

# THE BRADFIELD GRAPEVINE



August 2023 No:216

We thought we would take an opportunity this month to say how pleased we are to be able to deliver the Grapevine, once a month (bar January) to every house in the village free of charge. We are able to do this through generous contributions from the Church and Parish Council, along with a number of local advertisers. We are very grateful for their support - if you are a local business and would be interested in advertising in our magazine please feel free to contact either Margaret or Debbie (details below). We also email our magazine to 22 past residents/other interested people who have connections with the village, who regularly respond with positive comments. It's nice to know that they are still interested in what is going on in busy Bradfield St Clare.

A few **'Save the Dates'** for the upcoming months:

Churches Bike Ride Sat 9 September

Macmillan Coffee Morning Sat 16 September 11am Village Hall

Harvest Festival Friday 13 Oct at 6pm at the Church

Harvest Supper Friday 13 Oct at 7.30pm - Village Hall

These are in addition to our regular Kit Cafe and Whist Drives.

We haven't had a rush of recipes for our fundraising cookery book we are hoping to put together - if you've got a minute to send us your favourite it would be very much appreciated 😊.

Margaret Lovick  
Tel: 01284 386662

Debbie Thomas  
Tel: 01284 386302

Email: [stclaregrapevine@gmail.com](mailto:stclaregrapevine@gmail.com)

## Letter from the Rectory

Dear Friends

August is traditionally a time for sun, sea and sand! Although I know that these days we can holiday at different times of the year for many with school aged children it is the end of July-August break that allows for a well-earned time away.

In the Cockfield Benefice we are gearing up for the five-day holiday club for primary school aged children (see below). The team of adults that run the week are looking forward to spending time with the children as they play games, create things, see puppet shows and enjoy a daily drama. It's all good fun, and the adults enjoy it as much as the children do.

As we enjoy the holidays, we know that there are many who are unable to do so in our world. We are always mindful that there are those who are suffering oppression, poverty, famine and conflict. There are the many who are looking for refuge as they have left the devastation of their own homes and come to our shores looking for security and safety. We pray regularly for all those who are living in grim circumstances, and for those who managed to reach our country and community. May we open our hearts and homes to the stranger, for as we do, we are opening our hearts and homes to Jesus. Jesus showed compassion to all those in need, and we continue his work today.

Loving service is something that we can all do, whether we have a faith, or no faith. It is what makes us human. May God bless all that we do in his name, or in the name of humanity.

with love in Christ,

Sharon

revsharon2@gmail.com,

01284-828599 or 07825 086063

*Cockfield Benefice* **SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUB**

At Cockfield Village Hall, 14th - 18th August

Monday-Friday, 9.30-approx 12.15pm.

£10 per child per week – if there are three children in a family attending the third goes free! There are still a few places left!

**GAMES – CRAFTS – STORIES – DRAMA – PUPPETS**

For Primary School Age children (5-11)

Contact Rev Sharon for more details on 01284 828599 or 07825 086063

WhatsApp or Messenger

## Cockfield Benefice Services & Events – August/September 2023

Sunday 6 August Trinity 9/Transfiguration	9.30am Communion CW - Stanningfield
	10am Morning Prayer CW - Cockfield
	11am Communion CW - Bradfield St Clare
	6pm Celtic-style Communion - Felsham
Sunday 13 August Trinity 10	9.30am Said Communion BCP - Cockfield
	11am Communion CW - Bradfield St George
	6pm Praise & Worship - Gt Whelnetham
Sunday 20 August Trinity 11	9.30am Morning Prayer CW - Stanningfield
	10am All-age Worship - Felsham
	10.30am Communion CW - Cockfield
	6pm Evening Prayer - Bradfield St Clare
Sunday 27 August Trinity 12	9.30am Communion CW - Gt Whelnetham
	10am Worshipping Together - Bradfield St George
	10am Communion BCP - Gedding
Sunday 3 September Trinity 13	9.30am Communion CW - Stanningfield
	10am Morning Prayer CW - Cockfield
	11am Communion CW - Bradfield St Clare
	6pm Celtic-style Communion - Felsham

*Please note these services may be subject to change – for up-to-date service times see the benefice website at [www.cockfieldbenefice.com](http://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 [revsharon2@gmail.com](mailto:revsharon2@gmail.com).*

## Church Report



With the Suffolk Churches Ride and Stride rapidly approaching, I am passing over the report this month to Keith, to explain a bit about how it all started.

Before that though, preliminary notice that The Harvest Festival Service this year will be held on **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October at 6pm**. It will be followed by the Village Harvest Supper in the Village Hall at 7.30pm, an event open to all villagers. More details in the September Grapevine.

