

THE BRADFIELD GRAPEVINE



April 2023 No:213

Lots to highlight this month - apologies that the road closure reached us too late for last month's Grapevine - we hope the following is useful.

- **Village Litter Pick Saturday 1 April @10am meet at Village Hall.**
- **Surface Dressing U8022 Bradfield St George Road, Bradfield St Clare.**

The works are programmed to take place between 29 March and 4 April 2023. The road will be closed, traffic will be diverted via Bury Road, Bradfield St Clare, Low Green, Lower Green, Bury Road, Bradfield St George, Hollybush Corner, Felsham Road and vice versa. Extra days are scheduled to allow for bad weather or other delays. If major changes to the work dates are needed they will be updated on the information signs on site.

The latest updates on our works can be found on our website at "[Temporary road closures for Suffolk Highways roadworks](#)" and on [One.Network](#) website.

You can follow [Suffolk Highways on Twitter](#) for the latest emergency roadwork updates. Please contact Suffolk Highways on 0345 606 6171 if you have any questions.

- **To report flytipping please email below**

<https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/bins/street-cleaning/flytipping.cfm>

- Sadly, the dog fouling signs in the village have again been damaged; they are the property of West Suffolk Council, and any damage or removal of them will be reported to West Suffolk Council.

EDITORIAL BLURB Cont:

We thought it was important to put urgent information on the front cover this month as the majority of it is happening now!!

Elsewhere, it's really all very exciting - the night's are drawing out nicely, the Spring bulbs are daring to show their faces, the hedgerows are beginning to show signs of green. The crops that were planted in the Autumn are rising from the soil - and the hedgerows are an orchestra of birdsong. A little consistency weatherwise would be helpful now.

The bane of our lives is our efforts for getting the bin collection information right!! A sigh of relief this month with no bank holidays but please bear with us next month when we think we have three bank holiday Mondays!!!! As always we will do our best.

It would be lovely to have additional contributions from people who live in the village to complement our regulars - it is after all your magazine - if you write poetry, or could share a recipe or gardening tip all would be gratefully received to enliven our monthly editions. It is noted that 17 April is Haiku Poetry Day...(Japanese poetic form that consists of three lines, with five syllables in the first line, seven in the second, and five in the third)...Or 23 April - Shakespeare Day - gosh - someone could write a whole play! (The same date as St George's Day).

A future date for your diary is **Saturday 10 June** for the Summer Jazz Picnic at the old Rectory....see poster later on.

Have a wonderful Easter - let's hope the sun shines for the holidays.

Margaret Lovick
Tel: 01284 386662

Debbie Thomas
Tel: 01284 386302

Email: stclaregrapevine@gmail.com

Letter from the Rectory

Dear Friends

As I write this article I'm looking forward to Easter Day – a day when Christians across the globe will shout 'alleluia – He is risen'. The glorious day of the resurrection of Jesus Christ will be celebrated in many ways, and in many different languages. But the theme will be the same, Jesus has left the tomb and shown us that death is not the end.

I guess that for many people this is one of the beliefs that prevents many from becoming a follower of Jesus. Who could believe that such a thing could happen? Surely there can't be anything after death. Once our heart stops beating and our brain waves cease, there must be nothing.

But what about the *essence* of a person – that which makes us individual and unique – and precious in the eyes of God. And what about the promise that Jesus made to the disciples – that beyond death is eternal life?

It's not easy, I grant you, to believe in such a thing as life after death. But the Christian life is about much more than this. It is about life now – this very moment. It's not about collecting brownie points by being good to our neighbours and caring for the sick and the stranger so that we will enter heaven when we die. It is about doing all those things because we follow Jesus who commanded us to do so, because that is what makes us fully human and children of God.

God created the world, and created humankind, and did so in love. This love is with us always, flowing through us and around us, creating and re-creating. We call this love the Holy Spirit, who was sent to help us once Jesus ascended to heaven following his resurrection from the dead. It is this spirit that urges us on to discover the essence of ourselves, in relation to those around us. We are meant to live in community – and it is this community life that sustains us. This is the good news that Jesus brought us.

I pray that your Easter is blessed – and that you will visit your local Church on Easter Day to celebrate and sing 'Alleluia, He is risen!'

