litchfield family, who were very fond of her.

She was a happy private person, always pleased to see visitors.

Our thoughts are with her family at this time.

Margaret Lovick

Summary of the Minutes from Parish Council Meeting held 9th February 2021

- **Speed Watch Enquiry** – on hold due to Covid-19 restrictions
- **Potholes** – Dairy Farm and Plantation Cottage now repaired – further potholes have been reported for inspection.
- **Anglian Water Treatment Plant** – The work needed regarding the overgrown brambles has been carried out. Sludge removal will be monitored for any further concerns
- **Planning** – Pitchers Green Farm – this is with the Planning Inspectorate and the Clerk will inform the committee of any updates.
- **Expenditure** – Councillors approved expenditure
- **Precept** - Now that West Suffolk Council had agreed the tax bases for parishes the Clerk was able to provide Cllrs with a breakdown of how a Precept of £2660 (previously agreed at the meeting on 10 November 2020) compared with the Precept of the previous year, as follows: -

2020/21 Precept 2439.00	2021/22 Precept 2660.00
2020/21 tax base (set by WSC) 68.50	2021/22 tax base (set by WSC) 69.08
2020/21 Parish Band D Council Tax 35.61 per year	2021/22 Parish Band D Council Tax 38.51 per year This is a £2.90 increase on 2020/21 (which equates to 8.14%)

- Margaret Newlands tendered her resignation as she is leaving the area. The Chairman thanked her for all her hard work over the many years she has served on the Parish Council.
- Agreed dated for future meetings:
- 11th May 2021 – AGM followed by APCM
- 13th July 2021
- 10th August 2021
- 9th November 2021

Minutes in full may be viewed at bradfieldstclare.onesuffolk.net/

Back in 2008 the village compiled a cookery book as a fund raiser....thought you might like one of the recipes :)

Florida Chicken Casserole

3lb chicken or 8 portions
1 ½ oz flour
1 tsp paprika
1tsp salt
Ground black pepper
1oz butter
Grated rind and juiced of an orange
Large can of pineapple chopped

I large orange sliced
4 fl oz chicken stock

Joint the chicken into 8 portions - remove skin. Put flour, paprika, salt and pepper in a plastic bag and shake the portions in the mixture until well coated.

Heat the butter in a pan and fry portions until golden on all sides. Sprinkle remaining flour over the portions and turn in pan until all butter is absorbed.

Place in a casserole dish, sprinkle orange rind and pour juice over. Place the chopped pineapple on top and pour over most of the juice, along with the chicken stock. Cover casserole and cook for 50-60 minutes at 180C,350F, Gas 4.

Before serving arrange the orange slices over the chicken and cook for a further five minutes without the lid. Serve with mashed potatoes and greens.

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and general comments
for the magazine.***

April 2021 Advertisements and Entries
Advertisements for the April issue of The Bradfield Grapevine should be sent to either of the two Editors, whose names appear on the front page by Wednesday 17th 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: Debbie Thomas or Margaret Lovick

Useful Local Contacts

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Bradfield St Clare Book Club/Village Hall Bookings	Mrs Val Nunn		01284 388830
Bradfield Grapevine Magazine	Mrs Debbie Thomas	Debbie_thomas60@hotmail.com	01284 386302
	Mrs Margaret Lovick		01284 386662
Bury Stray Cat Fund			01284 388455
Charity for the Relief in Sickness			
Secretary	Mrs Vicky Spall		01284 386357
County Council			
Suffolk County Council Switchboard			01473 583000
Local Councillor	Mrs Karen Soons	Karen.soons@suffolk.gov.uk	07864601887
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Member of Parliament	Mrs Jo Churchill	www.jochurchill.mp@parliament.uk	01284 752311
Neighbourhood Watch Contact	Mrs Dianne Bullard		01284 386598
Parish Council Clerk	Mrs Nicola Sturgeon		07817170906
Parish Council Website		http://bradfieldstclare.one Suffolk.net	
Police			101 (non-urgent)
			999 (urgent)
Police Twitter name		@stedspolice	01473 613500
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	Church Warden		
St Edmunds RC Church	Fr David Bagstaff		01284 754358
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