### **SUFFOLK HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST**

In 1973, a small group of church-lovers realised that if Suffolk's many historic churches and chapels were to survive with increasingly small congregations, they needed financial help and went on to found the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust. This year is therefore the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the Trust.

The Trust is non – denominational and all churches, chapels and meeting houses are eligible to apply for grants to help fund repairs to their building, or to make improvements such as disabled access, toilets and kitchens, enabling the building to be used for community or fundraising events.

Ride and Stride, where participants cycle or walk to as many churches as they choose, was first started in Suffolk in 1982 but has now spread widely across England with its appeal to families, local history lovers, keen cyclists and walkers together with church supporters. It is the Trust's largest fundraising event and is held annually on the second

Saturday in September, so will be held on **9<sup>th</sup> September** this year, from **9.00am to 5.00pm**

For those of you not familiar with the process, participants raise money through sponsorship, which is split equally between the Trust and the participant's nominated church. Sponsorship can be based on the number of churches visited, or as is probably more usual these days a fixed amount. Most churches are expected to be manned this year, so participants should be assured of a warm welcome and refreshments when they visit.

I think I can safely say that our four regular riders of recent years are intending to ride again this year, but it would be nice to think that we could have some newcomers, or maybe returners, to help raise some extra funds to celebrate this 50<sup>th</sup> year.

Further details, if required, are available, together with sponsor forms on 01284 386169.

## **Parish Council**

West Suffolk Council is in the process of preparing a Local Plan. The Local Plan will be a document that sets out the planning aims for the West Suffolk District. The Local Plan is currently in a draft stage. West Suffolk Council will consult on the final draft (Regulation 19 proposed submission) local plan in January 2024 (it was previously November/December 2023 but they have changed it to January 2024 to avoid consulting during the holiday period).

If you would like to view the draft Local Plan then please go to [https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/Planning\\_Policies/upload/Local-Development-Scheme-web-June-2003.pdf](https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/Planning_Policies/upload/Local-Development-Scheme-web-June-2003.pdf)

Bradfield St Clare Parish Council

# Bradfield Woods



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booking

Please book at:  
[www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org](http://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org)  
or 'phone  
01473 890089

## **August EVENTS at Bradfield Woods:**

**Booking essential for all courses see**  
[suffolkwildlifetrust.org](http://suffolkwildlifetrust.org)

### **Thursday 27 July 2023.**

Exploring natural dyes with trees and  
leaves.

### **Wednesday 2 August 2023**

HOLIDAY CLUB for 6-11 year olds

9:00 to 15:30

### **Thursday 3 August 2023**

Wood Sculpture Course

17:30 to 21:00

Create your own sculpture.

### **Thursday 3 August 2023**

Butterfly Walk - 13:30-15:30

### **Tuesday 15 August 2023**

Family Forest Fun - 10:30-12:30

Wednesday 16 August 2023

Wild Tots - 10:00-11:30

Play activities for 18month to  
5 years.

### **Wednesday 23 August**

Holiday Club for 6-11 year olds

9:00-15:30

It's been a funny old year weather wise so who really knows when the blackberries will be fit for picking....but a little treat (for adults only) in preparation for the cold autumn evenings on the horizon.

## Blackberry Gin

350g blackberries (can be made with frozen)

150g sugar

700ml bottle of gin

1. Tip the blackberries and sugar into a 1.5-litre sterilised jar. Pour over the gin, seal the jar and swirl around to dissolve the sugar. Store in a cool, dark place and turn the jar once a day for the first week.
2. After two-three weeks, strain the gin through a sieve. Pour the gin into bottles, and label. The gin will keep its colour for a few months and will be drinkable for up to a year. Use the infused blackberries in a cocktail like a bramble, or in a trifle.

## Harvest on the farm

And once again, we find ourselves at the mercy of the weather as all our hard work from this spring is currently standing out in the fields at the mercy of the elements! So far, we've cut the winter barley crop either side of the bottom of Sheepgate lane. We started Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July and finished off Friday 21<sup>st</sup> fitting combining in-between bale carting, spraying beet, weighing cattle and dodging rain showers.

You'll have probably seen the first combines rolling weeks ago on lighter land in the area or older varieties that mature differently but ours hung on a bit longer for ripening and the results were good. The crop stood standing, proving my growth regulation was good this year when many other barley crops in the area were flattened by the wind and rain 2 weekends ago. The barley averaged around 9.7t/ha at 12.5% moisture so it'll store well to sell as the market volatility hopefully drives the price up. The power that Putin currently has with influencing world markets is phenomenal and this week alone the feed cereal price for November and pre-Christmas has increased over £20/t. So, the difference in selling a lorry load now to selling it in November is currently £540 per lorry load! With the costs we incurred this season for inputs, fuel and energy every extra pound will help, and marketing will be crucial over the coming months.