Yours in Christ,
Sharon

revsharon2@gmail.com 01284-828599 or 07825086063

Cockfield Benefice Services – April 2023

Sunday 2 April Palm Sunday	9.30am Procession from Gedding to Felsham 10.30am Communion at Felsham 6pm Six2seven - Felsham Village Hall
Monday 3 April	7.30pm Compline - Bradfield St George
Tuesday 4 April	7.30pm Compline - Bradfield St George
Wednesday 5 April	7.30pm Compline - Bradfield St George
Thursday 6 April Maundy Thursday	7.30pm Communion & Footwashing - Gt Whelnetham
Saturday 8 April	2-4pm 'Vintage Messy' at Bradfield St Clare Village Hall
Sunday 9 April Easter Day	10am All-age Worship - Felsham 10.30am Communion - Cockfield 10.30am Communion BCP - Gedding 10.30am Communion - Stanningfield
Sunday 16 April Easter 2	9.30am Morning Prayer - Stanningfield 11am Communion - Cockfield
Sunday 23 April Easter 3	9.30am Communion – Gt Whelnetham 10am Worshipping Together - Bradfield St George 10am Communion BCP - Gedding
Sunday 30 April Easter 4	10.30am Benefice Communion. - Bradfield St Clare

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

A service of Celtic Morning Prayer is held every Tuesday at Cockfield at 9am and at Stanningfield every Thursday at 9am.

A prayer group meets every Wednesday at 2pm via zoom.

For more details contact Canon Sharon Potter revsharon2@gmail.com

The Cockfield Benefice
You are warmly invited to
Vintage Messy



Where crafters/knitters/crocheters etc can meet, share stories and tips, drink tea and eat cake!

Bring your own crafting/hobby materials

Where: Bradfield St Clare Village Hall, IP30 0EL

When: First Saturday of the month, 2-4pm

1st Apr, 6th May, 3rd June 2023

For more details contact:

*Canon Sharon Potter, revsharon2@gmail.com 01284 828599 or 07825 086063
www.cockfieldbenefice.com*

***Spring is sprung, the grass is
riz.***

I wonder where the birdies is.

***They say the birdies on the
wing, but that's absurd.***

***I always thought the wing was
on the bird.***

Anon



BRADFIELD WEATHER

Was someone complaining about lack of rain? Not sure who that could have been... But how about these for stats:

Feb 2019	Feb 2020	Feb 2021	Feb 2022	Feb 2023
28mm	68mm	38mm	42mm	6mm

It's been pretty widely reported that it's been the driest February for 30 years (what was February 1993 like – anyone remember it being dry?). But I'm very pleased to report there's been a lot of good steady rain so far in March. We've measured 66mm so far and there's still 10 days to go – long may it continue! It's remarkable how green the fields suddenly look; corn clearly likes rain and hopefully the warming soil will now make for a good spring growing season.

In the garden, the daffodils are getting well under way and they're looking wonderful along the verges in the village. Spring bulbs are popping up, colour is emerging everywhere and we spotted the first wood anemones in Bradfield Woods this afternoon, one of my favourite flowers which I struggle to get growing here (I shall persevere). With the spring equinox behind us, we really can say Spring has arrived!

Alice Ward-Thomas 21st March

Church Warden's Report



It has been a quiet month for the church, as we wait for Easter. We have had two services, a communion on the first Sunday of the month and on the third Sunday, our first Taize service at Evening Prayer. The Taize service, based on ideas from the Taize monastic community in Burgundy, is peaceful, reflective and meditative – perfect for a Spring evening. During April, service dates are a little different. There will be a short Reflections service on Good Friday, 7th April, then we host the Benefice communion on 30th April.

Last Saturday a small band of hardy volunteers met to tidy the churchyard ready for the mowing season to start and to weed and tidy the paths. It was hard work but everyone stayed cheerful and the weather smiled on us. Thank you to everyone who turned up and worked so well together.

More thanks are due to Margaret Lovick and Lorraine Morley for organising, obtaining and distributing the lovely primula plants on Mother's Day. A bright splash of colour to enliven some very grey days in March.

In June we will be holding our Jazz picnic in Fenella and Donald Fraser's garden. Don't forget to order your tickets from Lorraine Morley. Offers of help would be most welcome, as would contributions for the cake stall. There are some wonderful bakers in St Clare, so we know the offers will be superb.