The barley straw has also now been baled and carted and these fields are now clear for cultivation and cover crop establishment. We have a neighbouring farmer bale all our straw for us, so we have the flexibility to get other jobs done. We had 180 round bales made for next winter's cattle bedding and the rest was square baled and will be sold on to livestock farmers in the west of the country, or some also is sold to the power stations for burning to create electricity. I don't particularly agree with this practice, but we have to remove the straw to make way for the following crop and at least we are now starting to cycle some of our straw through the cattle yard to generate muck to go back onto our land next summer.

One of the Barley fields has an underperforming 4 acres of soil which last year had a dose of cattle muck ahead of drilling. And the result



was staggering, usually this area of the field would yield 1t less per hectare than the rest of the field but this year you couldn't even tell a difference so this just shows the power that cycling nutrition back onto our land can have.

Following winter barley, we plan to low-draft subsoil and then we are borrowing a direct drill this summer to play around with direct drilling our cover crops. Direct drilling is the practice of cutting new seed straight into the residue of a previous crop; so, saving time, labour, diesel and reducing the carbon release from oxidising the soil through cultivations. It's a practice we'd like to get closer to achieving across the whole farm rotation, but it takes time to transition the soil to that way of being worked.

Spring and winter cropping, grazing and catch and cover cropping are all part of that soil restructuring process. We have a fast-growing broadleaf species catch crop going in to capture the sun's energy and cycle nutrients over July, August and September before nipping off with the sheep and then ideally direct drilling the following Wheat crop in the Autumn, weather dependent!

Farming is all about planning ahead! Our fields and farm are constantly moving and changing, and we have to establish cash crops and cover crops many months ahead of when they will be fit for combining or grazing.

Whilst we wait for the other crops on the farm to ripen, the sprayer passed its MOT this week, the cattle are busy grazing the herbal lays, there's post silage-cut hay to be made, forklift to be serviced, strimming to be done, paperwork to be completed, lorries to load, sheds to be cleaned, fuel to be ordered and grain marketing and new season seed to be purchased. The farm is always busy and always has jobs that need doing. That said, we all enjoyed a day at Cockfield fair last Sunday where Archie won 2<sup>nd</sup> prize in the paw shaking contest! Rest days are always needed at such a busy time of year.

Tom Rouse  
Dairy Farm House



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## **The Stall at Linden House**

The stall outside Linden House is back out for the summer. All proceeds from this stall go directly to the Church. Donations of plants, produce and other saleable items would all be very welcome.

Thank you for the gooseberries, plants, courgettes/marrows that have kindly been donated.

Good selection of plants and produce at the moment - why not have a look!

This month the stall raised £55



## ***Bradfield Weather.***

Ah! the great British Summer! I think I said that last month – but excuse me, Where has summer gone actually and please could it come back? The balmy summer evenings were brief and at the time of writing the past two weekends have been positively blustery.

<b>June 2019</b>	<b>June 2020</b>	<b>June 2021</b>	<b>June 2022</b>	<b>June 2023</b>
103mm	69mm	46.5mm	38mm	27mm
<b>July 2019</b>	<b>July 2020</b>	<b>July 2021</b>	<b>July 2022</b>	<b>July 2023</b>
32mm	46.5mm	61.5mm	2.5mm	[50 mm]

June's rain was well below our 30 year average of 53mm but July is thus far spot on; the 30 year average is 51mm. In terms of gardening it's been a good month for growing; enough rain to keep the hosepipes off and without last year's scorching July temperatures plants are generally doing very well (apart from the newly planted ones I've failed to stake which have adopted a jaunty horizontal posture).

I wonder which of us would prefer the current weather though or the heatwave currently roaring through southern Europe? I certainly know that I'm currently happier on this side of the channel!

Alice Ward-Thomas 23<sup>rd</sup> July



## ***The Library Van Dates 2023***

Contact: [help@suffolklibraries.co.uk](mailto: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:

23 August	15 November
20 September	13 December
18 October	

## **BIN COLLECTIONS FOR August 2023**

Tuesday 1 August	Brown Bin
Wednesday 2 August	Black Bin
Wednesday 9 August	Blue Bin
Tuesday 15 August	Brown Bin
Wednesday 16 August	Black Bin
Wednesday 23 August	Blue Bin
*Wednesday 30 August	Brown Bin
*Thursday 31 August	Black Bin

[www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/bindays](http://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/bindays)



**Our next opening will be: Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> August from 11 am – 1 pm**  
***This café is FREE and OPEN TO EVERYONE Why not make a date in your diary?***

Please come and join friends and neighbours (past and present) for coffee, tea, cakes and savouries. Pop in for five minutes or stay for the whole two hours. There are games, colouring books and pencils to keep our younger visitors amused. We have quite a selection of books in the hall too so please feel free to take some home to read. There are also a few jigsaws that can be borrowed/exchanged. There is something for everyone at the Kit Café and you can be sure of a very warm welcome and plenty of lively chat.

Any offers of help in the kitchen or setting up would be most welcome. Equally donations of cakes or savouries would be much appreciated. It's always nice to see somebody turning up with a sample of their favourite recipe!

**ADVANCE NOTICE:**

Kit Café will once again be hosting the Macmillan Coffee Morning on **Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> September**. Please do make a date in your diary and help us to raise money for this very important cause. You will be able to enjoy our now famous Kit Café coffee or tea with a biscuit but instead of our usual offerings there will be a cake and produce stall where you can purchase some delicious cakes and savouries to take home or enjoy on the day. If you are able to bake something for us to sell on the stall that would be great! Every penny donated will be given to Macmillan. There will also be a prize draw, games and competitions so please get your thinking caps on and if you have any bright ideas for raising money please let us know. We can have a chat about it too at our August opening.

Some nice donations of draw prizes would also be very welcome.

For further information please contact Val on 07483245825.

## Village Hall Whist Drive



A nice even number of 16 players took part in our July whist drive. Two new players joined us from Rougham, Mike and Jackie, and a very enjoyable friendly evening was had by all.

### **The winning players were:**

Ladies: Val took first prize with 177 points, second was Sylvia on 163 and third prize was, once again, won by Vera with 157. Jus took the wooden spoon this month on 144.

Gentlemen: Much closer scores for the men this month with Ian taking first prize on 165, closely followed by Jim with 162 and Gerry on 159. This month's wooden spoon went to John with 143.

Whist Drives are held in the village hall on the first Friday of every month, the next one being **Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> August at 7.30 pm**. Entry is £2 per player with all proceeds handed out in prize money. Tea, coffee and biscuits are served at the halfway stage, giving everyone a chance for a quick chat. There is also a prize draw, the proceeds of which go towards village hall funds for the upkeep of the hall. **Donations of draw prizes would be much appreciated.**

If you enjoy playing cards and would like to join us new players are always welcome. For further information ring Val Nunn on 07483245825.

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### Interesting fact about our adopted namesake

#### St Clare

St. Clare's Feast Day is August 11. She is the patron saint of eye disease, goldsmiths, laundry, television, bicycle messengers, good weather, and needle workers.

## **Courgette Fritters**

You've guessed it ... a glut of courgettes ...a repeat of Isobel's recipe from last year because they are fabulous!

Makes 8

250g courgettes, grated  
½ small onion, finely chopped  
50g feta, crumbled  
1tbs dill, chopped fine  
1 tbsp flatleaf parsley, chopped fine  
1 small egg, beaten,  
45g flour  
1 tbsp flour or cornflour  
45 grated parmesan  
Olive oil

Sprinkle the courgettes with a little salt and leave to drain in a colander.

After 20 minutes rinse then squeeze as dry as you can. Pat dry with kitchen roll.

Mix courgettes, eggs, onion, herbs, parmesan and feta together in a bowl.

Sift on the flour then season with pepper. Mix gently.

Heat a little oil in a frying pan.

Drop tablespoons of the batter into the oil and fry for 2 minutes on each side.

Drain on kitchen paper and serve hot.

They are also delicious cold.

## Useful Local Contacts

Anglian Water - Emergencies	03457 145145
Borough Council	St Edmundsbury Offices - 01284 763233
Local Member	Sarah Mildmay-White - 01359 270580 <a href="mailto:Sara.Mildmay-White@stedsbcb.gov.uk">Sara.Mildmay-White@stedsbcb.gov.uk</a>
Bradfield St Clare Book Club/Village Hall Bookings	Mrs Val Nunn - 01284 388830
Bradfield Grapevine Magazine	Mrs Debbie Thomas - 01284 386302 <a href="mailto:stclaregrapevine@gmail.com">stclaregrapevine@gmail.com</a> 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 <a href="mailto:Karen.soons@suffolk.gov.uk">Karen.soons@suffolk.gov.uk</a>
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 <a href="http://www.jochurchill.mp@parliament.uk">www.jochurchill.mp@parliament.uk</a>
Neighbourhood Watch Contact	Mrs Dianne Bullard - 01284 386598
Parish Council Clerk	Mrs Nicola Sturgeon - 07817170906
Parish Council Website	<a href="http://bradfieldstclare.one">http://bradfieldstclare.one</a> 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 <a href="mailto:revsharon2@gmail.com">revsharon2@gmail.com</a> 01284 828599 / 07825 086063
St Edmunds RC Church	Fr David Bagstaff - 01284 754358