Happy Easter - Isobel Payne



ST CLARE CHURCH

SUMMER FUNDRAISER

Summertime Jazz Picnic,
featuring Richard Wheatley
and his Jazz Pals

Location: The Old Rectory
Bury Road, IP30 0ED

Saturday 10th June, 3-6pm

PARKING ON SITE

**BYO Picnic and
paraphernalia**

**Cake Stall
(Bring pennies)**

**Games
(Bring pennies)**

**Strawberries and
Cream
(inc with ticket)**

**Tea and Coffee
(inc with ticket)**

This is a PCC fundraiser in aid of St Clare Church. Tickets cost £10 adults, £5 children under 16, family ticket £25 (2 adults 2 children). Tickets must be pre-booked with Lorraine – 07742151667



Bradfield St Clare Litter Pick - Saturday 1st April
Meet 10 am outside the Village Hall.

The Village Hall Committee look forward to seeing as many volunteers as possible to help with the organised litter pick on **Saturday 1st April** starting at **10am** outside of the **Village Hall**.

All litter picking equipment and black bags will be provided but please bring along your own gloves. These organised litter picking events have been very successful in the past and we hope that this years' one brings out as many volunteers as possible to help keep our village looking at its very best.

Tea/ Coffee and Bacon Butties will be provided in the Village Hall.

Here's hoping for good weather and lots of friendly faces.



Harnessing the atmosphere with bacteria!

With such a dry February, the opportunity for early spring drilling and fertiliser applications was too good an opportunity to miss! And good job we didn't miss it as March has been a write off for land work and spraying with several healthy doses of rain!

All the winter crops had come through the drier winter well and rooted deeply, the land was firm and dry, so we applied the first dose of nitrogen to the wheat and barley in very good time this year, barely leaving a footprint behind the tractor. The 2nd year grass silage was also suitable to travel, and seedbed nitrogen was also applied ahead of drilling spring oats and barley.

So, we made a great start and all crops have responded to early Nitrogen fertiliser and are looking very green and standing up tall now rather than flat to the ground. As part of a trials project this year, we are looking at a development bacteria product called Blue N, it is a foliar applied Nitrogen fixing bacteria that once colonised in the crop can fix up to 30kg/ha of Nitrogen from the atmosphere straight into the leaf of the growing plant.

The Bacteria is present in all plant species on the planet but generally in very low populations; and feeds off methylene that the plant releases as a waste gas. So, it's a natural symbiotic relationship between plant and bacteria, where the plant feeds bacteria methylene and the bacteria feeds the plant with Ammonia converted directly from the Nitrogen gas that is all around us. The Earth's atmosphere is 78% Nitrogen and 21% Oxygen so this is a very sustainable source of Nitrogen we can access to feed our crops and we hope this product will become part of our reduced N fertiliser strategy for the future.

The young bullocks are growing well in our second batch of store cattle that arrived on the farm last autumn, making similar daily gains as the first cohort last winter and so we've maintained the same ration for building frame indoors before they get turned out to graze the herbal leys again this spring. That's if the pigeons don't graze all the clover out there first!

As a group they came to us heavier this Autumn and so we hope turn-out weights will be nearly 400kg/head with the potential to finish some animals straight out of the fields next autumn. This would reduce next winter workload and mouths to feed daily.

On the ever-growing spring job list is wheat growth regulator and micro-nutrition; Blue N applications; silage grass broad-leaf weed control; new grass ley seeding, sugar beet planting; Countryside Stewardship topping and reseeding; cattle weighing; cattle turnout and paperwork! So, when the weather does break it will be all hands-on-deck for the foreseeable as we prepare our crops and animals for the summer months of harvest and grazing.

Tom Rouse
Dairy Farm House

Bradfield Woods



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For more information and booking

Please book at:

www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org

or 'phone

01473 890089

April EVENTS at Bradfield Woods:

Sat 1 April - Basket weaving

Join Coddiwomplers Stuart and Emma, experienced basket makers and willow workers, to make a 'wild basket'. 10am – 4pm

Saturday 22 April 2023 10am-3pm - Spoon Making

Join local craftswoman and spoon carver Fay Jones in the woods and hand carve your own spoons and spatulas to take home with you.

Sunday 23 April 2023 9.30am to 4.30pm -Traditional rake making course

Learn to make a traditional rake with coppiced wood using hand tools.

Wednesday 26 April 2023 10:00am - 2:00pm - Bluebells in Bradfield Woods

Enjoy a morning guided tour with a member of the Trust team, seeing bluebells, birds and maybe orchids .

Booking essential for all courses see suffolkwildlifetrust.org



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BIN COLLECTIONS FOR March 2023

Wednesday 5 April	Blue Bin
Tuesday 11 April	Brown Bin
Wednesday 12 April	Black Bin
Wednesday 19 April	Blue Bin
Tuesday 25 April	Brown Bin
Wednesday 26 April	Black Bin

www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/bindays



The Library Van Dates 2023

Contact: help@suffolklibraries.co.uk Telephone: 01473 351249

The Library Van will call at Bradfield St Clare Village Hall from **9.40am until 9.55am** on the following dates:

5 April	26 July	18 October
3 and 31 May	23 August	15 November
28 June	20 September	13 December

Easy Easter Biscuits

Ingredients

300g plain flour, plus extra for dusting
150g golden granulated sugar
150g salted butter chopped
1 large egg
2 tsp vanilla extract or vanilla bean paste

STEP 1

Weigh the flour and sugar in a bowl. Add the butter and rub together with your fingertips until the mixture resembles wet sand, with no buttery lumps. Beat the egg with the vanilla, then add to the bowl. Mix briefly with a cutlery knife to combine, then use your hands to knead the dough together – try not to overwork the dough, or the biscuits will be tough. Shape into a disc, then wrap in cling film and chill for at least 15 mins. Heat oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. Line two baking sheets with baking parchment.

STEP 2

Dust a work surface with flour. Halve the dough, then roll one half out to the thickness of a £1 coin. Use an egg-shaped cookie cutter (you could also make a cardboard template to cut around) to stamp out as many cookies as you can, then transfer them to one of the baking sheets, leaving a little space between the biscuits. Repeat with the other half of the dough.

STEP 3

Bake for 12-15 mins, until the biscuits are pale gold. Cool on the sheets for 10 mins, then transfer to a wire rack to cool fully. Once cool, decorate to your liking. *Will keep in an airtight container for up to five days.*



Our next opening will be: Saturday, 29th April, 11 am – 1 pm
In Bradfield St Clare Village Hall

This café is FREE and OPEN TO EVERYONE so why not make a date in your diary?

As you may notice our April opening will be one week later than usual on **Saturday, 29th April**. This is so that we can celebrate the coronation of King Charles III taking place the following week. The hall will be festooned with our famous village bunting and there will be something for everyone to enjoy.

We hope to serve scones with jam and cream as well as a variety of cakes and savoury treats.

As always you can also enjoy as many cups of tea and our very popular 'posh' coffee as you can drink. Any offers of help in the kitchen or setting up would be most welcome. Equally we rely on donations of cakes or savouries so if you would like to provide something it would be much appreciated. Please let us know if you would like to help.

Please come and join friends and neighbours (past and present) for this special opening. Pop in for five minutes or stay for the whole two hours. To keep our younger visitors amused while the grown-ups chat we have colouring books, games and pencils. If you are new to the village please pop along. You can be sure of a very warm welcome.

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Useful Local Contacts

Anglian Water - Emergencies	03457 145145
Borough Council	St Edmundsbury Offices - 01284 763233
Local Member	Sarah Mildmay-White - 01359 270580 Sara.Mildmay-White@stedsbc.gov.uk
Bradfield St Clare Book Club/Village Hall Bookings	Mrs Val Nunn - 01284 388830
Bra dfield Grapevine Magazine	Mrs Debbie Thomas - 01284 386302 stclaregrapevine@gmail.com Mrs Margaret Lovick - 01284 386662
Bury Stray Cat Fund	01284 388455
Charity for the Relief in Sickness	Secretary: Mrs Vicky Spall - 01284 386357
Suffolk County Council Switchboard	01284 763233
Local Councillor	Mrs Karen Soons - 07864601887 Karen.soons@suffolk.gov.uk
Dentist (Emergency)	By appointment Sat and Sun pm 0300 130 3065
Doctor – Suffolk Doctors on Call	Ring your own Surgery <i>Or alternatively call 111</i>
Electricity	UK Power Networks Supply Faults 0800 783 8838
Footpath Warden	Mrs Fenella Fraser - 01284 388310
Gospel Hall	Mr Keith Arknett - 01359 240910
Mobile Library	Mr Carl Bell - 07721 879855
Member of Parliament	Mrs Jo Churchill - 01284 752311 www.jochurchill.mp@parliament.uk
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)
Post office Delivery Office	01284 358201
Schools:Cockfield Primary	01284 828287
Thurston Community College	01359 230885
West Suffolk College	01284 701301
St Clare Church	Rev. Canon Sharon Potter revsharon2@gmail.com 01284 828599 / 07825 086063
St Edmunds RC Church	Fr David Bagstaff - 01284 754358